

The DPS Quarterly

A Department of Public Safety publication bringing professionalism and humanity together. Spring 2006

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Comments From Commissioner Bill Tandeske

When the current DPS leadership team took office nearly 3 and a half years ago, we committed to strategies that would produce tangible results and strengthen the department for years well into the future. We determined what we were going to do well and then adapted our organizational structure to support such strategies. Our philosophy is: “Whatever we do, we do well.” With your support, the strategies we adopted have produced the results we envisioned.

One of our strategies has been to market DPS. We have made substantial progress in this area through our Information Technology personnel in the Division of Statewide Services, AST Recruitment, and the Public Information Office staff. We have a new web site for recruiting State Troopers that can be viewed at www.alaskastatetrooper.com. The website is a dynamic platform and will continue to evolve. Additionally, we have produced excellent television spots promoting our department. DVDs have also been produced and provided to every legislator to support our requests for the funding of a new crime lab and the ongoing APSIN re-design and migration.

The good news is our Trooper recruitment numbers have substantially increased; our spring academy is the largest in many years, and we are receiving substantial support for our Crime Lab and APSIN projects. A large measure of our success is because we have committed to

strategies that provide tangible results benefiting the public. We have marketed our strategies and positive results. For our strategies to be successful, we need the energy and commitment of our employees – each of you continues to be integral to our success.

Our new housing project in Bethel is complete and families began moving into their new homes in January. One of our targeted missions has been to strengthen our presence in rural Alaska. The Bethel housing project was a tremendous investment by the department to care for our employees and their families, while taking on the challenges of providing services in remote villages. It is our hope this project will help provide stability of staffing in the Bethel region.

We are also exploring innovative strategies for increasing our presence in more remote regions. You will be hearing more about pilot projects creating “sub hubs”, to serve pods of villages by bringing Troopers into established facilities on a temporary duty basis. Our goal is to bring services to areas *proactively* instead of *reactively*.

In continuing our commitment to technology solutions, we are obtaining six new Live Scan fingerprint instruments for Records and Identification to replace outdated equipment. We are also starting to work on a system that would allow on-line submission, review, and tracking of build-

(Commissioner, continued on page 2)

Commissioner, continued from page 1

ing plan reviews in the Fire Marshal's Office. Video Arraignment projects are anticipated in Palmer and Kenai.

Glennallen employees should move into their new office space no later than May. We also anticipate moving into our new facility near Big Lake, Mat-Su West, in September. Mat-Su West will house approximately 35 employees, most of who will come from Palmer, relieving the critical overcrowding in that facility.

We have much to be proud of. ABWE personnel have done a tremendous job

addressing their core mission of protecting our wildlife resources, while also participating in limited projects such as sex offender compliance and domestic violence warrant projects. ABI has resolved every homicide for the past three years and our cold case unit continues to successfully solve old homicides.

ABADE has continued to increase their criminal cases and seizures of alcohol and drugs. For the first time in four years, the bureau saw a drop in the number of meth labs reported. Our Crime Lab contin-

ues to produce outstanding results for law enforcement agencies across the state. The Division of Fire Prevention continues to provide plan review and building inspection, as well as excellent fire service training opportunities statewide.

With your commitment and support, our strategies will continue to be successful. Together, our strategies and your performance assure we are the statewide leader in public safety issues.

Thank you for your efforts and support. ■

DPS Aircraft Section Receives International Award

Colonel Julia Grimes nominated the Alaska Department of Public Safety Division of Alaska State Troopers Aircraft Section for the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) "Excellence in Police Aviation Award" in Spring 2004.

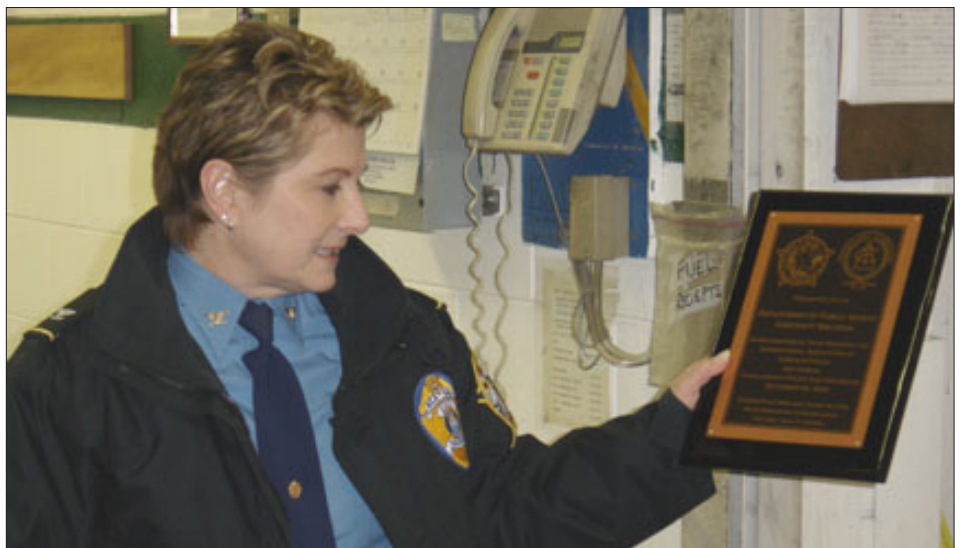
Jointly sponsored by IACP and Bell Helicopter Textron, the Excellence in Police Aviation Award is presented annually to the individual who holds a management or leadership position in police aviation, or the aviation program (Unit) that exemplifies excellence in airborne law enforcement. The award emphasizes initiatives to enhance the general level and safety of operations, accident prevention programs, and the efficiency and effectiveness of airborne law enforcement both nationally and internationally.

The nomination details the unique environment in which Alaska State Trooper pilots operate, the spectrum of responsibilities in the State, the aircraft fleet and its equipment, the high standards of maintenance, and the policy, procedure, and pilot training required of each State pilot. Although the Department was not successful in achieving the award that year, IACP retained the application for review and in September 2005, presented the 2005 Excellence in Police Aviation Award to Col. Grimes and **Major Howard Starbard** during the IACP International Convention.

Col. Grimes said, "I know that our aviation operations are among the most unique and dynamic in the nation, and are (IACP Award, continued on page 3)



Aircraft Section Supervisor Dennis Whitesell accepted the IACP Award from Col. Julia Grimes on February 2, 2006.



Col. Julia Grimes read the inscription on the IACP "Excellence in Police Aviation Award" which she presented to the DPS Aircraft Section.

IACP Award

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conducted in the most challenging conditions ever faced by law enforcement. A continuing standard of excellence in our maintenance program, pilot training and pilot operations, our safety record and how we equip our aircraft – all of this made our Aircraft Section extremely competitive for this type of national recognition. The mechanics, clerical staff, and Trooper and civilian pilots deserve to share the credit for this international award and I'm proud all of them could be recognized for their excellent work."

Dennis Whitesell, the new Aircraft Section Supervisor commented, "I am proud to be associated with this fine staff and I'm pleased they have been recognized with this award. I look forward to working with them to continue to uphold this high standard of excellence." ■



Col. Grimes said, "I am proud the entire DPS, Alaska State Trooper Aircraft Section could be recognized for their excellent work."

Wall of Honor

The new Wall of Honor in the stairwell at DPS Headquarters in Anchorage. In February of 2005, **Colonel Julia Grimes** began planning for a new display to honor troopers who have died in the line of duty. A number of different designs were considered, finally selecting a design based on the Trooper badge. Each of the plaques was hand cast and hand painted before being mounted on oak and secured

(**Wall of Honor**, continued on page 4)



Each plaque honors a trooper who has died in the line of duty.



The Wall of Honor is located at DPS Headquarters in Anchorage. It displays the name, image, and date of end of watch of each trooper who has died in the line of duty. There are thirteen Alaska State Troopers and Fish and Wildlife Protection Officers honored on the Wall.

Wall of Honor, continued from page 3

to the wall. Funding for the project came from forfeited drug money. The Wall was completed near the end of December. May we never add another name.

Those honored on the Wall are: **Dennis Finbar Cronin**, Alaska State Troopers, February 18, 1974; **Larry Robert Carr**, Alaska State Troopers,

December 11, 1974; **Frank Stuart Rodman**, Alaska State Troopers, December 11, 1974; **C. W. "Walt" Zahn**, Alaska State Troopers, October 26, 1978; **Roland Edgar Chevalier, Jr.**, Alaska State Troopers, April 3, 1982; **John David Stimson**, Fish And Wildlife Protection, January 14, 1983; **Troy Lynn Duncan**, Alaska State Troopers, May 19, 1984; **Robert L. Bittick**,

Alaska State Trooper, October 11, 1994; **C. E. Swackhammer**, Department Of Public Safety, October 11, 1994; **Bruce Alan Heck**, Alaska State Troopers, January 10, 1997; **David Calvin Churchill**, Fish And Wildlife Protection, September 16, 1998; **James A. Moen**, Fish And Wildlife Protection, June 25, 2001; and **Hans Peter Lothar Roelle**, Alaska State Troopers, November 24, 2001. ■

A Letter from the Governor

Dear Department of Public Safety Employees:

These are very exciting times in Alaska as we move forward on modernization of our oil tax system and as we see the promise of the gas pipeline on the horizon. Together, these two issues will define Alaska's future.

The revised oil production tax system creates new incentives for investment, exploration, and development and would generate over three quarters of a billion dollars in additional general fund revenue at current oil prices. This added revenue would help fund important services in our

state such as roads, schools, and public safety.

How significant is the oil production tax? More investment means more exploration and development, which means more barrels in the pipeline, which means more state revenue. The oil tax would start immediately; the gas pipeline would benefit Alaskans in the long term.

What does this mean for the Department of Public Safety? This would lead to funding for additional programs and jobs. As we move toward construction of a gas

pipeline and the economic growth it will bring, DPS is key to ensuring safe communities and families.

As Governor, one of my goals is to provide sustainable jobs and a strong economy for Alaska. I want us to be able to provide opportunity in Alaska so that our young people can start their careers – such as joining the Alaska State Troopers – and raise their families here at home.

Keep up the good work!

