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### Public Safety Training Academy Graduates 18 Law Enforcement Officers

(SITKA, Alaska) – Eighteen enforcement officers from different state and municipal agencies graduated today from the Public Safety Training Academy in Sitka. Today's graduation ceremony at the Sheet 'a Kwan Nacka Hide Building in Sitka concluded Alaska Law Enforcement Training (ALET) Session No. 14-01. The 18 new officers and troopers went through 900 hours of training in the 15-week basic ALET. The training incorporates intensive instruction in law enforcement-related topics, physical fitness and many scenario-based exercises – all designed to prepare entry level police officers and troopers for a successful career in Alaska law enforcement. The graduates are:

Allen Collins, a self pay

Daniel Coyne of the Alaska State Troopers

Shea Daniels of the Fairbanks International Airport Police & Fire Department

Robert Dobson of the Fairbanks International Airport Police & Fire Department

Aaron Fedolfi of the Bethel Police Department

Charles Fezatte of the Fairbanks International Airport Police & Fire Department

Matthew Kessler of the Alaska State Troopers

John King of the Alaska State Troopers

Sara Mattox of the Fairbanks International Airport Police & Fire Department

Nicholas Nigro of the Alaska State Troopers

Martin Peterson of the Craig Police Department

Melissa Smith of the State Park Service in Fairbanks

Adam Smith of the Juneau Police Department

Justine Stewart of the Alaska State Troopers

James Thomas III of the Alaska State Troopers

Brian Williams of the Alaska State Troopers

Morgan Woodard of the Seward Police Department

Tanner Worosher of the Alaska State Troopers

After graduation, the Alaska State Trooper and Alaska Wildlife Trooper recruits continue their training at the academy for an additional three weeks. This training session is often referred to as Trooper Basic. The trooper recruits receive more tailored and advanced training during this session in fish and wildlife investigations, boating safety, survival, commercial fisheries enforcement, media relations, critical stress management, patrol rifle training and search and rescue. They are also exposed to additional scenario-based training events.

Also among the today's graduates are three Alaska municipal police officers – LeRoy DeVeaux, Kyle Ferguson and Casey Hershberg – that made the switch to become Alaska State Troopers. Because they already have Alaska Police Standards Council certifications, they joined the ALET recruits in the final two weeks of the session and will attend Trooper Basic.

Upon completion of Trooper Basic, trooper recruits from both divisions move to their first duty assignment in either Fairbanks, Soldotna or the Mat-Su Valley and begin a 15-week Field Training and Evaluation Program. All trooper recruits are expected to develop to the point of being able to perform all law enforcement functions independently and if successful, will be promoted to trooper upon the successful completion of their probationary period, generally 12 months from the start of the academy. At that point, wildlife troopers will move to the Division of Alaska Wildlife Troopers.