



WELCOME

A Department of Public Safety publication bringing professionalism and humanity together.

WINTER 2006

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Welcome to DPS  
Commissioner Walt Monegan



## Farewell From Commissioner Bill Tandeske

Returning to the department as Commissioner four years ago was a tremendous honor. To be asked to lead this outstanding organization that I have spent the vast majority of my adult life with was truly a “once in a lifetime” opportunity. Our leadership team was committed to making the most of our opportunity to make a difference for the public and our employees.

We achieved an impressive list of accomplishments – they would not have been possible without the support of employees at every level of the organization! Together, we were successful in strengthening every aspect of the department through increased funding, additional employees, new office and housing facilities, and equipment.

Several projects are underway and it is my hope that they will be completed by the incoming administration. One is the new Crime Lab. Planning, design and site acquisition are in progress and construction start is anticipated in 2008. Another is patrol car video and radar systems. The order has been placed to upgrade every highway based patrol vehicle. Additional rural housing projects are also in progress.

As impressive as our tangible project results have been, I believe that the most important contribution of our administration has been our willingness

to make necessary changes within the organization. There is no question that “change” is not easy. That said, by making bold but necessary changes, we improved our overall effectiveness, garnered support from lawmakers who appropriate funding, and produced tangible results for our constituents.

The contributions of our leadership team cannot be overstated. Deputy Commissioner Ted Bachman, Assistant Commissioner Gretchen Pence, Division Directors Julia Grimes, Gary Powell, David Schade, and Dan Spencer have been key to our success. I thank each of them for their efforts over the past four years.

My last day as an Alaska State Trooper in 1999 was bittersweet. As I leave office and make my second attempt at retirement, I have many of the same feelings. Although Debbie and I look forward to more time in the Arizona sun, Alaska will remain home and the department will remain family.

As I reflect on my nearly 30 years of service with DPS, I realize I could not have been more fortunate to be associated with the fine employees, past and present, of this organization. My time with you has truly been a privilege. Thank you for all that you do. ■



# Alaska State Troopers

## Colonel Julia Grimes Retires

Director of the Alaska State Troopers, Colonel Julia Grimes, announced her retirement effective November 30<sup>th</sup> 2006, concluding nearly 24 years of State service. Colonel Grimes leaves behind a career with



the Alaska State Troopers that can best be described as "historic."

Colonel Grimes was born and raised in western Pennsylvania and came to Alaska in January 1982 after being furloughed from United Airlines as a Commercial Air Transport Pilot. Colonel Grimes, then Julia Canter, continued flying, securing work as an air taxi pilot and flight instructor in Fairbanks and Ketchikan.

Colonel Grimes began her career with the Alaska State Troopers in January 1983. In July of 1984, Colonel Grimes became the first female trooper put on flight status with the Department of Public Safety. At that time, she held a commercial pilot certificate with an instrument rating, airplane single

land, sea and multi engine rating, and had acquired 2,800 hours of flying experience with air taxis, flying aircraft equipped with both wheels and floats.

Colonel Grimes spent a total of 12 years in the Drug Enforcement Unit and was the first female trooper trained as a K-9 handler when she was partnered with scent detection K-9 *Veteran*.

Colonel Grimes flew many missions in support of drug enforcement efforts statewide and in 1992 she transferred to King Salmon and then to Dillingham where she spent six years in Bristol Bay flying in support of the rural enforcement mission. Additionally, she was one of the few-ever flying DARE instructors.

Colonel Grimes served in a wide range of duty assignments including Palmer Patrol, supervisor of the Airport Interdiction Team, investigator in the Criminal Investigation Bureau, sergeant in charge of warrants, fugitives, and extraditions for the Judicial Services Unit, and as a lieutenant, assigned to the Director's staff as the permits/licensing supervisor.

In May 2003, Colonel Grimes was the first female trooper promoted to the rank of captain and shortly thereafter she became the first female trooper appointed as the Director of the Alaska State Troopers. In announcing her promotion to colonel, Governor Frank Murkowski said of Colonel Grimes, "I have been impressed by her strong leadership principles, as well as the energy and vision she brings to her new assignment."



**Colonel Grimes in the making of a recruitment Commercial**

Department of Public Safety Commissioner Bill Tandeske said of Colonel Grimes' appointment, "strong leadership is essential and Colonel Grimes will provide that leadership."

Under Colonel Grimes' leadership, the division experienced an emphasis on professionalism, as well as a focus on the Trooper's six core missions of highway traffic enforcement, rural law enforcement, statewide drug and alcohol enforcement, statewide major crimes investigations, wildlife enforcement, and quality statewide training.

Colonel Grimes was a graduate of the 212<sup>th</sup> Session of the F.B.I. National Academy and a graduate of the 27<sup>th</sup> Session of the National Executive Institute in Quantico, Virginia.

While many of us are bracing for a dark, cold winter in Alaska, Retired Colonel Julia Grimes will be in Florida with her husband of 21 years, retired trooper Jimmy Grimes, living 8 blocks from the beach, and getting plenty of riding time in on their Harleys.

**"Thank You"** Julia for your many years of distinguished service and leadership! We wish you the very best as you announce, "1-H-1 is 10-7." ■



## Legislators Honored For Safety Advocacy

National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) **Kevin Quinlan**, Chief Safety Advocacy Division, presented State Safety Leadership Awards to the State of Alaska and four state legislators for adopting a graduated driver licensing law for young drivers and a primary safety belt use law, on August 28, 2006, at the State Crime Lab in Anchorage.

"This is very exciting to celebrate both legislative leadership and adoption of proven measures that will save lives of Alaska's most precious resource, its people," Quinlan said.

Alaska had one of the nation's weakest licensing laws for young drivers. Although teen drivers make up only 7.24 percent of the driving population in Alaska, they were involved in 15.7 percent of all highway fatalities in 2003. Data from 2004 indicate a slight decrease in teen fatalities that is expected to continue as the law affects more young drivers. Alaska's comprehensive graduated driver licensing law includes a 3-stage system so that young drivers can develop skills



**Kevin Quinlan from the NTSB with Rep. Lesil McGuire, Rep. Con Bunde and Rep. Bruce Weyhrauch**

in a safer environment and "graduate" to the next phase and to full licensure.

Alaska's belt use rate of 76.7 percent in 2004 was worse than that of 30 other States and consistently below the national average. There was a slight increase in 2005. With the secondary enforcement restrictions now removed from the belt use law, the use rate should increase and fatalities decrease as they have in 24 other States.

Plaques were awarded in Anchorage to **Sen. Con Bunde, Rep. Lesil McGuire, and Rep. Bruce Weyhrauch**. In a later presen-

tation, a plaque was awarded in Fairbanks to **Sen. Ralph Seekins**.

"Preventing highway crashes, fatalities, and injuries is everyone's business. We need to take advantage of these new laws and seek to build a new consensus that highway safety is a public priority, so that reducing traffic crashes receives ongoing attention and resources," said Quinlan.

Graduated driver licensing has been on the Safety Board's Most Wanted list of safety recommendations since 1994; primary safety belt laws have been on the list since 1998. ■

## Parks Highway Safety Corridor

By Greg Wilkinson, PIO

On Monday October 16, 2006, the Parks Highway from MP 44.5 to MP 53 was designated as a Highway (Traffic) Safety Corridor. The corridor is clearly marked with signs as a vehicle enters the corridor and as they exit the corridor. There are reminders of the corridor about every three miles. The signs clearly indicate that double fines apply.

This is the second Highway (Traffic) Safety Corridor established in Alaska since **Gov. Frank Murkowski** signed SB261 into law on May 26th, 2006. The first traffic safety corridor extends from mile 90 (Girdwood area) to mile 117 (Potter Marsh) of the Seward Highway.

"Gov. Murkowski was instrumental in securing the legislation that provided this valuable highway safety tool, and the Department is happy to have it", said **Gordon Keith**, DOT Central Region Director. "Highway safety zones have a proven track

record nationally in making highways safer. The roll-out of this zone, in cooperation with the Alaska Highway Safety Office and the Department of Public Safety, is expected to have the same results."

According to Alaska Statute 28.40.070 - fines for offenses committed within highway work zones and traffic safety corridors are doubled. Whenever a person violates a provision of this title or a regulation adopted under the authority of this title within a highway work zone or traffic safety corridor, notwithstanding the amount of the fine or the maximum fine set under this title, the fine, or maximum fine, is double the amount provided in this title.

What this means is that if a driver commits a moving traffic offense in the corridor, the penalty is double the amount listed in the Vehicle and Traffic Booklet (Bail Schedule) as issued by the Alaska Court System. Some examples include: speeding 10 mph over the

posted speed limit - the fine goes from \$80 to \$160; speeding 20 mph over the posted speed limit - the fine goes from \$240 to \$480; passing on a double yellow line - the fine is doubled to \$300 and in this case the points are also doubled to a total of four points on your license. Seatbelt and child restraint fines are also doubled in the safety corridor, as are fines for unsecured loads (from \$300 to \$600).

"The double fines are meant as a deterrent more than as a punishment," said **Commissioner Bill Tandeske**, Department of Public Safety. "Alaska State Troopers are always looking for voluntary compliance from Alaska's drivers. Everyone would be safer, and we'd reduce the number of injuries and deaths on our roadways, if we all obeyed the traffic laws."

