

At 11:39 a silver pick-up... 12:00 a maroon Chevy Malibu... 12:20... a black Chevy Cruz... 12:44 a Ford Escape... 12:53 a red Audi with a personalized plate.

What these vehicles all have in common is they were all on Knik-Goose Bay (KGB) Road, were speeding and had equipment violations. Another thing they had in common, a Trooper with the newly relocated Alaska Bureau of Highway Patrol (ABHP) caught them, and a handful of other motorists throughout the fine Spring day. ABHP previously deployed out of Anchorage before moving to the Mat-Su Valley on February 1, 2019.

“What is really weird is almost all of them are thanking me and telling me what a good job I am doing,” said Trooper Howie Peterson. “Do you get that? They are actually thanking me for giving them a ticket. No one driving south of Anchorage ever did that.”

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working the till at a gas station near KGB and Vine. “Just coming in to say hi and grab a snack. If you ever need anything, call us. Here’s my card.”

The woman snickered and thumbed over her shoulder, “Oh, you will get used to coming to here. We have wrecks right there all the time. We’ll get to know each other real well.”



There are two safety corridors in the Mat-Su Valley. One of them is designated along a large stretch of KGB. The ABHP Troopers spent this particular morning covering it. It wasn't uncommon to see two of them pulling motorists over within a few hundred feet of each other.

What makes patrolling this section of roadway particularly difficult is that KGB is largely a two-lane road with no pullouts. By design, it is not safe to pull a quick

Trooper Peterson and two other Troopers, Kamau Leigh and Tim Lewis, are solely focused on traffic enforcement efforts. They run traffic and handle all major-injury and fatal injury wrecks in their patrol area. If they aren't on duty when a major roadway incident occurs, they take the investigation over when they are back on the clock.

Besides pulling vehicles over, they are stopping at local businesses and making their presence known.

“Hi! I’m ‘Mau. I just started patrolling out here,” said Trooper Kamau Leigh as he introduced himself to the woman

Alaska Bureau of Highway Patrol Making a Difference in the Mat-Su

Story and Photos by Megan Peters



U-Turn to pull over a motorist performing traffic violations.

“The important thing is people know that we are out here on a very regular basis,” said Trooper Peterson. “Before we got here people said that so many people were speeding, passing in no passing zones... we really aren't seeing too much of that.”

Equipment violations are the most common issue that ABHP Troopers are seeing.

“Since we are just starting, we are focusing on the education,” said Trooper Peterson. “For example, window tint, lights out, speeding... we look for a

combination of violations and make contact. Our goal is to get people into compliance and make sure they realize what the requirements are. Meaning, a lot of what we are doing is having conversations and handing out fix-it tickets.”

ABHP can only do so much on their own. If you see a dangerous driver, don't hesitate to Report Every Dangerous Driver Immediately (REDDI) by calling 9-1-1. It doesn't matter what part of the state you live, make a REDDI report any time you see someone is driving dangerously on an Alaska roadways.

