

# ALASKA STATE TROOPERS

2010 Annual Report



# ALASKA STATE TROOPERS

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# ALASKA STATE TROOPERS

## *Organization*



### DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY



FIRE &  
LIFE SAFETY



ADMINISTRATIVE  
SERVICES



ALASKA  
STATE  
TROOPERS



ALASKA  
WILDLIFE  
TROOPERS



STATEWIDE  
SERVICES

### ALASKA STATE TROOPER DETACHMENTS AND BUREAUS

A



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B



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C



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D



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E



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H



PAGE 2

ABI



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ABADE



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ABJS



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ABHP



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# ALASKA STATE TROOPERS

## Office of the Director



Deputy Director  
Maj. Matt Leveque



Director  
Col. Audie Holloway



Deputy Director  
Maj. John Glick

### OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

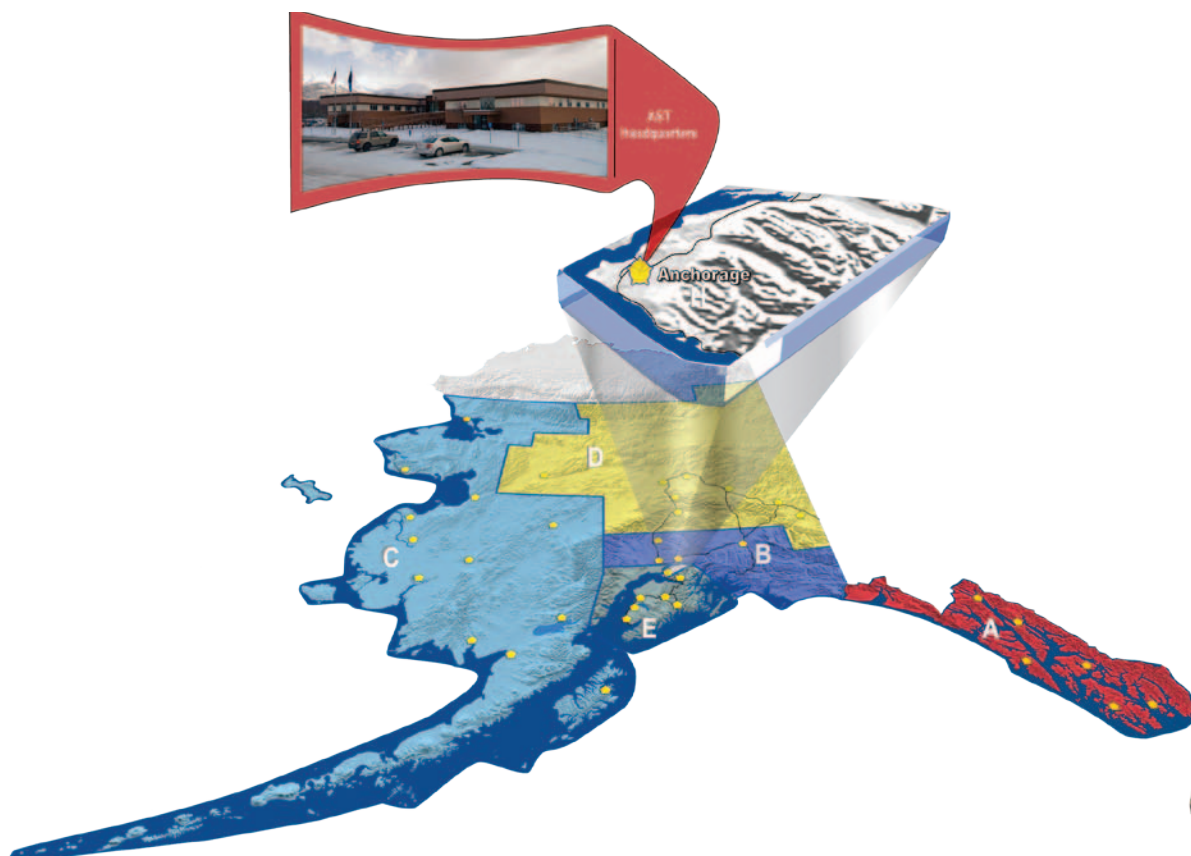
Director – Colonel

Deputy Directors – 2 Majors

#### DIRECTOR'S STAFF

1 Administrative Assistant III

1 Secretary





# ALASKA STATE TROOPERS

## *Division Operations*



**Commander**  
**Capt. Barry Wilson**

### DIVISION OPERATIONS COMMAND

Division Operations Supervisor – Captain  
Lieutenant – FTEP and Recruitment  
Lieutenant – Public Information Office  
Lieutenant – Search and Rescue  
Lieutenant – Technologies  
Lieutenant – Legislative Liaison (Ketchikan)

### DIVISION OPERATIONS STAFF

3 Office Assistants  
2 Criminal Justice Technicians  
1 Administrative Assistant  
1 Training Specialist  
3 Information Officers  
1 Mail Services Courier

The Division of Alaska State Troopers is headquartered in the Alaska Department of Public Safety building at 5700 East Tudor Road in Anchorage. The building houses offices for the director, deputy directors and Division Operations. The Division Operations staff is responsible for personnel supervision, special projects, operational assignments, and support functions. These responsibilities are not limited to the five AST detachments and four bureaus, but extend department-wide to include the Division of Alaska Wildlife Troopers, Division of Fire and Life Safety, Alcoholic Beverage Control Board, Scientific Crime Detection Laboratory, and liaison responsibilities with various local, state, and federal agencies.

Some of the responsibilities overseen by the Director's Office and Division Operations are:

- Division Budget
- Division Field Operations
- Recruitment
- Statewide Search and Rescue
- Field Training and Evaluation Program
- AMBER Alert
- Public Information Office
- Grant Application and Administration
- Felony DUI Vehicle Forfeiture Program
- ALMR Communications
- Training and Professional Development
- Technology Standardization and Research
- Personnel Services
- Vehicle Fleet Coordination
- Domestic Violence Training
- Emergency Operations and Homeland Security
- Employee Evaluation Standardization and Review



# ALASKA STATE TROOPERS

## *Division Operations*

## RECRUITMENT FIELD TRAINING & EVALUATION PROGRAM



**Lt. Lonnie Gonzales**  
**Recruitment**

### RECRUITMENT UNIT COMMAND

1 Lieutenant

1 Sergeant

### RECRUITMENT UNIT STAFF

1 Criminal Justice Technician

1 Office Assistant

5 Background Investigators

The Alaska State Troopers Recruitment Unit is located in the Department of Public Safety Headquarters in Anchorage. The primary responsibility of the unit is to recruit and evaluate applicants for the position of trooper recruit in both divisions and Court Services Officers throughout the state. Recruitment efforts operate continuously. The recruitment postings and application process fully migrated to the Workplace Alaska internet-based application system in 2007.

Applicants must confirm they meet the minimum requirements for the position and then must pass a physical fitness test and undergo an extensive background investigation, including a credit and criminal history examination. After successfully completing a short written assignment and oral board, applicants are given a conditional offer of employment. Before a firm job offer is extended, applicants must pass a polygraph examination, a psychological assessment, a medical evaluation, and a drug and alcohol screening.

The unit also assists with the recruitment of deputy fire marshals by conducting background checks and proctoring the physical fitness test and psychological exam. Like they do with CSO and trooper applicants, they arrange for the medical exam, psychological interview, fingerprinting, and drug test. However, the hiring manager for the position is with the Division of Fire and Life Safety therefore the application, any job interviews, and the recruitment for the position are done through Fire and Life Safety.

The number of trooper recruit applicants rose in 2010 by

601, and lateral hire applicants increased by 97. Anecdotally, the increase was due to the National Geographic Channel's TV series "Alaska State Troopers." Another factor could be the downturn in the economy and the downsizing of police departments in the Lower 48. However, the end result for trooper recruits was much the same with only two more than last year being hired. One more lateral hire was offered a job than in 2009.

Also in 2010, the unit went through the application process to hire Court Services Officers for Judicial Services positions in Dillingham, Bethel, and Anchorage after an absence of several years in these areas.

### RECRUITMENT UNIT STATISTICS

#### Trooper recruits

- 3,056 applications
- 945 identified potential recruits
- 49 interviewed
- 25 applicants hired

#### Lateral hires

- 235 applications
- 95 identified potential hires
- 16 interviewed
- 11 applicants hired

#### Court Services Officer

- 101 individuals applied
- 2 interviewed
- 2 hired

#### Deputy Fire Marshal

- 24 applicants
- 5 identified potential hires
- 1 hired

Before recruits are promoted to trooper, each must accomplish the following:

- 18-week training program at the DPS Academy in Sitka – 20 to 30 percent of recruits either quit or do not graduate (consistent with national statistics).





Applicants run along the sidewalk near headquarters in Anchorage during the timed run. Applicants must run a mile and a half in 15:12 minutes or less, do 27 sit-ups in a minute or less and at least 25 push-ups in order to move on to the next stage in the application process.



- 🕒 15-week Field Training and Evaluation Program – 20 to 30 percent of FTEP recruits either quit or are not acceptable (consistent with national statistics).
- 🕒 1-year probationary period

Successful applicants first attend the 15-week Alaska Law Enforcement Training (ALET) session at the academy in Sitka, plus a three-week trooper-specific training for DPS personnel only. Upon graduation, trooper recruits move to their first duty assignment and begin a 15-week Field Training and Evaluation Program (FTEP). Trooper recruits are expected to develop to the point of being able to perform all law enforcement functions independently. They'll be promoted to trooper upon the successful completion of their probationary period, generally 12 months from the start of the academy.

Starting in the spring of 2008, the department accepted applications from any current or former police officers that already held a police certification from any other state. These current or former police officers must be in good standing with their present or past agency. The certifications are screened and must be approved by the Alaska Police Standards Council to ensure their training is commensurate with required police training in Alaska. This is considered a lateral hire and, in most cases, does not require attending another full academy. Lateral hires usually attend a seven-week Lateral Academy in Sitka. Four weeks of this coincides with the regular ALET session followed by the three weeks of trooper-specific training with other trooper recruits as required following graduation from the academy.

FTEP is a standard program for both Alaska

State Troopers and Alaska Wildlife Troopers. During this intense 15-week training period, trooper recruits are subjected to all of the rigors and activity of a normal trooper, but they are also provided with daily training, feedback, and evaluation of their performance. Due to the nature of the program, FTEP is frequently viewed as being significantly more stressful than the time spent at the academy.

A Field Training Officer (FTO) is assigned to ride with the trooper recruit every day for the entire duration of their shift. FTOs are generally more experienced troopers who have demonstrated proficiency in skills such as traffic enforcement, interview and interrogation, report writing, officer safety, and vehicle operations as well as a myriad of others. They are not only expected to know how to do their own jobs quite well, they are also expected to know, how to teach a trooper recruit to be proficient in those same areas.

Of the 15 trooper recruits who entered FTEP in the fall of 2009, 13 completed the program sometime in the spring of 2010. Eleven trooper recruits and five lateral hire troopers started the spring 2010 academy, with 14 graduating in the spring of 2010. Twelve troopers completed their FTEP requirements after the academy. After graduating from the academy in December of 2010, 19 of the 20 trooper recruits and lateral hire troopers who started the academy were set to begin the FTEP program in Palmer, Fairbanks, and Soldotna at the beginning of 2011.

All trooper recruits go through the same standardized training program regardless if they were hired for an AST or AWT position. Trooper recruits hired for AWT positions don't transfer to AWT until they're off probation.





# ALASKA STATE TROOPERS

## *Division Operations*

### SEARCH AND RESCUE



**Lt. Craig Macdonald**  
**SAR Coordinator**

Alaska is a busy place for search and rescues. Weekend boaters, hikers, hunters, and first-time visitors alike can find themselves suddenly and dangerously unprepared for Alaska's mercurial weather and unforgiving terrain. All good intentions for an adventure in the beautiful Alaska backcountry do not always go as planned. For these reasons and many more, emergency personnel are consistently called upon to assist distressed Alaskans and visitors.

Under Alaska Statute § 18.60.120, through the delegated authority of the Department of Public Safety commissioner, the Alaska State Troopers are the primary authority for search and rescue within the state. AST shares this responsibility with the U.S. Coast Guard on open waters, U.S. Air Force's Rescue Coordination Center on aircraft incidents, and the National Park Service on federal park lands.

