

ALASKA The DPS Quarterly

WELCOME



A Department of Public Safety publication

WINTER 2007-2008



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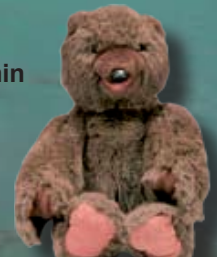
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ON THE COVER:
Icebergs dot the the LeConte Bay located across the Frederick Sound from Petersburg.

AST UNVEILS STRATEGIC COMPASS

By Col. Audie Holloway
Director of Alaska State Troopers



AST has recently unveiled our 10-year [Strategic Compass](#), now posted on the DPS Website. Please take the time to review it. It will be the AST roadmap for the next 10 years. The next project, which is already in progress, is the

first of the two 5-year Strategic Services Plans. When we are finished with this, we will begin to prepare annual operating plans. Each level of the different plans – starting with the 10, then 5 and finally annual – becomes more explicit and more defined. The 10-year Strategic Compass is written very broadly because it extends out so far in time.

The 10-year Strategic Compass has actually been completed for approximately two months. However, we are just now able to proceed as we wanted the endorsement of the Commissioner and we wanted to make sure that the governor was conceptually supportive of strategic planning. Although this is an “AST only” document, that basically just means that AST is responsible for the conception, the construction and the deliverables of the compass. We control it. It is our document. We can share it.

Obviously, the mere act of writing a plan does not guarantee success. AST does not stand alone in the criminal justice system. We need to let our partners and our supporters know what we want to do. Then we need to prove to them that we are serious and consistently faithful to our plan. When AST demonstrates inner commitment, then we will gain commitment from outside the agency. Statistically, adherence to a plan is a more probable guarantee of successful outcomes. Remember the adage, “failing to plan is akin to planning to fail.”

In general, the reasons for having a strategic compass are several and varied. It gives notice of the vision we have of our agency. It reminds

everyone of our responsibilities. It advertises the values that we hold dear. It notifies the audience of our intentions. It spotlights our goals. It explains the mechanisms we will use to reach those goals. It describes the benefits received if those goals are accomplished and by default it indicates what the repercussions are if the goals are not accomplished.

Specifically, AST becomes more familiar to the public we serve, the legislature that tasks us and provides funding, the media that reports on our actions or inactions, the governor and commissioner that directs us and the other criminal justice agencies that partner with us. By building a plan like this, AST also seeks to protect our main missions by creating a greater distance from political interference and squeaky wheel issues. This type of planning will take us across political terms because at least ninety percent of our work remains the same regardless of political changes. This was also written in such a way that a change in the head shed should not make significant changes in our compass.



As you read through it, you will see that we have set some very ambitious goals. Any worthwhile goal should be hard to reach. Easy goals do not produce the same benefits. Every step along the path following our compass makes us a better organization regardless of how long it takes for us to reach our goals. Just remember that this is a struggle like any other and as in any fight, we never, never, never give up. ■

Audie Holloway

PHOTOS NEEDED

Please notice that AST has placed a great deal of emphasis in the 10-year Strategic Compass on succession planning for leadership, employee training and professionalism, working conditions and employee retention. Also, the intent is to cycle out the photos that are currently displayed in the document to highlight all employees and their

daily actions, so please be on the lookout for those outstanding photo opportunities.

That photo of you or one of your fellow employees could represent AST in a visual fashion on our Strategic Compass and other publications.

Please email photos to elizabeth.ipsen@alaska.gov.

VRABEC CARRIES TORCH IN CHINA

By Terry Vrabec
Executive Director,
Alaska Police Standards Council

Each May, Law Enforcement Torch Runs weave through different towns, states and providences around the world to help raise money for Special Olympics. That effort culminates in the Law Enforcement Torch Run Final Leg leading up to the Special Olympics World Summer Games every two years.

I was one of over 100 people from law enforcement ranks all over the world participating in the Final Leg starting with a Flame Arrival Ceremony in Beijing on Sept. 25. The runners were then broken down into 11 smaller teams and sent out to various different cities to get the torch to the Opening Ceremonies. Our job was to not only promote the Special Olympics World Summer Games in Shanghai, but to offer encouragement to the Olympians and to proudly represent international law enforcement agencies.

The Flame Lighting Ceremony took place on June 29 in Athens, Greece, the birthplace of the Olympic Games. The "Flame of Hope" as it's called, arrived in Beijing on Sept. 25 and traveled throughout China before reaching the opening ceremonies in Shanghai on Oct. 2.

I was a member of Team 2. Each team was accompanied by a Chinese Police Officer that stayed with us and one Special Olympic Athlete. These athletes are the



Alaska Police Standards Council Executive Director Terry Vrabec leads his team in the Law Enforcement Torch Run Final Leg run through the streets of the Xi'an before the start of the Special Olympics World Summer Games in China.

"best of the best" and go through a stringent selection process. Most have been medalists at a world games event but choose to be part of the Torch Run during the Final Leg.

Our Special Olympian was Australian basketball player Leigh Madgwick. He was also my roommate. I was tasked with making sure things went well for the Special

Olympian and to assist with anything needed during the event. It was an honor and he became a good pal.

After we arrived in China, our whole group made a few appearances in Beijing, did a flame arrival ceremony, ate our Kentucky Fried Chicken sandwiches, ran up the Great Wall at 10 p.m. and then broke up into our own teams. We all ended up flying out to different parts of the country.

Our team went to the "suburban" area of Xi'an (pronounced "she ann"). This beautiful city is surrounded by a wall built many years ago for protection. Other teams made appearances in Beijing, Suzhou, Hangzhou, Wuxi, Nanjing, Guangzhou, Harbin, Dalian, Jiaying and Wenzhou.

Upon our arrival, we were greeted by the police commander of the region, given flowers, shuttled around with police escorts throughout the airport, highways and to and from our hotel every day.

For the next several days we would drive to various cities. Teams went to a staging spot in our respective areas where we did a torch run into an area to a set location and then participate in a ceremony. Our



More than 100 others participating in the Law Enforcement Torch Run Final Leg leading up to the Special Olympics World Summer Games ran up this part of the Great Wall of China the evening after the flame arrival ceremony in Beijing.

(Torch, continued on page 4)

Torch, continued from page 3



Team 2 runs in a parade in the streets of the Xi'an during the Law Enforcement Torch Run Final Leg. Special Olympian, Australian basketball player Leigh Madgwick, is pictured running on the far right.

team would be up front, with the athlete, followed by the Chinese police officers in the area, academy cadets, firefighters, SWAT team members and finally volunteers that joined in. There were thousands of people that just showed up to watch. There were performers, drummers and musicians involved in the festivities.

The city leaders made speeches, then a team member spoke, followed by the athlete before we exchanged a small gift. We received little gifts symbolizing the local area and in exchange gave something from our own state or area as well as a torch run gold coin and a torch run tie. Then we ran out of the area, got picked up by our bus and head off to another region.

We attended functions in the evenings, like formal dinner engagements, receptions with the Olympic committee or some other appearance. We got to try so many of the areas' favorite foods and learn about their culture. We had several Chinese interpreters with us so it was not hard to communicate. Many times, Chinese police officers were assigned to us to help throughout our visit.

As the trip went on, all the teams met back up with each other in Shanghai. We stayed at a hotel right next to the Coliseum, making it easy for us to get the 100-plus people over there to practice for the opening ceremonies.

For the next couple days, we again made trips in smaller groups to various Shanghai communities that included huge urban areas, small towns, parks, temples and even a railroad station with a bullet train. We were invited to the U.S. Embassy in Shanghai where I met



Team 2 poses with Alaskan delegates DPS Commissioner Walt Monegan (front left), CEO of Special Olympics Alaska Jim Balamaci (next to Monegan); Speaker of the House Rep. John Harris, R-Valdez and his wife, Nicole (far right) at the U.S. Embassy in Shanghai.



Alaska Police Standards Council Executive Director Terry Vrabec, second from left, stands with other team members during a ceremony in Xi'an.

up with DPS Commissioner Walt Monegan and his wife, Terry, the CEO of Special Olympics Alaska Jim Balamaci; Alaska Speaker of the House Rep. John Harris, R-Valdez; his wife, Nicole; and of course the rest of my team. I also got to meet World Olympic Gold Medalist figure-skater Michelle Kwan.

Throughout our event we had many movie stars, like Colin Farrell, Jackie Chan, California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger and many pro baseball, basketball, wrestling and ice-skating stars show up.

In the very last part of our job to get the torch to the Opening Ceremonies, all the law enforcement officers lined up in the stadium while the athletes ran the torch up to the stage.

We were able to meet athletes from many countries during our time on the Final Leg. It was our job to wave, support, hug and encourage them. We met thousands of people and they were always so gracious. They wanted pictures, wanted to "high five" us and do the "peace" sign, which also means hello, and just be near us.

We saw wonders of the world, great history and culture and it was truly a touching experience.

- Terry Vrabec, the executive director of the Alaska Police Standards Council, just started his fifth year as the director of the Alaska Law Enforcement Torch Run committee and his second year on the board of directors for the Special Olympics Alaska. As the LETR director, he is responsible for assisting 19 Alaska locations that will host a Torch Run event this May in some capacity. ■

Village Public Safety Officer



Those who attended the Village Public Safety Officer annual training in Kodiak include: Front row (kneeling) Charles Hartzell (Angoon); Daniel Decker (Ekwook); and Byron Wise (Pilot Point). Second row, Dan Harrelson (White Mountain); Michael Lejarzar (St. George); Timothy Beaucage (Eagle); and Pearlina Pete (Stebbins). Third row, Alaska State Trooper Sgt. Leonard Wallner; Mark Haglin (Ruby); Kenneth Parker (McGrath); Evan Wanhola (New Stuyakok); Guy Ashby (Chignik); George Robinson (Tanana); Jason Creasey (Aleknagik); Gust Tunguing (Koliganek); Clinton O'Malley (Thorne Bay). Back row, Mark Lefervere (Egegik); Bradley Ames (Port Lions); Leslie "Otis" Rolls (Kobuk); John Peratrovich (Savoonga); Leonard Raymond (Stebbins); Michael McComack (Nanwalek); Donald Webb (Shishmaref); Timothy Pavlick (Huslia); and Clinton O'Malley (Thorne Bay).

VPSOS CONDUCT ANNUAL TRAINING

This fall was busy for Village Public Safety Officers in Alaska. VPSO regional training was conducted in Bethel in October for those associated within the Yukon/Kuskokwim Delta. In addition, for the very first time in Kodiak, a second regional training was conducted in November for all other VPSOs around the State.

In Bethel, 15 VPSOs participated in five days of training to include Taser certification by **Tpr. Matthew Hightower**, OCAT spray, search and rescue, critical incident debriefing and alcohol importation and drug interdiction.

Sgt. Greg Lavin, VPSO Statewide Coordinator, was honored by C Detachment commander **Capt. Steve Arlow** and the regional VPSOs for Lavin's four years of dedicated service in that position. He has since transferred to the Alaska Wildlife Troopers in Palmer, and replaced by **Sgt. Leonard Wallner**, formerly an investigator with the Alaska Bureau of Investigation.

In Kodiak, 22 VPSOs attended training held at the U.S. Coast Guard air station, which was used not only for instruction, but housing and dining as well.

"It was the perfect setting," Wallner said.

The VPSOs received training on Hazardous Materials by Coast Guard personnel; parole and probation by Keith Thayer of state parole and probation; and alcohol importation and drug interdiction by **Inv. Chris Russell** of the Alaska Bureau of Alcohol and Drug Enforcement. VPSOs also received training in oil spill response, marine navigation, basic use of a GPS and Taser.

The joint training was also attended by VPSO coordinators from non-profit native corporations around the state, namely Kodiak Area Native Association, Aleutian Pribilof Islands Association, Bristol Bay Native Association, Kawerak Inc., and Tanana Chiefs Conference.

"Most of the non-profit coordinators came together under one roof, face to face, and had the opportunity to discuss and evaluate various aspects of the program", said **Lt. Anthony April**, deputy commander for C Detachment.

Honored at training this year were **VPSO John Peratrovich** of Savoonga, who received a Commendation for Meritorious Service and **VPSO Sgt. Roy Jones** of Larsen Bay who

received a Commendation of Valor. Jones' award was for saving the life of a woman who was trapped inside a residence that was on fire in Larson Bay. Not only did Jones enter, locate, and pull her to safety, but he also reentered the residence in order to look for other potential victims.

Other recognitions included a plaque of appreciation to KANA VPSO Coordinator Valent Maxwell for his vital role in bringing together this training. **VPSOs Michael Lajarzar** of St. George and **Timothy Beaucage** of Eagle were both promoted to the rank of corporal.

The VPSO program was developed in 1979 and implemented in 1981 to broadly train one person in all aspects of public safety – law enforcement, water safety, fire service, emergency medical service, search and rescue and village ordinances.

The VPSO job description includes misdemeanor criminal investigation, report writing, search and rescue, emergency trauma treatment, assisting health aides and both maintaining and organizing the fire department and related equipment.