Sincerely yours,

Frank H. Murkowski, Governor ■

An Irish Friendship Wish

May there always be work
for your hands to do;

May your purse always hold
a coin or two;

May the sun always shine
on your window pane;

May a rainbow be certain
to follow each rain;

May the hand of a friend
always be near you;

May God fill your heart
with gladness to cheer you. ■



On January 31, 2006 Governor Frank Murkowski signed SB 87 into law making adult seat belt violations a primary offense. Based on experience in the previous 21 states that have enacted a primary seat belt law, the change in the law is expected to increase seat belt use in Alaska by an estimated 11 percent. According to national statistics, this increase in seat belt use could prevent 71 major injuries, and save 6 lives and more than 12-million dollars in taxpayer money each year.

Division of Alaska State Troopers Trooper Larry Nicholson Promoted

Col. Julia Grimes announced the promotion of **Trp. Larry “Shane” Nicholson**, A Detachment, Ketchikan Post to Corporal, Training Academy, Sitka effective April 1, 2006.

Trp. Nicholson began his career with the State Troopers August 27, 1999. Upon graduating from the Academy he was assigned to E Detachment, Soldotna Post. In February 2002, he transferred from Patrol to the General Investigation Unit (ABI) in Soldotna. He voluntarily transferred from Soldotna to A Detachment, Ketchikan Post July 2002.

Nicholson has been a Field Training Officer, a member of SERT and also the OIC during the absence of the Supervisor. He has attended the Advanced Tactical Training during his time with SERT. He

also attended the FLETS Marine Law Enforcement Training Program and has received his Methods of Instruction certificate. He has been a Defensive Tactics, Taser and Firearms instructor for the Department.

He has received several letters of appreciation from city and federal agencies and a police commendation from the Ketchikan Police.

Col. Grimes said, “We look forward to Cpl. Nicholson joining the team at the Sitka Training Academy. His energy and enthusiasm will allow the Academy to continue delivering excellence in training our new Troopers. Please join us in congratulating Corporal Nicholson on his promotion and new duty assignment in Sitka.” ■

Successful Bids:

Col. Julia Grimes announced the following successful bidders:

Trp. Dan Dahl, Soldotna, ABWE, to St. Marys; **Trp. Jacob Covey**, Cantwell, D Detachment, to Talkeetna, B Detachment; **Trp. Jeffery Simpson**, Palmer, B Detachment, to Girdwood, E Detachment; **Trp. Michael Henry**, Soldotna, E Detachment, to Anchor Point, E Detachment; **Trp. Michael Duffield**, Fairbanks, D Detachment, to Bethel, C Detachment; **Trp. James Wilcox**, Fairbanks, ABI, to Delta Junction, D Detachment; **Trp. Derek DeGraaf**, Mat-Su, ABI, to Anchorage, ABI; **Trp. Arthur Osborn**, Anchorage, Judicial Services, to Ketchikan, A Detachment; **Trp. Kevin Baker**, Palmer, B Detachment, to Kotzebue, C Detachment; **Trp. Daniel Cox**, Kodiak, C Detachment, to Cooper Landing, E Detachment; and **Sgt. Karl Erickson**, Kotzebue, C Detachment, to Unalakleet, C Detachment. ■

Anchorage Judicial Services News

Anchorage Judicial Services (JS) again this year had a Christmas fundraiser for needy families. This was the ninth year for our effort and one of the most successful. We raised approximately \$1200 this year. Most of the money was raised through personal donations and \$300 graciously donated by PSEA. **CSO Paul Bulawa** ran the fundraiser and shopping spree this year as in years past aided by lots of volunteers from Anchorage JS. Several people from JS accomplish the shopping including members of their families.

The Office of Children’s Services (OCS) supplies us with the applications for needy families and the backgrounds on each. We received 15 applications this year; everyone read them and made their choices.

Fortunately we were able to provide presents for three families this year, which included 7 children. Trying to narrow down the list to the families that will get our support is difficult at best.

At the annual JS Christmas party in December, the OCS workers came, ate dinner



For the ninth year, Anchorage Judicial Services launched a fundraiser in order to provide holiday gifts for needy families, the names of which were submitted by the Office of Children’s Services. A donation from the Public Safety Employees Association and personal donations raised, approximately \$1200, allowed staff to provide gifts for three families.

with us, and we loaded up their vehicle with the presents. A good time was had by all and the food was great!

Changes have been occurring here at JS with the addition of **CSO Richard**

Chandler last year and the addition of **CSOs Berlin, Ferguson, Jaime and Hartsock** this year. The last 4 are currently going through FT and we are glad to have them here. ■

From the Desk of Chaplain Jerry O. Norman

(907) 345-2813-H, (907) 250-9659-C
chaplainjerrynorman@msn.com

My greetings to everyone within the Department of Public Safety family. Even though it may be belated, I wish everyone a Happy New Year.

Recently I had the unfortunate task of performing the memorial service for retired **Trooper Dan Cox**. Dan died of esophageal cancer. I ask for your prayers for his family. If you knew Dan, please contact Irma and express your thoughts and feelings to her.

This was a very sobering time in my life, looking back and remembering the

seemingly short time since he retired. For all of us, we need to keep our relationships in perspective: the relationships of our family, friends, job and God Himself. The Bible refers to our lives as being like a vapor – here and gone just as quickly. It is obvious that we cannot predict our future but we can be prepared for what the future holds.

In the preparation of the future we need to keep in mind that everything becomes a piece of the puzzle called our lives.

Controlling stress buildup is as much a part of our health as right foods, moderation in everything, exercise, getting adequate rest, and even our hobbies.

With spring on the way, the days getting longer and nicer: enjoy the time and pleasures that surround us. Appreciate God's handiwork. Love your family and guard your relationship.

Now may the Lord bless you.

May the Lord keep you.

May His light shine on you and give you Peace! ■

Alaska Bureau of Wildlife Enforcement

ABWE Mat-Su

ABWE Mat Su Region welcomes **Allison Barkhurst** to Big Lake Post. Barkhurst is no stranger to DPS, she worked two seasons as a Fish and Wildlife aide in Palmer and as a temporary Administrative Clerk at Palmer AST B Detachment. She replaced retired **Eileen Brooks** as the Administrative Clerk II. Barkhurst is filling Brooks' shoes well as the Queen of the Roadkill. She has enthusiastically (?) tackled the roadkill problems and is looking for ways to streamline the application process. Welcome aboard Allison.

ABWE Palmer Post said farewell to **Trp. Jeff Duhrsen** on December 28th. Af-



Allison Barkhurst joined the Big Lake Post replacing Eileen Brooks, as Administrative Clerk II.



The gang said good bye to **Trp. Jeff Duhrsen** during his farewell party. (Front kneeling) A/C III **Audrey Ayay-Dehart**, **Trp. Duhrsen**, A/C II **Allison Barkhurst**, and **Trp. Kim Waychoff**. (Middle Row) **Trp. Tom Akelkok**, **Trp. Matt Hightower**, **Trp. Doug Massie**, **Trp. Rob Morrisette**, and **Lt. Charlie Yoder**. Back Row: **Trp. Jon Simeon**, **Trp. Dell Arntson**, **Trp. Tage Toll**, **Sgt. Tory Oleck**, and **Trp. Cody Litster**.

ter almost two years with Palmer ABWE, Duhrsen has decided to try his skills as a BLM Ranger. Good luck Jeff.

Palmer ABWE ACIII Clerk **Audrey Ayay-DeHart** vacationed in Cabo San Lucas, Mexico for two weeks right before

Christmas. Instead of the warning "Don't Drink the Water", someone should have warned her "Don't eat the shrimp". Audrey can tell you from personal experience that ASEA Health Benefits Trust does cover hospital stays in Mexico. ■



Trp. Cody Litster displays their fine catch of 20 pike during a guys-day-out fishing trip on Valentine's Day. Do these guys know how to celebrate the day or what?



Sgt. Mark Agnew displayed the fine art of fish filleting.

Valentine's Day Fishing Trip

By TRP. CODY LITSTER

This was the guy's Valentine's Day fishing trip. With our wives out of town, ABWE Trp. **Thomas Akelkok** and I made the best of a beautiful day. After an easy ATV trip to Figure Eight Lake, we spent about 5 hours fishing and took 20 pike. The beautiful day also brought out the pilots. There was only one other group fishing that day. We even had our licenses checked by ABWE **Sgt. Mark Agnew**. The Sergeant even took the time to display the proper way to fillet a pike to Trp. Akelkok. Now that is community policing! ■



Traps? We don't need traps!

ABWE Trp. **Tom Akelkok** spends much of his patrol time looking for and contacting wild-life resource users.

One day while on a trapping patrol, he spent a while inspecting someone's trapline. All seemed to be just fine. Legal traps, legal bait, license, etc. This trapper had gone to a lot of work to get everything put out perfectly.

Ironically, a red fox followed Akelkok all the way back to his truck. Who needs to bother with traps? ■

"There are those who can live without wild things and those who cannot." Aldo Leopold

AST Detachment News

A Pictorial Look At A Detachment

By Shelly Dunn, AST Ketchikan



Sgt. Walter Blajeski received a plaque from Klawock Post Supervisor Sgt. Dave Tugmon for his service while assigned to Klawock. Sgt. Blajeski transferred to Talkeetna Post in January.



Trp. Shane Nicholson received his APSC Intermediate certificate from Capt. Kurt Ludwig in January. Trp. Nicholson was promoted to Corporal and will be leaving Ketchikan for the Sitka Academy in March. Nicholson, his wife Kendra and children Ashleigh and Trenton will be sorely missed by all at Ketchikan Post. Good luck in your new assignment Shane!



January 25th at 1257 hours will not soon be forgotten by the on duty Ketchikan Post troopers and dispatchers. AST personnel monitoring the Ketchikan Police Dept. frequency overheard the dispatcher transmit "PD units we have reports that a military jet has crashed next to the A & P grocery store". RDIIs Rich Nowland and John Rymer immediately sprang into action, notifying the on duty and off duty AST/ABWE personnel and requesting other local agencies such as Ketchikan Volunteer Rescue Squad, U.S. Forest Service LEOs, National Guard and the USCG to respond. The military type training jet was a civilian owned L39 Albatros. The sole occupant was the pilot, Stephen Freeman, 39 years old, of California. Freeman was the only fatality. He had been attempting to land the plane at the Ketchikan Airport during a snowstorm, when he hit the water in the Tongass Narrows several times. He crashed into a vacant lot next to a small trailer park, clipping several cars and a trailer, which were destroyed. Freeman attempted to eject, but was not fully successful. His body was found strapped into the ejection seat approximately 200 yards from the crash site. It was a very intense afternoon in Ketchikan to say the least. The "miracle", no one else was killed or severely injured. A job well done by all responders.

