



August 4, 2011
DPS PR #11-046

Trooper Involved in Delta Junction Shooting Identified

(Delta Jct., Alaska) – the Alaska State Trooper involved in the shooting near Delta Junction on August 1, 2011 was:
Alaska State Trooper Steven Lantz, of the Delta Jct. Post, a trooper since February of 1998

When Timothy J. Fitzgerald pointed a firearm at Trooper Lantz and a nearby civilian, he was shot one time in the shoulder.

The incident is still under investigation by the Alaska Bureau of Investigation. As part of the process ABI conducts a thorough investigation. The Department of Law's Office of Special Prosecutions and Appeals (OSPA) reviews the investigation conducted by ABI to determine if the trooper acted within the law. The Department of Public Safety then reviews the case to determine if the trooper's actions were appropriate under the circumstance, in accordance with department policy. The review also determines if the trooper used every reasonable option to try to avoid using deadly force and the final outcome of the incident.

As of August 4, 2011, the following criminal charges have been filed in the Alaska Court in Fairbanks, against Fitzgerald:

- 2 counts of Assault in the third degree (class C felonies)
- 1 count of Reckless endangerment (class A misdemeanor)
- 1 count of Misconduct involving weapons in the fourth degree (class A misdemeanor)

Fitzgerald remains incarcerated at the Fairbanks Correctional Center. No further information is available for the public at this time.

****ORIGINAL RELEASE****

Location: Delta Junction
Case number: 11-74992
Type: Misconduct Involving Weapons / Assault / State Trooper involved shooting

Text: On 8/1/11 at approximately 0009 hours, a complainant from the Delta State Recreational Site campground, near mile 267 of the Richardson Highway (adjacent to the Delta Jct airport) reported that an intoxicated male was walking around and shooting a firearm. An Alaska State Trooper arrived at approximately 0015 hours. As the State Trooper exited his marked patrol vehicle a citizen pointed out the suspect to the Trooper. The suspect was now lying prone on the ground and pointing a firearm at them. The State Trooper fired and struck the suspect, identified as Timothy J. Fitzgerald, age 28 of Fairbanks. The suspect was determined to have possession of a .45 caliber semi-automatic pistol. Fitzgerald was taken to the Delta Family Medical Center for initial medical intervention and was then transported to a Fairbanks area hospital for continued treatment. No citizens at the campground or the Alaska State Trooper were injured during the incident. Members of the Alaska Bureau of Investigation have responded to Delta Junction and are continuing their investigation into the circumstances.

According to policy the name of the Alaska State Trooper will be withheld until approximately 0900 hours on Thursday 8/4/11.

Fitzgerald was treated and released from Bassett Army Hospital and booked into the Fairbanks Correctional Center charged with one count of assault third degree, without bail, at approximately 09:10 hours this morning.