(VPSO, continued on page 6)

VPSO, continued from page 5

VPSO's also serve court documents, monitor probation and parole, coordinate disaster response and most importantly, conduct community policing. ■



Sgt. Greg Lavin, right, presents a letter promoting VPSO Timothy Beaucage to corporal.



VPSO Sgt. Benjamin Beaver of Akiak, left, and VPSO David Charles of Akiachak practice hand-to-hand tactics in a hanger in Bethel.



AVCP President Myron Naneng, left, presents an award to VPSO Jacob Tobeluk Jr.



Keith Thayer of Probation and Parole for the State of Alaska teaches VPSOs attending the Kodiak training about paroles and probations.



Kawerak Inc. VPSO Coordinator Gina Appolloni, left, and Maj. John Glick, right, present VPSO John Peratrovich with a Commendation for Meritorious Service.



KANA VPSO Coordinator Valent Maxwell, on right, and Maj. John Glick, on right, present VPSO Roy Jones Jr. with a Commendation of Valor.

RED RIBBON WEEK



Students at Sand Lake Elementary hold up a check for \$500 presented to the school student council from the Red Ribbon Coalition to help continue drug prevention efforts at the school. AST's Maj. Matt Leveque and Lt. Kat Petersen (both pictured middle back) attended the kickoff. Not pictured is AST Inv. Joe Hazelaar and his canine Duncan.

Red Ribbon week kicked off Oct. 22 at Sand Lake Elementary School in Anchorage.

This year, Alaska Red Ribbon Coalition spread the message, "It's time for all of Alaska to be 100% Me Drug free!"

During the week of Oct. 22-26, the Alaska Red Ribbon Coalition distributed more than 150,000 Red Ribbons statewide to help raise awareness of the drug and alcohol problems that plague today's youth.

Alaska joined other communities around the nation to raise awareness about alcohol abuse, tobacco use and drug abuse. The Alaska Red Ribbon Coalition encourages youth to find alternative activities to drug and alcohol use while making healthy choices for their future.

The Sand Lake Elementary Student Council received a check for \$500 signed by Alaska Red Ribbon Coalition co-chairs Alaska State Trooper Col. Audie Holloway, Anchorage Police Chief Rob Huen, Anchorage School District Superintendent Carol Comeau, U.S. Attorney Nelson Cohen and DEA Assistant Special Agent in Charge Harvey Goehring. The money is for continued drug prevention efforts at the school.

Nationally, Red Ribbon Week is



celebrated each year during the last week in October. Congress established Red Ribbon Week in 1988 to commemorate the life and work of Enrique "Kiki" Camarena, a Drug Enforcement Administration agent who was murdered in the line of duty in 1985. Believing that one person can make a difference in the fight against drugs and to honor his memory, Camarena's family began to wear red satin badges.

Parents wanting to end the destruction alcohol and other drugs had on their children and families began to form coalitions. Many of these coalitions adopted Camarena as their model and embraced his beliefs and the symbol of his memory, the red ribbon.

The National Family Partnership organized the first nationwide Red Ribbon Campaign in 1988, thus beginning Red Ribbon Week which has influenced millions of American children.

Randi Binion-Olson, Prevention Coordinator for Alaska Red Ribbon Coalition, said the coalition's goal this year was to get people to talk to youth about the health risk of using alcohol, tobacco and drugs and the benefits of not using them. Schools throughout Anchorage, Eagle River and in Kotzebue and Tok participated in the week-long campaign. ■

SUCCESSFUL BIDS

AST Director Col. Audie Holloway is pleased to announce the following successful bidders:

- **Sgt. Matthew Dobson** of Bethel, D Detachment AWT, is the successful bidder for Juneau in A Detachment AST, effective Jan. 16, 2008.
- **Inv. Terrence Shanigan** of Soldotna, Alaska Bureau of Investigation AST, is the successful bidder for Talkeetna in B Detachment AST effective Jan. 16, 2008.
- **Trp. Daniel Blizzard** of Soldotna, E Detachment AST, is the successful bidder for King Salmon in C Detachment AST, effective Jan. 16, 2008.
- **Trp. Matthew Wertanen** of Soldotna, E Detachment AST, is the successful bidder for Field Training Officer in Fairbanks in D Detachment AST, effective Jan. 16, 2008.
- **Trp. Scott Ide** of Palmer, B Detachment AST, is the successful bidder for Field Training Officer in Fairbanks in D Detachment AST, effective Jan. 16, 2008.
- **Inv. Toma Caldarea** of Fairbanks's Alaska Bureau of Investigation AST, is the successful bidder Soldotna's Alaska Bureau of Investigation AST, effective January 16, 2008.
- **Inv. Nathan Bucknall** of Palmer's Alaska Bureau of Investigation AST, is the successful bidder for the Computer and Financial Crimes Unit at the Alaska Bureau of Investigation, effective Jan. 16, 2008.
- **Trp. Ramin Dunford** of Bethel, C Detachment AST, is the successful bidder for Palmer/Mat-Su Alaska Bureau of Investigation, effective Jan. 16, 2008.
- **Trp. Christopher Nelson** of Fairbanks, D Detachment, is the successful bidder for Aniak in C Detachment AST, effective Feb. 16, 2008.
- **Inv. Ron Monigold**, of Fairbanks ABI, is the successful bidder for a trooper position in Bethel in C Detachment AST, effective Feb. 16, 2008.
- **Trp. Ryan Tennis** of Fairbanks, D Detachment, is the successful bidder for Soldotna in E Detachment AST, effective Feb. 16, 2008.
- **Inv. Sherry Ferno** of Fairbanks ABI, is the successful bidder for an investigator at Mat-Su/ Palmer ABI, effective Feb. 16, 2008.
- **Inv. Michael Guymon** of Soldotna ABI, is the successful bidder for an investigator position at Fairbanks ABI, effective Feb. 16, 2008.
- **CSO David Klein** of Anchorage Judicial Services, H Detachment AST, is the successful bidder for CSO Kenai Judicial Services in E Detachment AST.

AWT Director Col. Gary Folger is pleased to announce the following successful bidder:

- **Trp. Ricky Merritt** of Fairbanks, D Detachment AST, is the successful bidder for Haines in A Detachment AWT, effective May 1, 2008. ■

FOND FAREWELLS

COX RETIRES AFTER CAREER IN SOUTHEAST

Sgt. Bob Cox retired in September after a 24-year career with Alaska State Troopers, most of it in the Southeast.

Cox became a recruit on April 9, 1984 and graduated from recruit class No. 38 on July 2 of the same year.

Cox began his career on April 16, 1985 after going through field training at the Juneau post.

He was named A Detachment Trooper of the year in 1987.

He transferred to Yakutat on April 1, 1990, then Ketchikan on April 16, 1992.

He left the Southeast for the Mat-Su Valley four years later, where he worked as an investigator from 1997 to 2000 and promoted to sergeant on May 3, 2001.

Finally, he transferred back to Juneau on Jan. 1, 2006 where he served until his retirement on Sept. 30, 2007.

Cox's retirement party was Sept. 29 at the Prospector Hotel. ■



Bob Cox at the beginning of his 24-year career with Alaska State Troopers.



Trooper Steve Stanton is hard at work in Kenai Judicial Services

STANTON RETIRES FROM KENAI JS

BY JANET PALMER
JS ADMINISTRATIVE CLERK

After 26 years of service, **Trp. Steve Stanton** retired Dec. 31.

Stanton started his career in the Anchorage Patrol unit in December of 1981.

He spent time in patrol units in Anchorage, Nome and Soldotna, the drug unit in Soldotna, and finally as OIC at Judicial Services in Kenai.

In his almost 10 years as OIC at Judicial Services, Stanton saw a lot of changes in the Kenai Office. In that time, as the work load increased, his staff doubled in size.

Along with the change of staff came numerous changes in computer programs and methods of operation. As we all know, some changes are easier than others, and Stanton's retirement will bring one of the larger changes for the Kenai office.

He will be missed, not only by those of us who work for him, but by numerous people from the various agencies with whom we work so closely. ■

ACADEMY NEWS

BY LT. JIM HELGOE



Alaska Law Enforcement Training Class No. 38

On Nov. 27, 2007 the Alaska Law Enforcement Training (ALET) Session No. 38 graduated from the Department of Public Safety Training Academy in Sitka. The Graduation ceremony was held at the Sheet'Ka Kwaan Na'Kaa Hidi Building at 1:00 p.m. ALET No. 38 consisted of 44 graduates representing nine different law

enforcement agencies in Alaska.

This ALET class was unique in several ways. It was one of the largest classes to be held at the Public Safety Academy that we know of. The class started with 56 recruits. This class set two physical fitness records; **Trooper Recruit Michael Swearingen** set the

academy record for push-ups as he did 160 without rest, and **Trooper Recruit John Lehmann** set the academy record for sit-ups by doing 62 in one minute.

Not only were the student's over-all physical fitness scores better than recent academies, they set the bar higher with

(ALET continued on page 10)



Alaska Police Standards Council Executive Director Terry Vrabec leads ALET Class No. 38 in the oath of office upon graduating from the academy in Sitka on Nov. 27.

ALET, continued from page 9

their GPAs as their over-all academic scores were higher than recent classes.

AST welcomed lateral hires **Gordon Young, Joshua Trigg** and **Paul Meyer**. Trigg came from Bethel Police and will be stationed in Bethel after his field training in Palmer. Young came from Dillingham Police and is stationed in Soldotna. Meyer was a lateral hire from Homer Police and will head to Tok after training in Palmer.

In other academy news, in just under three weeks the academy family grew by three.

Parker Christian Lysdahl was born Oct. 21 to **Cpl. Ralf Lysdahl** and Cindy Naranji in Sitka. Parker weighed 8 pounds and 4.6 ounces and a little over 21 inches long.

Aubrey Corianne Sims was born Oct. 26 to **Cpl. Cornelius Sims** and his wife, Jessica. Aubrey weighed 8 pounds and 4 ounces and 20 inches long.

Ava Abilgail Wegrzyn was born to **Cpl. Tony Wegrzyn** and his wife, Gala, on Nov. 8. Ava weighed 7 pounds, 7 ounces and measured 22 inches long. Moms and new babies are now a frequent sight here.

The new arrivals are doing well and growing by the day. It was tough to have three staff members elsewhere, mentally or physically, during such a large class. We're still trying to figure out if there is something in the water around here, or perhaps a schedule of sorts needs to be posted. ■

BACK FROM DEPLOYMENT



Chambers

R i c h a r d Chambers picked up where he left off as an Alaska State Trooper Recruit located in Palmer Post, learning the ropes after returning last fall from a deployment to the Middle East with the Alaska Army National Guard. He graduated from ALET No. 35 in June of 2006. However, the former active duty Army policeman was activated to military service just after graduation. He arrived in Sitka at the end of ALET No. 38 to attend the Trooper Basic Course with the other lateral hires and DPS recruits. ■



Alaska State Trooper Recruit Jason Woodruff is all smiles while receiving his badge set from AST Colonel Audie Holloway during the graduation ceremony.

ALET NO. 38 GRADUATES

- **John Bennet, AST**
- **Christopher Bitz, AST**
- **Kevin Blanchette, AST**
- **Murphy Brooks, Juneau Police**
- **Fannie Burge, Fairbanks Airport Police & Fire**
- **Fredrick Burk, AWT**
- **Anthony Carter, Anchorage Airport Police & Fire**
- **John Chiment, Fairbanks Airport Police & Fire**
- **Andra' Colbert, AST**
- **Daron Cooper, AST**
- **Arthur Cummings, AWT**
- **Aaron Danielson, Fairbanks Airport Police & Fire**
- **Matthew Dubois, Juneau Police**
- **Miles Godsey, North Slope Borough Police**
- **Christopher Green, Alaska State Troopers**
- **Matthew Holman, Kotzebue Police**
- **Travis Howell, Valdez Police**
- **Andrew Hunt, Sitka Police**
- **Kevin Hunter, Fire & Life Safety**
- **Eric Jeffords, AST**
- **Russell Landers, AST**
- **Jack LeBlanc, AST**
- **John Lehmann, AST**
- **Matthew Lind, Fairbanks Airport Police & Fire**
- **John Loper, Anchorage Airport Police & Fire**
- **Jarrett Mahoney, Juneau Police**
- **Wesley McQuillin, Anchorage Airport Police & Fire**
- **David Mount, Fairbanks Airport Police & Fire**
- **Micheal Purcell, Ketchikan Police**
- **Joshua Rhoden, AST**
- **Isaac Sapp, AST**
- **Zachary Stone, Anchorage Airport Police & Fire**
- **James Steicher, AST**
- **Micheal Swearingen, AST**
- **Charles Taylor, AST**
- **Joshua Varys, AST**
- **Ryan Webb, Fairbanks Airport Police & Fire**
- **Brice Weight, Anchorage Airport Police & Fire**
- **Anthony Wiles, AST**
- **Joseph Wittkop, AWT**
- **Daniel Wolf, Anchorage Airport Police & Fire**
- **Randall Wolfe, AST**
- **Jason Woodruff, AST**

CONGRATULATIONS!