"Two roads diverged in a wood, and I-I took the one less traveled by, and that has made all the difference."

Robert Frost



Muddy mess on the Haines Highway. Trp. Patrick McMullin took this photo of the mess left by a huge mudslide in Haines on November 29. The slide was ½ mile long, 15 feet deep and closed the highway for 4 days. Trooper McMullin responded to a possible DV situation shortly after the slide. Since the call originated on the other side of the slide this required McMullin to drive up to the slide in his patrol vehicle, climb over the slide, where he was met and transported to the call via a local fire department chief. All ended well with this call, no DV had occurred.



Sgt. Bernard Chastain, Met PD Officer's daughter, Sgt. Bryan Barlow.



Sgt. Bryan Barlow, Sgt. Bernard Chastain and Trp. Clyde Campbell, with Met PD and Fire Dept. personnel, along with 2 daughters of Met PD officer burned in fire. Sgt. Bryan Barlow, Sgt. Bernard Chastain and Trp. Clyde Campbell traveled to Metlakatla on December 8th. They brought much needed donated items to a Metlakatla PD officer and his family after he was severely burned in November when their house burned down. The family lost everything they owned.



(Left) Baby Bird arrives. There's a new baby Bird in the nest at Ketchikan Post. RDII Eric Bird and his wife Sarah with their son Benaiah, born on Valentine's Day, the actual due date! He weighed 7 pounds, 14 ounces, and was 20 inches long. This is their first child and all family members are doing very well. Congratulation's Bird family.



DOT employee Mike Earnest found this Sawhet owl on the centerline of North Tongass Highway recently. The critter appeared stunned and was turned over to the Ketchikan Raptor Center for treatment.



January 7th, Ketchikan Holiday Post Party. All the men of the Ketchikan Post enjoyed a good time at the party.



Ophelia and Evan Barlow. Ophelia orchestrated a fundraiser at the party with the help of Kendra Nicholson, Gena Chastain and Denise Whitton. Over \$500.00 was raised to benefit the PSEA request for funds for law enforcement officers and their families affected by Hurricane Katrina.



(At left) ABWE Tech Charlie Johnson and RDII Tiana Walkowsky are engaged. The happy couple met in September when Tiana was hired on at Ketchikan dispatch. A date has not yet been set for the wedding. Congratulations Charlie and Tiana!



Juneau Post RDIII Scott Guenther learned the hard way that paybacks are sometimes a little messy. Guenther is known as the King of the post-it notes in Juneau. After returning from lunch one day he walked in to this little surprise. Mrs. Chris Umbs purchased a large package of post-it notes at the local Costco store and decorated RDIII Guenther’s office as a payoff for a recent scam Guenther had pulled on her. Who has the last laugh now Scott?



Trp. Jesse Osborn arrived at Ketchikan Post in January after transferring from Anchorage JS. On his journey from Anchorage, he stopped in the village of Hoonah to pick up a recent purchase, a 1986 50-foot gas rigged yawl. He and a friend sailed the S/V *Raven’s Nest* from Hoonah, up toward Juneau, then down the Inside Passage to Ketchikan. Welcome to Ketchikan Trooper Osborn. Nice vessel!

From Court TV, Notes From Alaska on Rachelle Waterman trial:

“Sgt. Randy McPherron, the Alaska State Trooper who headed up the Waterman investigation, (hadn’t) taken the stand yet, but careful viewers of Court TV got a preview of how he operates under pressure last week when he appeared in a network documentary, “Fire and Ice.” The detective, known to some as the Columbo of Alaska, was the lead investigator in the fascinating case of **Robert Meyer**, a man who claimed his wife and teenage daughter were washed overboard when their boat caught fire during a 1996 family fishing trip. It was McPherron and his team who turned up a million-dollar insurance policy, a mistress, diesel-soaked clothes and other evidence to support murder charges. —*Harriet Ryan* ■

B Detachment News

Additions/Subtractions:

Trp. Jeff Simpson moved on to Girdwood, E Detachment. He began his assignment at Palmer Post in December 2002, completing his Field Training & Evaluation Program (FTEP) and then continuing on as part of Palmer patrol for a few years. **Trp. Kevin Baker** is moving onto Kotzebue. He arrived at Palmer Post as a Recruit in January 2004, completed his FTEP training, and remained at Palmer Post as part of the patrol unit. We wish them both the best in their new assignments.



Trp. Kevin Baker received best wishes from Sgt. Dallas Massie, Col. Julia Grimes, and Capt. Dennis Casanovas before he headed off to Kotzebue.



Trp. Jeff Simpson received congratulations from Capt. Dennis Casanovas.

Trp. Arturo Lincon was called to active military duty in August 2004 and returned to Alaska from Iraq in January 2006. Unfortunately, he has elected to remain in active duty status with the military and has tendered his resignation with the Department of Public Safety. We wish him and his family the best.

Trp. Jacob Covey is expected to arrive at the Talkeetna Trooper Post on March 1st, 2006 from Cantwell. Welcome to B Detachment Trp. Covey.

On March 1, 2006, **Trp. Shannon Fore** will be joining the Alaska Bureau of Investigations Unit in Palmer. He will quickly learn the ins and outs of investigation work. Best wishes in your new assignment Trp. Fore.

Post Activities:

Colonel Julia Grimes attended the potluck at Palmer Post on February 10, 2006, to present a few awards. **Sgt. Walt Blajeski** was presented his Sergeant



Walt Blajeski received his sergeant's badge from Col. Julia Grimes.

badges, **Trp. John Ostoj** was given his five-year pin and certificate, and **Susan Sprague** was given her fifteen-year pin and certificate. **Trp. Aaron Meyer** was not able to attend the potluck, but received his five-year pin and certificate from **Captain Dennis Casanovas** during his next shift. **Jill Veloske-Bybee** received her five-year pin and certificate a few days earlier, as she was going on annual leave and would not be attending the potluck. Congratulations to all.

The Alaska State Troopers and FOAST staff was given a big thank you for their outstanding support recently from the PAHA Squirt D Hockey Team.



Trp. John Ostoj received his 5-year pin from Col. Julia Grimes.



Susan Sprague received her 15-year pin from Col. Grimes.

(B Detachment, continued on page 13)

B Detachment, continued from page 12



The Palmer Pioneer--Squirt D Hockey team, 2005-2006 season.

A bit of news from Capt. Casanovas who represents B Detachment in the many meetings he attends for E-911. Have you wondered how often people in B Detachment area dial 911? The Mat-Su Borough manages the E-911 program in this region and Palmer Police Department answers all of those E-911 calls from citizens reporting criminal conduct, motor vehicle collisions, fires, medical emergency and/or suspicious circumstances.

In 2005, there were **26,438**, E-911 calls received by the Palmer Police Department. As the use of cellular telephones increase so do the number of E-911 calls made by these type of telephones.

In 2005, only **11,739** (44%) of the E-911 calls were made from hard-line telephones while **14,699** (56%) of the E-911 calls were made from cellular telephones. Here are a couple of other statistics you may be interested in.

Of the **26,438**, E-911 calls answered by Palmer Police Department in 2005, **13,035** (almost 50%) were then transferred to Mat-Com either for Wasilla Police, Houston Police or the Alaska State Troopers to respond to.

As most of you know when an E-911 call is made from a hard-line phone the physical location and subscriber information is usually available to aid in directing

responders to the location and provide information about the caller(s). Although there are several hardware and software

issues still being worked on, it is anticipated that by June of 2006, the E-911 system in the Mat-Su Borough will also be able to provide GPS location information on many cellular telephone calls to E-911. Each of you can probably think of calls we have received from people on cellular telephones who have not known exactly where they were, thus this new technology will be a vast improvement and could be instrumental in saving a life.

D.A.R.E. Program

The Kenny Lake School 6th Grade Class had 10 students successfully complete the D.A.R.E. program training. The program started in October and consisted of ten 45-minute classes taught by **Trp. Ronny Simmons** of Glennallen Post. The students learned the negative affects of drugs and alcohol and ways to avoid peer pressure and avoid being put in risky situations.

Lt. Randal Hahn and **Sgt. Duane Stone** of AST B Detachment also attended the graduation ceremony at Kenny Lake School. ■



Ten students from Kenny Lake School, 6th grade class, successfully completed the D.A.R.E. program training.

Did you know?

Many years ago, in Scotland, a new game was invented. It was ruled "Gentlemen Only...Ladies Forbidden"...and thus the word GOLF entered into the English language.

C Detachment News

Bristol Bay Region

TRP. DAVID BUMP

Hello from all of us in the bright and warm Bristol Bay Region. **Sgt. Jeff Laughlin** is away in Kentucky until May 2006, at SPI. Before he went, all he would talk about was turkey hunting and other fun activities. He has changed his tune a bit now talking about tests, studying, and college level classes. We are sending him a block of cheese. His wife, **Casey** and son **Miles** are missing the late night standby calls and other early AM calls from Bristol Bay Troops. Sgt. Laughlin is looking forward to the end of the SPI session, not because of the classes or any of the work, but because he has a new 19-foot Thunderjet on the way: and it's his favorite color, HOT PINK!

Trp. "Moose" Sims is catching a culinary bug. He is now cooking lunch at Post instead of bringing it or going home. We've put a new fire extinguisher close to the oven and microwave, just in case things get out of hand. We are wondering how a "work related cooking injury" would look on a Workman's Comp. or Injury Report? Hopefully we won't cross that bridge. Moose and fiancée **Jessica** are looking forward to a trip to Kenai in April. The real reason for the trip is to get fishing bait for Nushagak River Kings. He has her convinced its for engagement photos. Moose requests that no one let the cat out of the bag.



Gaining daylight. A sunrise in Dillingham's Nushagak Bay captured by an early riser gives hope for the spring and summer ahead.

Trp. John Holm is looking forward to getting a new partner at the King Salmon Post. Trp. Holm has put the red carpet in place and promises to keep it brushed off until the bid is filled. We may have to retrain Trp. Holm about how to share an office again.

Admin. Clerk II, **Jeanette Spofford**, allowed her husband, Probation Officer **Rex**

Spofford to buy a 2006 snowmachine. Rex is gone so much that the machine only has 4/10 of a single mile on it. Moose and I have offered to break it in, no luck so far. We told her that we would rent it from her while Rex is gone since she likes to be a landlord so much.