Alaska State Troopers began issuing citations with the double fine amounts within the corridor on October 16. ■

# Division of Alaska State Troopers

## Jeffery Laughlin Promoted to Lieutenant

Colonel Julia Grimes is pleased to announce the promotion of Sgt. Jeffrey Laughlin, C Detachment, Dillingham Post to Lieutenant, Division Headquarters, Anchorage, as the AST Legislative Liaison / FTEP Coordinator, effective December 1, 2006.

Lt. Laughlin has been in law enforcement in Alaska for the last ten years. He began his career with AST on May 30, 1999, by attending the Basic Trooper Course at the Academy in Sitka. Prior to that, he was a police officer in his hometown of Ketchikan from May 1994, to May 1999. Lt. Laughlin attended ALET in 1991.

Lt. Laughlin was initially assigned as a patrol trooper in E Detachment at Soldotna Post. Later, he was assigned as an investigator in the General Investigations Unit at Soldotna Post. In December of 2000, he



Lt. Laughlin accompanied by his wife Casey and Lt. April

was reassigned to the Soldotna office of the Western Alaska Alcohol and Narcotics Team (WAANT). He transferred to C Detachment, Dillingham Post, in July 2002, as a rural patrol trooper. He was promoted to sergeant in October 2004, as the Dillingham post supervisor.

Col. Grimes said, "Lt. Laughlin has stepped up to new and varied assignments

many times during his trooper career, and has willingly accepted more responsibility as he did so. His leadership of the Dillingham Post has been outstanding, and we look forward to his contribution to the important job of supporting the field through this division staff assignment. He will be a welcome addition to an already great team at headquarters." ■

## Kid Chan, Michael Burkmire, David Hansen, and Paul Fussey Promoted to Sergeant

Colonel Julia Grimes announced the following promotions:

**Cpl. Choong Kid Chan**, Sitka Training Academy to B Detachment, Palmer Post Patrol Sergeant effective December 16, 2006;

**Inv. Michael E. Burkmire**, Alaska Bureau of Investigation, Palmer, to Sergeant, Alaska Bureau of Investigation, Palmer;

**Inv. David B. Hanson**, Alaska Bureau of Investigation, Anchorage to Sergeant, Alaska Bureau of Investigation, Anchorage; and

**Trp. Paul Fussey**, Alaska Bureau of Wildlife Enforcement, Southwest Region, Kodiak to Sergeant, Alaska Bureau of Wildlife Enforcement, Southwest Region, Kodiak.

*Sgt. Kid Chan*

Sgt. Chan began his AST law enforcement career on August 27, 1999. His first assignment after completion of the Academy was B Detachment, Palmer Post. During his initial assignment to Palmer Patrol, he was a member of SERT and assigned as a Field

Training Officer (FTO). In 2002, he transferred to C Detachment, Bethel Post, where he was assigned as the oversight trooper of six remote villages

On November 2004, Sgt. Chan was promoted to Corporal and transferred to the Academy as a staff instructor. Sgt. Chan is an APSC Certified Police Instructor in Defensive Tactics, ASP Baton, Pepper Spray, Emergency Vehicle Operations, Taser, First Aid and Patrol Interdiction Emergency Response.

In Sgt. Chan's new assignment, he will be one of the Patrol Shift Supervisors for B Detachment, Palmer Post with supervision of up to seven State Troopers.

*Sgt. Michael E. Burkmire*

Sgt. Burkmire was an Airport Safety Officer from February 1992, until March 1995, when he joined the Alaska State Troopers. He was assigned to B Detachment, Palmer Patrol for six years, until he transferred to

Palmer GIU in 2001. He returned to Palmer Patrol in 2002, where he was OIC and a Field Training Officer. In 2005, Trp. Burkmire came back into an investigator position when he was assigned to the Alaska Bureau of Investigation in Palmer

Sgt. Burkmire has an Advanced Police Certificate, Instructor Certificate and is an Alaska Court System Expert in Motor Vehicle Collision Reconstruction. He has attended advanced training, such as First Line Supervisor, Multi Disciplinary Team Protocol Development, Advanced Crime Scene Investigation and Methods of Instruction, to name a few. In 2003, Sgt. Burkmire was awarded B Detachment Trooper of the Year.

*Sgt. David B. Hanson*

Sgt. Hanson attended Recruit Class #42 in Sitka, in 1993. Upon graduating from the Academy he was assigned to B Detachment, Palmer Post until 1995, when he transferred

(Promotions, continued on page 5)

## Promotions, continued from page 4

to C Detachment, Kodiak Post. In July 1998, Sgt. Hanson moved to Anchorage when he was assigned to the Alaska Bureau of Investigation, Major Crimes Unit. In 2003, he was reassigned to the Missing Person Clearinghouse Unit.

Sgt. Hanson received his Advanced Police Certificate in 1999. He has a Bachelor of Business Administration degree in Business Management from Evangel College, Springfield, Missouri. He is a certified police instructor in Interview and Interrogation and Crime Scene Investigation.

*Sgt. Paul Fussey*

Trp. Fussey joined the Troopers September 1998, and his first duty station was

ABWE Soldotna. June 2001, he transferred to Kodiak ABWE where he has been assigned to the *Patrol Vessel Cama'i* and has conducted commercial fishing patrols on both the *P/V Stimson* and *P/V Woldstad*.

Sgt. Fussey is a graduate of the 2000 Federal Marine Law Enforcement Training Program, Reid Advanced Course, Field Training Seminar, 100 gross ton course by the Alaska Nautical Training school and is a licensed Master 50 ton by the United States Coast Guard. He completed the National Incident Management System course presented by FEMA and graduated from the Marine Firefighting School at the PRISM training center in Kenai.

This is a new position, funded through

the JEA. Sgt. Fussey's new duties will include oversight of a special enforcement program comprised of 15 Public Safety Techs, involved in a cooperative fisheries enforcement program with the federal government.

Each of these Troopers is to be commended for stepping up to new challenges and for accepting the additional responsibilities of a first line supervisor. Each individual has taken affirmative steps to gain broad experience around the state, and have performed very well in their past assignments, all of which has prepared them for this advancement.

The Director's Office has great confidence in their ability to provide leadership and help carry our Division into the future. ■

**Colonel Julia Grimes** announced the promotion of **Trp. Grant Miller** to Corporal, Public Safety Academy, effective January 1, 2007.

Cpl. Miller began his law enforcement career as a Village Public Safety Officer in 2001 and shortly thereafter, in 2002, was promoted to a DPS Regional Public Safety Officer. He attended ALET #27 in 2002, and was assigned to C Detachment, Iliamna. In 2004, Miller was promoted to State Trooper and assigned to the Kotzebue Post.

## Grant Miller Promoted

Cpl. Miller is already a DPS Instructor, certified in Defensive Tactics, Taser, OC and expandable baton. He is also certified as a Patrol Interdiction Emergency Response Instructor.

He has participated in the Recruitment Selection Committee and has attended a variety of training seminars. This training and his experience in the field will serve him well in the Academy environment.

In Cpl. Miller's new assignment, he will be responsible for supervising and evaluat-

ing academy students. He will provide specialized administrative support and will function as an academy instructor, developing training plans and testing devices used to evaluate student learning and performance.

Col. Grimes said, "Our DPS Training Academy is a critical element of our Division and is fundamental to our overall mission. We have great confidence that Cpl. Miller will set an excellent example while providing leadership and guidance toward developing capable, professional recruits." ■

## Successful Bids

**Colonel Julia Grimes** announced the following successful bidders:

**Sgt. Randel McPherron**, Anchorage, ABI, is the successful bidder for Dillingham, C Detachment; **Trp. Kurt Walgenbach**, Cooper Landing, E Detachment, is the successful bidder for Klawock, ABWE; **Cpl. Paul Randall**, Sitka Academy, is the successful bidder for Kodiak, ABWE; **Trp. Cody Litster**, Big Lake, ABWE, is the successful bidder for Petersburg, ABWE; **Trp. Christopher Jaime**, Nome, C Detachment, is the successful bidder for Soldotna, ABWE; **Trp. Todd Womack**, Anchorage, C Detachment, is the successful bidder for Palmer, B Detachment; **Trp. Andrew Ballesteros**, Fairbanks, D Detachment, is the successful bidder for Bethel, C Detachment; **Trp. Rachel Foster**, Nenana,

D Detachment, is the successful bidder for Kodiak, C Detachment; **Trp. Timothy Powell**, Soldotna, E Detachment, is the successful bidder for Tok, D Detachment; **Trp. Robert Nunley**, Palmer, B Detachment, is the successful bidder for Galena, D Detachment; **Trp. Gregory Pealitere**, Palmer, B Detachment, is the successful bidder for Anchor Point, E Detachment; **Trp. Steven Lantz**, Delta Junction, D Detachment, is the successful bidder for Fairbanks, ABI; **Inv. Michelyn Grigg**, Anchorage, ABI, is the successful bidder for Palmer, ABI; **Inv. Joseph Hazelaar**, Bethel, ABADE, is the successful bidder for Anchorage, ABADE; **Trp. Mitchell Lewis**, Palmer, B Detachment, is the successful bidder for Cordova, ABWE; **Trp. Michael Wooten**, Anchorage, C Detachment, is the successful bidder for Palmer, B Detachment. ■



**Trp. Andrew Adams**, Talkeetna Post, was incorrectly identified in the Fall 2006 edition of the Quarterly. His family accompanied Trp. Adams during Employee Recognition Day when he received his 5-year pin. The Editor apologizes for the error.