New graduates of the ALET Class No. 38 take the oath of office upon graduation from the academy in Sitka on Nov. 27.

JUDICIAL SERVICES



Anchorage Judicial Services office stands around the mound of more than 70 Christmas gifts that will soon leave with Bernadette Kuchinsky, front left, and Sara Childress, front right, of the Office of Children Services. The presents will end up under the Christmas tree of a family in need.



ANCHORAGE JS FEELS THE "SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS"

For the 12th year, Anchorage Judicial Services played Santa Claus to a family in need.

Anchorage JS raised funds within its ranks, and then went shopping for a family with six children to put presents underneath the Christmas tree this year.

This is an extraordinary endeavor by Court Services Officers and JS clerical personnel who enthusiastically participate in this "Spirit of Christmas" fundraiser.

This year, CSOs Paul Bulawa and Julie Sharkey, Administrative Assistant Rebecca Miller and her daughter, Amanda, and retired CSO Pat Liss carried on the tradition and spent a morning selecting age appropriate gifts for the six children selected as recipients.

The Office of Children's Services also played an integral part in identifying a family as an eligible benefactor of the fundraiser.

A special thanks to Bulawa and Sharkey for their enthusiastic management of this program.

CSOs were busy Dec. 20 wrapping last minute presents that included household items – requests made by the mother – and other gifts the officers were addressing to each of the children.

The mound of wrapped presents was then turned over to the OCS after luncheon in the basement of the Nesbett Courthouse in downtown Anchorage. Miller coordinated this traditional grand Christmas luncheon event. ■

(Middle photo) CSO Ed Appellof and Administrative Assistant Rebecca Miller do some last minute wrapping Dec. 20 before the office handed over more than 70 Christmas presents to the Office of Children's Services for a family in need.

From left, CSOs Paul Bulawa, Julie Sharkey, retired CSO Pat Liss, JS Administrative Assistant Rebecaa Miller and her daughter, Amanda, and Addison Monsen enjoy breakfast before a day shopping for gifts.

(JS continued on page 12)

JS, continued from page 11



After over a year with the Anchorage Judicial Services, Court Services Officer Dave Klein transferred to Kenai JS. Klein didn't leave empty handed, but left with a plaque and a certificate for his hard work.



Administrative Assistant Rebecca Miller's mother, Lois, gets a plate full of food at the Anchorage Judicial Services Christmas Luncheon at Nesbett Courthouse on Dec. 21. Miller helped her daughter prepare the lunch by cutting up the assortment of pies available for dessert.

ANCHORAGE JS GETS THREE NEW CSOS



Court Services Officers Eric Sholtisek, Jeremy Doty and Charles Mangold are sworn in by Superior Court Judge Craig Stowers at the Nesbett Courthouse in Anchorage.

On Nov. 19, newly appointed Court Services Officers Eric Sholtisek, Jeremy Doty and Charles Mangold were sworn in by Superior Court Judge Craig Stowers at the Nesbett Courthouse in Anchorage.

The officers were hired in October and after completing their training.

The officers fill three vacancies that are the result of retirement, transfer and

resignation.

The officers will complete their training about the second week of February and begin their service in Anchorage.

Following a swearing in ceremony, the officers were issued their breast badge.

Congratulations and welcome, Eric, Jeremy and Charles. ■

NEW FACE IN DIRECTOR'S OFFICE



Jessie Craig

There is a new face in the Director's Office. Please welcome Jessie Craig as Col. Audie Holloway's new secretary. Her first day was Nov. 1.

Jessie comes to us from the Department of Fish and Game, where she has worked for the past 3-1/2 years. She is all Alaskan, born and raised in Anchorage.

Let's all give Jessie a warm welcome from the Department of Public Safety, Division of Alaska State Troopers.

Jessie can be reached at: 269-5641 or email at jessica.craig@alaska.gov. ■

AMBER ALERT

BY MEGAN PETERS, PIO

In mid-November, Lt. Barry Wilson, the AMBER alert coordinator for Alaska State Troopers, and I traveled to the Denver, Colo. to participate the national AMBER Alert Conference. Most states have had numerous activations of the AMBER Alert. however, Alaska, and a few other states, have not needed to activate the alert for any reason other than a test.

Alaska established the Alaska AMBER Alert plan in 2003 at the urging of Greg Wilkinson. At the time, Wilkinson was the Public Information Officer for the Alaska State Troopers.

AMBER stands for Abducted Minors: Broadcast Emergency Response. It was created in honor of 9-year-old Amber Hagerman who was kidnapped and brutally murdered in 1996 in Arlington, Texas. Dallas-area broadcasters made a proposal to use the Emergency Alert System (EAS) to rapidly disseminate information when police could confirm child abduction had occurred.

AMBER Alert is a voluntary partnership between broadcasters, law enforcement and state transportation agencies. Each state has one or more AMBER plans. Alaska has a statewide alert plan while some of the more populated states have multiple regional plans.

Generally, the criteria for activation is

similar. To qualify for activation in Alaska, the following criteria MUST be met:

- The victim is under 18-years old or someone with a known mental or physically disabled.
- Law enforcement is reasonably certain an abduction has occurred and the victim is believed to be in imminent danger of serious bodily harm or death.
- There is enough descriptive information of the victim, suspect or suspect vehicle to assist in the location of the victim.

While Alaska law enforcement has the resources to handle child abduction and the skilled investigators and the technology needed to issue an alert, we fortunately have not needed to issue an alert. The Anchorage Police Department was considering activation in connection with three different incidents in 2007, but they were resolved before activation could take place.

While at the conference, we heard from abduction survivors and family members of abducted children. Elizabeth Smart addressed the attendees. Smart was abducted out of her bedroom at her Utah home in June 2002 when she was 14-years old. Although she wasn't recovered until nine months after her abduction, she credits the AMBER Alert with helping save her. She claims that AMBER helped to get her case known. Smart believes that because of the



Megan Peters, an information officer with Alaska State Troopers, spoke on behalf of her working group at the national AMBER Alert Conference in Denver, Colo. in November.

widespread knowledge of her abduction, someone eventually recognized her and called police.

Other state AMBER coordinators were very willing to share their experiences with AMBER activations. Also, case studies of child abductions were given. Both helped to educate us on what to expect from the media and from the public in the event of an activation. One of the crucial points learned at the conference was the need to inform the local police agencies and the public on not only what an AMBER alert is, but also what they should do in the event of activation.

Alaska's AMBER system was put through a statewide test the morning of Oct. 12. A test alert was broadcasted over TV stations and radio waves throughout the state. The goal of the Alaska AMBER Alert Plan is to instantly galvanize the entire state to assist in the search and safe return of the child.

In December, troopers saw the effectiveness of the AMBER system by the capture of a woman on the Alaska Ferry System. The woman and the two minors with her were recognized from an AMBER alert out of Texas. The crew was given a poster with the pictures, leading to the sighting.



Lt. Barry Wilson, the AMBER alert coordinator for Alaska State Troopers, talks to reporters the day before an Alaska AMBER Alert test was conducted on airwaves statewide Oct. 12.

CANINES KEEP NOSES BUSY

BY INV. JOSEPH HAZELAAR



Drug-sniffing canine Yukon stands beside a marijuana grow.



Duncan sits besides eight kilos of cocaine he was involved in the discovery.

AST canine teams statewide have been very busy the past three months.

Not only are the new teams learning their new assignments, but by the look at canine statistics for the year the teams, they have been performing well for their assigned detachments.

For 2007, canine teams have reported the following statistics: 62 agency assists and 51 tracks, which resulted in eight felony and 18 misdemeanor arrests for patrol work.

On the scent-detection side of things, business is booming with canines assisting agencies a total of 161 times. This resulted in 81 felony and 23 misdemeanor arrests, specifically because of the canine teams.

The overall narcotic and assets seized increased because of these numbers.

In 2007, canine teams have seized the following:

- 74 grams of heroin
- 13,661.3 grams of cocaine
- 2553.9 grams of methamphetamines
- 175.2 grams of crack cocaine.
- 43,702.4 grams of marijuana

Just in street value on these seizures attribute for more than \$15.7 million. Aside from the narcotics, the canine teams were responsible for \$738,275 in U.S. currency seized.

Canine teams are a great asset in a variety of situations. Please remember to call your local canine team for any assistance in your enforcement efforts. ■

ALASKA BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION



STRESS MANAGEMENT

Capt. John Papisodora tries to defend himself against ABI Administrative Clerks Kelly Allman-Chatterley, left, and Adrienne Simpkins. ABI Administrative Supervisor Tamara Holman bought the giant-sized boxing gloves for stress management. Papisodora was on the wrong end of the therapy.

(ABI continued on page 15)



KIDS QUICK THINKING HELP ABI NAB HALLOWEEN SUSPECTS

Halloween took a frightful turn for a group of children trick or treating in Talkeetna when they were robbed of their candy at gunpoint. Little did they know at the time, the children's quick actions and bravery would lead Alaska State Troopers into an investigation that ultimately resulted in the recovery of property linked to numerous reported burglaries in the Talkeetna area.

An investigation following a report of an armed robbery in downtown Talkeetna revealed that a group of young children were out trick or treating when a pickup with two women inside drove up next to them. One of the women pointed a gun at the kids and demanded their candy. She also fired a shot in the air. After the kids handed over their candy, the women left with the bags of sweets and an iPhone, valued at approximately \$500. The phone was in one of the candy bags.

What the children did next was truly amazing. They had the presence of mind to take down the license plate of the truck, tell a parent and contact troopers with Talkeetna Patrol. Shortly after the initial report, one of the juveniles pointed the truck out in front of a local restaurant. Residents again contacted troopers after blocking the truck in with other vehicles.

The two men who drove the truck to the restaurant were seated at a table waiting for their order of cheeseburgers. When troopers contacted the two men, they both provided false names. Once they were positively identified, it was discovered both had outstanding arrest warrants and were remanded to Mat-Su Pretrial Facility in Palmer for both the warrants and new charges of providing false information.

The truck was impounded as troopers filed for a warrant to search the vehicle. The subsequent search of the vehicle uncovered a total of 12 shotguns, rifles and handguns. Some of the weapons were identified as stolen firearms.

During an interview with troopers, the two men revealed their girlfriends used the truck just prior to them driving it to the restaurant. About this time, the Alaska Bureau of Investigation was contacted to assist in the investigation.

Alaska State Troopers developed information relating to several vehicle thefts, as well as burglaries of residences and remote recreational properties in the area. As a result of the ongoing investigation, property previously reported as stolen was located and recovered. The estimated cumulative value of the property exceeds \$100,000.

As the investigation continued, using a variety of strategies and information gathering resources, AST developed leads on the identity of two females determined responsible for the armed robbery on Halloween night. As a result of the information, one of the women was taken into custody on Nov. 2 after she was contacted as an occupant of a motor vehicle that was stopped by a Houston police officer for an equipment violation.

ABI investigators were advised of the woman's location and responded to the traffic stop near mile 53 of the Parks Highway. Subsequently, the woman was arrested and remanded at Mat-Su Pretrial facility in Palmer on six counts of first-degree robbery and seven counts of third-degree assault in conjunction with the Halloween robbery.

The continuing investigation led to a cache of previously reported stolen property. With the assistance of an Alaska Wildlife Troopers aircraft, investigators discovered the cache near Montana Creek Road, about two miles from the Parks Highway, on Nov. 5. Many of the items have been positively linked to burglaries and thefts in the Talkeetna area, as well as to the Halloween night robbery.

The next day, members of the Mat-Su Unit of the Alaska Bureau of Investigation arrested the other woman for her role in the Halloween night armed robbery and assault of the children in Talkeetna. She was discovered hiding in the crawl space of a Big Lake area home. Investigators went to the home after receiving anonymous tips from members from the public stating she was there.

She was remanded at Mat-Su Pretrial facility in Palmer on six counts of first-degree robbery and seven counts of third-degree assault. Bail was set at \$75,000 cash plus court approved third-party custodian.

During the course of the investigation, 14 troopers spent more than 300 hours working on this case. Some individuals had minor roles, contributing three to five hours. Others

worked more than 40 hours on the case, with at least two days exceeding 14 hours worked for several investigators. The time has been spent conducting interviews, applying for and executing search warrants, exploring leads and tips from the public and recovering stolen property. The investigation continues and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms was consulted to determine if there were federal firearm offenses.

It should not be overlooked that the success in this venture from its onset is due in great part to the awareness of the young victims of the armed robbery, who alertly took note of the license plate of the vehicle, as well as to the community members in Talkeetna who remained vigilant as word of the incident spread through their community. The community's help is imperative in advertising and investigating wrong-doings such as these.

The recovered stolen property has not yet been returned to owners pending the results of the investigation. At this time, it is considered evidence. Some of the property owners have been contacted and troopers are working on identifying the owners of the remaining stolen property.

On Nov. 8, a grand jury in Palmer handed down indictments for the four individuals connected with the Halloween armed robbery in Talkeetna.