Well, that is about all from Bristol Bay. We'll chat with you next Quarterly. ■

D.A.R.E. Officer Graduation

BY GREG WILKINSON, PIO



The D.A.R.E. Officer Graduation was held February 3, in the Fort Richardson post theater. Eighteen officers from throughout the State of Alaska, one from Las Vegas, Nevada, and one from Anacortes, Washington completed an 80-hour intensive class on how to present the D.A.R.E. curriculum to children in the schools. **Colonel Donna G. Boltz**, Com-

mander, U.S. Army Garrison Alaska, was in attendance as guest speaker. Also attending were Anchorage School District Superintendent **Carol Comeau**, Anchorage Mayor **Mark Begich**, DPS Commissioner **Bill Tandeske**, APD Chief **Walt Monegan**, and AST Colonel **Julia Grimes**.

Today in Alaska there are approximately 30-40 active D.A.R.E. officers teaching. Each year the program continues to achieve growth. In the 2004/2005 school year, the D.A.R.E. program was

provided to approximately 2 percent of Alaska's youth. There has been a 12 percent increase in D.A.R.E. Officers, a 12 percent increase in participating schools, a 23 percent increase in police agency participation and a 4 percent increase in new D.A.R.E. students. Yearly surveys show that teachers and school administrators highly praise the program and their D.A.R.E. Officer. Finally, the D.A.R.E. program continues to work successfully in both urban and rural settings throughout the State of Alaska. ■



Junior Iditarod musher Michael Miller is the son of Trp. Brian and Cari Miller. Mrs. Miller was on hand to video tape the race start on February 25, 2006. There's a story behind the "Mushing Millers" of Nome; it will be presented in the Summer 2006 edition of the Quarterly!

There's No Place Like Nome

Residents of Nome showed up in full force on January 27, 2006, at the Mini Convention Center for a Lasagna Dinner Fundraiser to support "Team Nome." Michael Miller, son of Trp. Brian and Cari Miller was one of four racers from Team Nome to participate in the 2006 Junior Iditarod Sled Dog Race in Willow, February 25.

A field of 23 dog mushers left Willow on February 25, Miller wearing bib number 37, was #6 out of the chute with 10 dogs at 10:12:00. A total of 21 teams finished on February 26, with Miller placing 13th with 10 dogs at 12:37:44. The total distance of the race was 138 miles. Public Safety

Employee's Association was one of the many generous sponsors contributing to Miller's success as a rookie. More details if interested may be viewed at www.jriditarod.com.

Sgt. Karl Erickson will be transferring from the Kotzebue Post and reporting for duty in Unalakleet on March 16, to fill one of the two trooper positions.

Trp. Chris Jaime participated in Nome's first "Presidents' Day" parade hosted by the local Nome Public Schools JROTC (Junior Reserve Officer Training Cadets). As is evident in the photograph it was held during a snowstorm, nevertheless participation was strong. ■



Trp. Chris Jaime participated in the President's Day parade.



Welcome to Bethel Post: Please join the Bethel Troopers in welcoming the newest addition to our family... Megan Marion Whittom, the newest daughter of Trooper Joseph Whittom and his wife Kaylynn, was born on February 28, 2006; at 10:53 a.m. Megan weighed in at 7 pounds, 10 ounces and measured 19 3/4 inches. Both mom and daughter are healthy and doing fine.

Also please welcome Amy Marie Roberts, the newest daughter of Trp. Michael Roberts and his wife Mandy. Amy was born on March 5, 2006, at 3:23 p.m., weighing 8 pounds, 5 ounces, and measuring 19 and 3/4 inches. Mom and daughter are doing fine.

From Whispers in the Wind©

BY GEORGE G. RODGERS
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This morning a very small chipmunk and I shared the same world, the same sun, and the same rocky ledge. We did not speak, He and I. We just looked and somehow knew that what was mine was his and what was his was mine.

I'm not quite sure, but somehow he looked quite familiar. I think we have met before, He and I. When I see him again I shall ask, maybe he will remember about He and I. ■

D Detachment News

By SUE ROGERS, AST FAIRBANKS

Cold is our normal word for the temperature at this time of the year in Fairbanks. January 2006 set a record as the coldest calendar month in Fairbanks since December of 1980, and the coldest January since 1971. The lowest temperature this past month was 51 below, with 5 days having a temperature of 40 below or lower.



Yep, that's just plain cold!

New Baby

Inv. Henry Ching and wife, Casie welcomed Emily Keilana Ching on December 8, 2005. She weighed in at 8 pounds, 8 ounces.

Hello and Goodbye

Crystal Miller is the lone new recruit in Fairbanks this cycle and we're happy to have her. After being deployed twice Alan Carvajal resigned from the Troopers and is now an active duty full time member of the Air Guard at Eielson Air Force Base.

Moves

Trp. Mike Duffield is making the move to Bethel after spending his first 20 years as a Trooper in Fairbanks. He and his wife, Theresa, took a two-week vacation to Mexico in February prior to making the move. Trp. Jake Covey has moved down the Parks Highway to Talkeetna as of March.

New Dispatchers

Fairbanks has two new dispatchers who started the week before Christmas. We're happy to have Linda Smith and Raina Douglass as part of the team. Shawna Cowles started in early November and is now 'flying solo'. ■



On December 20, Major Matt Leveque was in Fairbanks for the badge pinning of Sgt. Tim Tuckwood of Delta Post; Sgt. Scott Johnson, Fairbanks; and Lt. Lonny Piscoya.



Tim and Cindy Tuckwood with children, Skylar and Sadie at the badge pinning ceremony.



Major Matt Leveque assists Brandy Johnson with the badge for Scott Johnson. Johnson is holding youngest daughter, Halene.

(Left) The Piscoya family, Lonny, Bridget, Molly, Matthew, Daniel and Nicholas at the badge pinning ceremony.



- ◆ If you have worn shorts and a parka at the same time, you might live in Alaska.
- ◆ If you instinctively walk like a penguin for five months out of the year, you might live in Alaska.

Jeff Foxworthy

Delta Junction News

By SGT. TIM TUCKWOOD

Business has been steady for the Troopers at the Delta Junction post. In November and December, Troopers were hit with a number of burglaries. Our burglars hit residences that were vacant during the winter months with out of town victims from the North Slope to Washington.

The thieves were destructive in their efforts and took monitor heaters from the houses, leaving the pipes to freeze and break, not to mention fuel running all over the inside of the houses. The burglars seemed to migrate toward large, expensive items and took everything from air compressors to vehicles.

Word seemed to travel fast in the small community about all of the break ins and thefts, but no one seemed to know anything about who was responsible. We were one Trooper position short at the time, which left the remaining Troops to fill the void.

Luckily, we had all sorts of people show up at the office to help. From human scent trackers, to psychics, to people who just wanted some information so they could "take care of business" themselves. If we could just pin a badge on someone and let them go to work! I felt like I was working in recruitment.

We were able to get a few breaks in the cases to point us in the right direction. Soon we got a tip about one of our suspects attempting to sell a stolen firearm. We pounded out a search warrant and met our suspect at his front door. We recovered just one of the stolen 21 firearms at his house which was kind of a let down. We interviewed our suspect and were reluctantly provided with some information about another gun and another person's name.

We kept at it, determined to see this through to the end. Over the course of the next few days, we served five search warrants at several different houses. We recovered six stolen firearms, thousands of dollars in stolen property and a stolen 1999 Dodge pickup. One person has been arrested, so far, and has been indicted on nine felonies ranging from



Trp. Nasruk Nay stands with what is left of a stolen 1999 Dodge diesel pickup.

burglary and theft to vehicle theft. The following days were consumed with trying to figure out what property belongs to each burglary and the joyous task of filling out evidence tags and forms. There has got to be an easier way.

These burglaries involved several people and only a small portion of the stolen property has been recovered, so we have a long way to go. The above cases would not have been possible without the initial tips from local citizens.

Trp. Steve Lantz, Trp. Nasruk Nay, and I have been able to get back to a "normal" workweek and concentrate on patrol duties that were neglected for a while. We are still up for getting our hands on the other suspects and we are confident we will in time.

On February 1, 2006, **Trp. James "Mike" Wilcox** transferred in from ABI in Fairbanks. Trp. Wilcox is a much-needed addition and we will put his investigative skills to good use. Welcome aboard.

The community of Delta Junction is forming a Safe Schools Interagency Team Planning Program.

The purpose of this program is to network the various agencies that deal with children to foster communication and early intervention in the lives of at risk children.

Our team will participate in a 5-day training on how to form this team and implement its principles. The training is provided by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention and the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children. Representatives from Delta Junction are able to attend this free training because Trp. Nay attended the Chief Executive Officer's Safe Schools Forum in September of 2005, along with the superintendent of schools for Delta Greely School District. Trp. Nay assembled the inter-agency team, which includes Trp. Nay representing the Alaska State Troopers, the District Court Magistrate, PTA president, Assistant Superintendent of Schools, OCS supervisor, District Supervisor of AK Division of Juvenile Justice, Delta Junction City Administrator, and the Elementary and Middle School Counselor for Delta Greely School District. Upon our return, they will share the concepts learned with their coworkers and begin working together more effectively.

This and other training is available to other communities who want to enhance child safety and reduce juvenile delinquency rates. Click on www.missingkids.com, and then click on TRAINING, then COURSE DESCRIPTIONS AND SCHEDULES. ■

E Detachment News

BY SHAE HOLLANDSWORTH, AST SOLDOTNA

E Detachment is gearing up for the Arctic Winter Games. The Kenai Peninsula is hosting the games this year, which promises to bring thousands of athletes and visitors to our communities. We're hoping Mother Nature snaps out of her spring mode long enough to make it look like Arctic Winter Games and not, as it's jokingly being referred to, the *Arctic Breakup Games* or the *Spring Festival*.

We welcome home **Trp. Brad Nelson** from his tour of duty in Iraq. It's great having Trp. Nelson back with us—his energy and vitality are both uplifting and contagious.

It seems just as soon as we welcomed Trp. Nelson home, we had to say goodbye to **Trp. Elizabeth Haddad**, who was called to active duty in Iraq for 18 months. Her duties will include driving in fuel transport caravans. Hopefully she'll have air conditioning! We'll keep everyone posted on Haddad's adventures in future editions of the Quarterly.

Trp. Jeremy Grieme has donned a blue uniform after a few years of grungy shirts (actually, "grungy" might be out of line since we're talking about Mr. Clean's little brother here). Welcome aboard, Trp. Grieme!