Each detachment of the Alaska State Troopers has seen a fair share of search and rescue events this year. Alaska State Troopers received a total of 721 reports of overdue people and aircraft crashes, with 339 of those turning into a search and rescue related event. In 2008, 393 incidents required a search or rescue, compared to 339 in 2010. This is an overall reduction of nearly 14 percent over two years in search and rescue events for troopers. Factors such as weather and the increased availability of navigation devices such as locator beacons and GPS devices can also account for decreases in the number of events. There had been some increases in overdue incidents and aircraft incidents, but the drop in major events has been a positive decrease.

Survivability is not the major criteria for search initiation by the Alaska State Troopers. A search and rescue is always an emergency and is treated as such. Weather, terrain, health, circumstances, or preparedness of subject are also contributing factors on survivability.

Stories of extreme survival situations occur every year.

Of the searches conducted by Alaska State Troopers, 98 percent of persons missing in 2010 were found and returned while 93 percent of them came home alive. Variables for safe returns are subject to weather, terrain, injuries and trauma, geographical proximity to rescue resources, and time.

Of the nine people still missing:

- ✪ 3 were snowmachining when they disappeared
- ✪ 2 were despondent subjects suspected of intending to harm themselves
- ✪ 2 were fishing at the time of disappearance
- ✪ 2 are missing after unknown circumstances

The successful conclusion of a search and rescue is often directly related to how quickly emergency services can reach the distressed person. Without shelter and comfort, the survivability after the first 24 hours remarkably decreases. The longer it takes to rescue a person, the more the costs go up as well as an increase of hazard to the searchers. The immediate high priority given by troopers and swift actions taken in a search and rescue affected the overall survivability rate of distressed Alaskans and visitors. Of the 596 subjects found, 81 percent, or 465, were found in the initial 12 hours of a search.

The military is, by far, the most frequent non-DPS air asset called upon consistently to work alongside Alaska State Troopers and other emergency responders across the state. The 11<sup>th</sup> Air Force Rescue Coordination Center in Anchorage reported 30 Alaska State Trooper agency assists in 2010. These included the Air and Army National Guard, the Air Force and the civilian auxiliary of the US Air force – the Civil Air Patrol.

Search and rescues in Alaska could not take place without the help of motivated volunteers. Spontaneous volunteers abound in Alaska and these good Samaritans will often immediately offer assistance to their fellow man. The true Alaskan spirit of community is expressed





Searchers probe avalanche debris looking for the body of a missing snowmachiner.



through these individuals. The backbone of the search and rescue services in Alaska is trained volunteers. Troopers rely on a cadre of nearly 675 individual volunteers listed with DPS. These individuals come from all walks of life and repeatedly demonstrate that they are willing to volunteer and assist on search and rescues.

In 2010, volunteers and others gave over 27,000 hours to Alaska SARs.

Searcher Type	Number	Searcher Hours
DPS	498	3,276
Military	306	1,144
Other	201	2,191
Volunteer	2,307	20,737
	Total: 3,402	Total: 27,348

DPS includes AST, AWT, and VPSO hours on searches, but do not include hours spent report writing or other investigation time that is not related to the search itself. These hours are from the trooper reports filed, not payroll hours reported separately. "Other" hours include other agencies such as National Parks Service or North Slope Borough, both of which conduct

their own search and rescues within their jurisdiction.

#### SEARCHERS BY SCENARIO, HOURS SPENT

Searchers	Scenario	Searcher Hours
815	Stranded	5,061.65
576	Lost	3,512.75
419	Drowning/Near	3,668.6
359	Trauma	2,886.8
310	Investigative	1,276
253	Medical	1,582.75
221	Overdue	1,334.9
188	Avalanche	3,935.5
108	Criminal	3,138.5
85	Despondent	492.75
68	Evading	461
Total: 3,402		Total: 27,351.2

These scenarios are based upon the reason a subject was in danger. Some SAR scenarios are significantly more dangerous to the searcher than others. The extensive experience of search commanders in Alaska ensures that searchers are appropriately deployed and assets are used while keeping in mind a need to control the danger to



State Park Ranger Carl Skustad (in middle) helps searchers board AST's Helo-1 before they fly to a remote area to look for a snowmachiner buried in avalanche debris.



searchers; mitigating these dangers during rescues. For example, during avalanche incidents – one of the most dangerous to searchers – the number of searchers is lower, however, the number of hours searching is very high. Even though avalanches do not represent the most common incident in Alaska, the amount of hours are the second highest spent on a scenario.

Search and Rescue expenses are generally divided into travel, services, and supplies. Aircraft expenses encompassed nearly 60 percent of the 2010 SAR budget, or \$234,964, in fiscal year 2010, which runs from July 2009 to July 2010.

The Department of Public Safety has a well-trained aircraft section with personnel that are consistently called upon to search for overdue individuals in sometimes the most inhospitable weather and circumstances. Many aircraft are sent to search when a ground search is not feasible or as affective as an aerial search. Of the 331 searches in 2010, 110 involved some form of DPS aerial search. DPS pilots and troopers often find the signs of lost and overdue travelers quickly; frequently working in close communication with ground searchers to aid distressed people. Aircraft are one of the best, but most expensive, assets used in search and rescues.

Operational costs are expenses directly related to search and rescue activities that are paid at the detachment level. These costs are recorded on the trooper reports themselves as directly related to a search and rescue. Examples are fuel; equipment such

as ropes, flashlights and drag lines; food for rescuers; and commercial flights for special rescue teams such as dive teams and mountain rescue teams. These expenses do not include training costs, aircraft costs, or certain reimbursements that are paid separately from the trooper's report. In 2010, the average operational cost of a search and rescue was just under \$507 for a search.

Search and rescue statistics in Alaska give a cold view of very real human experiences. Every day travelers in Alaska can come face-to-face with danger, some that they are prepared for and some that they are not. Traveling in Alaska's backcountry presents a unique set of factors that everyone should be as prepared as possible. However, the unforeseen, aircraft crashes, medical emergencies, and unpredictable weather will always be factors in Alaska search and rescue. As long as people travel in Alaska, search and rescue will continue to be an important role for Alaska State Troopers, military, volunteers, and all emergency responders in the years to come.

SAR Incidents by Alaska State Trooper detachments, Alaska Wildlife Troopers, Village Public Safety Officers or the North Slope Borough:

A Detachment	70
B Detachment	64
C Detachment	210
D Detachment	87
E Detachment	106
North Slope Borough	81
VPSO	67
Alaska Wildlife Troopers	39
Total:	721





# ALASKA STATE TROOPERS

## *Division Operations*

### TECHNOLOGY



**Lt. Kat Peterson**  
**Staff Projects**

In the quest to make the work of Alaska State Troopers personnel more efficient by using new technologies to streamline the flow of information, the department is going green. For years, the Department of Public Safety worked to obtain the technical components to capture and protect the information, as well as make it easier to share between the different law enforcement and other criminal justice partners electronically – decreasing the need to shuffle paperwork.

A key component in this endeavor is the Alaska Records Management System (ARMS). The current paper-based police reporting system has been in use in one form or another since the beginning of the department's existence and is severely outdated. It is limited in the ability to make use of information captured in the course of the department's work. The primary intent for ARMS is to provide DPS with the ability to electronically capture, store, and utilize information related to the tens of thousands of incidents the department responds to each year. Without ARMS, incident information currently exists in paper files that are not readily searchable. ARMS will allow instant statewide access to that information whenever it is needed to assist in solving crimes. Additionally, the system dramatically enhances the capability to share information with other law enforcement agencies and to mine the collected information for the purposes of better managing resources and informing public policy decisions.

DPS hired a project manager as the project moved into 2010 and started the project in earnest in April. The department finalized the contract with the vendor, Niche Technology, Inc., from Winnipeg, Manitoba, and the initial software was delivered in June. A team of 12 employees from Alaska State Troopers

and Alaska Wildlife Troopers, both commissioned and civilian support personnel, from all parts of the state began the process of identifying the changes to the software and to department policy, practice, or procedure that will be required in order to implement ARMS.

The team underwent an initial seven-day training session provided by Niche, and then worked through the remainder of the year analyzing changes needed in both the system and to DPS business processes. While doing this, the project team worked on various aspects of project implementation needs, such as development of user and administrator manuals, development of training manuals, proposed policy changes, IT infrastructure needs, and many other requirements prior to ultimately transitioning department personnel from paper reporting to system reporting. This system will bring dramatic change to both how the agency does business and to its ability to accomplish its missions. The goal is to implement the system by the end of 2011

Another program greatly streamlining procedure of processing traffic citations statewide took a step forward as DPS cultivated interest in the Traffic and Criminal Software (TraCS) system with other police departments in the state. Federal funding procured through the Department of Transportation & Public Facilities' Commercial Vehicle Enforcement allowed DPS to introduce several Alaska police departments to the TraCS system. The TraCS software allows a trooper or officer to collect data electronically by scanning a driver's license or registration with a hand-held scanner in their patrol car parked on the side of the road while conducting a traffic stop or crash investigation. The software reads the barcode and populates the form automatically with that information. This has allowed for a quicker completion of collision reports, many while the trooper is still at the scene of the crash. It also has made a professional, legible document to provide to insurance companies, court, and other agencies. The system will also eventually allow troopers and officers to electronically send the citations to the court system instead of requiring an



Barb Jones, an instructor with Niche Technology, Inc., helps ABI Office Assistant Judy Cantey during training for the Alaska Record Management System.



administrative clerk to enter the information by hand. In 2010, AST – with partners DOT&PF, Division of Motorized Vehicles and the DOT&PF’s Alaska Highway Safety Office – provided instruction to 14 local law enforcement departments around the state as far north as Prudhoe Bay and Barrow, as far west as Homer, and as far east as Haines. They also traveled to posts in B, D, and E detachments to teach the system to troopers. Likewise, all Department of Public Safety Training Academy recruits, regardless of what police agency they were hired by, received training on TraCS.

Meanwhile, DOT&PF, DPS, and local law enforcement agencies started work on the updated Alaska Crash Report Manual. This manual was originally published in 2000 and was in need of additional information to make it a more useful tool in the field and also have the reports completed in a timely manner. In 2010, DPS and DOT&PF employees traveled around the state providing updated training and the new manuals. The new manual was also integrated in the TraCS system so users are not required to carry the actual paper manual for questions in the field – another step in helping the environment and a byproduct of becoming more efficient and effective.



# ALASKA STATE TROOPERS

## Department of Public Safety

### Training Academy



**Commander  
Lt. Jim Helgoe**

**ACADEMY COMMAND**  
Commander – Lieutenant  
Deputy Commander – Sergeant  
**ACADEMY STAFF**  
5 Corporals  
1 Administrative Assistant  
1 Administrative Clerk  
1 Education Assistant  
1 Maintenance Specialist

Over the years, the Alaska Department of Public Safety Training Academy's workload and curriculum have continued to grow as it provides training to law enforcement agencies from across the state. The academy is now considered the premier law enforcement training academy in the state for basic law enforcement training. With few exceptions, municipal law enforcement agencies send their police recruits to the academy. The basic 15-week Alaska Law Enforcement Training (ALET) includes more than 900 hours of training. The academy reports directly to the Office of the Commissioner as its mission is to provide statewide law enforcement training to numerous public safety agencies within Alaska.

The academy has been located on Baranof Island in Sitka since 1967. However, the current campus was built in 1974. The campus consists of two classrooms, staff offices, a library, workout facilities, an on-site small arms range, and dormitory-style rooms for up to 67 trainees. The academy sits on approximately 20 acres of land. A larger firearms range and classroom are located off campus.

In addition to the two ALET sessions per year, the academy also provides initial training for Village Public Safety Officers and Court Services Officers as well as Alaska Police Standards Council recertification for former law enforcement officers rejoining the police ranks in different departments throughout the state and in-service training for veteran troopers. The academy conducts one 10-week training session a year for VPSOs. On occasion, a village police officer working for a tribal or village government will also attend this academy. New Court Services Officers go through initial training, usually in conjunction with an ALET training session. The in-service training for veteran troopers is five days long and runs on a 2-1/2-year cycle, giving troopers a 2-1/2-year window to go through the in-service on a set of topics. Subjects taught at the in-service are based on feedback provided by commanders in the field and are tailored to enhance and refresh skills as well as teach

new regulations, policies, and laws. The academy conducts about eight in-service sessions a year for about 20 troopers each turn.

During initial VPSO, CSO, and ALET training sessions, the academy staff provides comprehensive and rigorous training involving academics, physical fitness, decision making, and stress inoculation. Each student is challenged academically, mentally, and physically.