Indictments: The two Wasilla women were indicted on charges of one count of attempted Robbery in the First Degree, seven counts of Robbery in the First Degree and eight counts of Assault in the Third Degree. The two Wasilla men were charged with one count of Hindering Prosecution in the first degree and one count of Misconduct Involving Weapons in the Third Degree.

The additional count of robbery and the additional account of assault are due to the fact that there were eight children present when the incident took place. One juvenile had hidden behind a tree. The information had not been provided to troopers during the initial interviews. It was pointed out in subsequent interviews with the victims. Investigators were later able to verify the information.

Also, during the armed robbery, one child did not give up the candy, leading to the one count of Attempted Robbery in the First Degree. ■

DETACHMENT DISPATCH: NEWS FROM AROUND THE STATE

A Detachment News



Sitka Trooper Scott Carson has his hands full – or rather his cheeks full of lipstick – after doing the traditional swearing in of the Keystone Cops on Alaska Day in Sitka on Oct. 18.

DEPARTURES

Trp. Jesse Osborn resigned in October from DPS to pursue a career in his passion of sailing. Good luck to you civilian Osborn.

Trp. Steve Shern resigned from DPS in December, but will remain in Ketchikan and in the law enforcement field, working for the Ketchikan Gateway Borough Airport Police.

RDII Stephanie Chatham also resigned in December to start a new life in New Zealand. Stay safe in New Zealand Steph!

ARRIVALS

Ketchikan AWT Trooper **Jeremy Baum** and his wife Kristi welcomed their first child, daughter Hannah Noelle on Oct. 6. She weighed 8 pounds, 2 ounces and measured 20 inches long and is absolutely beautiful. Congratulations Jeremy and Kristi. ■



Trooper Jesse Osborn shows RDII Sharon Furey's nephew the proper techniques of wearing the DPS helmet and riot shield. Osborn resigned from DPS and sailed off into the sunset.

A Det, continued from page 16



Ketchikan Post Administrative Assistant Linda Deal receives her 10-year pin and certificate from Capt. Kurt Ludwig.



Lt. Rodney Dial turned the big 4-0 recently. Maxine was happy to pay him a visit.



Ketchikan JS Clerk Lonna Murray receives her five-year pin from Capt. Kurt Ludwig.



Sgt. John Brown gets a congratulatory kiss from his wife, Rebecca, after being promoted to Klawock Post Supervisor. Brown received his badge from AST Col. Audie Holloway.



Ketchikan Post Trooper Joey Beaudoin receives his five-year pin from Capt. Kurt Ludwig.



After being promoted to Ketchikan Post Supervisor, Sgt. Gary Webb receives his badge from AST Col. Audie Holloway.

(A Det. continued on page 18)

A Det, continued from page 17)

The DPS Tactical Dive Unit Basic Dive Course was held in Ketchikan Nov. 11-17. Pictured are back row, left to right: Sgt. Jeremy Rupe (instructor), Trp. Grant Cooper, Sgt. Lonny Gonzales, Trp. Dennis Dupras and Trp. Bob Claus (instructor). Front row, left to right: Public Safety Tech Jessie McCarron, Lt. Will Ellis and Trp. Jeremy Baum.



B Detachment News

PALMER/MAT-SU WEST POST

BY ROMINA MANEVAL



Trp. Patrick Nelson follows his canine partner, Roelle, who is hot on the trail during training at the Alaska State Trooper Canine Academy in Fairbanks last June.

B Detachment has a new addition to Mat-Su West Post. His name is **Roelle** and he is a 2-year old male Belgian Malinois. Roelle was purchased from a kennel back East but originally came from Europe. Local area students named him after fallen Trooper Hans Roelle. Roelle was purchased by Public Safety Employees Association.

He trained at the Alaska State Troopers Canine Academy this past summer where he and his handler, **Trp. Patrick Nelson**, learned how to be a dual certified canine team.

Nelson said it takes a lot of training, not just for the K-9, but

also the handler, to become a team. Nelson admitted his element of error seemed to outweigh Roelle's, when they started out.

"The training was tedious, more because I was being trained at the same time," Nelson said. "I would make more mistakes than the dog would."

Training consisted of many exercises and drills such as drug, patrol handler, obedience training and complex interactive drills.

"At the start of the academy we did simple drills to teach

(K-9, continued on page 19)

K-9, continued from page 18)

the dog the ‘odors;’ what drugs smelled like basically and develop his senses to be able to discriminate between drug odors and other odors,” Nelson said. “For patrol work we would run several drills a day practicing handler control and commands, tactics and building the dog’s confidence to go into unknown, dark, unfamiliar places to look for bad guys.”

During the course of the canine academy in Fairbanks, the teams did simple obedience training three or four times a day that consisted of five- to 10-minute drills to reinforce Roelle’s basic commands. Then they moved into more complex and realistic searching for drugs in actual residences and businesses across the Fairbanks area. The training usually ran 12 hours a day, five or six days a week for over two months.

Nelson said Roelle was purchased under the pretense that he had no working dog experience. However, it became apparent that he probably had some training before he was paired with Nelson.

Nelson said Roelle is a totally different dog when they are off duty.

“He is great with the kids. My kids put bows on his head and sometimes give him rogue haircuts,” Nelson said. “I always have to remember though that he is a police dog and keep a close eye on him because I do know what he is capable of. He loves to sleep on the couch, eat scraps the kids drop on the floor and play with his toys and anyone that will throw the ball for him.”

“But when I start getting dressed at night and he sees that uniform come out and I put on his collar, he goes crazy running around the house, barking and goes and waits by the garage door because he knows its time to go and maybe, just maybe, he will get to chase someone or find some dope at work that night.”

Since Roelle joined AST, the team has responded to everything from simple drug searches on cars to multiple search warrants on multiple residences at the same time. As of Nov. 1, he is responsible for finding 0.10 grams of heroin, 20 grams of cocaine, 540 grams of marijuana and two marijuana plants. For patrol work, Roelle has done numerous tracks from persons fleeing vehicle to tracking a Down Dyndrome child that had wandered off. He has located seven people during tracking or patrol routes and located three people inside buildings during building searches.

“During one particular case, we tracked the same individual three times after he fled from troopers,” Nelson “On the last contact, the subject fled during handcuffing and was apprehended by Roelle as he ran away.”

Nelson said overall it’s rewarding and truly a gratifying experience to see an animal start at scratch and develop into what he is now.

“To see him, or any other dog, work like they do is amazing to me and I still get a thrill out of it every time,” Nelson said.

NEW FACES IN PALMER

We had a big group of Recruits arrive in December from the Academy. We would like to welcome **Frederick Burk, Russell Landers, James Streicher, Kevin Blanchette, Joshua Varys, Christopher Green, Randall Wolfe, Christopher Bitz, Richard Chambers and Joshua Trigg.** ■



This may look like potty training, but instead, Roelle is in the process of searching for drugs in a bathroom stall.



Trp. Patrick Nelson and his canine partner Roelle are a welcome addition to B Detachment.

GLENNALLEN POST

BY JANE FLYGSTAD



Trp. Josh Heinbaugh made several appearances at the Boys and Girls Club in Copper Center

Winter has come to the Copper River Basin, but troopers at the Glennallen Post are staying busy making public appearances and being active in the Community.

Trp. Josh Heinbaugh made several appearances at the Boys and Girls Club in Copper Center – once for drug awareness week, once for a talk about bullies and once to let the kids know what it's like being a trooper. Heinbaugh, along with **Alaska Wildlife Trooper Jon Simeon**, coached the Little Dribbler league at the Glennallen Elementary School.

Trp. Nathan Duce made an appearance at the Kluti-Kaah Head Start by introducing himself to the preschoolers and telling them



Trp. Liz Haddad was invited to speak about her experience in the U.S. Army Reserves in Iraq at the Copper Center School Veterans Day Assembly.

about what they may see him doing out in the world. Of course they had to have a tour of the patrol car and all its neat gadgets, lights and sirens.

The Copper Center School invited **Trp. Liz Haddad** to speak about her experience in the U.S. Army Reserves in Iraq and help them recognize all of our veterans for a Veterans Day Assembly. Haddad returned from service in Iraq before joining us and the Glennallen Post.

Haddad decided to pursue her career in law enforcement with the Anchorage Police Department. We are sorry to see her go, but wish her the best of luck. ■

B DETACHMENT SPOTLIGHT

BY ALISSA NOE



Bernadette and Doug Packa

With dedication and support from his wife Bernadette, **Doug Packa** is the first Court Service Officer in DPS history to reach 20 years of service. In 1999 Doug was awarded CSO of the year.

Packa began his career in law enforcement as a patrolman for the Seward Police Department. After graduating from the Anchorage Police Academy, he served the city of Seward from October 1981 to March 1986.

In May of 1987, Doug worked as a Fish and Wildlife Enforcement Officer assigned to the Patrol Vessel based out of Kodiak where he conducted routine patrols around Kodiak as well as enforcement duties for the commercial fisheries in Bristol Bay.

In September of 1987, he went to work as a Court Service Officer. He attended the training at Goose Bay Correctional Facility in 1987. After completing CSO training, Doug began his career as a Court Service Officer in 1988 Anchorage Judicial Service, 1990 Palmer Judicial Services, 1994 Homer Judicial Services and 2003 to present Palmer Judicial Services.

During his tenure as a Court Service Officer, he has been assigned various extra duties. He served as an instructor for defensive tactics, OC and ASP. He was also a member of the dive team while in Homer. ■

TALKEETNA POST

BY MARIE RICHTER



After 4-1/2 years at the Talkeetna post, Trp. John Ostoj transferred to Soldotna on Oct. 15.



Talkeetna post supervisor Sgt. Walter Blajeski hands Trp. John Ostoj his good-bye plaque and wishes him good luck.

GOODBYE AND HELLO

We would like to bid farewell to **Trp. John Ostoj**, who transferred to Soldotna post on Oct. 15. Trooper Ostoj has been with Talkeetna Post for over four years and will be missed.

In exchange, **Trp. Terrance Shanigan** is joining us from the Soldotna AST post. ■

D.A.R.E

BY MARIE RICHTER

The Drug Abuse Resistance Education program for the Talkeetna region started in October and was scheduled to end in December. **Trp. Andrew Adams** worked with the fifth and sixth graders at Willow Elementary school. The children seem receptive to the information and it is the first D.A.R.E. program to be offered in the upper Valley. Next year we will be focusing on the Talkeetna and Trapper Creek Elementary Schools.

In January of 2008, Adams will be going to both Talkeetna and Trapper Creek to talk about ATV and snow machine safety.

Along with educating the elementary school children, Adams does a program with the junior and senior high students, which focuses on driving issues, drug issues and drinking under age. Thank you to Adams for helping educate the children in our community. ■



The B-Detachment clan poses for the camera after celebrating this year's Christmas Party Dec. 21 at the Wasilla Sports Complex. During the party, there was skating — or rather, people trying not to fall on the ice — food and the brief awards handout for 2006. All in all, the party was a blast. For more photos from the Christmas party, see page 23.

Maj. John Glick reads from a letter for Court Services Officer Pierre Burkett's 2006 CSO of the Year award.



Melissa, wife of Sgt. Kid Chan, skates with her daughter, Jayde on the left and Trp. Mike Wooten's daughter, McKinley, on the right.



Capt. Dennis Casanovas reads from a letter for Trp. Shayne Calt's 2006 B Detachment Trooper of the Year award.



Madison and Colt Noe, daughter and son of ACII Alissa Noe of Palmer Judicial Services Unit, use walkers to get them around on the ice.



Sue Sprague, left, the administrative supervisor for B Detachment, shows the crowd the plaque awarded to Lisa Bucher for the B Detachment Civilian of the Year for 2006.

Trp. Shayne Calt's son, 7-year-old Riley has trouble staying on his feet. Behind him are Sgt. Kid Chan's son, Elijah, in red and Trooper Jimmy Lindberg's son, Kyle, wearing the helmet.



C Detachment News

UNEARTHLY SIGHTING IN KODIAK

BY BETH IPSEN, PIO

An unidentified streaking light in the sky above the Kenai Peninsula and Kodiak on Sept. 25 created quite a stir and raised some questions regarding extraterrestrial occurrences.

The phenomenon kept the Kodiak post busy, including **Dispatcher Meki Cox**, who juggled questioning phone calls with doing a little research to help to solve the mystery of the unidentified flying object.

Was it a plane?

No planes were reported missing in the area and no beacon was located, ruling out the possibility of a crash.

Was it a flying saucer?

No sober or sane person reported seeing any type of alien, including little green

beings, running around.

Was it a downed satellite?

Calls to the European Space Agency turned up with nothing and a Canadian Satellite Guru reported no satellites were missing, Cox said.

Had a rogue nation launched an attack on the National Missile Defense site in Kodiak?

Well if they did, it missed the target.

The light was first seen over Kenai, then brighter over Kodiak Island. Eye witnesses, including the Kodiak Police Chief, described the phenomenon to the local newspaper as a light moving across the sky, lightning or an explosion and red tracers. The lightshow happened at about 6:45 a.m.

It was enough that local fire departments

were contacted regarding the phenomenon and rescuers were told to stand by while a U.S. Coast Guard helicopter conducted both low and high flights over the area north of Anton Larsen Road. Meanwhile, troopers patrolled the area searching for a landing site.