Soldotna Post has another new face in the squad room: **Trp. Recruit Matthew Wertanen**. Trp. Wertanen comes from good stock—dad is **Bill Wertanen**, who is a vessel Tech for ABWE Kodiak.

Welcome to **Elise Bell**, our new dispatcher! Bell grew up in New Zealand. She and her husband, **Adam**, relocated from Colorado. Adam is employed with CES. Elise has had some interesting jobs! She has worked for an airline in Australia, represented New Zealand at the 1996 World Barefoot Waterski Championships, and worked as a snowboard instructor. She also has EMT experience and spent time volunteering with the dispatch center in Aspen, Colorado.

We've had bear sightings in 10 elementary schools on the peninsula this winter. Safety Bear, that is! Schools from Anchor Point to Hope were treated to the new "Stop the Bullying" presentation. **Trp. Larry Erickson** made 22 presentations to over 400 students, and the response was overwhelmingly positive. Trp. Erickson would like to thank the following people for their efforts, without which the Safety Bear presentations could not have been so successful: Dispatcher **Stacey Day**, **Trp. Michael Guymon** and his wife, **Erika**, **Rachel Erickson**, **Emily Erickson**, **Michael Erickson**, **Trp. Travis Bordner**, **Trp. Vanessa Meade**, and **Trp. Kurt Walgenbach**.

Speaking of Trp. Walgenbach, he could sure use some air fresheners for his car. Those cloth seats can really be a curse!

Trp. Meade and Trp. Bordner are newly certified DARE troopers. Trp. Bordner will conduct the Niniichik DARE program next



Along with Jim Stogsdill's blue hair apparently comes blue teeth.

year, and Trp. Meade will concentrate her efforts in the Kenai/Soldotna area.

Soldotna AST, Soldotna Police Department, Probations, and Dispatch have joined forces to create an interdepartmental basketball night.

Our 2004 Awards ceremony was conducted in November 2005. It looks like we got the awards handed out just by the skin of our teeth before we turned the corner on another year!

Trps. Erickson and **Michael Henry** received Commendations of Valor for their (E Detachment, continued on page 19)



Welcome Baby Blizzard! New dad Trp. Daniel Blizzard, and his wife Trishta, welcome their son Noah Ethan.



CSO Sue Macholz received the 2004 CSO of the Year Award from Col. Julia Grimes.

E Detachment, continued from page 18



Trps. Larry Erickson and Michael Henry received Commendations of Valor for their actions in a difficult rescue of a suicidal woman who had locked herself in her house and then set it on fire.

actions in the difficult rescue of a suicidal woman who locked herself in her house and then set it on fire. In addition, Trp. Erickson and Trp. Henry will be awarded the American Red Cross annual Real Heroes Award in Anchorage on April 4th.

Our very own go-getter **CSO Sue Macholz** received the 2004 CSO of the Year award. CSO Macholz is the hardest working lady in the court business, that's for sure! We are fortunate to have her on our team!



Yet another reason to carry a cell...This photo was taken in Turnagain Pass by Trp. Terrence Shanigan.



Sgt. Bill Welch earned the 2004 E Detachment Trooper of the Year Award.

Sgt. Bill Welch earned the 2004 E Detachment Trooper of the Year award. Sgt. Welch is the head of our always-busy Girdwood post. He puts his heart and soul into doing a great job for the Troopers and the public, and his dedication and fortitude are truly inspiring.

Administrative Clerk II **Jody Fenton** received the award for E Detachment 2004 Civilian Employee of the Year. Jody has since then accepted a position with Soldotna Police Department.

Sgt. Barry Wilson was recognized for his 15 years of service with AST. Someone gave me \$5.00 to write a smart comment about Sgt. Wilson's silver hair, but I would never do something like that.

Receiving commendations were Trp. Walgenbach, for his work and expertise in handling a difficult call involving a mentally unstable man, and dispatch shift supervisor **Jennifer Russell**, for her tireless efforts and dedication to the Soldotna Communications Center. ■

*To know the land,
and to see the seasons.
Look upon my hands.*

*To see the land,
and to know the seasons.
Look upon my face.*

George G. Rodgers
Whispers in the Wind©

Trp. Brad Nelson—Back From Iraq

First and foremost, the most frequent question I have been asked is “How are the Iraqi people’s attitudes toward us?” Every Iraqi that I had contact with, from our interpreter to the local workers, was extremely gracious. Through the interpreter, I was able to learn that the majority of the local people are happy and grateful for the work we have done. Their biggest fear is that we are going to stay forever. Their next biggest concern is their sense of pride, as they want to take over and finish the job themselves. I am sure we can all understand their position.

Trp. Paul Fussey (from Kodiak) and I were deployed to Kirkuk as Fire/Rescuemen. We were responsible for all aircraft in the area and also the base fire fighting and medical needs. We had an additional duty of “Dustoff” missions. Should an incident occur in the area needing our services; we would load into Blackhawk helicopters, take care of the scene, and fly back. Until Ramadan started, we were also involved in the teaching of Iraqi fire fighters. The classes were still on hold when we left. Most of the vehicles, heating/cooling, and power equipment in the area is getting older and is very worn, meaning lots of electrical and mechanical fires. As you can imagine, the sandy environment is not user-friendly to the workings of delicate equipment.

Although we arrived in the country in the beginning of September, the temperatures were still HOT. We tried to take care of daily tasks before lunch. If they were not done by then, they would have to wait until late afternoon.

One thing that was amazing to experience was how quickly the temperature would drop at night.

Trying to accomplish anything in the middle of the day, in 120-degree temps, was not recommended. Slowly but surely, the temps began to change. We really did not experience a “fall.” We went from summer to winter almost overnight. When



Trps. Brad Nelson and Paul Fussey were deployed to Kirkuk as Fire/Rescuemen.

we left the end of January, the temps would dip into the 50s during the day and the high 30s at night. One thing that was amazing to experience was how quickly the temperature would drop at night. As soon as the sun dropped, so did the thermometer. The sand and hard rock surfaces do not retain heat.

We had several dust storms in November and December. The sand over there is different than any sand I have seen before. It was more like talcum powder, and could weasel its way through any sized opening and it left a residue on everything and anything it touched.

The rainstorms we had were a mixed blessing situation. It was nice to have the dust taken out of the air, however, the sand turned into concrete when wet. Your boots would end up with an inch or more of hardened mud after a quick walk; great for cardio, bad for cleaning, and bad for the maintenance of equipment.

As a whole, I am very glad to have done my part and been deployed. I am proud of the mission and very happy to have seen, first hand, that the information we are seeing on the news is not the real story. Yes, it was very dangerous; we were subject to rockets, vehicle born IEDs

(improvised explosive devices), small arms fire and probing attacks throughout the entire deployment. If you ever doubted the importance of the time spent in class learning about officer safety, this was where the rubber met the road.

Your boots would end up with an inch or more of hardened mud after a quick walk....

Although the situation could be nerve racking at times, I felt much better about me facing the dangers in another country, than my family having to face the dangers at home.

My family has a strong connection with the military and I was raised as an “Army Brat,” so togetherness is not a new concept. It is amazing how safe the American public is and how little they understand the threats around us. Every day is a struggle for survival for the people of Iraq, yet they haven’t given up on freedom.

As I said, I’m glad to have done my part...but it’s also good to be back home. ■

The Day I “Saw” My Life Flash Before Me

BY TROOPER RON HAYES

It started on the early morning of January 2, 2006, at an MVC-I at about mile 72 of the Seward Highway. I was the first emergency personnel to arrive on scene. **Trp. Terrence Shanigan** also responded and was right behind me. The story really isn't the collision, which caused minor injuries for a female driver who was driving to Kenai with two dogs she was transporting from some type of animal rescue center. It was the animals themselves, and one in particular. While waiting for the ambulance, the driver, who by now was in the back seat laying down with a possible broken arm, informed me that the little 30 pound ankle biter that was barking and raising a ruckus under the steering wheel would bite anyone if they tried to touch him. I looked at the dog and it looked at me, and I kind of let out a little laugh. The driver then said, “No, I'm not kidding—that is why his name is **Saw**.” EMS finally arrived and took care of the driver and put her into a waiting ambulance. She wanted the dogs to go with her to the hospital but we all know that isn't possible. We contacted the animal hospital in Anchorage and they stated they would take the dogs if we could provide transport for them. Because of the New Year's Eve weekend, we had CSOs in the Girdwood area helping with prisoner transports. They were driving the Judicial Services vans. See where I'm going with this?

After the driver was transported from the scene, we still needed to deal with the dogs. We had several volunteer firefighters, one tow truck driver, and two big, fearless Alaska State Troopers on scene. **Trp. Shanigan** then informed me about the new nifty dogcatcher poles that were issued to us to assist in something just like this. He then asked me if I had mine. I looked at him in confusion and said, “What dog catcher pole?” Since **Shanigan** didn't have his and I didn't have mine, I proceeded to have a “Macgyver Moment.” I pulled out my ASP baton (no, it is not what you think) and extended it. Finally I got to use the ASP for something other than breaking windows! Someone produced about 5 feet of nylon rope, and with a little duct tape

from the EMS guys, we were in business. Yep, you guessed it; I made a lasso with the rope and duct taped it to end of the baton. I proceeded to give it to **Trp. Shanigan** to lasso **Saw**. Hey, I know what you're thinking, but I came up with the idea, and let the least senior trooper attempt the arrest. Plus, my understanding was that **Trp. Shanigan** had a lot of experience with dogs during his time with the Alaska State Troopers.

All I can say is WOW! I have never seen a dog duck and weave like this one. I've seen professional boxers that weren't as quick and agile as **Saw**. Every time **Shanigan** got the rope next to his head, he would duck and move out of the way. **Saw** would counter and come back with all his teeth bared to let us know we were barking up the wrong tree and if we, (okay **Trp. Shanigan**), made a mistake, we would pay. After numerous close calls and scratching our heads on what to do next, one of the firefighters grabbed a blanket, jumped into the vehicle head first, and covered **Saw** up with it. As **Saw** was trying to cut his way through the blanket we are able to get him to **Shanigan's** vehicle, which by the way just happened to be **Trp. Brad Nelson's** old K9 vehicle. We got **Saw** tucked away and quickly shut the door before he could escape and attack.