## Katie TePas Receives International Award

**Katie TePas**, Domestic Violence Training Program Coordinator, received an award and letter of recognition from the International Association of Forensic Nurses. The letter read in part,

“The awards committee of the International Association of Forensic Nursing and the Board of Directors wish to congratulate you as a recipient of the IAFN Vision Award. As a supporter of Forensic Nursing, you have demonstrated consistent leadership in support of the IAFN, and contributed significantly to the advancement of Forensic Nursing.

Recipients of this award have displayed knowledge of the benefits of the science of Forensic Nursing. Your contributions to Forensic Nursing development through educational programs that teach or promote Forensic Nursing show on-going support of Forensic Nursing by disseminating information throughout the scientific community.

Your involvement increases the realm of possibilities for the organization and the practice of Forensic Nursing and is an inspiration to others and is worthy of recognition with this award.

Thank you for playing an active and



inspirational role as a supporter of Forensic Nursing, and recognizing the value of forensic nursing practice in the enhancement of health care for all.

Congratulations, **Daniel Sheridan**, President, International Association of Forensic Nurses.” ■

## K-9 Trooper Custa Receives His Wings

By Terry Cosgrove-Aircraft Supervisor

**Trp. John Chiri** presented a set of Alaska State Trooper wings to the K-9 handler, **Inv. Rick Pawlak**. **K-9 Trp. “Custa”** passed the check ride with flying colors, even the inadvertent deployment of the oxygen masks during flight did not rattle

the “puppy”; although his handler exhibited noticeable stress. The flight commander, **Rod Wilkinson** put Trp. Custa through a rigorous mission profile to ensure that our K-9 Trooper is airworthy and can perform as an all weather operations specialist. ■



## The “Bush Trooper” Challenge Coin

By Trp. Mike Roberts

One of the most difficult things about creating a challenge coin that represents a group of people is satisfying the various opinions of the group. It is impossible to please everyone and I hope that this coin will be something that those Troopers who have served their time in the Bush will have as a symbol of their service and sacrifice to the people of this part of Alaska.

Those of you reading this who are familiar with such productions as unit insignia, coat of arms, or in this case challenge coins, know that every symbol or item represented has a meaning. I understand that this may not always be the case but in my experience it has. With that said, I authored this document to accompany the coin.

“The color Blue was a requirement for the coin. Blue is the universal color for Law Enforcement but more specifically a color that represents the Alaska State Troopers.

Antique Gold was used for two reasons. It provides more depth and definition than other materials and represents the more rustic, “Old Breed” style of Rural Law En-

forcement.

Front: Loyalty, Integrity, Courage are the values a Trooper swears to and lives by. The badge is an obvious centerpiece for the front side of the coin because it is the symbol of what we do. The vehicles were chosen to represent the difficult circumstances, terrain, and distance Bush Troopers must negotiate to accomplish their mission. Bush Trooper, the title of the coin.

Back: Surrounding the coin is the word for Trooper in the five predominant native languages of Alaska.

Hok’elaayenh Athabaskan Indian “Law Enforcement” Aikliqsuqtit Inupiaq Eskimo “One who comes to fetch others” Tegusta Yupik Eskimo “The one who takes away” Watchwaan Tlingit Indian



“Peace Keeper” Palicuuskiiq Aleut Indian “Police Officer / Trooper”

The center is a representation of a western Alaska mask. Masks vary greatly but frequently represent the combined spirit of two creatures. They do this by placing one in the mouth of the other or mixing facial features of the two creatures; like a human face with a bird beak for a nose. This mask represents a Trooper as a man who has with him the spirit of the Bear.

Surrounding the mask are “Fish and Feathers” representing the Wildlife protection side of the Trooper’s occupation and with living and operating in an environment populated by these animals.

The bear paws represent “those who have gone before” the Troopers who have served and moved on to another location, retirement, or the next world. They have left their footprints and their mark, providing, for those who take their place, experiences to learn from and direction for the future.

I carry it with pride. Hopefully you will do the same. Trp. Mike Roberts”

The coins are expected to be available from FOAST in Anchorage around mid-December. ■

## Salute To Those In The Field

A salute to those who strive and attain success, and thank you to those in the field who have proven they are willing to provide the highest degree of professionalism each and every day.

**Sgt. Craig Allen**, Palmer Post, received a memo of appreciation for his exemplary efforts during his supervisory assignment for the 2006 Alaska State Fair project.

**Sgt. Kat Peterson**, Palmer Post, received a memo of appreciation for her profes-

sional and superior efforts in collecting data, tabulating reportable information and administratively assisting Sgt. Craig Allen with the 2006 Alaska State Fair project.

A salute and thanks to those who have been mentioned, and to those not described, who continue to provide outstanding public safety services, and strive to maintain a proud and professional image. A salute and thanks from the Divisions and the Office of the Commissioner. ■



**Sgt. Craig Allen and Captain Dennis Casanovas.**



**Colonel Grimes draws the name of the AST SHARE - American Quilt winner.**

Congratulations to Corporal Chad Goeden from the Academy--winner of the American Quilt!

Thanks to everyone who contributed to the SHARE campaign this year. A total of 70 ASTers donated a total of \$13,185.00.

### From the Desk of Chaplain Jerry O. Norman

Holidays are oftentimes very trying as well as lonely. They are times that can be a blessing or a literal pain to many individuals. Many times the aftermath of the holiday is the real tragic period. This as a result of loneliness, hard times physically and financially. Even though we may not be the one that is in despair, we often have to witness and deal with the result of that despair.

Preparation to deal with these type issues is not like putting on a coat. It takes a concentrated effort on our part to insure our ability to cope or handle these issues. People have spent thousands on education, doctors, groups, etc. I personally found that the most important thing that can be done is to take time to yourself. This includes personal reflection time, praying, transparent conversation time with a close friend and even time spent reading, including the Bible.

As a gentleman by the name of Charlie Plum has stated, “don’t allow yourself to be trapped by prison thinking”. The prison could be depression, negative circumstances, a fight at home, the boss rubs you the wrong way, even the obnoxious “customer” that you deal with on a daily basis.

We are starting a new year. I would like to encourage you to look at the future, look at the start point where you are and ask God to enable you to use your time effectively, cheerfully and with His wisdom.

May the Lord bless you!  
May the Lord keep you!  
May the Lord shine down upon you,  
And give you peace.

HAPPY NEW YEAR  
Chaplain Jerry Norman

## Alaska Bureau of Wildlife Enforcement

### Kodiak ABWE--What a Year

What a year. It started with the annual trip around Kodiak Island. We took the *P/V Cama'i* on a ten-day cod and Safety Bear patrol, oh yeah, and we cannot forget the little guy, Ted E. Bear who was a big hit with the younger kids. **Trp. Jon Striefel** worked his magic with the voice controlled Ted E. Bear. While Trp. Striefel was hidden in the hallway, **Trp. David Anderson** echoed the students question loud enough so Trp. Striefel could hear and then give a detailed answer. Vessel Tech **Dale Booth** donned the

Safety Bear costume, and brought the bear to life. The kids loved it.

We started out the trip with a visit into the Village of Ouzinkie and continued on to Port Lions, Larsen Bay, Akhiok and Old Harbor. Karluk was again bypassed due to bad weather. We gave two presentations at each school. The mornings were devoted to the younger grades, K-6 and younger. In the afternoons, we tried to give the high school group an overview of our mission and of all the different types of equipment we use.



**Students from Old Harbor on board the P/V Cama'i.**

(ABWE, continued on page 8)

# ABWE, continued from page 7

Trp. Striefel discussed each of the weapons and the other tools we carry. Trp. Anderson would follow-up with a question and answer session. We used this as a recruitment session, had lots of good questions, and we were well received. The students really liked seeing the Troopers in a different setting instead of coming in and making an arrest or just a quick visit. We will be making another trip again in March.

### Had we known that weekend was going to be our summer, I think more people would have taken advantage of the sun

During the end of May, the Kodiak Crab Festival came in with some very warm weather. Had we known that weekend was going to be our summer, I think more people would have taken advantage of the sun. The Kodiak ABWE Troopers took part in the Float portion of the parade. We decorated the *P/V Ethics* with the banner "Kids Don't Float" logo. The banner was purchased by Alaska Boater Safety. We also displayed the DARE logo banner.

By the summer months the Kodiak ABWE Troopers got stretched very thin. The *P/V Woldstad* headed to False Pass for a couple of weeks, then onto Bristol Bay to help with the busy red salmon fishery for approximately 6 to 7 weeks. The *P/V Cama'i*, patrolled the early openings in Kodiak, and then patrolled Chignik for their salmon fishery, for a two-week patrol, and then up to Cook Inlet to work the commercial fisheries there with the local Kenai area ABWE Troopers.

With all the recent transfers of Troopers, Trp. Charlie Cross to Anchorage, Trp. Aaron Frenzel to Juneau, and Trp. Sven Skille who resigned, Kodiak is looking to fill some of these vacancies. Who will be the next lucky Trooper that gets to go on all of these exciting, all – expense paid trips?

We would like to welcome our new Public Safety Tech IIs to Kodiak, Tom Anthony, Robert Juhlin, and seasonal Anthony Ling. We would also like to welcome Kerry Bateman who is the new Admin. Clerk for the new JEA Sergeant. And two welcomes to our dispatchers, Jamie Juhlin and Meki Selman. ■



Safety Bear with a bunch of friends getting ready to start the parade. Trps. Jon Striefel, Sven Skille, and David Anderson.



Safety Bear having a great time at the Kodiak Crab Festival parade.



Safety Bear and Ted E. Bear with students from Akhiok.