Finally, after all the fruitless searching, the Coast Guard determined it was a natural occurrence.

This all happened about the same time officials determined an explosion in Peru on Sept. 17 was caused by a meteorite, lending to the theory that the Kodiak object was also caused by an unearthly rock.

However, it officially remains a mystery. ■

HEADQUARTERS NEWS

We've had three changes in personnel at C Detachment Headquarters.

Katherine Chanhthathap is the accounting clerk I and a great addition to the administrative personnel at C Detachment. She started working with C Detachment Oct. 16.

Oksana Franco is the D.A.R.E. accounting clerk II. She is a full time student at the University of Alaska Anchorage studying business with an emphasis in accounting. She brings with her a wealth of knowledge and energy. Franco started with the D.A.R.E. program on Nov. 13.

C Detachment said goodbye to **Sgt. Greg Lavin** and hello to **Sgt. Leonard Wallner**. Wallner left ABI Palmer to become the VPSO Program Coordinator. He started Nov. 16. ■



Sgt. Leonard Wallner



Katherine Chanhthathap



Oksana Franco

(C Detachment, continued on page 24)

C Det., continued from page 24

GOOD TIMES IN KOTZEBUE



Alaska Wildlife Trooper Eric Lorrington tows families and children to the top of a hill while sledding on a warm Kotzebue weekend. Not pictured is Sgt. Karl Main who wasn't seen for 15 minutes after momentum took control while sledding down the hill. (Bottom photo) From left, Emily Lorrington, Aidan Main, Malia Main, Ciana Main and Gage Lorrington, children of Sgt. Karl Main and AWT Eric Lorrington, are under the watchful eye of Trooper Frosty Snowman outside trooper housing in Kotzebue around Thanksgiving. (C Detachment, continued on page 25)



C Det., continued from page 24



Nome Supervisor Sgt. Andrew Merrill hard at work dealing with a headache brought on by the stack of reports that was waiting for him when he got back from a family vacation to Florida.



The Bethel post has a Halloween party on Oct. 27. ABADE Investigator Chris Russell, far right on the floor, simply pulled out some of his undercover props for his costume.



Kotzebue Trooper post and the Kotzebue Police Department have finally completed a weight room for the use of both agencies.

KOTZEBUE POST NEWS

The Kotzebue Post welcomed **Samantha Rea** as the new Administrative Assistant II. She has already hit the ground running with plenty of work to keep her busy after the post was without an administrative assistant or evidence clerk for two weeks.

The Kotzebue State Trooper post and the Kotzebue Police Department have finally completed a weight room for the use of both agencies. The weight room which is located at the National Guard Building has undergone changes over the last year and with equipment being purchased by state troopers and Kotzebue Police Department officers out of their own pocket. In November, an Olympic bench, incline, decline, and self spotting rack and bar were purchased after Kotzebue Police Chief John Ward authorized \$5,000 of asset forfeiture money from ABADE seizures. ■



Nome Trooper Jonathon Stroebele checks the targets from the range with his eagle eye to ensure that everyone passed during a day on the range.

D Detachment News



Those involved in the third annual D Detachment Blue-Gold flag football game take a break and gather for a photo. The blue team won by a touchdown, to which Detachment Commander Capt. Burke Barrick and Gold team member said “they must have cheated.” The game was held on Sept. 15 at the Kiwanis Football field behind the Big Dipper Ice Arena in Fairbanks. At halftime, they had a huge cookout with plenty of food made possible by a donation from FOAST. Counting friends and family and players we had about 50 people in attendance.

THE PUCK STOPS HERE

Some of Fairbank’s new hockey talent. CSO Kimo Hollinrake, (left), CSO Jerry Dompeling (center back) and CSO Luci Keturi (right) joined Trooper Sherry Ferno (front) in a scrimmage at Polar Ice Rink in North Pole. Ferno is playing goalie on a women’s league in Fairbanks with Keturi. This is Ferno’s first year playing hockey, while Keturi has played for several years and Dompeling has college hockey experience. However, it is a first time experience for Hollinrake.

More D Detachment photos can be found in the Alaska Wildlife Troopers section on Page 32.



E Detachment News

TROOPER GOES THE EXTRA MILE, LITERALLY

BY SERGEANT REX LEATH

The words Victor Creek to Seward area hunters mean dangerous ice bridges, steep shale slides and narrow ledge walkways that have broken many bones, shattered gun stocks and demolished egos of those who choose to traverse that area. Most hunters are deterred by the extremely low sheep numbers, and those that are still interested usually balk at the dangerous terrain. Others, having made the trip, vow to never return to the area once they hunted it.



Zweifel

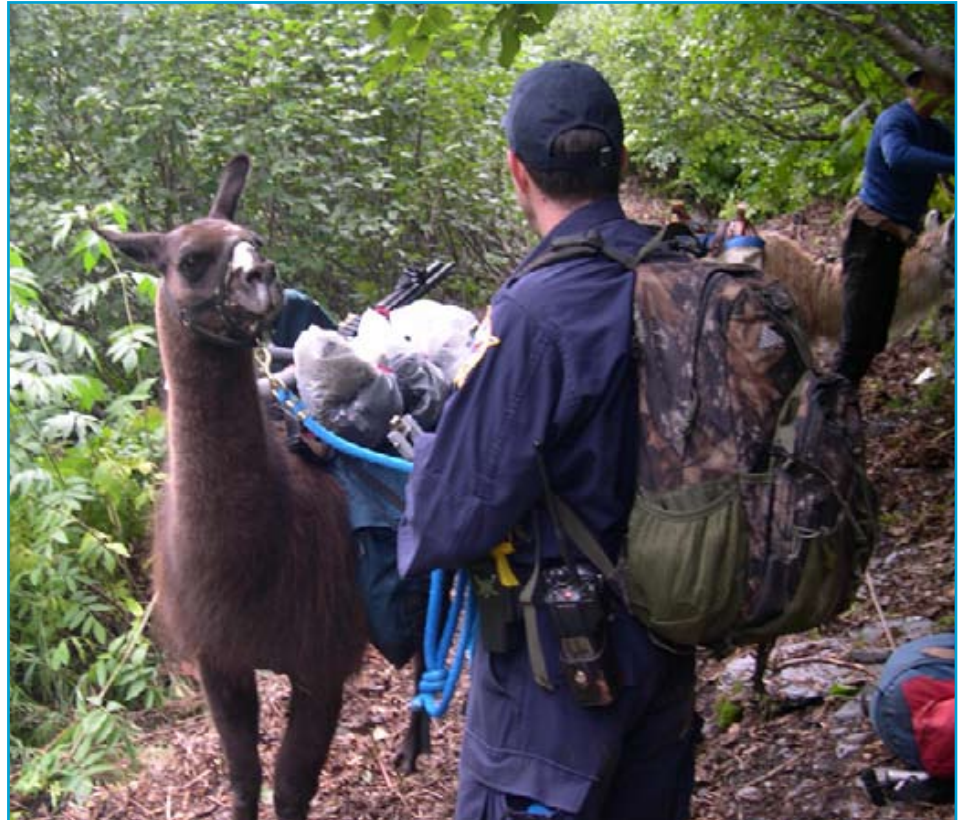
If you walk upstream on Victor Creek you quickly face steep terrain and ice bridges over raging waterways that leave no room for error if you plan on staying alive. To those that successfully pass these obstacles, there is a slim chance you may see a bear or sheep. It's impossible for most people to access the area, let alone carry a 100-plus pound pack out of the area. Most successful hunters carry in lots of rappelling gear, are experts at using it and stay in there for a very long time.

This fall, **Trp. Mike Zweifel** had the opportunity to venture into this scary area.

On Sept. 10, two Alaska residents started hiking up into the area with llamas in hopes of seeing a legal sheep. They hiked in 2.5 miles and after running out of existing trail, crossed an ice bridge and started side hilling across avalanche chutes and bush whacking with hand saws through dense alder thickets. After several hours of strenuous bush whacking, one of the hunters suffered a heart attack and died.

Zweifel received the information and began to put together a plan to extract the deceased, while not endangering him or other rescuers. The terrain did not allow helicopter access so a foot recovery was the only option if it was even possible.

The next day, when light allowed, Zweifel headed into the Victor Creek area with several trained volunteers and with two llamas owned by one of the volunteers. The terrain was so steep that in some areas, the llamas had to be hand lifted up onto rocks and ledges to ensure their advancement down the trail. The llamas were not able to cross the ice bridge for fear that



Trp. Mike Zweifel found out the that llamas do indeed spit at people when he and trained volunteers had to lead four llamas out of the wilderness during a body recovery near Victor Creek this fall. Here, he attempts to discourage the spitting while using his verbal persuasive skills.

they would fall through the thin bridge. They were left there while Zweifel and the volunteers continued on.

After several hours, Zweifel arrived at the location where the hunter had passed away. The hard part of the recovery was now about to begin as most of the hike consisted of steep side hilling and a precariously thin ice bridge that if fallen through, led to a raging river that swept under glaciated snow, certainly leading to a quick death.

Zweifel and his helpers used hand lines to pull a plastic sled across the side hills with the deceased. Several times the severity of the steepness required lowering the sled straight down avalanche chutes inch by inch. Once the ice bridge was reached it was determined that the bridge would not support the weight of the sled and another volunteer, so hand lines were used to pull the sled across the bridge to rescuers on the other side. After roughly eight hours of extreme

hiking, the deceased hunter turned over to his family, thus bringing some closure to the unfortunate event.

Zweifel set a perfect example of the uniqueness of the Alaska State Troopers and what we stand for. I was on vacation when this occurred and when I asked Zweifel about the details of the incident he made it sound like "no big deal." Yeah, no big deal: an eight-hour hike, ice bridge, avalanche chutes, and lifting llamas onto ledges.

I say it was a big deal!

For those of you that have dealt with a family death situation you know that the recovery of the body is very significant in the psychological closure of the event. It's good to know that we have troopers that will go literally anywhere to try and meet the needs of the public.

Good job Mike. Thanks for going the extra miles, literally, to try and help a family in a time of need such as this. ■

(E Det, continued on page 28)

E Det., continued from page 27

TO THE RESCUE



Sgt. Bryan Barlow snapped this photo of a LifeGuard helicopter taking off with a patient injured in a one-vehicle crash on the Seward Highway, just south of Girdwood, on Nov. 3. Barlow, the helicopter and emergency response vehicles from both Anchorage and Girdwood rushed to the scene. The driver was trying to pass another vehicle when she lost control of her 2000 Ford Excursion. Both the driver and her only passenger were not wearing seatbelts and were ejected from the vehicle.

SOLDOTNA TROOPERS HELP SAVE MAN'S LIFE

Soldotna troopers Sgt. Dan Donaldson and Trp. Darrell Christensen were instrumental in saving a man's life Oct. 26.

The pair responded to a residence off of Tote Road after receiving a report of an attempted suicide. Donaldson was the first to arrive and found two people receiving directions from AST dispatchers to perform CPR on a man. Without hesitation, Donaldson jumped in and took charge of the resuscitative efforts. He was able to clear the man's airway and began performing chest compressions while instructing a woman to perform rescue breathing.

Christensen arrived on scene a short time later. By this time, the man was not breathing and did not have a pulse. His skin had turned blue and he was showing no signs of life. Donaldson continued to perform chest compressions while Christensen took over rescue-breathing.

When Central Emergency Services arrived on scene, they indicated the man had a pulse, but still was not breathing on his own. CES Medics took over CPR and began providing medical attention. The medics were able to stabilize the man a short time later and transported him to Central Peninsula Hospital to receive additional treatment.

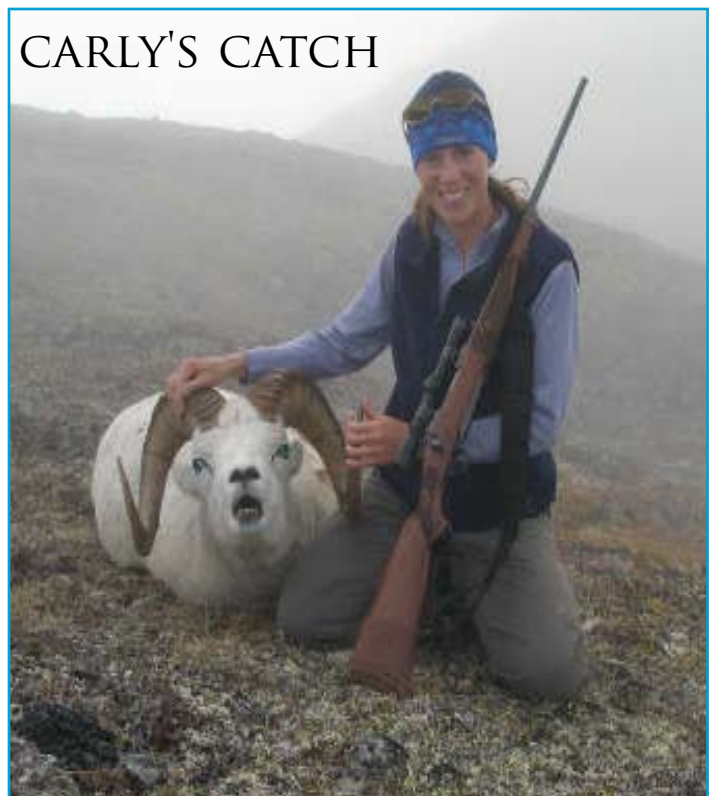
CES Medics indicated the man would not have been resuscitated or survived if CPR had not been performed.