Trp. Shanigan then cleared the scene and started driving back to Girdwood Post with **Saw**. I was about twenty minutes behind him and as I pulled into Girdwood Post, I observed **Shanigan's** vehicle parked snugly behind a CSO van. The van's back doors were open and **Trp. Shanigan** and two CSOs were looking through the back window of the K9 vehicle in disbelief. I parked nearby and as I approached the vehicles, **Trp. Shanigan** presented me with my impromptu dog-catching ASP baton. The end of the baton where I had taped it was now riddled with bite marks. It looked like a #2 pencil that someone had been biting on for several hours.

I took the ASP baton from **Trp. Shanigan** and was determined to show them how to properly lasso and subdue a dog. I began to think about old westerns,



What **Trp. Hayes "Saw"**.

Roy Rogers and Trigger, and started to have notions of grandeur. **Trp. Shanigan** then rolled the window down on the back door and I reached in to lasso **Saw**. At about the time I got the end of the baton with the lasso next to **Saw**, he sprung. Before I knew what happened, **Saw** came after me lighting fast, and I had barely enough time to react. I just about knocked myself out on the doorframe trying to pull my extremities out of the vehicle. After my pulse returned to normal, and the laughter died down from **Trp. Shanigan** and the CSOs, I again reached in and attempted to lasso **Saw**. By this time, **Saw** was a veteran of this game and we got into this routine. I would attempt to lasso him, he would come after me with snarling teeth, and I would jump out of the way. After about 30 seconds of this, words of wisdom from my training started to come back to me: don't chase a failed technique, don't go 50/50 with a subject. I then started thinking, OC the little #@\$#...no, better yet, TASER!!! Well, I'm proud to say that it didn't come to that. I was finally able to lasso the little guy, and to my relief the duct tape held. I transferred **Saw** to the JS van. **CSO Kelly** then transported **Saw** and the other dog, which was a very nice black lab without a care in the world, to Anchorage. The owner later called and thanked the troopers for getting the dogs safely to Anchorage. In the end I walked away from this experience with only one thing in mind...I like black labs. ■

Division of Fire Prevention

BY MAHLON GREENE

In a ceremony at DPS headquarters on December 16, 2005, **Deputy Commissioner Ted Bachman** recognized **Director Gary Powell** for his five years of dedication and service as the Director of the Division of Fire Prevention. Director Powell has emphasized the importance of public education, fire prevention programs and building code enforcement to protect Alaska's most valuable resource, its people. Director Powell recognized **Carol Olson** for her ten years of dedication and service to the Division. Olson started as a Deputy Fire Marshal I and moved up to Life Safety Inspection Bureau Supervisor. She is currently the supervisor of the Plans Review Bureau.

January not only marked the start of a new year but also a very busy time for the Division. Assistant State Fire Marshall, **William Bettac** resigned to pursue personal endeavors. We all wish him well in pursuit of those endeavors. Congratulations to Assistant Fire Marshal **Steve "Rusty" Bellanger**, who was selected to replace Bettac. Bellanger has worked for the Division as a Deputy Fire Marshal I and recently as a Building Plans Examiner for the Plans Review Bureau.

Director Powell and Fire Training Administrator, **Jodie Hettrick** attended the annual Spring meeting of the Alaska Fire Chief's Association (AFCA) February 6 through 9, 2006. The meeting is held every spring in Juneau. The AFCA is a statewide organization comprised of the chief fire or emergency service officials of a community. During the meeting, the members discuss concerns that affect emergency services in Alaska and develop initiatives to promote programs beneficial to the citizens within their communities. The AFCA also sponsors training during the spring meeting. This year **Chief Kelvin Cochran** of Shreveport, Louisiana presented a course on the Fire Chief of the Future.

Training and Education Bureau

The Training and Education Bureau started an intensive ad campaign to address the increasing problem with fires caused by careless smoking and alcohol



Director Gary Powell (left) received his 5-year pin from Deputy Commissioner Ted Bachman.

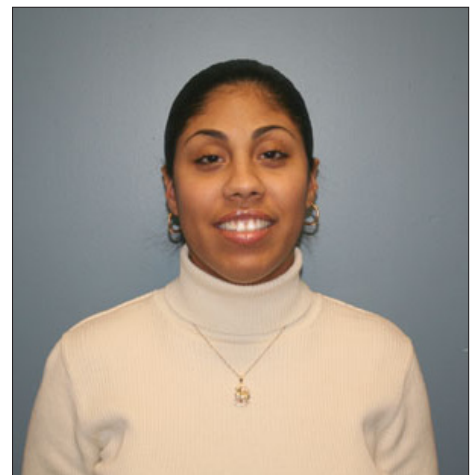


Life Safety Inspection Bureau Supervisor Carol Olson received her 10-year pin from Division Director Gary Powell.

consumption. Alcohol was a factor in all three of the current fire fatalities for 2006. The fire prevention theme for this campaign is "*Alcohol and fire don't mix, be fire safe in 2006*". Television ad time was purchased to run during the Olympics, which has a larger audience than any other program or event on TV. This ad campaign will reach all ages throughout the state.

Good news was received from Alaska Village Initiatives. FEMA has awarded a grant that will help fund 18 new Code Red units for rural Alaska. These units are vital to communities that do not have fire protection equipment. The Training and

(Fire Prevention, continued on page 23)



Training and Education Bureau welcomes its newest employee, Alexis Gutierrez.

Fire Prevention, continued from page 22

Education Bureau is responsible for training the local people once they receive their Code Red unit.

The Training and Education Bureau welcomes its newest employee, **Alexis Gutierrez**. Gutierrez was hired as our new Administrative Clerk II. She previously worked in the Public Defender's office.

Plans Review Bureau

The first phase of the Fairbanks airport renovation and expansion project was received by the bureau. It is anticipated that final construction will be completed in 2009. The airport expansion will provide an international wing and allow for additional domestic gates. The projected project cost is 30 million dollars.

February 7 through 10, **Rich Boothby** and Carol Olson attended the Det Tronic fire test facility in Minneapolis. They received training on the new technology being developed for the oil and gas industry in fire and gas detection systems. They also attended the live fire testing of various fuel and gas fires, and analysis of the flame and gas detection devices.

Live Safety Inspection Bureau

White Mountain School Burns--On February 15, 2006, approximately 5:45 a.m., the White Mountain V.P.S.O. received a phone call from a female reporting the high school was on fire. **V.P.S.O. Daniel Harrelson** responded to the school to find a classroom located on the southwest side of the high school engulfed in flames. An exterior attack soon began.

White Mountain is one of the few villages to have a fire hydrant system with fireboxes that contain approximately 500 feet of hose located at each fire hydrant. V.P.S.O. Harrelson was able to get water on scene while a brigade was getting the fire truck to the fire.

The village purchased the 1979 airport crash truck from Nome in 2001 for \$6000 and paid another \$6000 to have it barged to the village. White Mountain is also a village that contains Project Code Red and received their training in December 2004.

Fire Chief Eric Morris, with his volunteers, used this training to contain the fire to the school and should be recognized for not letting a 400-gallon fuel tank lo-

(**Fire Prevention**, continued on page 24)



White Mountain School before the fire.



During the fire at White Mountain School, fire fighters were able to keep the fuel tank, near the center of the photo, from erupting and burning.



Following the fire at White Mountain School, the fuel tank, near the top center, shows it as virtually undamaged.

Fire Prevention, continued from page 23

cated next to the school to “BLEVE” (boiling liquid evaporating vapor explosion). They also prevented the 5500 square foot gymnasium, located approximately 25 feet down wind of the school, from becoming involved with fire.

Despite their best efforts, the high school was a total loss. An early estimate of dollar loss is in the \$1.8 million range.

On February 16, 2006, a fire investigation was conducted which found the area of origin located on the southwest side of the school (interior). The cause of the fire is still being investigated. Building records and photos from Fairbanks, Unalakleet, and White Mountain are being sent to headquarters for further information.

During the time this school was constructed, sprinkler systems were not required or installed. All schools built after March 1999, are required to have sprinkler systems. ■

Division of Statewide Services

NIBIN Nabs Nefarious Ne're-Do-Well

NIBIN* is a relative newcomer to the Alaska Scientific Crime Detection Laboratory, but it is already helping Firearm Examiners at the Crime Lab discover links between gun-related crimes that would otherwise be as difficult to find as a needle in a haystack.

In September 2005, a suspect was arrested in Anchorage for being a felon in possession of a firearm. Several handguns were seized from the suspect. These firearms were test fired and the test discharged cartridge cases were acquired into the NIBIN System.

Using information from NIBIN, Firearm Examiner **Bob Shem** performed a microscopic analysis and confirmed the following: 1. A 45-caliber pistol was linked to a July 2005 drive-by shooting based on comparison of discharged cartridge cases. 2. Another pistol, also a 45, was linked to three separate crimes that occurred in August 2005: a murder, a shooting where the victim survived, and a separate shooting where no one was injured. (Note: Using information from NIBIN, Shem performed microscopic analysis and previously linked these three crimes to each other

through a comparison of discharged cartridge cases – before the firearm used in these crimes was recovered.)

*The National Integrated Ballistic Information Network, or NIBIN, is a networked, computer database for storing images of ballistic evidence (discharged cartridge cases and fired bullets) obtained from crime scenes and recovered firearms. The Crime Lab has participated in the NIBIN program since June 2005.

For more information in the NIBIN Program, please contact the Crime Lab at (907) 269-5740. ■

New Crime Lab Staff

Tom Wortman started working for the Department of Public Safety as a Criminalist I in December 2005. He is assigned to the Criminalistics Unit I Section where he does biological evidence screening.

Wortman's previous job was as an adjunct professor at UAA, teaching laboratory classes in microbiology, cellular biology, and human anatomy and physiology. He also works part-time as a nightlife columnist for *The Anchorage Press* newspaper.

Wortman graduated from the University of Idaho in the spring of 2004, with a B.S. degree in both Biology and Anthropology.

He will be a valuable asset of the Scientific Crime Detection Laboratory as he helps reduce the backlog of biological evidence processing. ■



Tom Wortman, Criminalist I

The Essence of Survival:

Every morning in Africa, a gazelle wakes up. It knows it must run faster than the fastest lion or it will be killed.

Every morning a lion wakes up. It knows it must outrun the slowest gazelle or it will starve to death.

It doesn't matter whether you are a lion or a gazelle, when the sun comes up, you'd better be running.

Division of Administrative Services

Division News

Lisa Emerson, Administrative Manager IV, organized and conducted an Administrative Services Briefing presentation for AST Captains and Lieutenants on January 24, 2006. The presentation covered topics pertinent to participants including budget information, procurement, fiscal operations, grants, and personnel contacts.

