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### Statewide Safe Rx Drug Disposal Total

(ANCHORAGE, Alaska) – Alaskans turned in 2,763 pounds of prescription medication during the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) National Prescription Drug Take Back event. The Take Back event was held on Oct. 26, 2013. There were 34 collection sites across Alaska participating in the event.

Until a safe disposal process for prescription medications is established nationwide, the DEA will continue to partner with agencies, like the Alaska State Troopers, to hold Take Back Days every six months. The Alaska State Troopers would like to thank the DEA along with the U.S. Department of Justice, Anchorage PD, Fairbanks PD, Kenai PD, Veterans Affairs, Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, Juneau PD, Palmer PD, Petersburg PD, North Pole PD, Sitka PD, Skagway PD, Soldotna PD, Seward PD, Valdez PD and Wasilla PD, for their efforts. The event wouldn't have been possible or successful without the enormous effort put out by the volunteers and private agencies.

This initiative addresses a vital public safety and public health issue. Medicines that languish in home cabinets are highly susceptible to diversion, misuse, and abuse. Rates of prescription drug abuse in the U.S. are alarmingly high--more Americans currently abuse prescription drugs than the number of those using cocaine, hallucinogens, and heroin combined, according to the 2010 National Survey on Drug Use and Health. Studies show that a majority of abused prescription drugs are obtained from family and friends, including from the home medicine cabinet.