The academy's instruction includes core curricula in:

- ✳ Ethical behavior
- ✳ Criminal and constitutional law
- ✳ Laws of arrest
- ✳ Search and seizures
- ✳ Use of force
- ✳ Defensive tactics
- ✳ Professional police communications
- ✳ Firearms
- ✳ Less-lethal force options
- ✳ Emergency vehicle operations
- ✳ Fitness

All of these topics are necessary to receive certification in Alaska by the Alaska Police Standards Council. Through daily interactions with academy staff, each student is taught the importance of attention to detail and sense of urgency. These principles are required for a recruit to be successful both at the academy and in their future career.

On average, each student attends classes six days a week and can have 11 or more written tests on a regular weekly test day. The daily academic and physical workload, combined with the mental sharpness essential for success, requires students to study and prepare diligently while putting forth maximum effort at all times.

One of the most important and unique training values associated with the academy is the real world scenario-based training provided to each student. After select classes are completed, students are expected to apply the new knowledge and skill sets to various scenario-based training events.

This training mimics what actual law enforcement officers face while on patrol and is closely monitored by the commissioned staff. Scenarios covered are anything from routine calls, like traffic stops, to the more stressful events such as a





**Alaska Law Enforcement Training Academy class 10-01 and academy instructors at graduation on June 3, 2010.**



downed officer rescue, active shooter, or attacker response. The training better prepares the recruits to succeed and to provide a higher level of professional service to their communities once they become full-fledged officers.

After graduation from the ALET course, the AST and AWT recruits continue their training at the academy for an additional three weeks. This training session is often referred to as Trooper Basic. The trooper recruit receives more tailored and advanced training during this session in fish and wildlife investigations, boating safety, survival, commercial fisheries enforcement, media relations, critical stress management, rifle training, pepper ball, and Stinger spike system. They are also exposed to additional scenario-based training events. In addition, the academy conducts in-service training to commissioned DPS members.

### SUCSESSES

The academy's continued success in training troopers, police officers, Village Public Safety Officers, Court Services Officers, and trooper recruits is the result of a professional staff and high-quality training tailored to meet the unique needs of Alaska. Seven commissioned Alaska State Troopers – a lieutenant, sergeant, and five corporals – make up a bulk of the staff. However, the academy pulls civilian and commissioned subject matter experts from across the state and nation, such as prosecutors from the Department of Law and troopers in the field

with advanced training, to teach certain topics. The vast majority of graduates of the academy report the training they received was among the most useful and fulfilling aspects of their law enforcement career.

### CHALLENGES

**Staff vacancies** – Due to the need to have a stronger presence of troopers handling calls for service, one of the full-time commissioned staff positions was vacated and reassigned elsewhere.

**Facilities** – Since the shutdown of Sheldon Jackson College, the academy took on the challenge of finding another food service provider. This resulted in higher food costs and the additional costs to bus the recruits to a location further away from the academy for meals. The academy is currently working with the Department of Transportation and Public Facilities and an engineering firm in building a kitchen facility. Construction of this kitchen is scheduled to begin in spring of 2012.

**Emergency Vehicle Operations Training** – The emergency vehicle operations training is limited because the academy does not have a dedicated driving range that can be utilized to provide current and realistic training.

#### ALET NO. 10-01

Graduated on June 3, 2010

21 students from 10 different public safety agencies

Alaska State Troopers	8
Alaska Wildlife Troopers	2
Fire & Life Safety	1
Airport Police & Fire	1
State Park Ranger	1
Municipal Police Departments	7
Self Pay	1

#### ALET NO. 10-02

Graduated on Nov. 15, 2010

27 students from nine different public safety agencies

Alaska State Troopers	9
Alaska Wildlife Troopers	4
Airport Police & Fire	7
Municipal Police Departments	6
Self Pay	1



# ALASKA STATE TROOPERS

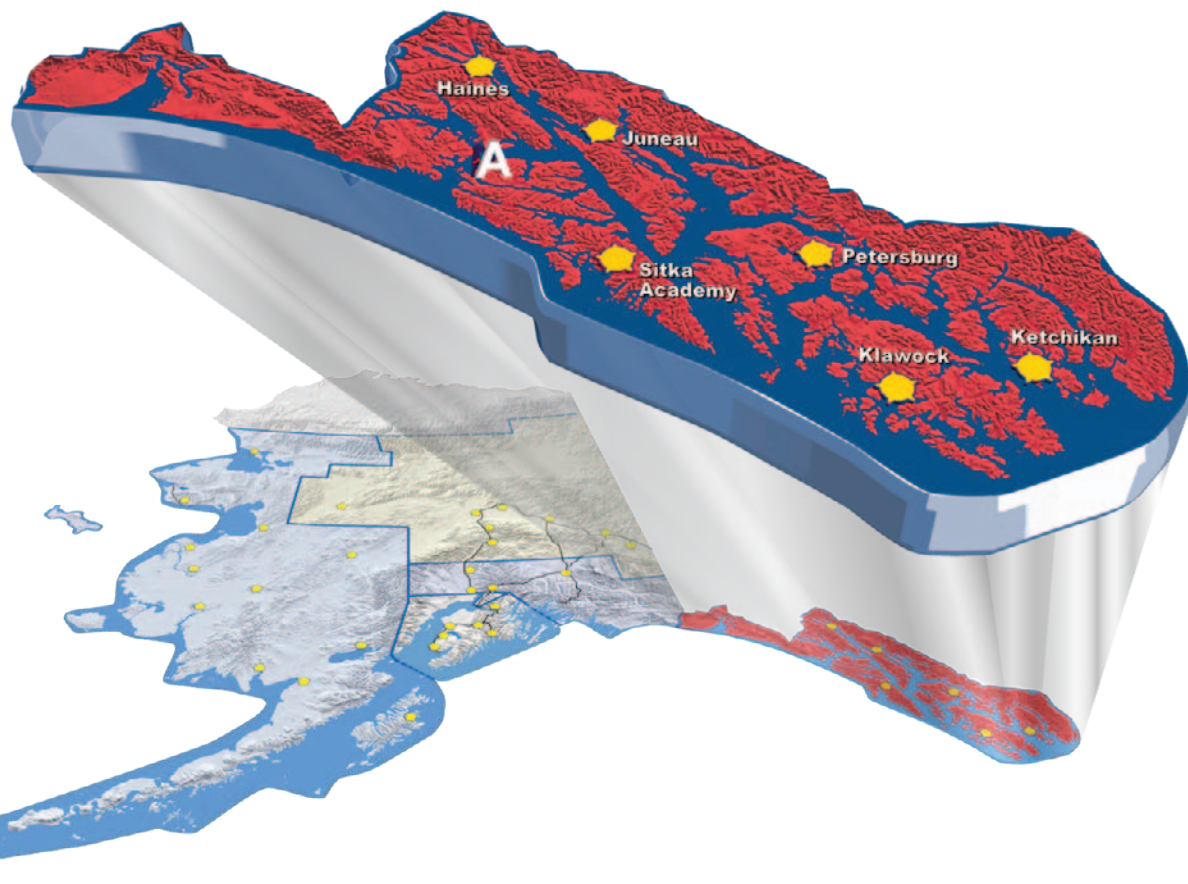
## *A Detachment*



Commander  
Capt. Kurt Ludwig



Deputy Commander  
Lt. Rodney Dial



### DETACHMENT COMMAND

Commander – Captain

Deputy Commander – Lieutenant (Legislative Liaison)

### DETACHMENT STAFF

1 Administrative Assistant

A Detachment is located in Southeast Alaska, an area full of glacier-cut fjords and islands covered with dense, temperate rainforest. The steep, rocky terrain and the many islands and fjords make Southeast Alaska not only beautiful, but difficult to navigate. Roads are limited to within the different communities scattered throughout the detachment. Because of the sparse population, there are mostly local road systems. The exception is the northern mainland towns of Haines and Skagway, which are connected to the Alaska Highway. Haines has the only post in the detachment with direct road access to the mainland of Alaska.

Meanwhile, travel between the islands and between mainland cities is limited to boat and aircraft. A popular means of travel through this region is the Alaska Marine Highway system. Juneau is the only American mainland capital that is not reachable by road. There are seven borough governments located in the detachment. The area is home to Tlingit and Haida native groups.

A Detachment encompasses more than 36,000 square miles of land and 17,283 square miles of coastal area. This brings the total area covered to more than 53,283 square miles, which is larger than the state of New York. A Detachment consists of 25 employees assigned to four individual posts. These employees include 15 commissioned troopers, two of which are command positions, and 10 civilian staff personnel. There are an estimated 71,664 year-round residents in A Detachment. However, an estimated 10,622 residents live outside





**Trooper Scott Carson of the Ketchikan post investigates a two-vehicle collision on the North Tongass Highway near Ward Cove.**



of communities with local police departments. These residents fall under A Detachment's immediate jurisdiction. Not counting detachment command, there is an average of one trooper for every 817 residents. Each trooper was responsible for roughly 4,098 square miles of area in 2010 – an area twice the size of Delaware. In addition, the area is flooded with approximately 1 million tourists during the summer months, increasing the number of search and rescues, deaths, thefts, assault investigations, and the need to respond to other calls for service.

## A DETACHMENT POSTS

### Ketchikan Post

1 Sergeant  
5 Troopers  
7 Radio Dispatchers

The Ketchikan post serves as A Detachment's headquarters. It is located at mile 7.3 North Tongass Highway in the Ketchikan Gateway Borough. Approximately 13,477 residents live within the borough. The troopers here are responsible for patrolling the 31 miles of highway and numerous side roads, and providing public safety for the nearly 5,500 residents who live outside the city of Ketchikan. The native village of Saxman, with a population of 411, is located near mile 2 of the South Tongass Highway. The village is also located in AST's area of responsibility. Post troopers also patrol in the small town of Hyder, located on the U.S.-Canadian border near the town of Stewart, British

Columbia. Because of this, Ketchikan post troopers have a close working relationship with the Royal Canadian Mounted Police stationed in Stewart. The detachment's dispatch center, located in Ketchikan, does an outstanding job of providing communications and information to numerous personnel and agencies in Southeast Alaska. It is the only 24-hour DPS dispatch center in the region. The dispatch center also serves the U.S. Forest Service's law enforcement officers in the area and is a resource for many of the municipal police departments. Other state agencies, such as adult probations, Office of Children's Services and juvenile probations, rely on the dispatch center for information as well.

### Juneau Post

1 Sergeant  
2 Troopers  
1 Radio Dispatcher

This post has four personnel assigned to serve an estimated 2,162 people living in 11 communities scattered throughout numerous islands and peninsulas in the Inner Passage of Alaska. The sergeant supervises the Juneau and Haines posts and oversees the Angoon, Kake, and Pelican Village Public Safety Officers (VPSO). Juneau troopers are responsible for patrolling the area outside the Borough of Juneau, however, they also conduct daily traffic enforcement throughout the entire city. Troopers are also responsible for all search and rescue events in the northern part of Southeast Alaska. This area stretches from just north of Yakutat, along





Lt. Andy Greenstreet salutes the vehicle carrying the bodies of Hoonah Police Officer Matthew Tokuoka and Sgt. Anthony Wallace as it boards a ferry bound for Hoonah for a memorial.



the Canadian border to the east and south to Petersburg. Juneau troopers investigate all crimes committed inside the area's two state correctional facilities and seven jails. These facilities have a combined total of 331 prisoner beds. Troopers often spend the majority of their on-duty time in outlying communities – most of which are only accessible by boat or floatplane – conducting investigations. The primary communities served by the Juneau post are Angoon, Elfin Cove, Gustavus, Pelican, and Tenakee Springs. The Juneau post also serves Whitestone Bay, Hobert Bay, Kake, Port Alexander, Kupreanof, Point Baker, and at times, people living outside of Wrangell and Petersburg. Hoonah and Yakutat also fall within Juneau post boundaries, but both towns have police departments that sometimes rely on Juneau troopers for assistance.

#### Klawock Post

1 Sergeant

2 Troopers

1 Administrative Clerk

This post is located in the City of Klawock on Prince of Wales Island, one of the largest islands in the United States. The Klawock troopers cover nearly 2,000 miles of roads, including logging trails, on the island. There are more than 12 communities with an estimated 4,012 people living on the island. Thorne Bay and Hydaburg are the only communities with a Village Public Safety Officer. Two of the communities, Klawock and Craig, have their own police departments that provide service for the estimated 1,956 that live in these two communities. However, the area covered by those police departments is minimal.