Trp. Jon Striefel with Trp. Ted E. Bear in Larsen Bay.



Sgt. Lonnie Gonzales congratulated Trp. Aaron Frenzel on his service to the citizens of Kodiak for over five years.



Lt. Will Ellis presented Trp. Aaron Frenzel with his plaque for service in Kodiak.



Safety Bear making sure all things are a "go" on the P/V Ethics.



# Sitka Training Academy



Cpl. Shane Nicholson read the oath of office to the Keystone Kops in Sitka, in preparation for the Alaska Day celebration on October 18, 2006. The Kops will hand out Alaska Day buttons and collect donations for the celebration. Sitka was the site of the transfer of Alaska from Russia to the United States on October 18, 1867, and hosts an annual Alaska Day festival. The Keystone Kops began a tradition with the festival in the mid 1950s.

## Public Safety Academy Is All Geared Up

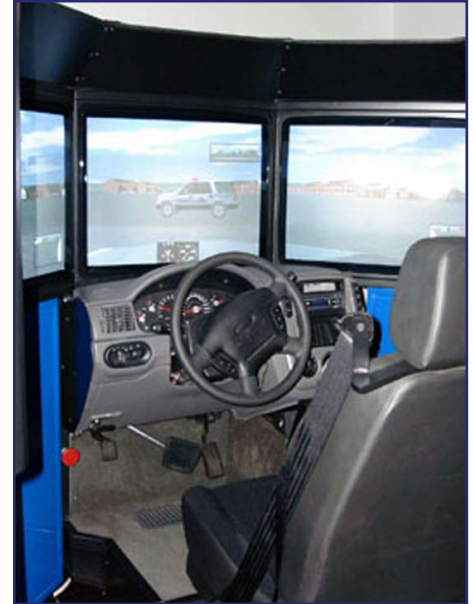
By Lt. James Helgoe

On July 18, 2006, the DPS Academy took possession of a new FAAC Driving Simulator. The driving simulator was built in Ann Arbor, Michigan at the FAAC Factory and then delivered to the Academy in 5 large shipping crates. The simulator arrived intact and factory representatives assembled the new driving simulator in less than a day. Over the course of a couple of days, the Corporals were trained in how to use the simulator. Maybe I should rephrase. *The Corporals spent the next couple of days playing around with the driving simulator doing what they could to make it crash!* A good time was had by all.

The new driving simulator replaces an old outdated simulator that will be disposed of shortly. Some features of the new system are the full motion seat to simulate driving conditions over bumpy roads, driving terrain from urban to rural, and off road areas, for several in-service vehicles including the Crown Victoria, pickup and Expedition. The

driving simulator also has the ability to have a rabbit car or another patrol vehicle take part in the scenario controlled by a separate instructor at another control console.

The Corporals will be able to create different driving scenarios that will assist in hazard perception, speed and space management, adverse weather driving conditions, multi-tasking and split second judgment, and decision-making. The staff at the Academy is all geared up and ready to start using this new driving simulator with ALET #36. ■



Some features of the new system are the full motion seat



Factory reps assembled the simulator in less than a day.



The Corporals spent the next couple of days playing around with the driving simulator doing what they could to make it crash!

# AST Detachment News

## Alaska Bureau of Investigation

### *ASCIA Conference Hosted by ABI*

Written by Jennifer Griggs

**ABI** has been busy, busy, busy since last I set fingers to keyboard to let you all in on our secrets!! Hosting conferences, chauffeuring tourists and scaring the hee-bee-jee-bees out of not-so-smart-people (more about this later) have kept us all on our toes and out of trouble!!

The end of September brought about the annual conference for the Association of State Criminal Investigative Agencies (ASCIA) down in Girdwood at the Alyeska Prince Hotel. ASCIA is an organization made up exclusively of state criminal investigative organizations. On this level, we all share common concerns including interaction with local, other state, and federal agencies. Through our participation and collaboration we have a chance to learn new ways to work in these arenas, as well as to develop important contacts for those interstate cases ABI gets to work with.

The conference ran from September 24 through September 27, 2006. ABI was host to 26 different state agencies, and about sixty-one members and their dependents. This was a major undertaking for ABI as it involved over six months in planning and a lot of coordination to maximize our limited resources.

The conference started on Sunday with an open house reception. The members of ABI put forth their best efforts (and goodies)! Special recognition goes to Janet Waldron who designed and built a fantastic centerpiece for the reception. We had smoked salmon chowder, moose chili, bison chili, smoked salmon, homemade wild Alaska jelly and much more including local Alaska products to tempt the appetites of our guests. Several of the attendees indicated it was the best spread they had ever seen at one of these conferences. Tamara Holman, Molly Engdahl, Kelly Allman-Chatterly, Paula Goforth, myself and a variety of the 'ABI Guys' were kept hopping as we tried to keep plates and glasses full. We also had the pleasure of answering a lot of questions about Alaska and the immediate area around Girdwood. Next time we'll take 'Alaska 101' as a re-

fresh course on Alaska. It's amazing the questions people can come up with – some of which required us to do some research – and we live here everyday!

The official conference started on Monday and while the members were toiling away at work, the dependents were whisked away to the Big Game Conservation Center and the Alaska Zoo. Investigator Dane Gilmore, Sergeant (now) Mike Burkmire, and Lieutenant Burke Waldron escorted "The Ladies" as they came to be called. Sergeant Dave Willson stayed behind to help the Captain keep from getting things too disorganized. Dave quickly became our "AV Geek" and helped minimize the technical difficulties. The clerical staff (Tamara and I) kept busy with the normal clerical stuff, as well as getting everything ready for the banquet scheduled for that night and manning the hospitality suite.

Monday night was the banquet with a "Chinese Auction" gift exchange at the end. The gifts were donated by a large variety of Alaskan companies and all the items were well received. Surprisingly the fleece vests designed by our own PIO were a huge success and very sought after by the ASCIA attendees. Captain John Papisodora was very entertaining in his role as Emcee. If only we had thought to video tape some of it!!

The conference continued on Tuesday with a 'Mobile Group Site Survey and Interface Session' (a glacier cruise out of Whittier). This is where the hee-bee-jee-bees come in and our guys did a little behavioral modification. The weather was terrible but the scenery was fantastic.

We were about halfway through our day, when the Captain of the boat came down to talk to Lt. Waldron and the escort staff. It seems there was a young couple on a lower deck of the boat that she suspected of smoking marijuana. Apparently the young couple hadn't noticed all the people wearing lanyards with "ALASKA BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION" printed on them. OOPS!! Well, four of our troopers wandered down to a table near the young couple and began to talk quite loudly about "COP STUFF". From what I hear, the young couple suddenly took on the look of a deer caught in the headlights!! After a few minutes of this, Investigator (now Sergeant) Burkmire got up and went over and had a 'sit down' with the two and says, "So, what ya' doin'?" After talking to the couple for a moment or two, Investigator Burkmire determined that the young man was drunk (although old enough to be so). Investigator Burkmire had him give the keys to the young woman and 'counseled' about the dangers of DWI including to remember that they had to go



(ABI, continued on page 11)

**ABI**, continued from page 10

through the tunnel to get out of Whittier and there just might be a Trooper in the area....

When the cruise was over and we were all leaving the boat, the two young people were sitting very quietly, staring down at a table, refusing to look up at any of us as we left. It would be interesting to know what thoughts were going through their minds as we disembarked

The conference continued on Friday at the hotel "with each agency having the opportunity to showcase a 'best practice' from their State. It was a really good opportunity to not only share but 'acquire through lawful means' the ideas from other jurisdictions with similar issues and problems. ABI presented a short segment on the challenges AST faces on a daily basis and the conference attendees came away with a new understanding of law enforcement in the 'Last Frontier'. Many of

the other agencies wondered how we do it with the number of Troopers in the field and the huge areas of responsibility. Our motto says it all, "Loyalty, Integrity, Courage".

While the members were exchanging ideas, "The Ladies" were escorted into Anchorage for a whirlwind shopping trip at Alaska Wild Berry Products Factory and throughout downtown Anchorage. Investigator Burkmire 'kind of spoiled the ladies' with him, making sure there were umbrellas and bottled water for everyone and... just being the extreme gentleman he is. Sergeant Gilmore was very entertaining from what I was told as was Lieutenant Waldron. From what I heard from all the wives/dependents, these three were very gracious hosts and very much appreciated!!

This conference was a huge success and only made possible through the involvement

of the 'Made in Alaska' community who supported us to 'showcase Alaska'. Philips Cruises and Tours provided an excellent tour for the group and Kathryn Stone at the Alyeska Prince Hotel did an excellent job helping coordinate the conference and accommodate our group.

Throughout this conference we had a great time talking with people from across our nation. Tamara and I even had the gentleman who will be organizing the next conference come and ask us what he should do to make their conference as much of a success as ours. We told him, "Let your people know what you want and then leave them alone to let them work!" All in all the conference was a great experience... a lot of work...but a great experience! We hope to see our friends from the lower states back in Alaska again! ■

## A Detachment News

By Shelly Dunn

### SAR Training on Prince of Wales Island

Trooper Bob Claus and ABWE Tech, Nick Garza conducted a SAR training and exercise in Klawock on October 15-16, 2006.

Approximately 20 volunteers from Klawock, Craig, Hydaburg, Naukati, and Thorne Bay met in Klawock for a day of training October 15th. SAR 24 hour packs compiled by SAR volunteers based on prior training were inspected, and new volunteers got a chance to see what others have put together to meet NASAR standards.