Donaldson and Christensen did CPR for five minutes prior to CES arriving on scene and helped to save the man's life.

Their dedication to public service and willingness to act to save another's life is both commendable and admirable.

Good job Donaldson and Christensen. ■

CARLY'S CATCH



The way Soldotna Dispatcher Carly Reimer scrambles up and down the Kenai Mountains, this sheep didn't have a chance. It measured 36 feet, 7/8 inches, and the bases were 12.25.

(E Det, continued on page 30)

E Det., continued from page 29

COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM TRAINING

BY STACEY DAY, DISPATCH SHIFT SUPERVISOR

My original belief was going through the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) course would only enhance my dispatching abilities. However, after going through the training, I learned much more than I expected.

The free training covers basic disaster preparedness, fire suppression, light search and rescue, disaster medical (triage and first aid), disaster psychology, incident command, team organization and terrorism. The information is practical and hands-on. It is recommended to people of all ages and physical abilities from teens to seniors.

I learned to do a quick injury assessment and color tagging a patient based on their injury. The levels are indicated by black meaning dead, red for serious and green is not as serious.

The final disaster drill with a mock simulation of an earthquake was a pretty awesome experience. This ultimately affects law enforcement and first responders to include emergency medical specialists and firefighters because it cuts down on the work load during a disaster. ■



The Community Emergency Response Team in training, including Soldotna Dispatch Shift Supervisor Stacey Day, attends to the serious patients by first-seeing what needs to be splinted, bleeding stopped etc in order to move them to a medical treatment area.



Stacey Day, dispatch shift supervisor in Soldotna, is doing a quick injury assessment and color tagging a simulated patient based on his injury.

(E Det, continued on page 31)

E Det., continued from page 30

9-YEAR-OLD DONATES STUFFED ANIMALS TO TROOPERS



Soldotna resident SuHana Firman, 9, donated stuffed animals to the Soldotna post where they were received by Sgt. Rex Leath.

Soldotna resident SuHana Firman has a big heart.

On a day that most people, including grownups, only think of themselves, SuHana Firman instead thought about other children in situations where a stuffed animal could bring them some comfort. For her birthday, the 9-year-old requested her friends forego giving her presents and instead bring stuffed animals that she would donate to the Alaska State Troopers.

SuHana and her mother brought the animals to the Soldotna post, where they were received by Sgt. Rex Leath. ■



Lt. Dane Gilmore presents Trp. Vanessa Meade with a plaque at her going-away luncheon before she transferred to Ilimna.



Soldotna ABI clerk Signe Anderson channels her inner 50s girl on Halloween.

Pictured left, Trp. Michael Zweifel receives his DRE certificate from Sgt. Rex Leath. Zweifel is the sole DRE for the Seward and Cooper Landing areas, and his training and expertise has proven very useful.



ALASKA WILDLIFE TROOPERS

ARRIVAL OF THE P/V GOW'TUKAN

The Division of Alaska Wildlife Troopers is proud to announce the completion of its newest patrol vessel, the PV Gow'tukan.

The Gow'tukan replaces the previous patrol vessel, Stikine, in Hoonah and represents the first in our fleet with landing craft technology. Constructed by Munson of Edmonds, Wash., the Gow'tukan was completed in November and funded under the Federal Joint Enforcement Agreement Program. It will be operated by **Wildlife Trooper Andy Savland** and **Public Safety Technician Ben Botts** in Hoonah.

The name selected is a traditional Tlingit name and is deeply rooted into the history of Hoonah. Gow, the cliff, has Tlingit legend associated with it and it is clearly depicted by the pictograph on the cliff visible even today. The name became the Huna Tlingit village name Gow'tukan, meaning village beside the cliff.

The Gow'tukan is 32 feet in length and 10 feet in width. It utilizes a high-speed landing design specially engineered for quick response, economy, stability and structural strength.

It is constructed entirely of marine-grade aluminum with special emphasis on durability for the rough sea conditions and shore landings it will encounter in Southeast waters. The vessel is propelled by twin outboard engines with a total horsepower of 450. The Gow'tukan cruises at 30 knots and has a maximum speed of 40 knots.

The unique drop bow, landing craft design will allow rapid deployment of personnel and equipment on beaches. It will enable the transport of two four-wheelers, confiscate and transport crab and shrimp pots and board vessels for a crew of two for up to five days at sea.

The mission of the Gow'tukan is Alaska law enforcement patrols including: protection of people and property and enforcing commercial fishing and hunting laws in the waters around Hoonah and Southeast Alaska. It will also provide high-speed response to urgent search and rescue calls. The vessel speed will greatly enhance response time of critical need. Additionally, the vessel will respond to environmental pollution incidents as requested. ■



P/V Gow'tukan replaces the previous patrol vessel, Stikine, in Hoonah and represents the first in AWT's fleet with landing craft technology. The Gow'tukan is 32 feet in length and 10 feet in width. It utilizes a high speed landing design specially engineered for quick response, economy, stability and structural strength.



AWT PHOTOS FROM THE FIELD

For the second time in a row, Alaska Wildlife Trooper Dennis Roe from D Detachment AWT sent photos to be posted in the Quarterly.

This time, he and AWT Joseph Paul used Helo 2 to check moose hunters on the Rex Trail south of Fairbanks in November. There was a drawing permit allowing hunters to use muzzleloading rifles to hunt bulls and a registration permit hunt for cows. Roe said the hunt kept the troopers busy.

Roe also checked a hunting camp in early September and found hunters with a 71-inch bull moose.

Roe was also involved in a search and rescue in the Minto Flats north of Fairbanks on Oct. 9. Trp. Mike Wery helped look for two duck hunters who had the misfortune to have their boat's motor break. In addition, the Chatanika River froze, so Roe and Wery needed to find them and give them a ride in the helicopter.

Roe also took Delta Junction AWT Rick Swanson to check hunters in the area in October.



AHelo 2 Pilot Alaska Wildlife Trooper Dennis Roe stops during a patrol of the Rex Trail in November. Roe and AWT Joseph Paul were checking on moose hunters.

(Photos, continued on page 33)

PHOTOS FROM THE FIELD CONTINUED



AWT Dennis Roe found hunters with a 71-inch bull moose while checking a hunting camp in early September. Roe is pictured second from the left.

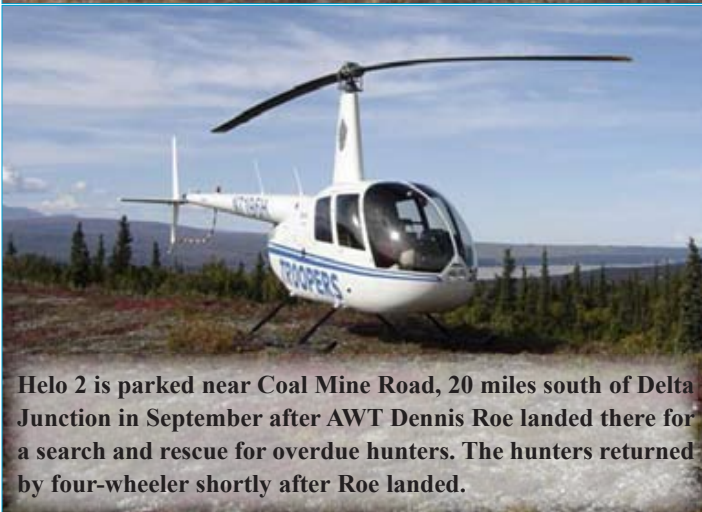


Alaska Wildlife Trooper Rick Swanson, on far left, checks a successful Bison hunter near Delta Junction in October. He was flying around with AWT Dennis Roe in Helo 2.

PHOTOS FROM THE FIELD CONTINUED



Trooper Mike Wery, on left, stands beside Helo 2 and a hunter he and AWT Dennis Roe had to look for in the Minto Flats on Oct. 9. The two duck hunters had the misfortune to have their boat's motor break down. The Chatanika River froze, so helicopter pilot Roe and spotter Wery needed to find them and give them a ride in the helicopter.



Helo 2 is parked near Coal Mine Road, 20 miles south of Delta Junction in September after AWT Dennis Roe landed there for a search and rescue for overdue hunters. The hunters returned by four-wheeler shortly after Roe landed.



A dog team shies away from Helo 2 as it is parked while doing a moose patrol in Rex Trail area south of Fairbanks in November.

AWT Dennis Roe stops to visit with Stan "The Mule Man" Neimiec at his cabin on the Little Delta River between Delta Jct. and Fairbanks. Nemeiec lives alone in a remote cabin with no phone and no road access. Roe periodically stops in with Helo 2 to check on Nemeiec when Roe is in the area because access to Nemeiec's cabin is tough except in late winter and summer. Neimiec keeps a number of mules and is a licensed big game transporter.



(AWT, continued on page 35)



This picture, taken by Galena Trooper Robert Nunley, is of AWT Mike Potter taking off from Alexander Lake in Galena and breaking through a layer of ice on the lake on Oct. 6.

WILDLIFE TROOPERS MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN WAR ON TERROR

Cyr awarded NCO of the month

As the noncommissioned officer in charge for the busiest air passenger terminal in the U.S. Central Command, **John Cyr**, who is a technical sergeant in the Alaska Air National Guard, leads a team of 28 airmen in the processing and expeditious movement of personnel and combat gear in and out of the Operation Iraqi, Operation Enduring Freedom and Joint Task Force Horn of Africa theaters of operation.

Cyr is an Alaska Wildlife Trooper based out of the Palmer post while not activated to military duty.

During his first deployment to Southwest Asia, Trooper Cyr has been instrumental to the airlift of over 60,000 troops and 4,500 tons of equipment in just under 90 days. His efforts have eliminated 210 ground convoy missions through treacherous roads in Iraq and Afghanistan, keeping 9,600 American souls out of harms way.

In addition, he oversaw the deployment of 450 Provincial Reconstruction Team members to seven Forward Operating Bases. The teams are charged with repairing Iraqi and Afghani infrastructure and restoring utility service to over 1.5 million citizens. Thanks to Cyr's efforts, these war-torn communities are building democracy one day a time.

Cyr was named the 8th Expeditionary Air Mobility Squadron's noncommissioned officer of the month for October 2007 for his hard work and dedication.

"John is the epitome of today's Air Force leader: reliable, selfless, and committed to mission success and the well being of those who serve next to him," said Air Force Master Sgt. Juan Guzman, the air passenger terminal superintendent. ■



Palmer Alaska Wildlife Trooper John Cyr stands beside a trooper flag he has displayed while he is to the U.S. Central Command. Cyr was recognized as 8th Expeditionary Air Mobility Squadron's noncommissioned officer of the month for October 2007. Cyr is a technical sergeant in the Alaska Air National Guard.



King Salmon area Alaska Wildlife Trooper Sgt. Justin Lindell is deployed as well and is busy flying Blackhawks near Baghdad. Lindell is a chief warrant officer III in the Alaska Army National Guard.

DIVISION OF FIRE AND LIFE SAFETY

Twenty-four Alaskans died from fire in 2007. Seven of those were children under the age of 6. This is the highest number of fire deaths since 1998. The leading cause of fire related deaths this year is unattended cooking. Seven Alaskans – four of them children – died as the result of fires started by unattended cooking. Unattended cooking fires are one of the most preventable types of fires. There are several products available to extinguish fires that start on the stove top.

The second leading cause is fires started by children playing with matches or lighters. Four Alaskans, three of them children under the age of 7, were killed by fires started by children. These fires can be prevented by ensuring that all matches and lighters are in a secure location out of the reach of children.

There were no working smoke alarms in the home in each of the fires mentioned above.

In the majority of the fires resulting in death, alcohol was a contributing factor to the fire starting or the victims' inability to escape the fire.

The Alaska Division of Fire and Life Safety held a press conference in December to address the concern created by the high



State Fire Marshal David Tyler addresses reporters about the importance of fire safety during a press conference at the State Crime Lab on Dec. 19. To the left of him, Anchorage Fire Marshal Mark Hall, Fairbanks Fire Marshal Ernie Misewicz, Mahlon Greene, who does public education for the Alaska Division of Fire and Life Safety, and Anchorage Fire Chief Craig Goodrich listen to Tyler before taking a turn to speak.

number of fire deaths in Alaska this year.