#### Haines Post

1 Trooper

The Haines post houses an Alaska State Trooper and an Alaska Wildlife Trooper. The AST trooper is supervised by the Juneau post sergeant. The Haines post is responsible for patrolling to the Canadian border, including the village of Klukwan and the area surrounding the Skagway Borough. During the tourist season, both U.S. and Canadian border crossings become extremely busy with people traveling to and from the ferries. The assigned trooper works closely with the U.S. Customs and Border Protection personnel at the border crossing, and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police and other Canadian officials. Haines is also the port of call for most of the Alaska Marine Highway System's passengers traveling through Alaska's Southeast Passage. Both Haines and the Skagway Borough have police departments, but the Haines post provides service for the estimated 795 people living outside these two communities separated by 15 water miles and 359 road miles.

#### SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

The unthinkable happened in Hoonah in August of 2010. In the blink of an eye, a lone gunman gunned down Hoonah Police Officer Matthew Tokuoka and Sgt. Anthony Wallace in front of their families, and then barricaded himself in his home nearby. With the entire law enforcement community in Alaska and the people in Hoonah in shock, Alaska State Troopers were called in to apprehend the suspect and bring him to justice.

Radio Dispatcher Tina Wood works at the AST dispatch center in Ketchikan.



In addition to A Detachment troopers, many members of Alaska State Troopers Special Emergency Reaction Team from across the state and several Juneau Police Department officers traveled to Hoonah to help with the standoff that lasted until the suspect surrendered two days after the shooting. During the early hours of the standoff, the U.S. Coast Guard and U.S. Forest Service transported the first troopers and Juneau police officers to Hoonah in the middle of the night. As the standoff continued, a Coast Guard cutter patrolled the waters and kept cruise ships and ferries traveling the Alaska Maine Highway System out of the immediate area. Then as family and people in Alaska grasped to understand what had just happened, it was placed upon the shoulders of many within the Alaska State Troopers to help them with the grieving process. A Detachment personnel planned the memorial for the fallen officers and supported their family members and the community. Law enforcement officers from around the country and Canada traveled to the little southeastern village to honor their brothers in arms who made the ultimate sacrifice. Meanwhile, investigators with the Alaska Bureau of Investigation flew from Anchorage to Hoonah to build a case against the shooter. A Detachment personnel also coordinated law enforcement support until the community was able to hire additional officers and resume a primary law enforcement role several months later.

#### ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITIES

**Tourism** – The tourism industry plays a major part in the financial stability of many of the communities in Southeast Alaska. Because of this, Alaska State Troopers are intimately involved with the Southeast Alaska

Maritime Security Committee, headed by the U.S. Coast Guard's port security captain. The committee meets regularly to discuss security threats against the cruise line industry and threats against Southeast Alaska. The committee consists of representatives from the Department of Public Safety, U.S. Coast Guard, local police departments, FBI, local harbor masters, companies that have businesses along the waterfront, and others that have some involvement with the tourism and cruise line industry. The exchange of information during these meetings is important to the region and helps increase the awareness to potential threats against the industry.

**Sexual assault investigations** – Another focus of the detachment's law enforcement activities is the investigation of sexual assaults and sexual abuse of minor cases, especially in the rural areas. These investigations are often time consuming and require a great deal of expertise. Since there are not any investigators assigned to the detachment, patrol troopers must conduct these types of investigations. As a result, detachment troopers are often sent to advanced-training courses to give them the skills they need to effectively investigate these crimes.

#### CHALLENGES

**Search and rescues** – The detachment averages approximately four dozen search and rescue missions each year, with the numbers continuing to increase. Search and rescues (SAR) increased by 10 from the previous year to 58. These SAR missions range from missing hunters, hikers, and boaters, to missing aircraft. Alaska State Troopers in the detachment do not have aircraft or vessels.





# AN "AVERAGE" A DETACHMENT TROOPER

If there were such a thing, the average A Detachment trooper would have been assigned or completed the following in 2010:

- Responsible for approximately 4,098 square miles
- Responsible for serving approximately 817 year-round members of the public
- Arrested 2 DUI drivers
- Issued 44 traffic citations
- Assigned 7 motor vehicle crashes to investigate
- Assigned or received 402 calls for service including criminal cases, civil cases and calls for assistance
- Handled 29 cases which resulted in an arrest or a report being referred for prosecution
- Transported dozens of prisoners
- Spent dozens of hours testifying in criminal trials or at traffic court
- Assigned 4 search and rescue related events
- Investigated 3 non-homicide death cases and 10 domestic violence related offenses

Alaska State Trooper Dan Brom



Patrol troopers must charter aircraft or rely on Alaska Wildlife Troopers to travel to outlying areas when needed. The SAR activity increases each year during the spring and summer months with the beginning of the tourist season and the influx of cruise ship traffic.

**Death investigations** – Detachment troopers investigated a total of 43 non-homicide deaths in 2010. Because A Detachment troopers are responsible for all public safety services provided to the cruise ships sailing in Alaskan waters, troopers investigated five cruise ship deaths in 2010. Troopers must travel to the cruise ship to conduct the death investigation. Most of these deaths occur while the ships are underway and not tied up to a municipality's dock. Some of these deaths require troopers to fly to an outlying community where the cruise ship can dock for boarding.

**Service to public** – The tourism industry has reported a 100 percent increase in tourism during the past 10 years, going from 497,808 to more than 1 million people visiting the area today. With the increase in tourism there comes an increase in search and rescues, deaths, thefts, assault investigations, and the need to respond to other calls for service. A Detachment troopers handled 5,232 calls for service in 2010 – on average of 402 per trooper.

**Prisoner transports** – The Department of Public Safety is responsible for transporting prisoners between the larger holding facilities

to their court proceedings in the outlying communities. With the number of facilities dotted throughout the region, and the need to constantly move prisoners to larger holding facilities, troopers often need to charter commercial aircraft to fly to the outlying areas to keep up with the transport demands. The task also takes troopers away from other duties, such as responding to calls for service or investigations.

## SUCSESSES

**Handling the workload** – Because the detachment is faced with a dramatic boom in population during the summer months each year, personnel, both commissioned and civilian, work hard to handle the additional workload without additional assistance and using the same resources available during the rest of the year.

**Investigating serious crimes** – The investigation of serious crimes, such as sexual assaults and sexual abuse of a minor cases, is another area in which the detachment performs well. The troopers receive the necessary training to conduct thorough and well-documented investigations. The attention to detail during these investigations is needed to effectively prosecute offenders. For 2010, detachment troopers investigated nine sexual abuse of a minor cases, resulting in 32 offenses and 10 sexual assault cases, resulting in 22 offenses.





# ALASKA STATE TROOPERS

## B Detachment



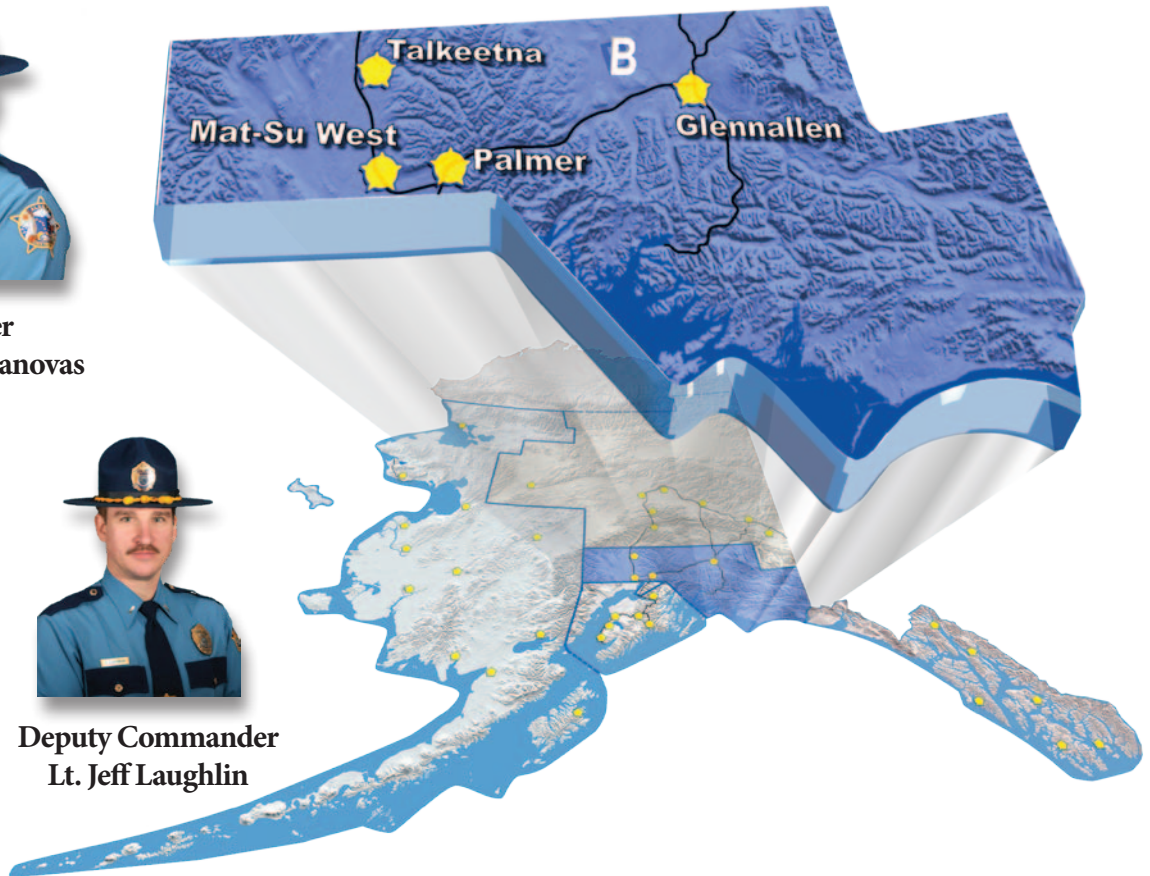
**Commander**  
Capt. Dennis Casanovas



**Deputy Commander**  
Lt. Patrick Davis



**Deputy Commander**  
Lt. Jeff Laughlin



### DETACHMENT COMMAND

Detachment Commander – Captain

Deputy Commander – Lieutenant (Palmer Post)

Deputy Commander – Lieutenant (Mat-Su West Post)

### DETACHMENT STAFF

1 Administrative Assistant

B Detachment of the Alaska State Troopers is located primarily in Southcentral Alaska. The patrol area borders the Municipality of Anchorage, the Kenai Peninsula Borough, the Denali Borough, and the Canadian Border. The detachment covers approximately 52,465 square miles of territory, an area slightly larger than the entire state of Alabama. A large portion of B Detachment encompasses the Matanuska-Susitna Borough. The borough's administrative building is located in Palmer.

Personnel wise, B Detachment is a medium-sized detachment. The detachment is authorized 42

commissioned Alaska State Troopers and 10 civilian employees.

### ROADWAYS AND HIGHWAYS

The detachment is responsible for 2,845 road miles within its boundaries. This is approximately 21 percent of the 13,298 miles of public roadway in Alaska. This does not take into consideration the vast number of trails that crisscross the detachment utilized by recreational traffic year-round.

In 2010, detachment troopers responded to 1,195 collisions on these roadways – an average of more than three per day and more than one-fourth of all collision investigations conducted by Alaska State Troopers statewide. Approximately one in four of these collisions involved a moose, caribou, or even a bear.





**Trooper Neal Miner of the Palmer post reads to students at Larson Elementary.**



## POPULATION SERVED

There are an estimated 98,183 residents living within the boundaries of B Detachment, an increase of 42 percent from 2000. Detachment troopers provide public safety to a vast majority of the residents. However, five cities have their own police departments and serve approximately 22 percent of this population. In addition to the detachment residents, countless tourists and residents from other regions of Alaska routinely travel in and out of B Detachment's boundaries for recreation and work throughout the year.

Houston, depending upon the availability of Houston Police Officers. Both trooper posts provide direct services such as sex offender registration and criminal background checks to the general public. Wasilla, Palmer, and Houston are incorporated communities with police departments.