Trooper Claus and Tech Garza then provided a short review of land navigation basics, and some instruction in area search techniques. A practical exercise was set up in a large open muskeg. Volunteers had 20 minutes to find ten clues (playing cards spread out randomly in the muskeg) in a 250 meter by 50 meter corridor using the techniques taught earlier in the day.

Our best volunteers, high school kids from Hydaburg, achieved a 70% success rate. This was a very high score given the conditions, which included pouring rain and the temperature around 40 degrees.

The next day a full scale SAR exercise was conducted near Naukati. Volunteers as-



**POW Off Road Club volunteer, Liz Martin, Trooper Bob Claus, SAR dog Sweep, and Tech, Nick Garza after a successful SAR problem on POW Island near Naukati.**

sumed all the roles in the ICS, and organized a successful search. There were three victims in an 85 square mile area.

Volunteers on ATVs and in trucks located the points last seen for all three victims within two hours. One victim was tracked using trackers trained earlier in the year, and a SAR dog handled by Trooper Claus found another victim. The third victim proved to be a little more elusive, and all volunteers combed a section of woods for several hours using the techniques taught on Saturday to

find the victim.

The relationships built and the skills learned during these drills have been invaluable in strengthening the SAR response in Southern Southeast Alaska, and hopefully will enhance the performance of these volunteer resources in future missions.

Trooper Claus will be conducting a six week SAR module in an outdoors skills class in the Hydaburg School this winter, leading to NASAR SARTECH III certification for the high school students. ■

(A Detachment, continued on page 12)

# A Detachment, continued from page 11



Trooper Eldridge receiving the 2005 "A" Detachment Trooper of the Year plaque from Captain Kurt Ludwig.



New ACII Ray Howard.



Trooper Mark Finses and Trooper Mark Eldridge in Hyder.

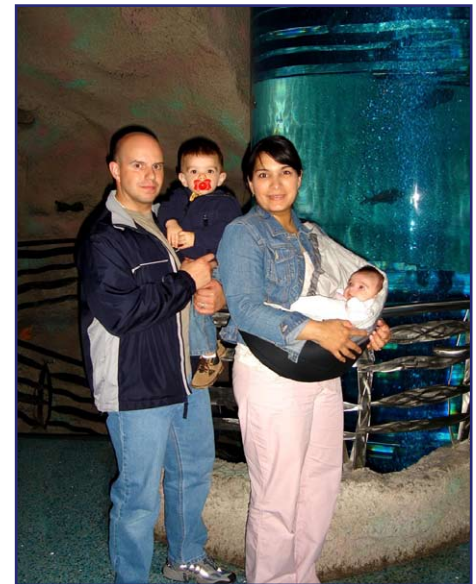
On October 2nd, Captain Kurt Ludwig presented Trooper Mark Eldridge with a letter and plaque on behalf of Colonel Julia Grimes, recognizing him as the 2005 "A" Detachment Trooper of the Year.

Trooper Finses and Eldridge went on a recent patrol in the Hyder area. They met with Hyder citizens and Stewart RCMP. They also assisted a 16 year old resident with a driving exam.

Investigator John Brown and his

wife Rebecca welcomed newborn daughter Kathryn Makena, who was born June 23, weighing 8 pounds, 11 ounces and measured 21 1/2 inches long. Congratulations on the birth of your first child John and Rebecca!

Klawock Post welcomes new Admin. Clerk II, Ray Howard, who started on October 9th. Ray had previously been employed with DPS back in the early 70's as a State Trooper. He and his wife Karen reside in Klawock. Welcome Ray! ■



Sgt. Bryan Barlow, Ketchikan Post, with growing family son Evan, wife Ophelia and new born daughter Ava Claire, who was born on September 5th. Welcome baby Ava!



Kathryn Makena Brown.

## B Detachment News

By HILARY SCHWADERER AND JILL VELOSKE-BYBEE

### Commendation for Trooper Covey

**Trooper Jake Covey** was acting as Officer in Charge at Talkeetna Post from August 18 through 21. Late in the evening of August 18, 2006 one of the worst floods in many years began to impact the Hatcher Pass, Willow, Talkeetna, and Trapper Creek area.

Undaunted by calls describing entire subdivisions being evacuated and the closure of the Parks Highway due to an impassable bridge at Troublesome Creek, he began his emergency response planning.

Trooper Covey had minimal staffing available to him as two of the normally assigned State Troopers were absent from the region and another position was still unfilled.

Undaunted by the lack of manpower and the calls describing entire subdivisions being evacuated and the closure of the Parks Highway due to an impassable bridge at Troublesome Creek, he began his emergency response planning.

Trooper Covey assessed manpower and extended shift coverage, he interfaced with Mat-Su Borough emergency workers, State Park Rangers, and the Department of Transportation officials to coordinate immediate attention to any public safety concerns.

He learned where emergency shelters were being set up to house the evacuated citizens and communicated with several of the local lodge owners to determine their needs

and their fuel, food, and housing capacities. This was not an easy task as one lodge had over 1,300 personnel on site and was cut off from the Parks Highway from all vehicle or pedestrian travel for nearly a day.

Even while Trooper Covey responded from one end of his patrol area to the other checking on stranded motorists, providing water level reports, confirming road closures, damage to bridges and continually moving road closures in concert with the recommendations of the Department of Transportation, he still made a conscious effort to keep B Detachment, Fairbanks State Troopers, and the Mat-Su Borough Emergency Operations Center apprised of all current issues.

The commitment, dedication, field supervision and overall professionalism Trooper Covey displayed during this natural disaster were exceptional. ■

### *Alaska State Fair Enforcement*

We made it through another Alaska State Fair in Palmer. We had many visiting Troopers from outside of Palmer to assist with traffic enforcement. The totals that were reported were 28 DUI's, 1390 Traffic Citations, and 193 miscellaneous reports, summons and arrests. You can tell from the numbers reported that the traffic enforcement were quite busy. Thank you to all the visiting Troopers for assisting and making it another successful year.

### *Mat-Su West Post*

The biggest news for "B" Detachment is the opening of the new Mat-Su West post. It is located at Mile 49, Parks Highway in Wasilla. It is approximately 11, 700 square feet. There is a heated garage, yes heated, a huge conference room, an evidence processing area, two interview rooms, and a big squad room. Units in the new building include Patrol, DUI Team, ABI Investigators, and ABWE. We had an open house for the public on October 30<sup>th</sup>, there were at least 100 people in attendance. We will now be able to provide better service to the west side of the Valley.



The new Mat-Su West Trooper post at mile 49 of the Parks Highway



The official opening of the Mat-Su West Post

(B Detachment, continued on page 14)

## B Detachment, continued from page 13

### *Additions and Subtractions*

**Marie Richter** is the new Administrative Clerk II at the Talkeetna Post. **Jane Flygstad** is the new Administrative Clerk II in Glennallen. They both will wear many hats, being the sole clerical support for the outposts. They are very much in need and we welcome them both on board.

We have two new Court Service Officers at the Palmer Judicial Service Office. **CSO Timothy Adams** brings with him experience with law enforcement as he is transferring to DPS from DOC. **CSO Keith Klein** is

the other one to join Palmer JS. Palmer JS is a busy place and is in need of the extra assistance.

We are looking forward to having **Sergeant Kid Chan** in B Detachment in December. He is coming back to where he started his career in 1999. He will be supervising up to seven Troopers in Patrol.

Also coming back to B Detachment is **Trooper Michael Wooten**, who will be assigned to patrol at Mat-Su West and **Trooper Todd Womack** who will be in patrol at Palmer. Both are Field Training Officers

and we are grateful that they are willing to lend their expertise to B Detachment recruits that frequent our detachment. Welcome back.

**Trooper Robert Nunley** was a successful bidder for Galena, D Detachment. **Trooper Gregory Pealatore** is the successful bidder for Anchor Point, E Detachment. **Trooper Mitchell Lewis** is the successful bidder for Cordova, ABWE. We are all sorry to see them go and they will be greatly missed. Good luck to all at your new posts and assignments. ■

## Last Resort by Captain Casanovas and Sergeant Blajeski

On 9/8/06 Trooper Blajeski from Talkeetna attempted to effect the arrest of Donald B. Voorhis, age 49 at his trailer home. Voorhis was being sought for three misdemeanor arrest warrants and was also wanted in connection with an assault investigation which began on 9/6/06 when Voorhis was alleged to have stood on Rampart Road, stopping a neighbor who was driving by, pointed a rifle at the neighbor and then firing a round from the rifle while standing next to the vehicle.

On 9/8/06 when Trooper Blajeski arrived at the Voorhis residence, Voorhis was in possession of a rifle and stuck the rifle out the door of his trailer, pointed in the direction of him and refused to come out of the residence. When it appeared that Voorhis would not exit the trailer home, members of the South Central Special Emergency Reaction Team (SERT) responded along with a State Trooper crisis negotiator based in Palmer and two State Trooper negotiators from Anchorage. Helo 3 was utilized to transport personnel from Anchorage to the scene and an investigator from Alaska Bureau of Alcohol and Drug Enforcement and his trained K-9 also responded to the scene.

Throughout the night Alaska State Trooper negotiators attempted to converse with Voorhis and even two of Voorhis' immediate family members arrived at the scene and attempted to communicate with Voorhis. On the morning of 9/9/06 a Palmer Court Judge issued a search warrant for entry into the Voorhis home on Rampart Road as State Troopers continued their surveillance of the trailer home.



Troopers tried to penetrate the trailer home with the use of high pressure water from a fire apparatus.