State Fire Marshal David Tyler, Anchorage Fire Marshal Mark Hall, Anchorage Fire Chief Craig Goodrich, Fairbanks Fire Marshal Ernie Misewicz

and Mahlon Greene, who does public education for the Alaska Division of Fire and Life Safety, each stressed the importance of smoke alarms to those in attendance. ■

DIVISION NEWS

BY MAHLON GREENE

Within the State Fire Marshal's Office exists a little known operating component that provides fire protection operations, engineering, education, inspection and investigative oversight of the Alyeska Pipeline Service Company (APSC) as it operates the Trans-Alaska Pipeline (TAPS). This position is known as the TAPS Fire Safety Specialist and is one of several state and federal agencies charged with ensuring all administrative and legislative regulations are adhered to according to their individual agency powers and to the State Lease and Federal Grant stipulations of the Right-of-Way agreement that leases the land for the use of the pipeline.

The TAPS Fire Safety Specialist is a liaison between the State Fire Marshal, the alphabet soup of state and federal agencies and Alyeska when it comes to any fire related issues. You might think of it as a one-stop

shop for all services for one customer. The position is dynamic, requiring judgment mixed with flexibility. One day you're the hammer, the next day a buffer between agencies or an advocate of company actions. This position is currently held by **Kelly Nicollelo**. Kelly was formerly the assistant state fire Marshal before going into a private business venture. The Division is fortunate to have Kelley's expertise in this position.

One of the best characteristics of the work is the ability to take time to explore the intricacies of specialized fire protection systems and leading-edge technologies. For instance, state of the art UV/IR detection systems, berth foam fire protection systems, Novtec 1230 Halon replacement systems ...etc. Additionally, the office reviews and participates in evaluating fire response and spill source control operational plans and training.

Alyeska is currently re-evaluating and changing how it moves oil from Pump Station 1 in Prudhoe Bay to Tide Water at the Valdez Marine Terminal. Originally, there were 12 Pump Stations. The system operated pretty much like a full time fire pump relay operation, only this one is 800 miles long, travels over three mountain ranges and uses 48-inch pipe. Figure the hydraulics involved in the project.

The number of Pump Stations will be whittled down to four due to a lower throughput of oil and the use of a Drag Reducing Agent (DRA). DRA acts just like light water does in firefighting; it reduces friction loss and allows the pumping of more oil with less pressure. The current operational change is called Strategic Reconfiguration (SR).

(Fire, continued on page 37)

Fire, continued from page 36

The SR design bases are modular in conception so crude oil throughput changes may be decreased or increased as dictated by oil production. Automation and central control from a single location will operate the system in lieu of individually manned pump station control centers. Two maintenance centers will house baseline crews for all maintenance and emergency response activities. Ultimately pump stations no longer used will be disconnected from the pipeline and put into cold status. Eventually, they'll be removed and the land will be restored.

The TAPS Fire Safety Specialist is a great opportunity to be involved in fire operations, prevention, engineering, training and assist in ensuring the flow of oil into your wallet.

TRAINING AND EDUCATION BUREAU

Each year the Division of Fire and Life Safety, Training and Education Bureau selects a theme to focus our prevention efforts on. This theme is highlighted during October as "Fire Prevention Month."

Usually the bureau follows the national theme chosen by the National Fire Protection Association. This year, due to the alarming increase in dollar loss, injuries and fatalities caused by children playing with matches and lighters, the Training and Education Bureau is focusing on keeping matches and lighters away from children.

Gov. Sarah Palin signed a proclamation stating that October 2007 was Fire Prevention Month and urged Alaskans to promote this year's theme: **"Matches and Lighters are Tools Not Toys."**

The Bureau urges adults to keep matches and lighters locked up, out of children's reach.

Palin is featured in a 30-second media ad stating that *"as governor and a parent I want to remind my fellow Alaskan's that it is our duty to protect our children from fire injury and death."*

Unfortunately, many fires caused by juveniles playing with matches and lighters go unreported. We urge all private and government officials to notify the Division of Fire and Life Safety of any juvenile fire activity regardless of severity. Early intervention is the best way to prevent a catastrophic incident.

LIFE SAFETY INSPECTION BUREAU

The Life Safety Inspection Bureau had a very busy quarter with inspections, training and investigations.



The Training and Education Bureau focused on keeping matches and lighters away from children and released these promotional posters as part of Fire Prevention Month in October.



The Southeast Alaska Regional Health Consortium requested life safety surveys for a new Frontier Extended Stay Clinic program. **Deputy Fire Marshal I Bob Plumb** and **LSIB Supervisor Lloyd Nakano** performed the initial life safety surveys for Haines, Glennallen, Klawock and Unalaska. They also performed life safety surveys for hospitals and long term care facilities located throughout Alaska.

The bureau was requested to investigate fires at Nikiski, Girdwood, Palmer, Steese and Kaparuk. **Deputy Fire Marshals John Bond, Nathan Rocheleau and Tom DePeter** responded and conducted the investigations at those locations for fire

origin and cause determinations.

Deputies DePeter, Plumb and Rocheleau attended the Fire Explosion and Arson Investigation course taught by retired Special Agent John Maloonly. Two deputies attended training at the National Fire Academy in Emmitsburg, Maryland. Deputy Bond successfully completed the Interview and Interrogation course and Deputy Nakano successfully completed Fire Inspection Principles.

Congratulations to **Deputy Fire Marshal I Kevin Hunter** on his graduation from the Public Safety Academy in Sitka on Nov. 15. The bureau is happy to have him home.

PLAN REVIEW BUREAU

The Division of Fire and Life Safety has officially adopted the 2006 International Building, Fire, Mechanical and Chapters 6 and 7 of the Fuel Gas Codes. In addition to this the State amendments to the codes are available on line at www.akburny.com. It is now the responsibility of the local fire chiefs to adopt the new codes, and adoption of Chapter 5 of the IFC as it pertains to local fire department vehicle access.

The Plan Review Bureau now has the capability in place to process credit cards for plan review fees. It is our hope that this will make our bureau more customer and service friendly.

The bureau will be sending courtesy copies of plan reviews and related correspondence to the fire chief of a registered fire department in the area where the plan review occurs. This will hopefully raise awareness that plan reviews are required for new construction before construction begins, including remodels and fuel systems. It will also help the fire departments be aware of what's going on in their area. ■

DIVISION OF STATEWIDE SERVICES



The Department of Public Safety Information Technology team

NEW APSIN IN PRODUCTION

BY DEAN BARNES, DPS APSIN REDESIGN PROJECT MANAGER

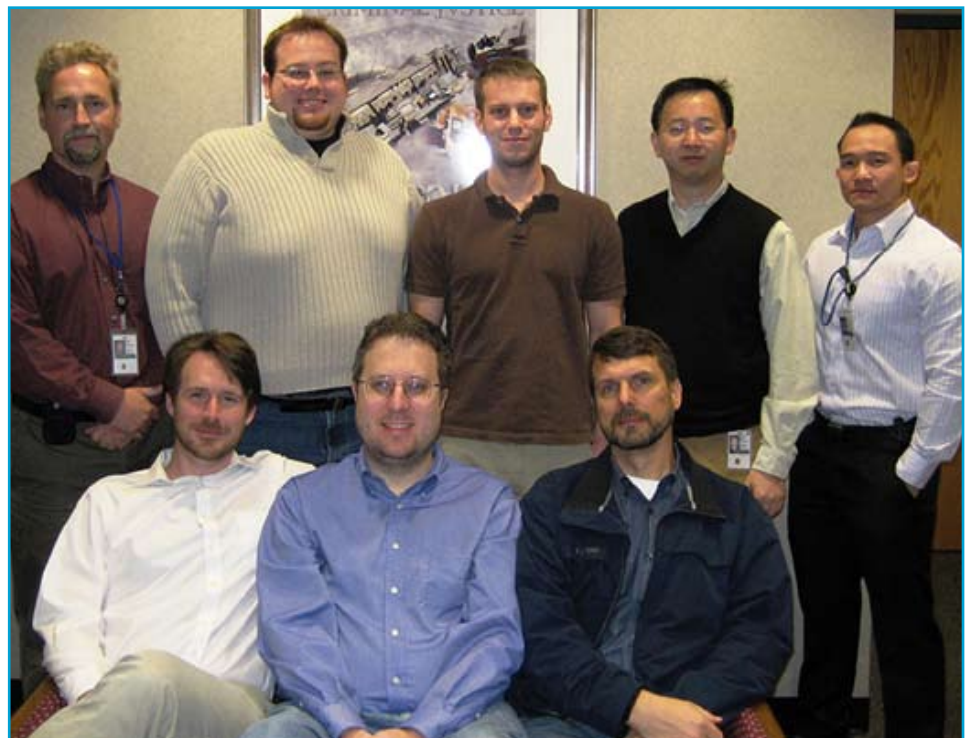
I was brought on last year to coordinate the Redesign Project for Department of Public Safety. I am a life long Alaskan, born in Fairbanks who has lived and worked in the IT field in Anchorage for over 10 years.

My task as the APSIN Redesign Project Manager is to ensure that DPS and our APSIN contractor building the software for DPS, work together to produce a quality product that is useful for the users and makes it easier, faster and better for APSIN users to do their job. Also, it is my task to ensure that users are able and encouraged to provide input in how new APSIN can achieve those goals.

Yes, it is true new APSIN went into production on Nov. 13 in twelve locations around the state and more offices are beginning to use it. This first phase of new APSIN is the Writ tracking portion, and replaces the Microsoft Access database that have been used in the past.

I would like to thank everyone involved in getting us to this point. There are many people within DPS IT department and our local IT contractors who put in many long days to get our components of the new system ready and tested before APSIN went live.

Also I would like to thank the primary



Members of the Science Applications International Corp. team, DPS's primary contractor for the APSIN redesign project are: (back row, left to right) Hurley Blankenship; Nathan Hast; Ryan Hill; Kuan Yao; Long Nguyen; (front row) Brad Marshall; Andy Hush; and William Charlton.

contractor, the Science Applications International Corp. team. They did a great job and actually delivered their components a few weeks before we were ready.

I would also like to thank the users that helped review screens and test the software.

(APSIN, continued on page 39)

APSIN, continued from page 38

This input is the best way to ensure that the system that gets built is actually useful.

The new APSIN has many benefits over the old system. New APSIN centralizes all the information about writs that are served around the state. The new system reduces data entry for those writs that are sent from one office to another.

In the past, both offices would enter the writ into their separate databases. Now the writ is only entered once, and updated by both offices. This also gives instant status to each office of the services. Since new APSIN shares the person records from mainframe APSIN the people associated with a writ are frequently already in the system.

The next phase of new APSIN is a read-only version of criminal histories. This functionality will add the ability to print a rap sheet from the new system. This phase is anticipated to roll-out in April.

If you would like to receive news about the progress of the Redesign Project, provide input on the design, or test new functionality as it is developed please contact me at dean.barnes@alaska.gov, or 907-269-5080. ■

DRUG RECOGNITION EXPERT PROGRAM NEWS

BY JEANNE SWARTZ



Drug Recognition Expert Anchorage Police Officer Chris Ritala checks a DUI suspect's arms for track marks, one of the 12 steps of the DRE exam.

After the excitement of the annual conference in Las Vegas in August, things have been fairly quiet for the Drug Recognition Experts in Alaska.

Two new DREs joined the program. We welcome Juneau police officers Brandon Lawrenson and Shawn Phelps to the DRE ranks. These new JPD officers will be a welcome addition to the program and will afford Inv. Jim Quinto a little relief from performing all of the DREs in the Capital City.

The Drug Classification and Evaluation (DCE) program released its annual report for 2006. The 25 DREs in nine agencies in Alaska performed 254 enforcement evaluations – one of the most productive rates of enforcement in the entire country.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration emphasized the holiday enforcement crackdown and the DRE program was expected to be an important part of that effort. ■

DPS SYSADMIN WINS NATIONAL AWARD

BY LANCE AHERN



Data Communications Specialist II Matt Timken beat out roughly 5,000 other nominations to be named SysAdmin of the Year. Timken was given his prizes, a Gibson Explorer guitar and an Apple MacBook Pro, at the award ceremony in Dallas in December.

When you are recognized as the best of more than 5,000 nominations by a consortium of national professional IT organizations, life is good. Our own **Data Communications Specialist II Matt Timken** returned from his all-expense paid trip to Dallas with a Gibson Explorer guitar and an Apple MacBook Pro and the title of SysAdmin of the Year.

Timken started as a Navy computer technician before moving into network administration. Since signing on with DPS in 1996, Timken has been the linchpin of the IT team that keeps the DPS network up and running.

Today Timken is heavily involved in the rollout of new servers, security and storage systems which will back the next generation of APSIN and Alaskan Law Enforcement.

“It’s a unique experience to be recognized for the type of job that I do. We have a tendency to be in the background,” Timken told Network World after winning the award. (See www.networkworld.com/news/2007/111407-sysadmin-of-the-year.html)

System administrators often work odd hours, including evenings and weekends to maintain and update the network during times that minimize the impact on the rest of us. They have to coordinate their work with numerous other agencies that manage the many networks and systems that we are tied to. They must find ways to fit the latest technology into a network that was not designed to handle it, and they must often work with inferior products just to meet arbitrary decisions made by others. ■

DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

NEW FACES AT THE FRONT COUNTER

Anchorage headquarters gained two new people in the front offices on Nov. 26.