Kelly Howell, Grants Administrator II, volunteered to be "rescued" by **Lt. James Helgoe** in HELO-1 for AST's latest recruitment advertising campaign. Look for the picture on television, in print, and on the department's recruitment web site.

Justine Bishop joined the Division of Administrative Services on January 23, 2006, as the new Administrative Assistant. Prior to joining DPS, Bishop worked for the Department of Education.

Tish Forrest has joined the Division of Administrative Services as the Accounting Supervisor in the Juneau Fiscal Section.

Congratulations to **Carrie Lea**, Accounting Technician I in the Juneau Finance Section, who gave birth to



Kelly Howell volunteered to be "rescued" by **Lt. James Helgoe** for a recruitment advertising campaign.

Alexander Gabriel Lea on February 13, 2006.

Judy Fletcher, Accountant III, resigned her position on December 15, 2005, and moved to England. We wish her the best in her new endeavors!

Mark Knight, re-joined the Juneau Finance Section in the Accountant III position which he formally held. Knight transferred from the Program Budget Analyst III position in the Budget Section. Welcome back Mark! ■



Lisa Emerson, Administrative Manager IV in Anchorage Finance Section, slipped in December last year. She had her ankle checked a few times but no one saw the fracture. In mid-February, she had an MRI because it continued to bother her. She had surgery and a plate and screws were inserted. She has to be in that cast for 6 weeks so now she's Hop-Along Lisa!

In Other News

Thanks From The Cub Scouts!

BY JENNIFER GRIGGS

Bear Den 4 of Cub Scout Pack 215 would like to extend their thanks to the Alaska State Troopers and more specifically to **Trp. Eric Burroughs**, **Deputy Fire Marshal II Don Cuthbert**, **Sgt. Rob Langendorfer** and **Rocco**, and **Trp. Kim Waychoff**. Our den (pack) was privileged to have these individuals come to our den (pack) meetings this past January.

Trp. Burroughs showed the Bears how investigators preserve footprints by casting them, showed how to take your fingerprints and how to lift prints. He talked to the boys about what to do if you see a crime being committed and when to call 911 and what you should know when you do call. All the boys thoroughly enjoyed his presentation.

Deputy Fire Marshal II Cuthbert spoke to the Bears about what to do in case of a

fire in their home, how to get out of a burning house, what to do if your clothes are on fire or if someone else's clothes are on fire, and the importance of having an escape plan and family meeting place. He also talked about what to do if someone has an accident and what you need to be able to tell the 911 operator. The boys had a great time "screaming like little girls" as they were advised by Cuthbert!

Sgt. Langendorfer and Rocco were a huge hit!! They came to our monthly pack meeting and were faced with a huge crowd of Cub Scouts!! They showed the boys how Rocco can find drugs and what he does when he finds them. Sgt. Langendorfer talked about his job and how Rocco helps him. He also spoke about where Rocco came from and gave

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Thanks, continued from page 25

the boys some idea of what Rocco is capable of. Everyone was sad to see them leave and would have loved to hear more!

Trp. Waychoff showed up with all sorts of props. The Bears and the Tiger Den got to see and handle several different kinds of animal skulls including bear skulls, a wolf skull, and a musk ox skull. They also got to touch a mallard's wing, a piece of musk ox fur, a Dall sheep horn, and mountain goat horns. She spoke about what kinds of things you can do with Alaskan wildlife, including everything from taking pictures to hunting. She also talked about animal safety and what to do and not to do when encountering wildlife.

Again, we would like to thank all the above individuals for their time and effort in coming to our meetings! All the boys enjoyed your presentations and we would welcome you back anytime!■



Trp. Eric Burroughs showed the kids how to take fingerprints.



Trp. Kim Waychoff talked to the kids about Alaska's wildlife.



Sgt. Rob Langendorfer and Rocco were a huge hit!!

With Regret

Retired Alaska State Trooper Lew Rieth passed away January 6, 2006, in Aurora, Colorado, after a short battle with cancer. Lew was born January 17, 1945, in Schenectady, New York. He joined the Air Force in 1964 and was stationed at Elmendorf Air Force Base as an Armed Forces radio announcer. After his discharge, he joined the Anchorage fire Department for two years.

Rieth and his wife Rene, began their career with the troopers in 1969, moving to Juneau with their three children. They had been stationed in Ketchikan, Craig, Soldotna, Moose Pass, and Dillingham. During the early 80s, Rieth worked to develop the village public safety officer program. He enjoyed training new officers.

In 1986, Lew and Rene retired and spent the next 20 years traveling the United States. Their travels began in Hawaii and moved on to full-time RV-ing across the country. During the past four years, they lived in Lander, Wyoming. Lew was a member of the Lions Club in Texas, Arizona, and Wyoming. The Lander chapter of the Lions Club has named its scholarship in memory of him. Lew was a life member of the Fraternal Order of Alaska State Troopers.

Trp. Rieth was a frequent contributor to the *DPS Quarterly* newsletter, the most

recent was Winter 2005 in which he reported he would be a fill-in host on KOVE AM, a local radio station in Lander, Wyoming. Lew's photos and friendship will be missed. The family requests donations be made to the charity of your choice.

Retired Alaska State Trooper Danny Cox passed away January 6, 2006 at Providence Hospital in Anchorage.

Cox was born October 16, 1948 in Dyess, Arkansas. He served in the Army from December 1965 until August 1968 and from December 1970 to December 1974.

He was a Vietnam veteran, serving there from August 1967 to August 1968. After his discharge in 1974, he made his home in Anchorage.

Before becoming an Alaska State Trooper, Cox worked as an emergency medical technician. He served as an Alaska State Trooper from April 1984, until July 2003. After his graduation in Recruit Class #38, Trp. Cox was stationed in Soldotna, Dutch Harbor, Fairbanks, Anchorage, and Kotzebue.

He enjoyed flying his airplane, watching sports, and riding his motorcycle.

Memorial contributions may be sent to the American Cancer Society, 1057 West Fireweed Lane, Anchorage, Alaska 99508, or the American Diabetes Association, 801 (With Regret, continued on page 27)

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West Fireweed Lane, Anchorage, Alaska 99508.

Retired **Alaska State Trooper Robert Vickers** passed away January 20, 2006. His service was held in Klamath Falls, Oregon; it was a military funeral. Vickers was originally hired by the State of Alaska on August 3, 1966, as a Firefighter Guard in Cold Bay.

On October 25, 1974, he received a temporary position as a Correctional Officer. That position became permanent February 5, 1975. On October 16, 1976, he transferred to a position of Weights and Measures Inspector I.

On December 1, 1977, his range and title were changed to State Trooper. He retired on May 1, 1987.

Contributions can be made to the Diabetes Foundation. ■

Death, Honor, And Grace In The Desert[©]

By KEITH BETTINGER

Las Vegas is a strange town, a town of constant change with a big city atmosphere and small town flavor all at the same time. It is called "Sin City" by some and "Lost Wages" by others because of the gambling, shows and nightlife. It advertises with "What happens in Vegas stays in Vegas".

On weekends when the tourists arrive you can't move on the strip. Early on a weekday morning, just before the sun rises, you might be hard pressed to find anyone there. People who have only heard stories about Las Vegas wonder where people live. We live in homes just like you. Only in Las Vegas, it's suburbia with palm trees.

Las Vegas is patrolled by the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department. It covers the city of Las Vegas and Clark County. They are a bunch of hard working cops with too much territory and too few cops, but they get the job done.

February 1st, started out as a normal day. As always the sun was shining and even though it was winter in the rest of the country, it had a touch of summer here. I was driving on a freeway at about 1:30 PM when suddenly I saw a Nevada Highway Patrol vehicle racing through traffic. Then I saw a Metro helicopter circling in the air. I knew something big was happening. Then nine Metro patrol cars came racing westbound on the freeway. The retired cop in me knew a cop was in trouble.

Later that evening, while talking with friends, I learned what had happened. Metro officers in the Southwest Area Command received a call on Feather Duster Lane. It was a domestic violence

call regarding a man beating a woman. The citizen callers were frantic. **Sergeant Henry Prendes** was the first to arrive. Another officer, responding to work stopped to assist him with the call. As Sergeant Prendes approached the man who was beating the woman, the man fled to the house. As he got to the door he grabbed an AK 47 and fatally shot Sergeant Prendes. The other officer, who stopped to assist, was wounded three times in the leg, but returned fire and killed Sergeant Prendes' killer.

When anyone is killed the crime scene must be investigated and every thing must stay in place until the investigation is completed, including the bodies. Metro carefully and tenderly covered the body of Sergeant Prendes in a blanket. They then shielded him from the prying eyes of cameras by placing a tent-like structure over him. Metro honored their fallen officer with the dignity he deserved.

Small town Las Vegas started to show its softer side on Friday. A local radio station KQOL "Kool" 93.1 set up an impromptu local remote in a COMP USA parking lot. **Monk and Kelly**, a husband and wife Disc Jockey team asked the public to stop by and drop off donations for Sergeant Prendes' family. They said their goal was to raise \$100,000. People lined up for two days, putting money in the box, always staying long enough to praise Sergeant Prendes, pay respects to his wife and two daughters and his fellow officers. They also requested special songs be played by the radio station. A request heard many times was for "Amazing Grace". Members of the Injured Police Officers Fund were on hand. They

handed out Metro pins and American Flags, thanked the citizens for their generosity and safeguarded the donations. In two days time, the goal of One Hundred Thousand dollars was exceeded with more donations being deposited at Wells Fargo Bank.

On Tuesday, February 7th, at 9:00 AM Sergeant Prendes' funeral began. Las Vegas wasn't "Sin City"; it was a city with class. The mayor of Las Vegas proclaimed February 7th as Sergeant Henry Prendes Day. The escort began at the funeral home on Las Vegas Boulevard, and proceeded down the "Strip" past some of the fanciest hotels in the world. People, tourists and locals alike, stopped and stood at the curb with their hands over their hearts, to say farewell to a fallen hero. Almost all the hotel marquees displayed the Sergeant's photo during the procession. The Bellagio Hotel, known for its grandeur and its beautiful water fountains, sprayed all the fountains towards the heavens as the patrol vehicle carrying Sergeant Prendes went by. The funeral procession stretched for five miles with officers from all around the country in the procession. Some came from as far away as Maine to pay their last respects. The three major television stations in Las Vegas, CBS, NBC and ABC affiliates, carried the entire ceremony from 9:00 AM until after 3:30 PM. Many times the voices of the broadcasting professionals trembled. I attended many police funerals when I lived in New York, and the reporting of the funeral was at most, a few minutes on the evening news. Las Vegas television stations showed class.