(B Detachment, continued on page 15)

## B Detachment, continued from page 14

After the standoff had been underway for approximately 27 hours, State Troopers began introducing chemical irritants into the trailer home in an effort to force Voorhis from the residence. Although these efforts continued for nearly 6 hours Voorhis remained steadfast inside his home. State Troopers then settled in for a second long night maintaining surveillance on the residence as rain began to fall.

On the morning of 9/10/06 the South Central Special Emergency Reaction Team was supplemented with personnel from the other two Alaska State Trooper Special Emergency Reaction Teams. The Northern SERT sent four members and the Kenai SERT sent two members who arrived in Tal-

keetna approximately 0800 hours to relieve some of the more exhausted members of South Central SERT.

Again on 9/10/06 State Trooper negotiators informed Voorhis of the court issued search warrant to enter his residence, as well as the arrest warrants in existence for his arrest and requested he come out of his residence. When Voorhis did not come, further efforts at introducing chemical irritants into the trailer home began. At approximately 1500 hours it appeared Voorhis might be willing to exit the residence and was near the front door of the trailer. SERT members at the doorway attempted to apprehend Voorhis but he fired upon State Troopers. Two State Troopers from South Central SERT returned

fire and backed away from the residence. None of the shots struck the State Troopers or Voorhis.

Efforts to convince Voorhis to exit the trailer home continued along with further introduction of chemical irritants into the trailer. Early in the evening Troopers even tried to penetrate the trailer home with the use of high pressure water from a fire apparatus. Finally State Troopers utilized a small bulldozer to scrape open the side of the trailer exposing Voorhis from his area of concealment. At approximately 2100 hours Voorhis was taken into custody without injury and a rifle was found next to him during his arrest. ■

## C Detachment News



Earl Samuelson with Lt. Tony April. Samuelson received a letter of Commendation from Governor Frank Murkowski for 25 years of faithful service to the state.



The Bethel AST gang and their families at a going away party for Trooper Yancey. Trooper Yancey transferred to ABI in Fairbanks October 15th.



VPSO Regional Training was held in Bethel during the week of October 23rd - 27th.



VPSO's in Training

(C Detachment, continued on page 16)

## C Detachment, continued from page 15

### Legacy of K9 Sirius, the YK Delta's Drug Sniffing Dog

By Trp. Joseph Hazelaar

On July 4, 2006, at 0730 hours, Alaska State Trooper K9 Sirius died unexpectedly while on vacation with his partner Inv. Joseph Hazelaar and family in Fairbanks.

He left behind a long legacy of service and accomplishments to the citizens of Alaska, Troopers, his partner and more importantly his family Jessica, Braedyn 8, Jamin 6, Ethan 6, and Jalyn 5, who truly knew this great friend and protector.

Trooper K9 Sirius started his career with Inv. Hazelaar in Fairbanks in the spring of 2002 where he served diligently for three years as a dual-purpose K9. The K9 had the ability to protect his handler, apprehend fleeing suspects, track dangerous felons, search dark buildings, recover hidden evidence, and find lost victims.

During his tenure in Fairbanks, K9 Sirius was recorded with 103 arrests, 86 of them coming from tracking the suspect, 9 apprehensions, and 8 arrests coming from the mere presence of the K9 and the suspect surrendering prior to the K9 being deployed.

K9 Sirius was involved in 17 search and rescues in Fairbanks that resulted in locating various lost persons, children, or elderly. K9 Sirius was a great public speaker, loved kids, and was the star of hundreds of public demonstrations.

More importantly, K9 Sirius protected his handler, Trp. Joseph Hazelaar, every day without complaint or regard to his own

safety. He did this for the simple reward of a pat on the head and a kiss on the nose.

*"I can remember a specific instance where K9 Sirius saved my life from a suspect with a gun and countless times he just kept me safe from suspects trying to assault me, for that my family and I owe him so much more."*

K9 Sirius traveled to Bethel with Inv. Hazelaar to serve the YK Delta with his scent detection ability in the fall of 2005. He would assist the Western Alaska Alcohol and Narcotics Team, Bethel Police, and the Alaska State Troopers with the detection of various narcotics that plague western Alaska.

With medical problems that slowed his initial start, K9 Sirius only had the ability to work for the citizens for approximately 6 months prior to his passing away. In that short time, K9 Sirius was the sole reason for 41 arrests in drug trafficking to the YK Delta. Of those arrests, K9 Sirius was attributed with a total of 57 pounds of marijuana seized, 7 ounces of Cocaine, 63 bottles of distilled spirits, \$93,000 in currency seized, and four vehicles. The total street value on the narcotics and alcohol was \$1,350,650 and the total value on assets seized was over \$175,000.

*"That is pretty darn good for an employee with only 6 months of service in an area where others said the area does not warrant*

*a scent detection K9. I think we did a good job in proving that a K9 is needed in Bethel. There are only four other State Trooper K9s in the State.*

*I take a lot of pride in my job and ownership in ridding this area of substances that cause all of our problems, but now fear this day that I have to report that there is not a K9 working this area for the time being.*

*With that being said, I would like to encourage everyone who supports the K9 program, and especially one serving the YK Delta to contact your politicians in expediting the process in getting another K9 assigned to the region.*

*A dual-purpose K9 will cost a department around \$8000 with no training and equipment. So it seems an intimidating amount at first because of the initial investment but as shown here, the rewards are endless."*

If an organization, group, or person would like to donate money to the purchase of a new K9 or would like to help fund the program, there are tax advantages to doing that. Please contact Inv. Joseph Hazelaar at 543-0464, or by email to [joseph\\_hazelaar@dps.state.ak.us](mailto:joseph_hazelaar@dps.state.ak.us) for further information.

*"I would like to publicly say thanks to K9 Sirius for his undying devotion to this great State and his commitment in bringing me home safe every night. Thank you my partner, my protector, and my friend. You will never be forgotten." ■*

## D Detachment News

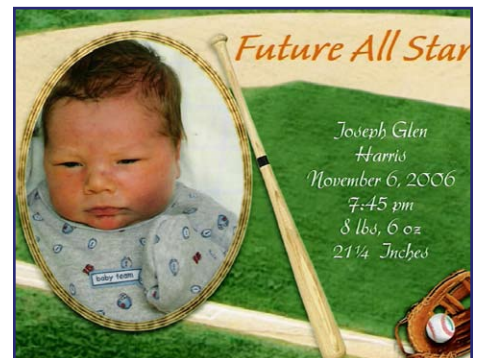
By SUE ROGERS, AST FAIRBANKS



Trooper recruit Austin Macdonald with new son, Seth who was born 8/31/06



Seth Macdonald



Trooper Joseph Harris and wife Melba, welcomed Joseph Glen Harris on 11/6/06

(D Detachment, continued on page 17)



## D Detachment, continued from page 16

### Firearms Instructor Training

By Sgt. Wassmann

There may be some firearms training coming to a location near you soon with the infusion of new firearm instructors in DPS. For the first time since 2003 the DPS training academy held a firearms instructor course for new instructors and recertifying instructors within DPS.

Twenty Troopers and one Court Service Officer met in Sitka for ten days to complete a rigorous course of instruction. **Cpl. Chad Goeden, Cpl. Shane Nicholson, Sgt. Steve Hall, Captain Al Storey, and**

**Mr. Ed Marsters** were the course instructors. Instruction included classroom work, classroom instructing, firearms handling & shooting skills, and range instruction.

DPS members and the public should have complete confidence in our firearms program, and the new cadre of firearm instructors.

Our program is based on high standards that are enforced rigidly from the instructor certification process down to the skills required of our personnel. Look for better availability of certified firearm instructors across the state.

The following Troopers and CSO received their certifications: **Inv. Sherry Ferno, CSO AJ Bergman, Sgt. Odean Hall, Trp. Jon Stroebele, Trp. Ralf Lysdahl, Trp. Marc Cloward, Trp. Jon Simeon, Trp. Brent Johnson, Trp. Brett Gibbens, Inv. Charlie Cross, Inv. Thad Hamilton, Sgt. Tim Schoenberg, Sgt. David DeCoeur, Sgt. Brian Wassmann, Trp. John Cyr, Sgt. Karl Main, and Trp. Francis Faye.**

Special recognition goes to Inv. Sherry Ferno who is the first female firearm instructor within DPS. ■



### Trooper Bowl II

By Sgt. Wassmann

“D” Detachment troopers hosted the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Trooper Bowl at the Bigger Dipper Field in Fairbanks recently. Last year, Trooper Al Bell organized the pick-up game between troopers to boost morale in the detachment. The game turned out to be a test of survival more than a friendly game as the temperatures dropped to 10 degrees with blowing snow abound. The Big Dipper Field resembled something more like Lambeau Field with Western Alaska winds and snow. Nonetheless troopers and friends tabbed the game as an event worth repeating.

This year D Detachment command staff embraced the idea and a family picnic (AKA – tailgate party) was added to the big game. It turned out to be a splendid idea since the game was played sans fans last year. No witness to last year’s game led to tall tales of grandeur and claims of greatness by troopers. Doorways at Fairbanks Post had to be widened to accommodate bigger heads and

the squad room banter was best described with the motto: “Never Let the Truth Get in the Way of a Good Story”. With well-fed family, friends, and curious on-lookers this year the truth was closer to, well- the truth. With BCS implications (not really), troopers, troopers’ kids, and even a few passersby joined in the flag football game. Captain Barrick and RD III Scott Vinton officiated while troopers relived their erstwhile athletic prowess on the field. Children served as special teams for kick-offs, and secret weapons for red zone scoring drives. The game was a blast and the burgers, bratwurst and sodas kept everybody happy.