### Glennallen Post

1 Sergeant  
3 Troopers  
1 Office Assistant

The Glennallen post is responsible for mile 110 to mile 187 of the Glenn Highway. The post's area of coverage also includes 186 miles of the Richardson Highway, starting just north of Valdez and running to Paxson. Coverage also includes 63 miles of the Tok Cutoff. Glennallen troopers are the primary law enforcement for Tatitlek and, upon request, serve as support and backup to Alaska Wildlife Troopers stationed in Valdez and Cordova. Glennallen troopers provide oversight and training to four Village Public Safety Officers that directly serve the villages of Tatitlek, Copper Center, Gulkana, and Tazlina.

## B DETACHMENT POSTS

### Palmer Post

2 Sergeants  
14 Troopers  
3 Office Assistants  
2 Criminal Justice Technicians

### Mat-Su West Post

2 Sergeants  
12 Troopers  
2 Office Assistants

Troopers from Palmer and Mat-Su West posts cover the same geographical area, from mile 30 to 110 of the Glenn Highway and also from mile 35 to mile 60 of the Parks Highway. Troopers share the Parks Highway from Mile 52 to 61, and respond to calls within the city limits of

### Talkeetna Post

1 Sergeant  
4 Troopers  
1 Office Assistant

The Talkeetna post has primary responsibility for the Parks Highway from mile 61 to 147, to include other rural roadways such as Nancy Lake Parkway,





**B Detachment sergeants and their commander: Sgt. Pat Nelson, Sgt. Kid Chan, Sgt. Jake Covey, Capt. Dennis Casanovas, Sgt. Dave Herrell, Sgt. Troy Shuey, and Sgt. Shane Nicholson.**



Willow Creek Parkway, Long Lake Road, Willow Fishhook to Hatcher Pass, Petersville Road, and the Talkeetna Spur to the community of Talkeetna. The area also includes the communities of Willow, Trapper Creek, Petersville, Susitna, and Skwetna. Troopers assigned to this post spend a majority of their time responding to calls for service. Traffic enforcement is conducted when time permits.

### B DETACHMENT ACTIVITY

Thirty-nine personnel from the ranks of trooper to sergeant assigned to patrol functions are responsible for responding to daily service requests from approximately 76,288 residents living outside of any city police department's jurisdiction. Excluding command staff, this is an average of one trooper serving every 1,956 people. With 28,340 requests for services – more than any other AST detachment or bureau – the detachment averages nearly 78 requests per day. Excluding command staff, on average, one trooper handles almost 726 calls per year.

Of the 28,340 requests for service during 2010 some of the more frequent events reported were:

- 1,195 motor vehicle collisions
- \*988 theft offenses
- \*611 vandalism offenses
- 701 assault offenses
- \*327 burglary offenses
- \*505 DUI offenses
- 222 non-homicide death investigations
- 257 trespass offenses
- \*highest among detachments and bureaus

There are approximately 675 inmates housed in the three Department of Corrections institutions located within B Detachment: the Mat-Su Pretrial facility in Palmer, the Palmer Correctional Center near Sutton, and Point MacKenzie Correctional Farm. Construction by the Mat-Su Borough for the Goose Creek Correctional Center began in 2009. This facility is expected to be leased by the Department of Corrections and will begin accepting nearly 1,500 inmates in the spring of 2012 with an anticipated full occupancy scheduled for fiscal year 2014.

Correctional institutions not only rely upon the Alaska Bureau of Judicial Services for support in moving prisoners to and from court, but also rely upon B Detachment for response and investigation of criminal conduct involving visitors, inmates, and staff. Troopers in the detachment also investigate the death of inmates as well as investigations of smuggled contraband and prisoner escapes.

A Highway Safety Corridor from mile 44 to mile 52.5 of the Parks Highway was created in B Detachment in October of 2006. In July of 2009, a second Highway Safety Corridor was enacted on Knik Goose Bay Road from mile 0.6 to 17.2. Traffic violations within the corridors are subject to double fines. In 2010, B Detachment troopers wrote 297 citations within safety corridors. Detachment troopers wrote a total of 5,721 traffic citations.







**Trooper Joel Miner enjoys the nice weather while on patrol near Lake Louise.**



## CHALLENGES

**Highway enforcement** – There are nearly 3,000 road miles within B Detachment. Many of the roadways are considered near capacity for the efficient movement of traffic. A 24-hour vehicle count by the Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities on the Glenn Highway near the borders of the Mat-Su Borough and Municipality of Anchorage recorded more than 30,000 vehicles using the highway during March in each of the years 2007-2009. While this one-day vehicle count seems astounding, it is even more impressive when you take into consideration that the number of cars on this road increases during the summer months by an additional 30 percent. The increase is attributed, in part, to the arrival of tourists as well as more recreational users and construction vehicles being used in the summer.

**Service to the public** – B Detachment is constantly trying to keep up with the public's demand for services. Troopers in this region often respond to emergency calls by themselves. Due to the overwhelming number of requests for law enforcement services, the public has become accustomed to having to wait, sometimes for hours, for a trooper to respond or to make contact via telephone.

**Evidence storage and security** – B Detachment's evidence facilities in Palmer are barely sufficient to keep up with the ever-increasing number of items that are seized and held,

sometimes for years, while criminal and civil litigation winds its way through the courts. In 2010, an additional 9,728 new items of evidence were received, nearly 10 percent more new items than the year prior. Some items were large pieces of furniture, tires, appliances, tools, firearms, as well as items that needed to be kept refrigerated such as blood, urine, and perishable consumable items that needed to be kept frozen. There are two civilian evidence custodians who are nearly overwhelmed with the requirements of receiving evidence, cataloging it, storing it, retrieving it for lawyer viewing or for court presentation; and responsible for the timely release and destruction of the evidence when it is no longer needed. This region is in need of a consolidated evidence facility and adequate civilian personnel to address the increased evidence storage and handling needs.

**Patrolling special events** – Several other major community events took place in 2010, which taxed resources of the Alaska State Troopers. Some of them are:

- Iditarod Trail Dog Sled Race restart in Willow in March
- Moose Dropping Festival in Talkeetna in July
- Fireweed 400 bicycle race from Sheep Mountain to Valdez and back in July
- Hoka Hey Motorcycle Challenge, a motorcycle race from Florida to Homer, Alaska in July
- Copper River salmon dip netting season, which attracts thousands of anglers to the Copper Center area during June and July





**B Detachment Alaska State Troopers, Court Services Officers, AST Chaplains, and canine, Roelle.**

## AN "AVERAGE" B DETACHMENT TROOPER

If there were such a thing, the average B Detachment trooper would have been assigned or completed the following in 2010:

- ❖ Responsible for approximately 1,345 square miles
- ❖ Responsible for serving approximately 1,956 year-round members of the public
- ❖ Arrested 12 DUI drivers
- ❖ Issued 146 traffic citations
- ❖ Assigned 30 motor vehicle crashes to investigate
- ❖ Assigned or received 726 calls for service including criminal cases, civil cases and calls for assistance
- ❖ Handled 65 cases which resulted in an arrest or a report being referred for prosecution
- ❖ Transported dozens of prisoners
- ❖ Spent dozens of hours testifying in criminal trials or at traffic court
- ❖ Investigated 6 non-homicide death cases and 22 domestic violence related offenses

### SUCCESES

**Highway enforcement** – Troopers in B Detachment take driving safety very seriously. After all, the more bad driving habits that can be corrected the more collisions we can prevent, the less property damage that occurs and the less pain and suffering families have to endure when loved ones are injured or even killed. In 2010, detachment troopers wrote 5,721 traffic citations and charged 461 defendants for driving while their license was suspended. Troopers also generated 505 driving under the influence charges – an average of more than one DUI charge per day. Because of the affects drugs and alcohol impairment have on driving skills, there is a good chance these arrests prevented more crashes from happening.

**Recruit training** – B Detachment is one of three field training locations for AST. In 2010, 13 Alaska

State Trooper Recruits reported to the detachment for an intensive 19 weeks of training. During this time, more experienced troopers took the new employees under their wings and provided them with training and evaluated the new employee's performance on a daily basis. It also takes a tremendous amount of energy and dedication, and even patience by the citizens we serve. New employees are ultimately molded into knowledgeable, objective, and empathetic enforcers of the law.

**Establishment of VPSOs** – The Village Public Safety Officer program in the Glennallen area increased by two VPSO positions in 2010 to a total of four for B Detachment. Troopers recognize the challenges associated with having VPSOs working on the highway system. They work very closely with, and provide training to, these Copper River Native Association employees.





# ALASKA STATE TROOPERS

## C Detachment



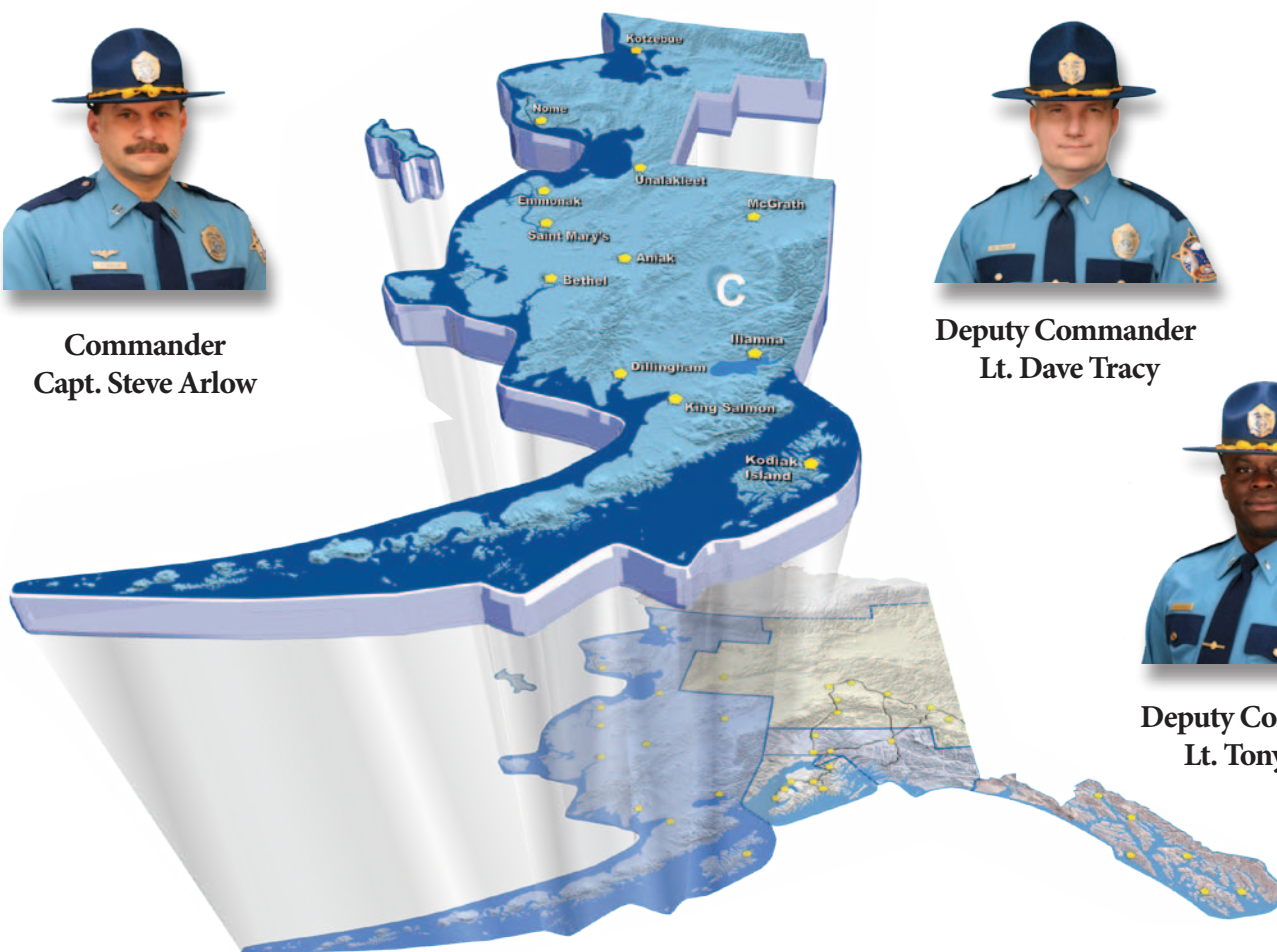
**Commander**  
**Capt. Steve Arlow**



**Deputy Commander**  
**Lt. Dave Tracy**



**Deputy Commander**  
**Lt. Tony April**



### DETACHMENT COMMAND

Detachment Commander – Captain  
Deputy Commander – Lieutenant (Anchorage)  
Deputy Commander – Lieutenant (Bethel)

### DETACHMENT STAFF

1 Administrative Assistant  
1 Accounting Technician  
1 Office Assistant III

The population of C Detachment, the largest geographical detachment within the Division of Alaska State Troopers, is significantly scattered throughout an area larger than the state of California. C Detachment covers Western Alaska, the Aleutian Chain, and the Kodiak Island Area – an area from the coast of the Bering Sea and Pacific Ocean inland – and from Kodiak Island north to the Arctic Circle.

