



May 2, 2014

On May 1, 2014, at about 3:00 pm Alaska Time this department experienced a devastating loss of two Alaska State Troopers in Tanana (Sergeant Patrick "Scott" Johnson and Trooper Gabriel Rich). This was a senseless act that resulted in killing of two dedicated and courageous Alaska State Troopers faithfully fulfilling their duties in the community of Tanana.

Both troopers were in Tanana to serve an arrest warrant on Arvin Kangas (58) for Assault 4 and Driving with License Revoked (DWLR) from an incident that occurred the night before when Arvin Kangas had a confrontation with Tanana Village Public Safety Officer (VPSO) Mark Haglin, which included Kangas pointing at shotgun at the VPSO Haglin as he drove by his residence. After the confrontation VPSO Haglin contacted the Fairbanks AST Office.

Troopers arrived in Tanana at about 2:45 pm. Troopers made contact with Arvin Kangas near the front door of his residence. While attempting to place Kangas under arrest a struggle ensued, this resulted in all three entering into the Kangas' residence. While inside the residence both Troopers were shot and killed by Nathaniel Kangas (19). It's believed that Nathaniel used a semi-automatic rifle during the shooting.

Nathaniel Kangas was taken into custody shortly after the killings. Arvin Kangas fled to another residence in Tanana and surrendered to AST last night at approximately 10:25 pm. Both men were transported to Fairbanks. The Office of Special Prosecution and Appeals is assisting in the investigation and currently preparing charging documents against Nathaniel Kangas to include,

- **Murder the First Degree for the death of Sgt. Patrick Scott Johnson**
- **Murder in the First Degree for the death of Trooper Gabriel Rich**
- **Assault in the Third Degree for actions against VPSO Mark Haglin**

Currently department members are dealing with shock and disbelief trying to make sense of Sergeant Johnson and Trooper Rich deaths. We are currently providing support for the involved families and all our personnel in Fairbanks. This is certainly a difficult time for DPS members, especially falling on the heels of three line of duty deaths we experienced in 2013.

I would ask that everyone respect the wishes of the families during the next several weeks while they try to cope with this tragedy.

The Alaska State Troopers take pride in the service they provide to the citizens of Alaska. Our men and women do an incredible job everyday protecting our citizens and the wildlife resources that make this state great.