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At Sergeant Prendes' church service three thousand people filled the church sanctuary while others stood outside. His wife and daughters, and his sister and friends paid moving tributes to husband, father and friend. They spoke of his love, his faith and his devotion to family, friends and church. They spoke of his strength; something they all showed during this terrible time.

At the cemetery muffled drums were heard as the casket was carried to the

grave. Henry's pastor performed a beautiful internment. As the honor guard folded the American flag that covered his casket, an honor guard fired a twenty-one gun salute as echoing taps were played. The bagpipes warbled in the background and first a lone piper played Amazing Grace, and was then joined by his fellow pipers in the final chorus. **Sheriff Young** presented Henry's wife with the flag that covered his casket, his hat and his badge. He also remembered Henry's mother, the

woman that lost her only son, and presented her with another flag that had served in the same honorable fashion. Nothing was forgotten. Metro Police paid their final respects to their fallen hero. The squad of officers he commanded led the way. With dignity and grace, one at a time, they all saluted and said goodbye.

(Reprint by permission of the author: Keith Bettinger, 9669 Vista Crest Ave, Las Vegas, NV 89148, 702.795.8616, E-mail: keithbett@cox.net) . ■

From Alaska to Louisiana

BY AST INVESTIGATOR DAVE JONES

In our household December is the season for reflection about the past year, cherishing family and friends, and to give thanks for the simple things that we all, on occasion, take for granted. Wherever you live, you don't have to look very hard to find people that lack the basic necessities of life, such as food, water, and shelter from the elements or steady employment. Most of us truly are blessed.

An article in the December 15, 2005, *Anchorage Daily News* featured some new Alaskans that moved here from New Orleans, Louisiana. The family lost everything when Hurricane Katrina devastated the area in September. It was encouraging to read that the family loves Alaska and that they have made great strides in getting their lives back in order. It also was great to read about the outpouring of community support for these folks.

Reading the newspaper article reminded me that I hadn't reported on the DPS / FOAST / PSEA Katrina Hurricane Relief Effort in which I was involved. On September 9, 2005, retired AST **First Sgt. Jim Grimes** and I departed Anchorage with two motor homes loaded with donated supplies for the fifty Louisiana State Police (LSP) Troopers and their families that were displaced from their homes as a result of Hurricane Katrina.

Approximately forty of LSP Troopers and their families suffered the complete loss of their homes and belongings. Twenty-eight families were being lodged at the LSP Academy in Baton Rouge.

Unlike some other police departments in the area, LSP Command Staff reported that not one of their troopers missed a day of work or was absent without leave during this difficult period. The unselfish conduct displayed by these men and women exemplifies what public service is all about. Could you imagine yourself working in the same situation after losing your home and everything that you own? Putting the needs of others first during a disaster of such magnitude is something that is easier said than done.

Unlike some other police departments in the area, LSP Command Staff reported that not one of their troopers missed a day of work or was absent without leave during this difficult period.

Jim Grimes had viewed a television news report that ABC Motor homes of Anchorage was looking for drivers to transport motor homes to Baton Rouge. The motor homes were going to be used to house utility workers and others that were deployed in the relief effort. Jim and I then contacted **Mr. John Marquardt**, the owner of ABC, to see if we could drive two of the units and carry donated supplies to the LSP families in need. Mr. Marquardt graciously gave his permission

for us to carry any supplies that we could obtain in his vehicles.

I had read on a police website that the Louisiana Troopers badly needed socks, t-shirts, underwear, baby wipes, and other personal items for their people and were asking their law enforcement brothers and sisters across the nation for assistance.

I contacted Fraternal Order of Alaska State Troopers Executive Director, **Jeanne Blair**. Ms. Blair and AST **Lt. Keith Mallard** quickly obtained the FOAST Board of Directors' permission to spend \$1,000.

I then contacted AST Director, **Colonel Julia Grimes**, and explained our plan to help out the troops in Louisiana. **Commissioner Bill Tandeske** and Colonel Grimes approved the plan. They also gave us DPS surplus "new old stock no longer used" uniform items such as raincoats, jackets, and pants for the Louisiana troopers.

We also contacted the Public Safety Employees Association (PSEA) and received another \$1,000 donation to support our relief effort. Additionally, PSEA established a bank account specifically for LSP relief and solicited donations from members across the state to donate to the cause.

On September 7, 2005, Ms. Blair and Lt. Mallard went shopping and obtained the needed items. My neighbors, **Tom** and **Ann Olson**, heard about our effort and purchased toiletries items including soap, deodorant, shampoo, toothbrushes, and

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On September 9, 2005, following a brief kick-off at AST Headquarters in Anchorage, Retired F/Sgt. Jim Grimes and Inv. Dave Jones boarded the two Louisiana bound motorhomes, from ABC Motorhomes, to begin their journey.



F/Sgt. Jim Grimes and Inv. Dave Jones loaded two motorhomes with supplies and headed south.

made up individual packets of each to take and distribute. All together we had five pallets of items to deliver to Louisiana. We wanted to make sure that the items we obtained went directly from “our trooper family” to “their trooper family” and weren’t lost in a FEMA warehouse or in some looter’s trunk.

Prior to departing, I talked to some LSP Troopers in Baton Rouge. The first thing



Home Sweet Home

they asked was if we were traveling armed. When I asked if we needed to bring a sidearm they related that some people in the area would love to own an RV from Alaska and weren’t beyond acquiring one at gunpoint. We decided to ship our firearms to a friend who is the Sheriff in Townsend, Montana, and pick them up there.

On Friday September 9, 2005, Grimes and I departed Anchorage for Baton Rouge. We wanted to leave early but got bushwhacked by some media types and didn’t even make it to Palmer until after 10am. It was pouring down rain and I started having flashbacks that I was back in Southeast Alaska. The rain didn’t stop until we were well into Canada.

We communicated between vehicles via portable radios. I had not driven “Outside” since 1992 and was amazed at the improvements that have been made to the highway on both sides of the border. I admit it, I am a “gadget guy”; my partner Grimes is not. I trust GPS technology; Grimes trusts maps. Of course, it would have helped if he had a map to refer to. Hey, you can’t get lost just head south and east! Traveling in an RV is cool and convenient. You have your own refrigerator, bed, microwave, DVD player, and restroom facilities.

On Monday, September 12, 2005, we crossed from Canada back into the U.S. at Sweetgrass, Montana. The great folks at ABC Motor Homes in Anchorage had 60 rental units that they deployed to Louisiana, Mississippi, and Florida. The ABC manager told Grimes and me to slow down or take a day off because they didn’t yet know where our two units were going to be positioned. We kept driving but took a picturesque route through Yellowstone Park, and Cody, Wyoming. The scenery was exceptional. We drove each day until we were tired, then camped out, mostly in rest areas or waysides. One day we traveled 880 miles.



Retired AST First Sgt. Jim Grime at Yellowstone Lake, Wyoming.

Leaving Yellowstone we encountered a snowstorm on the Continental Divide near the Park’s east gate. Later in the day at Cody, Wyoming, the temperature was 70 degrees. The following day I heard on the radio that the Park was closed until the winter season allowed for over-the-snow travel.

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In the mountains near Sheridan, the ranchers were herding up their cattle for removal from the summer range. I had a near miss with an Angus steer and we both had close encounters with deer in the road. In South Dakota, the temperatures were in the 80s and 90s. This area of Wyoming appears in many western movies. The road we traveled was originally a stagecoach route. The area had many box canyons and was very picturesque.

On Friday, September 16, 2005, we arrived in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. We traveled 4,835 miles in 8 days! We made 30 stops for fuel for a total cost of \$3,200 for each RV. At some places in Canada we paid over \$4 per gallon. The temperature was in the 90s with 90% humidity. It was hot and sticky to this Alaskan.

Mr. Danny Hart is the Course Coordinator for the Louisiana State Police Joint Emergency Training Center. **Ms. Shannon Anderson** is the Procurement Director. **Ms. Karen Pierce** is the Procurement Manager, **Kristi Nowlin** is an Administrative Specialist.

All of the items we transported were delivered here to the central warehouse. It reminded me of our Supply Section in Anchorage. The donated FOAST trooper t-shirts, patches, and other logo items



The ABC Motor homes parked at Louisiana State Police HQ in Baton Rouge, LA.



Camp Colorado at Louisiana State Police Headquarters in Baton Rouge.



We all have a lot to be grateful for. This is what it was like in Louisiana two weeks after Hurricane Katrina devastated the area. It looked like this all over. Could you imagine your home and front yard looking like this?

(From Alaska, continued on page 31)



Inv. D Jones, with LSP Staff: Danny Hart, Shannon Anderson, Karen Pierce, Kristin Nowlin, Lt. Ronald Lewis.

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THE DPS QUARTERLY

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VPSOs give Capt. John Papisodora the boot...so to speak.

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Louisiana State Trooper Sgt. Kenny Van Buren

were a big hit with the children staying at the LSP academy. It was personally very gratifying for both Jim and I to help out fellow troopers and their families.

Over 550 federal state and local law enforcement agencies and their respective members were stationed here at the 1,200-acre Louisiana State Police Headquarters Complex in Baton Rouge. A large tent city called Camp Colorado was set up here, complete with all the comforts of home. It

was a very active place with helicopters and patrol units coming and going 24/7. Some states sent hundreds of officers, complete with their patrol units or helicopters to work in the area. If you wish to see photos of the relief effort go to: <http://www.lsp.org/index.html>

Sgt. Kenny Van Buren and other LSP troops we talked to could not believe that people in Alaska even knew about their request for assistance and were so generous in their donations of equipment and money. As of December 16, 2005, Louisiana DPS was housing 40 of their families in FEMA trailers at LSP headquarters in Baton Rouge.

If you wish to contribute to the Louisiana Trooper Relief Fund you may do so by credit card or by check payable to:

Louisiana Trooper Relief Fund
8120 Jefferson Highway
Baton Rouge, LA 70809

If you have questions, or if you wish to make a contribution by credit card, contact the Louisiana State Trooper Association at 225-928-2000 or 800- 782-5782. Their website is: <http://www.lsta.com/> Fraud is always a concern following natural disasters. LSTA wants the public to know it does not solicit donations by telemarketers. ■