Although there wasn’t much smack flowing following this year’s game, the hallway conversations at Post are starting to crop up again. With time the memories are getting a little hazy, the talk louder, the truth a little more obscure, and once again the doorways are getting narrower. ■

### Arrivals

**Trooper Joseph Harris** and wife **Melba**, welcomed **Joseph Glen Harris** on November 6, 2006 at 1945 hours. He weighed in at 8 lbs. 6 oz and 21 ¼ inches.

Trooper Recruit **Austin Macdonald** and wife **Kimberly** welcomed **Seth Macdonald** on August 31<sup>st</sup>, 2006. Seth was a month early but weighed 4 lbs. and 15 oz. and was 17 ½ inches long. Seth is now a hefty 10 pounds.

### Departures

Good-bye to **Trooper Sean Adkins** who transferred to St. Mary’s on 10/16/06. **Trooper Joshua Bentz** is now happily living in the snow in Haines as of 10/16/2006.

**Trooper William Connors** of Northway was promoted to Sergeant in October and has moved to Anchorage Wildlife Investigations. ■

# E Detachment News

By SHAE HOLLANDSWORTH, AST SOLDOTNA

**Captain Tom Bowman** is set to retire December 15<sup>th</sup> after 31 years with the Alaska State Troopers. We hope to have some embarrassing stories and/or photos from his retirement party for the next issue of the Quarterly, so stay tuned.

The cooperation and communication between **Soldotna Patrol** and **Soldotna ABI** is netting some great results in the burglary and theft arena. Several burglary rings on the Kenai Peninsula have been broken up by the dynamic duo, with special recognition going to **Dan "The Bulldog" Donaldson**. Patrol Troopers and ABI Investigators are pooling their knowledge, skills, and expertise, yielding many solved cases that would have probably otherwise gone unsolved. In addition, ABI Investigators and Sergeant Donaldson recently apprehended two armed robbery suspects within two days of the crime. Results like these are generating palpable excitement and enthusiasm, which serves to motivate and inspire everyone in E Detachment.

Dispatcher **Stacey Day** recently received a letter of commendation from the Soldotna Police Department front counter clerk for her efforts in helping with a unique situation involving a deaf woman whose vehicle was broken down 75 miles away. Stacey quickly provided contact information for a local deaf interpreter, located various people, ran vehicle license plates, and relayed information, effectively turning a very frustrating situation into one with a positive resolution for all involved. Stacey's professionalism, coupled with her compassion for the citizen, demonstrated what an asset she is to the Department of Public Safety.

Girdwood Troopers have been especially busy this year with the implementation of the new Seward Highway Safety Corridor. The road between Girdwood and Anchorage is a notorious stretch for accidents, fatalities, and traffic issues. Girdwood-based troopers have stepped up their enforcement efforts, and the number of citations written between May 27-October 25 jumped to 451 from 236 the previous year. Hopefully the extra enforcement will pay off in greater awareness, more careful driving, and fewer accidents.

E Detachment is pleased to announce that recruits **Joshua Cook**, **Kyle Carson**, and **Matt Ezell** have completed their Field Training and are now hitting the roads solo. Congratulations, gentlemen!



**Who is that masked man?**

The Soldotna Communications Center welcomes three new dispatchers: Sherry Ridling, Chrisste Koppers, and Michelle Mitchell.

**Sherry Ridling** has lived in Alaska since 1979, including Anchorage, Eagle River, Fairbanks, Glennallen, Seward, Wasilla, and Soldotna. She enjoys riding motorcycles and spends time traveling around the state attending motorcross races & handing out trophies to riders. In winter months, she enjoys reading, crocheting, and caring for her family's many pets. She home-schooled her children for the last 11 years, and has been married for 28 years to our very own Sergeant Mark Ridling.

**Chrisste Koppers** is a relative newcomer to Alaska, having lived in Soldotna for a little over a year. Before that, she lived in the Sedona, Arizona area for more than 12 years, and southern California before that. Although the climate is a bit chillier here, her interests and hobbies fit right in with the Alaskan lifestyle: she enjoys fishing, boating, hiking, and the outdoors.

**Michelle Mitchell** is originally from Alaska, but spent the past eight years in Tennessee working in the investment and banking fields. She recently returned to her home state with her husband and three teenagers, and is looking forward to her new career in communications. ■



**Julie & Surprise Birthday Balloons**

When dispatcher Julie Carroll arrived in the parking lot to check on a supposed flat tire, she discovered instead that her vehicle was filled with birthday balloons. Julie's out-of-state mother called in some favors to give her daughter an unforgettable surprise.



**Soldotna Records Clerks Kris Bailie and Marcy Brown in front of a few of the boxes of archived photos they've been processing.**

# Division of Fire Prevention

BY MAHLON GREENE



**New Fire Training Engine**

The Alaska Division of Fire Prevention proudly received its new state of the art Fire Engine for the Fairbanks Regional Fire Training Center. The new engine was purchased from Pierce Manufacturing and has several design features to help train new driver/operators. The Training and Education Bureau put on a short demonstration of the engine's capabilities for everyone willing to brave the rain in back of DPS Headquarters.

The engine was formally accepted in Fairbanks at the Alaska State Fire Chief's Association / Alaska State Firefighter's Association Joint Conference. Alaska Division of Fire Prevention **Director Gary Powell**, Training and Education Bureau Supervisor **Jodie Hettrick** and Fire Training Specialist **Bill Hedrick** accepted the new engine from **Fred McPherson** representing Hugh's Fire Equipment, Inc.

The Alaska Division of Fire Prevention contributed many hours of hard work to help make the 2006 ASFA/ASFA Joint Conference a tremendous success. The Division also commends the entire Fairbanks staff for one of the best conferences ever. Fire Training Specialist Bill Hedrick was a key member of the conference staff.

During opening ceremonies at the conference Director Powell was presented the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation Seal of Excellence Award. This award was presented to the Alaska Division of Fire Pre-

vention for its support of the 16 Life Safety Initiatives that were produced to ensure firefighter safety is the number one priority. This program to stop line of duty deaths in the fire service is labeled "*The Courage to Be Safe... So Everyone Goes Home.*" The award was presented by **Vincent R. Brennan** and **Daniel McDonough** from FDNY. Vincent's brother was one of the FDNY firefighters that made the ultimate sacrifice on September 11<sup>th</sup> 2001.

The Alaska Division of Fire Prevention awarded the annual fire service awards during the 2006 Fire Conference in Fairbanks.

Fire Service personnel are nominated for the awards by their peers. The nominees must demonstrate an extraordinary commitment to firefighting, fire prevention, fire training and leadership.



**Firefighter of the Year**

**Casey F. Johnson** is a firefighter-paramedic with Anchorage Fire Department. He works at one of the busiest fire stations in Anchorage, yet he continually seeks opportunities to enhance his contribution to the community. He excels in his profession, his team having won the emergency medical competition at the 2005 State ASFA/AFCA Conference. Casey volunteers for nearly every on and off duty fundraiser and community service event that comes along. Though his career is relatively young, Casey has already been decorated for outstanding commitment and service to the community.

Casey has really demonstrated leadership in the Anchorage Fire Explorer Post 264. Through his tireless vigor and enthusiasm he and other leaders have taken the program to a level of excellence that is the envy of other explorer organizations. Casey is an extraordinary role model to the youth in the program, but his influence extends to the fire department and community at large. The youth he mentors are learning the lessons of discipline, commitment, attitude, and temperance which will serve them for life in whatever field they ultimately pursue.

## **Public Fire and Life Safety Educator**

Over the past two years, **Craig Torrey**, Fire Inspector with Anchorage Fire Department has dedicated himself to Campus Fire Safety. He has incorporated the local universities in Campus Fire Safety Awareness. During these events he has managed to get the local fire stations, the campus leaders and of course the students to participate in these projects.

He has brought forward an excellent slide show and presentation to use as an extra visual aid effort in his public education. He has given countless hours of his personal time to this project as well as others.

Craig is also pivotal in the education of hotels for fire safety drills during the Wheel Chair games. Craig is an outstanding employee and his main concern is not for personal gain, but for the public and their welfare.

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### Fire Officer of the Year

**Captain Geoff Coon** of North Pole Fire Department exemplifies the finest qualities of a fire officer. Geoff has served in the officer's role for over ten years leading career and volunteer members for NPF. He has constantly sought to improve his skills and knowledge in all aspects of the job through training and education, and takes great pride in passing his knowledge and experience on to others.

In addition to his role as a line officer, Captain Coon is the training officer at NPF, writes bid specifications for apparatus, and oversees the maintenance and service of the department's SCBA. Geoff has excelled at all of these roles and works with other departments in the area to share his experience and knowledge.

In his role as an educator Captain Coon is a valuable instructor who has shaped the education of hundreds of firefighters. Geoff has taught extensively in the Interior at the local level, with State of Alaska programs, and with the UAF/TVC Emergency Services program. In the firehouse Geoff is always willing to work on techniques or find answers for people. He is patient and methodical, and his calm demeanor is reassuring in stressful situations.

On the emergency scene Geoff excels. He has a fine grasp of what needs to be done, what can be accomplished, and always focuses on keeping his people safe. His experience as an officer and leader make him a valuable asset to the emergency scene, often bringing a sense of order to the chaos at hand. His dedication to his profession is unquestionable.