There are approximately 72,314 people living in the 216,077 square miles of land within detachment boundaries – an average of 2.9 people per square mile. In addition, there are 19,347 miles of coastal area within detachment boundaries. There are 53 commissioned troopers, including a captain and two lieutenants, allocated to C Detachment to serve the estimated 40,383 people that rely on Alaska State Troopers as their primary provider of public safety. Not counting the command staff, there is an average of one trooper for every 807 residents. Each trooper was responsible for 4,321 square miles of area in 2010. However, full staffing has not been obtained in many years.

While troopers provide public safety to a majority of the residents, 14 communities have their own police departments and serve approximately 44 percent of the population concentrated in regional hubs within C





**C Detachment Commander  
Capt. Steve Arlow gives Vil-  
lage Public Safety Officer Sgt.  
John Pleasant a pat of encour-  
agement while Pleasant works  
on reports at the Bethel post.**



Detachment boundaries. The rest of the population is scattered throughout the detachment without the benefit of a unified road system. All of Western Alaska is considered off the road system, meaning traveling to communities from Alaska's urban centers is only possible by aircraft or watercraft. Travel between most of the communities also depends on these modes of transportation. Residents often rely on snowmachines and all-terrain vehicles for transportation – motorized vehicles that others living in urban Alaska reserve for recreational use. Troopers assist city police departments when requested or in emergencies such as a crime in progress or a domestic violence. Troopers also provide assistance for any major case investigations upon request. Troopers are also tasked with the transportation of a significant number of arrestees from the department both financially and logistically. The logistics include the transfer of prisoners to and from outlying communities and the regional correctional facilities.

Various seasonal activities occur within this region and increase the population considerably. In the Bristol Bay and Kodiak regions, major commercial fisheries operate in the spring and summer, bringing employment and outside residents from around the world. Sport fishing and hunting activities also substantially increase the population, which results in an increase in crime and search and rescue commitments and associated crimes and calls for service

Not surprisingly, the detachment provides public service to diverse cultures, including a higher percentage of Alaska Natives than anywhere else in the state. Western Alaska has been the home to Inupiat, Yupik, Aleuts, and Athabascans for thousands of years.

What is unique about being an Alaska State Trooper

in C Detachment is both the requirement and the opportunity to practice law enforcement missions in a non-traditional way. For example, C Detachment troopers need to safely and confidently operate non-traditional modes of transportation such as all-terrain vehicles, snowmachines, aircraft, and boats in some of the most extreme environmental conditions on the planet. The climate, as well as the remoteness, hampers travel between trooper posts and the communities they serve. Temperatures can dip as low as 80 degrees below zero and are often accompanied by harsh storms. Troopers must be able to work independently and with the knowledge that back-up may be hours or sometimes days away. Troopers often rely on villagers to assist them. In an urban area, other law enforcement resources are almost always available to assist. Troopers in rural Alaska must establish positive relationships in each of the villages in order to have a support net available when needed. Many villages appreciate this method of law enforcement and have a sense of involvement with public safety within their communities when crime occurs or when search and rescue missions are activated. This method of policing has been in place in rural Alaska for many years, embodies the core of community policing concepts, and precedes similar policing efforts in other areas of the country by decades.

#### **Anchorage Service Unit**

1 Sergeant  
1 Trooper

The detachment headquarters in Anchorage also houses the troopers assigned to the Anchorage Service Unit. The sergeant of this unit coordinates all training for the Village Public Safety Officer program. This training





**Anchorage Service Unit Trooper Vic Aye visits Village Public Safety Officer Mike Lejarzar in Saint George. Aye provides oversight to Lejarzar and other VPSOs located throughout the Aleutian Chain.**



is also made available to Village Police Officers who fall within the different village or tribal government run police departments. C Detachment is responsible for managing the VPSO program for the Department of Public Safety. The VPSO program had 86 VPSO positions authorized statewide with 78 of them filled at the end of 2010. Sixty of these VPSOs work within C Detachment boundaries. During the course of his duties in 2010, the ASU sergeant made:

- Four separate trips to the DPS academy in support of the VPSO academy
- Two trips to Dutch Harbor; one for regional VPSO training and another for a felony trial investigated by the unit
- Four trips to Bethel to support two basic Village Police Officer academies and for VPSO regional training
- One trip to Copper Center in support of the VPSO Program in the region
- One site visit to Angoon in support of the VPSO Program in the region
- Two visits to Gustavus in support of the VPSO Program in the region
- One visit to Juneau in support of regional VPSO training
- Two trips to Fairbanks; one in support of Alaska Federation of Natives annual convention coupled with training in the region and another for a quarterly VPSO coordinator meeting
- One trip to Dillingham in support of regional VPSO training

arrest warrants, temporary duty assignments at other detachment posts when needed, and other special projects. The trooper assigned to this unit in 2010 conducted extensive travel and support to the communities within the area of responsibility, investigating criminal cases, search and rescue, and providing Drug and Alcohol Resistance Education (D.A.R.E.) training within some of the schools on the Aleutian Chain. This trooper also participated in D.A.R.E. as a mentor. In 2010, this trooper made four trips to the Aleutian Chain and three trips to other villages within the detachment to help support other posts when needed. The villages that fall within this trooper's area of responsibility in the past fell underneath the Cold Bay post. However, that post has been vacant for several years.

## C DETACHMENT POSTS

### Bethel Post

2 Sergeants  
10 Troopers  
1 State Pilot II  
3 Office Assistants

Bethel, with a population of 6,080 residents, is the largest town in Southwestern Alaska. Bethel serves as a hub for the 56 surrounding Native villages scattered throughout the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta, an area that is roughly the size of Oregon. The city has its own police department, but staffing numbers have fluctuated over the years and has on occasion asked Alaska State Troopers for assistance with investigating serious crimes. Bethel is also home to the Association of Village Council Presidents, the nonprofit organization that supports the 56 federally-recognized villages in the region. The second largest of the 13 regional Native Corporations, Calista Corporation, and 46 individual



Meanwhile, the ASU trooper is responsible for calls for service on the Aleutian Chain, prisoner transports, special traffic enforcement on the Seward and Glenn Highways, enforcement of sex offender registration violations, serving



Sgt. Greg Lavin and Village Public Safety Officer Sgt. John Pleasant, both of the Bethel post, prepare to attend a town council meeting in Mountain Village.



village corporations are located in the Y-K Delta region. The airport in Bethel has two runways – the main runway is 6,400 feet long and 150 feet wide. The crosswind runway is 1,850 feet long and 75 feet wide. There is daily jet service between Bethel and Anchorage for passengers and cargo while smaller air taxis service surrounding villages. The air taxis are the primary means of transportation for troopers responding to calls for service in the villages. However, a state pilot works out of the Bethel post and is often utilized for transportation to other villages and in search and rescues. The port of Bethel is the northern-most medium draft port in the United States. River travel is the primary means of local transportation in the summer. A barge service based in Bethel transports goods to the Kuskokwim villages. In the winter, the Kuskokwim River becomes a 150-mile ice road to surrounding villages. One or two of the Bethel troopers must cover the superior and district courts needs within Bethel. This includes daily prisoner transports to and from the jail to courtrooms and transporting prisoners into Bethel from outlying villages. In 2010, several Court Services Officers were temporarily assigned to the Bethel post to help with these duties and assist the CSO that filled one of the two positions assigned in Bethel. Troopers there provided oversight for 20 VPSOs in the region. The Bethel post serves the following 27 villages with an estimated 12,016 residents in the Y-K Delta:

Akiachak	Napakiak
Akiak	Napaskiak
Atmautluak	Newtok
Chefornak	Nightmute
Chevak	Nunapitchuk
Eek	Oscarville
Goodnews Bay	Platinum
Hooper Bay	Quinhagak

Kasigluk  
Kipnuk  
Kongiganak  
Kwethluk  
Kwigillingok  
Makoryuk

Scammon Bay  
Toksook Bay  
Tuluksak  
Tuntutuliak  
Tununak

#### Aniak Post

1 Sergeant  
3 Troopers  
1 Office Assistant III

Aniak is a community with an estimated population of 501 residents. The city does not have its own police department. It is east of Bethel by 150 river miles and 90 air miles. The village sits on the southern bank of the Kuskokwim River at the head of Aniak Slough. The village encompasses five square miles of land. The total population in all villages covered by the Aniak post is 1,990. The economy is based on government, transportation, and retail services. The Aniak sergeant supervises the posts in McGrath, St. Mary's, and Emmonak and makes frequent trips to these villages. Troopers at the post provide oversight to the VPSO in Upper Kalskag, the only VPSO position filled in the area of coverage in 2010. The post serves the following 14 communities in addition to Aniak:

Anvik	Lower Kalskag
Chuathbaluk	Napaimute
Crooked Creek	Red Devil
Georgetown	Shageluk
Grayling	Sleetmute
Holy Cross	Stony River
Lime Village	Upper Kalskag





Trooper Steve Kevan of the St. Mary's post dons rubber gloves before handling evidence in a home-brew case.



### McGrath Post 1 Trooper

This new position provided support needed within the region in 2010. This assigned trooper happened to be a department pilot and operated the Cessna 182. He provided aircraft support to the Aniak post as well. McGrath has 346 residents and is located in the upper Kuskokwim River, approximately 220 air miles from Anchorage and is on the Iditarod Trail. Due to a military presence during World War II, it has a 5,435-foot asphalt runway, greatly enhancing accessibility. The economy is based on government and tourist-related industries. The trooper in McGrath provided oversight to the VPSO in the village in 2010. Besides McGrath, the trooper provides service for 172 people living throughout four other small communities, and reaches outside detachment boundaries to cover Lake Minchumina due to the mobility of having an aircraft assigned at the post.

Lake Minchumina   Takotna  
Nikolia   Teilda

### St. Mary's Post 2 Troopers

The population in St. Mary's is approximately 507. The community is located on the north bank of the Andreafski River, five miles from its confluence with the Yukon River. The community participates in a commercial salmon fishery during the summer months. The community includes the main village and the

neighboring Andreafski. A 22-mile road links the main village and Andreafski to the east, Pitka's Point to the west, and an airport and Mountain Village to the north. The city police department disbanded a few years ago. St. Mary's troopers provided oversight to the seven VPSOs in their area in 2010. Due to vacancies in Emmonak for almost all of 2010, the two troopers in St. Mary's were tasked with providing service to the three villages in that area in addition to the 2,216 people within the five communities normally covered by the St. Mary's post.