AST Division Operations welcomes **Laura McWhorter** as a new member of our team. She is a life long Alaskan beginning her career with the state as an Administrative Clerk II at the headquarters building. Laura has become one of the very cheerful faces that greet you as you come to our building as well as a key person on keeping up our DPS Phone Directory.

Another new member of the team is **Alex Richardson**. Alex is also a part of AST Division Operations here at the Anchorage headquarters building.

Alex is new to Alaska as well as the Department of Public Safety. She moved up from Chicago after her best friend



Alex Richardson

bought her a plane ticket. Alex has become a valuable part of the team as a receptionist for the building and administrative support to Division Operations.



Laura McWhorter

Alex and Laura joined our team on Nov. 26. If you would like to reach Alex or Laura, they can be reached at 269-6841. ■

IN OTHER NEWS

D.A.R.E.'S YOUTH SUMMIT

BY NAOMI SWEETMAN, STATE D.A.R.E PROJECT COORDINATOR

Drug Abuse Resistance Education Alaska, Inc., hosted the first ever Alaska Student Safety Summit at the Hotel Captain Cook Dec. 10-11. This first ever conference was a vital step in our continuing efforts to prevent school violence, youth violence and drug abuse in our communities throughout Alaska.

The conference was well attended by law enforcement officers, teachers, administrators, community-based treatment providers and youth leaders who gathered for two days to begin collaborating.

Gov. Sarah Palin opened the conference with powerful comments on the need to make our communities safer for Alaska's youth. Mary Hughes from Sen. Lisa Murkowski's office introduced the senator's video commentary. Dennis LeBlanc, Anchorage's Municipal Manager attended on behalf of Mayor Mark Begich and Chief Rob Huen from the Anchorage Police Department, who were also honored guests for the start of the conference.

D.A.R.E. Alaska, Inc.'s Youth Advisory Board Member Adrianna Garcia officiated the opening session.

Experts from across the nation and Alaska presented critical and key information to conference attendees on gang intervention, suicide prevention, vehicular safety, internet safety, community development, bullying, prescription drug abuse, hate crimes, media literacy, understanding child sexual behavior and fire prevention.

Each day's luncheon highlighted extraordinary youth programs from the King Career Center Media Class, Chugiak High School's "Every 15 Minutes" and Anchorage Youth Court.

Lt. Gov. Sean Parnell was on hand to give a keynote speech during the evening banquet on Dec. 10 and introduced Matt Farnsworth and the "Meth Monster" presentation.



Naomi Sweetman, state D.A.R.E project coordinator, talks at the Alaska Student Safety Summit at the Hotel Captain Cook Dec. 10-11

On the second day, the first-ever presentation in Alaska by the U.S. Secret Service, "Preventing Targeted Violence in School: Findings from the Safe School Initiative" was given by Arthur Kelly.

The conference was wrapped up with a panel chaired by Interim Commissioner of the Department of Education Barbara Thompson, Health and Social Services Deputy Commissioner Bill Hogan and Alaska State Troopers Director Col. Audie Holloway. This panel gave brief presentations on how their departments served Alaska's youth and then took questions and comments from participants. ■

BABY

DPS welcomed several young additions this last quarter, enough to earn its own section in the Quarterly. Congratulations to all the proud parents and grandparents and welcome to the DPS family.



Hannah and Chloe Salinas

Northway Trp. Maurizio Salinas and wife, Taryn, are the proud parents of twins Hannah and Chloe. The twins were born on Oct. 3. Chloe arrived first and weighed 7 pounds, 2 ounces. Hannah arrived 52 minutes later and weighed 7 pounds and 6 ounces. Chloe and Hannah join two brothers and a sister making it five kids in the Salinas family.



Deputy Detachment Commander Lt. Lonny Piscoya and wife, Bridget, welcomed Ethan Mitchell Piscoya on Oct. 15. He weighed 10 pounds and measured 21 inches. Ethan joins siblings Molly, Daniel, Nicholas and Matthew. His sister Molly, holds him in this photo.



(Pictured left) Ketchikan Alaska Wildlife Trooper Jeremy Baum and his wife, Kristi, welcomed their first child, daughter Hannah Noelle on Oct. 6. She weighed 8 pounds, 2 ounces and measured 20-inches long.

In just under three weeks the academy family grew by three. Parker Christian Lysdahl was born Oct. 21 to Cpl. Ralf Lysdahl and Cindy Naranji in Sitka. Parker weighed 8 pounds, 4.6 ounces and measured a little over 21 inches. Aubrey Corianne Sims was born Oct. 26 to Cpl. Cornelius Sims and his wife, Jessica. Aubrey weighed 8 pounds, 4 ounces and measured 20 inches. Ava Abilgail Wegrzyn was born to Cpl. Tony and Gala Wegrzyn on Nov. 8. Ava weighed 7 pounds, 7 ounces and measured 22 inches long.

Anchorage Alaska Wildlife Trooper Joe Whittom and his wife, Kaylynn, welcomed Taylor Jordan Whittom at 12:49 a.m. on Nov. 26. She weighed 7 pounds, 9 ounces and measured 20 inches. She joins siblings Kambree, Makaia, Joseph and Megan.

Anchor Point Trp. Greg Pealatero and his wife, Erin, welcomed their new daughter, Olivia, on Nov. 7.

Pictured above, B Detachment Trooper Ronny Simmons and wife, Anna, are proud parents of Alexis Simmons. Alexis was born at Providence Hospital in Anchorage at 5:23 p.m. on Oct 27. She weighed 7 pounds, 2 ounces and measured 19.5 inches long. The delivery was two weeks early and only lasted about three hours.



Pictured above, E Detachment Trp. Micheal Henry holds his son, Micaiah Fisher Henry. Henry's wife, Molly, had Micaiah just in time for Thanksgiving on Nov. 22. Micaiah weighed 6 pounds, 12 ounces.

Fairbanks ABI Inv. Mark Eldridge, his wife, Maureen, and 3-year old son, Ian, welcomed winter solstice baby Aiden H. Eldridge at 11:14 a.m. on Dec. 21. He weighed 8 pounds and measured 19-3/4 inches.

(Pictured left) The Division of Fire and Life Safety welcomed Eli Vincent Belanger, son of Assistant State Fire Marshal Rusty Belanger and wife, Lynn Belanger. Eli was born on Nov. 2. He weighed 6 pounds, 12 ounces and measured 19-3/4 inches long. Rusty and Lynn will have plenty of help from Eli's six brothers and sisters, four of which are still at home for baby duty.



Kenai CSO Chris Graves and his wife, Michelle, welcomed daughter Kara on Sept. 14. She weighed 6 pounds, 5 ounces.

Northway Sgt. Freddie Wells' wife, Hope, gave birth to a baby boy, Josiah, at 4:53 p.m. on Dec. 9 at Fairbanks Memorial Hospital. He weighed 7 pounds even.

(Pictured right) Vickie Miller of the Criminal Records and Identification and her husband, Don Miller, have a new granddaughter. Zoë Theresa Miller was born Oct. 9 to Vickie's son, Joseph, and his wife, Mallory Miller. Vickie Miller started working as a clerk for Fairbanks troopers in 1990 and moved to Anchorage ABI in 1997.



SEARCHERS REDEDICATE CANINE MEMORIAL

BY COREY AIST, UNIT LEADER
ALASKA SEARCH & RESCUE DOGS



Those who participated in the memorial rededication are from left to right, Trp. Aaron Mobley and Yukon, North Slope Borough Police Officer Julia Walsh and Hershey; Laurie Calandri and Wylie, Paul Stoklos his partners Buck and Mora; Corey Aist and Snap; Kim Trust and Foster; Trp. Greg Pealatero and Anchor; Kodiak Police Officer Michael Barnett and canine Max; Clare Lattimore and Rosy; Anchorage Police Officer Jason Whetsell and Bosco; and Jim Haga and Rio.

Search and Rescue dog teams respond to requests by Alaska State Troopers to help locate lost and missing people 24 hours a day, seven days a week in all weather conditions and to remote backcountry locations. On average, volunteer dog teams assist troopers every two weeks in searching avalanche debris, lakes and rivers and the vast Alaska wilderness. In addition, dog teams assist AST investigators looking for those who have become victims of foul play or of their own volition.

Nearly all the dogs used during search and rescues are trained in air scenting and trailing. This means the dogs work following scent particles in the air and on the ground to find any human within a specific area. Search dogs in Alaska are trained to work in environments that are contaminated by other searchers and people in a search area. Whether trailing a specific person from a scented article or looking for any human scent within avalanche debris, these dogs

will work through contaminated areas locating the missing person.

On Oct. 20, several search dog handlers, search volunteers, and K-9 teams from law enforcement agencies got together at the Alaska Search and Rescue Dog Memorial in front of the Alaska State Troopers headquarters in Anchorage. On this 10-year anniversary of the memorial, 25 dogs were recognized with dog tags and ribbons. Dog tags were created for each dog and people participated by tying a tag with a yellow ribbon to the tree. The dog tags will stay on the tree until sometime after the new year.

Notably, half a dozen AST and various police department K-9 teams came to recognize the efforts of the volunteer handlers and their search dog companions. It was a generous gesture on their behalf.

The Department of Public Safety gave a commendation recognizing the efforts of search dogs and their handlers across the state. Alaska State Troopers rely heavily upon volunteer search and rescue organizations such as ASARD. By state statute, the Department of Public Safety is responsible for overseeing search and rescue operations within the state. Sometimes that responsibility is shared with the U.S. Coast Guard or the Air National Guard's Rescue Coordination Center. Seventy to 75 percent of all SAR operations are done by volunteers on behalf of the DPS and the Alaska State Troopers. The volunteer dog teams make up a valuable tool used in search and rescues.

The search and rescue dog organizations around the state are glad to be of service to AST and the families of those missing or lost. These organizations appreciate the unique relationships they have built with AST and continue to be a vital part of the search and rescue community in Alaska. It's in the tradition of the Alaskan spirit that draws our organizations together. Visit [AST's PIO website](#) for other stories on [volunteer SAR organizations](#).

- Corey Aist started with ASARD in 1994 and has served with two companions – Bean, a yellow Labrador who has since passed, and now Snap, a 7-year-old chocolate lab. ■



ASARD member Jill Missal ties a ribbon on the tree outside the DPS headquarters building as part of the rededication ceremony while Paul Stoklos and his search and rescue partners Buck and Kiana wait their turn.

'Tis the season



Ayla Donalson, an analyst program IV with the APSIN Programming Group, adjusts the Venetian carnival mask she wore to work for Halloween.



Maj. Matt Leveque helps himself to another helping of chili and the fixings at the SHARE Campaign chili feed and silent auction at the headquarters conference room on Nov. 16.



Retired investigator Mike Marrs supplied these two paintings for the silent auction to raise money for the SHARE Campaign. Those making bids in the silent auction are, from left, Annabell Stevens, the Community Services Liaison for the United Way of Anchorage; Kim Fassert, the secretary for AWT Col. Gary Folger and Maj. Steve Bear and Jennifer Griggs, the evidence clerk at the Anchorage evidence room. The silent auction and chili feed raised \$917.50 for the SHARE campaign.



Lt. Dan Lowden, on the far right, entertains Administrative Supervisor Dianna Darnell (on the left) and Grants Administrator Kelly Howell, sitting next to Lowden during the headquarters Christmas party on Dec. 21. Administrative Manager Lisa Emerson, Data Processing Manager Lance Ahern and AWT Director Col. Gary Folger listen from afar.



AWT Maj. Steve Bear cradles Midnight in his arms at the headquarters Christmas Party on Dec. 21 after the pooped puppy made the rounds of the building. Midnight hitched a ride with Bear to Soldotna where he became a Christmas gift for Sgt. Paul McConnell's children.



DPS Commissioner Walt Monegan awards Accounting Clerk Jan Donovan a certificate for five years service with the DPS.

GUNS GET HOSED



Talkeetna-based AWT Doug Massie takes a breather during the first break between periods in the Guns versus Hoses exhibition hockey game at the Sullivan Arena in Anchorage on Dec. 2. It was a hard fought battle, but the Hoses (firefighters) beat the Guns (law enforcement) 6-4.



The Guns and Hoses mix it up on the ice. For the Guns team, in the black helmet is Jeff Edwards, a supervisor at adult probations, in the yellow helmet is Jim Gibson, a Fairbanks police officer and wearing the red helmet is AWT Doug Massie. For the firefighters, No. 23 is Tim Molle, No. 10 is Jim Mayes, No. 21 is Eric Tuott and behind Molle is Eric Lawson. All Hoses players pictured are former University of Alaska Anchorage hockey players and all but Lawson have played for the Anchorage Aces.

THE DPS QUARTERLY

WINTER 2007-2008

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- COMMISSIONER
- JOHN GLASS
- DEPUTY COMMISSIONER
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THE QUARTERLY is written by and produced for the employees and friends of the State of Alaska Department of Public Safety. Its purpose is to inform, educate and entertain. It is published four times a year by the Public Information Office.

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Entries for the next issue are due Feb. 30, 2008. You are invited to contribute to THE QUARTERLY by submitting materials to:

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