### Dell Moffit Award

**Senior Technical Advisor Benjamin "Bennie" Cottle** of the Central Mat-Su Fire Department was presented the coveted Dell Moffit Award. The Dell Moffit award recognizes a person in the fire service for their extraordinary contribution and life achievement to Alaska's fire service. Bennie helped start the Wasilla Fire Department when he saw the need in the early 1960's. Bennie has been an integral part of the department since its' founding and continues to advise the senior staff on the operation of the department today.

### Training and Education Bureau

The Training and Education Bureau staffed a vendor booth at the Youth and Elder's Conference in the Egan Center, October 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>. This was an excellent opportunity to preach our fire prevention message to many rural Alaskan residents attending the AFN Convention. October 30<sup>th</sup> through November 1<sup>st</sup>, the bureau staffed a booth in the Sullivan Arena for the 26<sup>th</sup> Annual Governor's Safety and Health Conference. **Public Education Coordinator Mahlon Greene** and Sparky the fire safety dog staffed the booth. Sparky was a big hit



**Sparky Taking Care of the Booth**

with the kids and adults alike.

The Training and Education Bureau welcomes Administrative Clerk III Dona Shockley to the division. Dona will be in charge of firefighter certification programs and fire extinguisher programs. Dona replaces Angela McElmurry who moved on to a position with the court system.

### Life Safety Inspection Bureau

The Life Safety Inspection Bureau says goodbye to Deputy Fire Marshal Dan Jones who has taken a position with the Oregon State Fire Marshal's Office. Deputy Fire Marshal Lloyd Nakano returns to headquarters November 27<sup>th</sup> after attending the State Trooper Academy in Sitka for four months.



**Dona Shockley, Administrative Clerk III**

It will be nice to have him back in the office.

### Plan Review Bureau

John Cawthon is the new Building Plans Examiner with the Alaska Division of Fire Prevention. He replaced Richard Boothby who has left us to work in the same career field at the municipal level as the first ever fire code official for the Central Mat-su Fire Department in Wasilla. We wish him well and good luck in his new endeavor.

John Cawthon was born in Santa Monica, California. He attended California State University, Northridge, where he received his Bachelor of Science in Geology, and later his AS Degree in Building Inspection Technology from Butte College in Oroville, California. John is a certified building inspector, plumbing inspector, mechanical inspector, electrical inspector, plans examiner and fire inspector I/II. His current goal is to become a certified International Code Council building and fire code official by obtaining his fire plans examiner certification first. John was originally certified under the

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older ICBO Codes.

John has over seven years experience in the building industry, six years in inspections and plan review.

Recently, acting as the Port Orchard, Washington, Building Official and Inspector, he performed the duties of the building official, plans examiner and building inspector. While in this location he worked closely with the Kitsap 7 Fire District in Port Orchard conducting inspections and reviews.

Prior to Port Orchard he worked for the

State of Nevada, Public Works Board in Las Vegas as the resident inspector and plans examiner for many multi-million dollar projects funded by state agencies.

John enjoys lots of outdoor activities, putting fishing at the top of his list, so he is happy to be able to join our Alaska families and try his luck. He likes to hike, camp and he frequents the gym in his off time.

Join the Fire Marshals Office in welcoming him to the Department of Public Safety and the State of Alaska. ■



**John Cawthon, Building Plans Examiner**

# Division of Statewide Services

## Scientific Crime Detection Laboratory



**Jim Dove retired from the (SCDL) as Building Maintenance Supervisor**

Jim Dove retired in July 2006 as the building Maintenance Supervisor for the SCDL after about eight years. Jim will begin construction on a new home in Florida where he and his wife Rose will enjoy the warmer weather. Jim also plans on traveling the country in his new luxury motor home. We wish him the best.



**Lee Comiskey joined the staff of the (SCDL) as Maintenance Supervisor**

Lee Comiskey joined the staff of the Scientific Crime Detection Laboratory (SCDL) in August 2006 as the Maintenance Supervisor. He is a graduate of East High School, UAA, and UAF. Lee was the Facility Supervisor at the Northwest and Delta cargo buildings for 18 years. Before coming to work here with the Lab he was a Maintenance Journeyman at the McLaughlin Youth Center. The SCDL is now 20 years old and his responsibilities will be a challenge.

### Fairbanks Ingenuity

Everyone is aware of the money crunch within the Department of Public Safety's budgets these days. It does make it difficult to acquire all of the supplies and equipment that we could use in our daily endeavors.

One state employee, Officer Mike Suter, with the Fairbanks Airport Police and Fire Department has used his noggin (and his own money) in an effort to provide a valuable piece of equipment to another State Agency, the Fairbanks Post of the State Crime Detection Laboratory, at a fraction of the cost of the equivalent item on the market.

This portable light source consists of a car battery contained in a plastic battery case with protective lid, an automatically resetting 20 Amp circuit breaker, an extendable metal broom handle supporting four detachable automotive lights, and a small battery charger, riding on a two wheel dolly.



**Forensic Crime Scene Technician Kathi Young uses the device that Officer Suter designed and manufactured**

Each light is adjustable in its pointing direction and the entire light bar is capable of 360 degree rotation. The light bar is also detachable for searching by hand. The total weight of this portable light system is 71 and 1/2 pounds. Just enough weight to cause Kathi a small struggle while lifting it in and out of the Crime Van. The total cost of the system was approximately \$180.00.

Great thinking and great work Mike. Thank you for your help. ■

# In Other News



Retired Trooper Mike Marrs returned to Alaska in late August to collect things out of storage. A dinner party was hosted for him on August 30th, which included (from left) Trp. Bill Hughes, Lt. Nils Monsen, Mike Marrs, and Capt. Dennis Casanovas at the home of Dale and Bob Galosich. Others attending included retired Trp. Dyanne Brown, Vickie and Don Miller, Retired Trooper Bill Hughes' wife, Carol, and Capt. Casanovas' wife, Karen. Mike and his wife, Becky, recently moved into a new house located on a golf course in Texas. Mike has been retired since 2000 and is enjoying his retirement.



Alaska State Trooper Corporal Scott Carson on military leave in Kuwait. Scott says: "Look what two ice cream bars and a juice box will buy you in the desert."

## AMERICAN SOLDIER

I'M JUST TRYING TO BE A FATHER,  
 RAISE A DAUGHTER AND A SON,  
 BE A LOVER TO THEIR MOTHER,  
 EVERYTHING TO EVERYONE.  
 UP AND AT 'EM BRIGHT AND EARLY,  
 I'M ALL BUSINESS IN MY SUIT,  
 YEAH, I'M DRESSED FOR SUCCESS FROM MY  
 HEAD DOWN TO MY BOOTS,  
 I DON'T DO IT FOR MONEY, THERE'S STILL  
 BILLS THAT I CAN'T PAY,  
 I DON'T DO IT FOR THE GLORY, I JUST DO IT  
 ANYWAY,  
 PROVIDING FOR OUR FUTURE'S MY RESPON-  
 SIBILITY,  
 YEAH I'M REAL GOOD UNDER PRESSURE, BE-  
 ING ALL THAT I CAN BE,  
 AND I CAN'T CALL IN SICK ON MONDAYS  
 WHEN THE WEEKENDS BEEN TO STRONG,  
 I JUST WORK STRAIGHT THROUGH THE  
 HOLIDAYS,  
 AND SOMETIMES ALL NIGHT LONG.  
 YOU CAN BET THAT I STAND READY WHEN  
 THE WOLF GROWLS AT THE DOOR,  
 HEY, I'M SOLID, HEY I'M STEADY, HEY I'M  
 TRUE DOWN TO THE CORE,  
 AND I WILL ALWAYS DO MY DUTY, NO MAT-  
 TER WHAT THE PRICE,  
 I'VE COUNTED UP THE COST, I KNOW THE  
 SACRAFICE,  
 OH, AND I DON'T WANT TO DIE FOR YOU,  
 BUT IF DYIN'S ASKED OF ME,  
 I'LL BEAR THAT CROSS WITH AN HONOR,  
 'CAUSE FREEDOM DON'T COME FREE.  
 I'M AN AMERICAN SOLDIER, AN AMERICAN,  
 BESIDE MY BROTHERS AND MY SISTERS I  
 WILL PROUDLY TAKE A STAND,  
 WHEN LIBERTY'S IN JEOPARDY I WILL AL-  
 WAYS DO WHAT'S RIGHT,  
 I'M OUT HERE ON THE FRONT LINES, SLEEP  
 IN PEACE TONIGHT.  
 AMERICAN SOLDIER, I'M AN AMERICAN,  
 AN AMERICAN,  
 AN AMERICAN SOLDIER



Jean Shaindlin has retired after 18 years with DPS as Print Publication Specialist II in the Public Information Office and editor of the DPS Quarterly.

Jean Shaindlin has been working for the Department of Public Safety since September 1988. After one year as a Clerk II, Jean accepted the "Print Publication Specialist" position in the Community Services Bureau, now known as the Public Information Office.

She took on the responsibility of producing the DPS Quarterly in 1994 and has faithfully

continued until she retired October 31st.

Jean has been a very professional, loyal and integral part of the Department of Public Safety and the Alaska State Troopers.

Thank you Jean for all your hard work and dedication to the Department and to this valuable publication. We wish you and Herb a grand and enjoyable retirement. ■



Captain Steve Arlow tries out the fire hose on the new Fire Prevention Training Engine, he is assisted by Mahlon Greene of the Training and Education Bureau.

# THE DPS QUARTERLY

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