Marshall   Pitkas Point  
Mountain Village   Russian Mission  
Pilot Station

### Emmonak Post 2 Troopers

The post is located in a community on the lower Yukon River with approximately 762 residents. The economy is based on government and commercial fisheries. This post was filled by two troopers working a two-on/two-off alternate schedule in December of 2010. This schedule provided for one trooper to be in the village working 12 hours a day for two weeks – the first of its kind in many years for Alaska State Troopers. In addition to Emmonak, the post normally provides public safety to the 1,441 residents living in the following villages:

Alakanuk   Nunam Iqua  
Kotlik



**Trooper Bill Connors of the Emmonak post checks the serial number on a rifle.**



### **Dillingham Post**

1 Sergeant  
3 Troopers  
1 Office Assistant III

Dillingham, a community with approximately 2,329 residents, is located at the extreme northern end of Nushagak Bay in northern Bristol Bay at the confluence of the Nushagak River. It lies 327 miles southwest of Anchorage. The city is reachable by air and sea only. The fishing industry is the primary economic source in the area. The Bristol Bay watershed is known to have one of the largest salmon runs in the world. The city has its own police department. The Dillingham post was responsible for providing judicial services until the Alaska Judicial Bureau added a Court Services Officer position. A CSO was assigned to the post in June 2009. That CSO operated under the bureau, but was supervised by the Dillingham sergeant and a sergeant at the Anchorage Judicial Services Unit. In times where there had no CSO, troopers completed tasks for the superior and district courts in Dillingham by moving prisoners to and from court as well as back and forth from Anchorage. Troopers provided court security if needed and served summonses, subpoenas, and writs issued by the court. The Dillingham Police Department runs the local jail, which has a consistent problem of being over the allowable inmate capacity. This requires Dillingham troopers to conduct weekly prisoner transports to Anchorage at a considerable expense to the state. Dillingham troopers provided oversight to the six VPSOs in their area in 2010. The post services the 1,701 residents in the following nine communities outside Dillingham:

Aleknagik  
Clark's Point  
Ekuk  
Ekwok  
Koliganek

Manokotak  
New Stuyahok  
Portage Creek  
Twin Hills

### **Cold Bay Post**

No Trooper position

Cold Bay, a community with roughly 108 residents, does not have a city police department nor has it had an official DPS post in many years. There are police departments in King Cove, Sand Point, and Unalaska that are a relatively short plane ride away. Because of its central location in the Izembek National Wildlife Refuge on the western end of the Alaska Peninsula, Cold Bay serves as the regional center for air transportation on the Alaska Peninsula, and as an international hub for private aircraft. The VPSO program has a strong presence in this region with VPSOs in Akutan, Atka, and Nelson Lagoon. The VPSO positions in False Pass and Nikolski were vacant in 2010. Adak has a police officer that like the VPSOs, receives support from the Anchorage Service Unit trooper. With help from the Alaska Wildlife Troopers stationed in Dutch Harbor, the Anchorage Service Unit trooper and troopers from the Dillingham post service the following eight communities with 1,912 residents in the Cold Bay region:

Adak  
Akutan  
Atka  
Cold Bay

Nelson Lagoon  
False Pass  
Nikolski  
Saint George





**Trooper Luis Nieves of the Kotzebue post keeps an eye on a Selawik student as he tries to walk a straight line while wearing vision goggles that mimic the effects of being impaired by drugs or alcohol.**



### **King Salmon Post** 2 Troopers

Most of the King Salmon area, to include Naknek, and the 997 residents that reside in this area are served by the Bristol Bay Borough Police Department. The department is located on the U.S. Air Force Base in King Salmon. However, troopers provide direct public safety services to 10 other communities for a combined population of 722 people. The number of residents increases dramatically during the summer months due to the fishing industry. Tens of thousands of visitors pass through the King Salmon airport each summer. King Salmon troopers provided oversight to the three VPSOs in their area in 2010. The King Salmon post is supervised by the Dillingham sergeant. The post services the following communities:

Chignik	Levelock
Chignik Lagoon	Perryville
Chignik Lake	Pilot Point
Egegik	Port Heiden
Ivanof Bay	Ugashik

### **Iliamna Post** 1 Trooper

Iliamna is located on the northwest side of Lake Iliamna and has a population of 109 residents. Tourism, sport fishing, and commercial fishing are the economic base for this area. If the proposed Pebble Mine becomes a reality, this region may see a boom in mining like none other seen in Alaska in this era. This would have a definite impact on the current law

enforcement presence, possibly requiring additional staffing to maintain adequate levels of service. The Iliamna post is supervised by the Dillingham sergeant. The Iliamna trooper provided oversight to the VPSO in Newhalen, who was the only VPSO in the area in 2010. In addition to Iliamna, the post services the following seven communities with an additional 781 residents.

Igiugig	Pedro Bay
Kokhanok	Port Alsworth
Newhalen	Pope-Vannoy Landing
Nondalton	

### **Kotzebue Post** 1 Sergeant 5 Troopers 1 Office Assistant III

The post is located in Kotzebue, a town on a three-mile long gravel spit at the end of the Baldwin Peninsula in the Kotzebue Sound. Kotzebue troopers cover the 10 villages scattered throughout an area about the size of Indiana. A sub-hub office was established in the village of Selawik to allow more frequent trooper visits due to this community's population and increased calls for service. Prisoner transports between this region and the Anvil Mountain Correctional Center in Nome occur weekly, often impacting trooper duties and responses to calls for service. The courthouse accommodates both a superior and district court. The 10 villages and community outside Kotzebue consist of a total of 4,013 residents – plus the 309 people living and working at the Red Dog Mine. The open-pit mine located about 90 miles north of Kotzebue is





Trooper Aileen Witrosky of the Nome post stands outside the school in Shishmaref with Darren, the Drugs Abuse Resistance Education mascot, and Eddie Eagle, the mascot for the NRA gun safety education program.



one of the largest producers of zinc concentrate. Kotzebue troopers provided oversight to the two VPSOs in the area in 2010. Kotzebue has approximately 3,201 residents and its own city police department that also runs the city jail. The jail has limited capacity, requiring transports of prisoners back and forth between the courthouse in Kotzebue and the larger correctional facility in Nome. Kotzebue is also the regional hub for the area. Air travel is the primary means of transportation year round. Snowmachines are used in the winter for local transportation. The Kotzebue post services the following communities that are not connected by roads, but rather by snowmachine trails or rivers:

Ambler	Noatak
Buckland	Noorvik
Deering	Red Dog Mine
Kiana	Selawik
Kivalina	Shungnak
Kobuk	

#### **Nome Post**

1 Sergeant

5 Troopers

2 Office Assistant I

The Nome post provides coverage to an area on the Seward Peninsula and nearby Saint Lawrence Island. It also provides assistance to the Nome Police Department when requested. Nome has a population of 3,598 residents and lies 539 air miles northwest of Anchorage, 102 miles south of the Arctic Circle and 161 miles east of Russia. Nome is a regional center of transportation for surrounding villages. The post is responsible for approximately 250

miles of roads that access several villages and small seasonal communities such as Safety, Council, and Cripple Creek. This network of roads provides Nome troopers the responsibility to conduct road safety enforcement including DUI patrols and motor vehicle crash investigations. Court Services Officers are responsible for the transport of defendants from Anvil Mountain Correctional Center to the 2nd Judicial District Courthouse on a daily basis for a variety of hearings. However, Nome troopers share the task of transporting prisoners from the Kotzebue jail to the larger facility in Nome twice a week for court hearings to ensure the jail in Kotzebue remains below the 14 prisoner maximum. Nome is also one of the only communities in Western Alaska that allows the legal sale and consumption of alcohol. This draws people from throughout the region and creates a transient population that increases the problem of chronic inebriates on the streets. The mining industry is also experiencing growth due to increased gold prices, bringing in large companies as well as individual prospectors. Tourists flood the town every March for the end of the Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race and during the summer months for bird watching of exotic species. Nome troopers provided oversight to six VPSOs in the area in 2010. Nome post provides services to approximately 3,500 residents as well as assisting the troopers in Unalakleet handle calls from Stebbins and Saint Michael.

Brevig Mission	Savoonga
Council	Shishmaref
Diomedes	Solomon
Elim	Teller
Gambell	Wales
Golovin	White Mountain
Port Clarence	



## C DETACHMENT STATISTICS

Offense	2008	2009	2010
Sexual Assaults	161	132	171
Sexual Abuse of a Minor	121	102	172
Felony and Misdemeanor Assaults	872	881	1,144
Homicides	3	6	9
Suicides	24	15	23
Calls for Service	12,050	14,404	16,964
Burglaries	240	227	107

Alaska State Trooper Sgt. Duane Stone



### Unalakleet Post

2 Troopers

Unalakleet is located on the Norton Sound along the coast of the Bering Sea at the mouth of the Unalakleet River. It has an estimated population of approximately 688 and a commercial-size airport. This community has no police department as it was dissolved years ago. It is one of the last checkpoints for the Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race. It is also a central hub for outlying villages, providing a link to Anchorage. The town has a state-owned runway that is approximately 6,000-feet long. The post falls under the supervision of the Nome sergeant. Unalakleet troopers provided oversight for the three VPSOs in that area in 2010. The post serves the following villages with an additional 1,540 residents:

Koyuk  
Saint Michael

Shaktoolik  
Stebbins

### Kodiak Post

1 Sergeant  
5 Troopers  
3 Radio Dispatchers

This post has C Detachment's only state dispatch center. Kodiak has a police department to serve the population of 6,130 residents that live within city limits. Approximately 1,307 people living on the U.S. Coast Guard's Kodiak Station, the largest Coast Guard base in the country, fall under the direct jurisdiction of the military police. At 3,588 square miles, Kodiak Island is the largest island in Alaska and second in size only to Hawaii when looking at the entire country. It has a large tourist and commercial

fishing industry. The seat of Kodiak Island Borough government is in Kodiak. The borough includes the entire island and a small strip of land across the Shelikof Strait on the western side of the Alaska Peninsula. The AST post serves an estimated 4,590 residents scattered throughout the borough – most of which live right outside Kodiak city limits. Approximately 1,812 of those residents live in more remote communities located both on and off the road system and some on surrounding islands. Kodiak troopers provided oversight for the five VPSOs in the area in 2010. The post provides service to the following communities outside of Kodiak:

Akhiok  
Aleneva  
Chiniak  
Karluk  
Larsen Bay

Old Harbor  
Ouzinkie  
Port Lions  
Womens Bay

## C DETACHMENT ACTIVITY

Western Alaska continues to have a proportionally high level of violence sexual assaults, sexual abuse of a minor and assault cases as compared to the relatively low population. C Detachment troopers handled somewhere around one-third of all the violations division-wide for these three crimes in 2010. Division-wide, the detachment handled:

- 1,144 of the 3,775 total assault violations
- 171 of the 322 total sexual assault violations
- 172 of the 367 total sexual assault of a minor violations

In 2010, the number of death investigations increased in the detachment from 135 cases to 203. Of



Nome post supervisor Sgt. Andrew Merrill and a student at the Anvil City Science Academy try to call the trooper post in Nome with a satellite phone during a survival and preparedness course Merrill teaches.



this number, five were homicides. Total calls for service increased again in 2010 to 16,964 from the 14,404 in 2009.

**Alcohol and drugs** – Alcohol and drugs within this region have a major influence on case activity. Most of the communities have voted to prohibit alcohol. In 2009, a strong push in Kotzebue and Bethel from community members repealed the long standing restrictions on alcohol. This relaxing of the law brought a sharp increase of available alcohol within the region and a decrease in the cost of bootlegged alcohol. The availability of alcohol in the hub communities has created the opportunity for increase movement of alcohol to the option communities. Those communities have sought to have increased efforts made in the interception of alcohol coming to their communities. The practice of bootlegging or making homebrew equates to a large portion of case activities or has a direct correlation to the serious crimes being committed. Taking illegal drugs or misusing prescription drugs is also prevalent throughout the region.

**Suicides** – The number of suicides statewide under AST jurisdiction was 83 in 2010. Of those, 23 were in C Detachment. This was a significant increase from 2009. Alcohol and drug use drastically contributed to the number of suicides within the detachment. Suicides tend to have a domino effect on a population. According to a 2004 study conducted by the state of Alaska, the suicide rate for Alaska was 23.4 per 100,000. That is more than double the U.S. rate of 11 per 100,000 people. The department and detachment have actively increased efforts in informing the public of this concern and have combined efforts with nonprofit organizations to assist

in outreach and education. AST hopes people will reach out to others in need before a suicide or a suicide attempt takes place. Suicides are 100 percent preventable. Initial help for troubled individuals is a phone call away. The department will not rest in its efforts until the number of suicides is zero.

**Seriousness of crimes** – The types of crimes investigated by C Detachment troopers on a daily basis are often of a more serious nature than what an urban patrol officer responds to investigate. Additional training such as child forensic interview techniques for Alaska Native children, Sexual Assault Response Team (SART) training, and crime scene investigation training, are provided to detachment troopers to give them the tools needed to put together the best case possible for prosecution. The staff study regarding prosecution success mentioned earlier in this report illustrates how valuable this training is for the troopers and the local community.

**Public awareness** – The release of two major media projects in 2010 enhanced the public's awareness of law enforcement in rural Alaska in 2010. The first was the National Geographic series highlighting Alaska State Troopers and the challenges of law enforcement in rural Alaska. The second big project was DPS-sponsored video on how the bad choices made as a youth or young adult effects people's abilities to live healthy lifestyles, limits career opportunities, and often results in criminal behavior and criminal records. The video highlights real people living in rural Alaska who share their stories in hopes that the following generations do not make the same mistakes. The video, "Choices," was sent to most





## VILLAGE CRIME REDUCTION AND COMMUNITY-ORIENTED POLICING PROGRAM

During the sweep, teams made 476 contacts to include 71 sex offenders and made 74 arrests. The arrests include:

- 19 warrant arrests
- 16 sex offenders out of compliance of registration requirements
- 12 for assault offenses
- 10 for homebrew offenses
- 1 for a DUI offense
- 2 for drug offenses
- 1 for a trespassing offense
- 1 for contraband offense

Other activity during the operation included:

- 3 search and rescue operations
- 1 murder-suicide investigation.



rural schools, youth correctional facilities, and health professional programs dealing with youth in hopes of changing the tide of alcoholism and drug abuse and the damaging effects it has in Alaska.

### EVENTS

**Village Crime Reduction and Community-Oriented Policing Program** – In December, Alaska State Troopers, Alaska Bureau of Alcohol and Drug Enforcement agents, U.S. Marshals and U.S. Postal Inspection Service officers, along with several other federal and local agencies, traveled by airplane and snowmachine to 14 villages in the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta during a week-long operation called the Village Crime Reduction and Community-Oriented Policing Program. The 34 law enforcement agents involved, including U.S. Marshals from the Lower 48, contacted individuals required to register with the Sex Offender and Child Kidnapper registry, investigated suspected bootleggers, performed probation compliance checks, and responded to calls for service. Community-oriented policing aspect was vital in fostering positive relationships between villages and law enforcement officers during this multi-faceted operation. By meeting with community leaders, school officials, and the people living in the villages, more and more individuals realize they have to be a part of the process to reach the goal. The contacts resulted in 16 arrests of individuals for being out of compliance of their sex offender registry requirements. During the contacts, photos were taken of the offenders and their home coordinates were logged and documented. Holding offenders accountable is one way for communities to safeguard families.



### CHALLENGES

**Facilities and prisoner transports** – In 2010, C Detachment continued to spend an exorbitant amount of state funds moving prisoners. This has a huge impact on the department budget. In the first six months of 2010, C Detachment transported 1,374 prisoners at a cost of \$593,873 in transportation cost alone. The cost of work hours is a significant additional expense. With a detachment of only 50 troopers, these numbers equate to roughly 7.5 prisoners transported each day during that time frame. This improvement from 2009 is due to the work by the post supervisors who coordinated with the court system on when to move individuals based on court hearing needs. In 2010, Kotzebue troopers were responsible for transporting over 700 prisoners between Kotzebue and Anvil Mountain Correctional Center in Nome for local court proceedings at a cost of \$213,378. A similar situation occurs in Kodiak, where prisoners are transferred to Anchorage jails due to overcrowding. These statistics justify the need for more CSOs within the detachment to take some of the burden of transporting prisoners and freeing up troopers to do other duties. Many of the detachment's small posts only have one jail cell. Troopers must guard prisoners until they can be properly transported to hub communities where larger holding facilities are located. Because community jail guards are difficult to hire, sometimes troopers work their shift and then work additional hours watching, feeding, and caring for prisoners. It is not uncommon for one trooper to escort seven or more prisoners alone on a small charter aircraft.

**Nome Office Assistant Kim Grimmer helps Trooper Garrett Frost log an item into evidence.**



**Understanding cultural differences** – Troopers assigned to C Detachment must familiarize themselves with the cultural differences of the people of the region. A trooper will have little success in this region if he or she does not consider cultural differences when applying the law. The department requires troopers to attend cultural sensitivity training when assigned to the region. This training benefits all troopers and can be applied in the urban settings as well.

**Staffing** – Staffing of civilian positions continues to be a challenge for C Detachment. Much of this is attributed to the high cost of living within the region and great attraction to private sector jobs. The clerical staff is frequently recruited to the private sector, which often pays more. These vacancies directly affect the overall mission of AST. The detachment asked support staff from other regions to help fill in, but these requests are expensive, burdensome on staff that travel, and disrupts the workplace of those locations that lose their staff to assist. The lack of support staff requires troopers to perform excessive clerical duties and requires command staff to go through time-consuming hiring procedures. Staff continues to work some weekends, holidays, and extended shifts on a weekly basis just to try to keep up with demands. Although overtime was excessive, the bigger concern was overwork burnout. Post vacancies, and three troopers within the detachment suffering long-term work-related injuries, frequently forced troopers throughout the detachment to work overtime to fill in.

**State housing** – State housing units are available in different villages to house troopers in one central location within the community. However, they also

provide additional unique duties for first line supervisors and command staff. These units include a 20-unit housing complex and recreation hall in Bethel; an eight-unit complex in Kotzebue; a five-unit in Aniak; a six-unit in Dillingham; a two-unit complex each in King Salmon, Unalakleet, Emmonak, and Illiamna. With the exception of Aniak housing, the Department of Public Safety leases housing from private entities in those communities. The statewide program is managed by DPS Supply. DPS subsidizes the trooper family's rent by paying the difference between what the trooper is charged and the actual rent. In some locations, DPS finds existing structures and entered into an agreement with the owner. In other areas, like Bethel, a private company built the housing complex with the sole intent of having DPS take up occupancy. Ensuring units are cleaned and ready for the next trooper family falls on the post supervisors. They often work with the DPS supply section to assist on remodel projects on units. State housing units themselves can be challenging to larger trooper families, since the standard unit is a three bedroom. It is required for troopers to live in these units, so looking in the local market for a larger home to accommodate their families is not an option, and a source of contention in rare occasions for trooper families wanting to spend long tours of duty in rural Alaska.

**Aviation support training** – A considerable amount of time is spent in transit between communities in Western Alaska to conduct the AST mission. Efforts continue to move and acquire the appropriate pilots and aircraft to support the mission of public safety in rural Alaska.





State Pilot Earl Samuelson waits for Trooper Terry Tuckwood of the St. Mary's post to finish a phone call before flying Tuckwood from Russian Mission back to St. Mary's.



## SUCSESSES

**Increased presence** – In 2010, detachment troopers conducted 1,671 village visits with the 123 villages within the detachment. Additionally, detachment troopers spent 662 nights in the communities that they were responsible for providing public safety oversight. This often results in an increase in calls for service due to the trooper being readily available for local residents to report public safety issues to them in person. This increased presence also serves to reduce violent crimes. C Detachment troopers are specialists in this style of community policing.

**Search and rescues** – Search and rescue operations (SARs) have mostly been a success story in the past decades. In 2010, C Detachment had 210 documented reports of overdue people and aircraft crashes, which is 29 percent of the total statewide (721) for the year. Of these, 107 required a search or rescue. Most searches are generated by individuals traveling for recreational or community events between villages or subsistence hunting or fishing. Although search and rescues are hampered by communications, transportation, weather, temperature extremes, and distances, they most often end successfully. Search and rescue operations in the detachment are facilitated by local village volunteer search teams that, when called upon, are motivated to assist both those within their community and from other villages. Search operations are usually initiated on a local level in conjunction with trooper assistance for logistical support.

Almost all search operations are successfully concluded with the missing person located and returned to the nearest village within the first eight to 12 hours. Assets that are normally associated with SARs in the rest of the state and the Lower 48, such as trained and organized search teams, helicopters equipped with thermal imaging infrared cameras, and trained search dog teams, are not available in this region. Locating and transporting these tools into the search area can take substantial time and money.

**Aviation** – The majority of the flight missions conducted by DPS in 2010 were search and rescues, prisoner transports, and investigative trips to villages. All flights during 2010 were conducted without incident. This is a credit to C Detachment pilots, their training, good judgment, and the aircraft section that maintains these aircraft. There were five state-certified pilots working for C Detachment in 2010, including one civilian state pilot in Bethel, the Nome sergeant, the trooper in McGrath, and two troopers in Bethel. Alaska Wildlife Troopers and ABADE also help with flying duties when needed.

**Dedicated support staff** – The clerical staff within C Detachment that stay with the department is as dedicated and loyal to the mission as the troopers with whom they work. The workload placed upon them at times is incredible, yet they choose to stay. They epitomize the meaning of what a public servant stands for. In 2010, they continued to travel within the various remote locations of the detachment to help fill in at





## AN "AVERAGE" C DETACHMENT TROOPER

If there were such a thing, the average C Detachment trooper would have been assigned or completed the following in 2010:

- Responsible for approximately 4,321 square miles – an area over twice the size of Delaware
- Responsible for serving approximately 807 year-round members of the public
- Assigned or received 340 calls for service including criminal cases, civil cases and calls for assistance
- Handled 39 cases which resulted in an arrest or a report being referred for prosecution
- Investigated 2 sexual abuse of minor cases
- Investigated 3 sexual assaults
- Handled 2 search and rescue related events
- Investigated 4 non-homicide death cases
- Handled 19 domestic violence related offenses

Alaska State Trooper Luis Nieves

vacant clerical posts. They willingly left their families for weeks at a time to assist the detachment during these vacancy shortfalls. Their dedication to the mission is exceptional and most appreciated by command staff.

**Equipment and training** – The expanding availability of cell phones in Western Alaska continues to improve the communication between the troopers and public. Efforts continued in 2010 to provide troopers and VPSOs with the latest technology and safety equipment to include arctic clothing, satellite phones, personal locator beacons, updated computers, digital cameras and recorders, snow machines, boats, ATVs, and firefighting equipment. In addition, troopers and VPSOs receive a variety of training, such as Drug and Alcohol Resistance Education, Reid Interrogation Skills, Street Survival, alcohol and drug awareness classes, and child and elder abuse identification.

**Support of people in the region** – Keeping detachment troopers relatively injury free is a phenomenal feat with all of the hazards facing troopers within the region. Potential hazards include the extreme climate, high-risk modes of transportation, and the lack of back up. Part of this success is attributed not only to troopers' sound judgment, training, and equipment, but also to the support of the people in the region. Troopers who have gained the respect of the community realize residents look after their well-being and provide them the knowledge needed not only to help with investigations, but to keep troopers safe. It's common for village elders to order a possible suspect within the community to obey a trooper's authority. The department wants troopers to continue to foster and develop these types of relationships. Working in Western Alaska can be the most rewarding experience of a trooper's career. Although there are many challenges, troopers and staff manage to find a way to accomplish the mission and provide public safety through public service.



# VILLAGE PUBLIC SAFETY OFFICER



**Sgt. Leonard Wallner**  
**VPSO Coordinator**

The Village Public Safety Officer program began in the late 1970s as a means of providing rural Alaskan communities with needed public safety services at the local level. The program was designed to train and employ individuals residing in the village as first responders to public safety emergencies such as search and rescue, fire protection, emergency medical assistance, and law enforcement support.

Law enforcement in most rural areas is the primary responsibility of troopers. From rural outposts, troopers respond to emergencies, including felony and misdemeanor investigations, as soon as possible. These efforts, however, are often hampered by delayed notification, long distances, the uncertainties of both weather and transportation, and limited manpower. VPSOs are generally the first to respond to many calls for help from community members, hence their motto: "First Responders – Last Frontier."

In communities associated with the VPSO program, citizens are afforded immediate response to emergencies without delays caused by weather or distance. Although VPSOs are not expected to handle high risk or complex investigative situations, they do act as a valuable communications link and asset with troopers. Their immediate action, as directed by an oversight trooper, can resolve many potentially volatile situations and often protects important evidence until troopers arrive. A 2006 study found that villages with a local law enforcement presence had 40 percent less serious injuries caused by assault than in villages without a local law enforcement presence.

Since the program's inception, the number of communities served by VPSOs has fluctuated over the years from the original 124 funded positions. In 2010, the program had 86 funded positions, 78 which were filled by the end

of the year. Governor Sean Parnell's initiative, "Safe Homes, Strong Families," and its commitment to hire 15 new VPSOs each year over the next 10 years began to see tangible results in 2010.

The program was designed to facilitate local control over public safety services. Management authority actually resides with three entities: the village itself, the 10 regional nonprofit Native corporations, and the Alaska State Troopers. Funding for the VPSO Program is provided by the state legislature and managed by the Alaska State Troopers. The funds are awarded to participating regional Native nonprofit corporations or boroughs through grant requests. The primary purpose of regional contracting is to place the local administration of the program in the hands of an organization more aware of the specific needs of areas to be served and to deal with a workable number of contracts while also retaining a certain amount of flexibility. Each contractor, with the concurrence of the Division of Alaska State Troopers, selects which communities will participate.

Once the village is selected, the local community leaders, with the assistance of the VPSO coordinator and oversight trooper, will choose and hire the VPSO and determine his or her daily activities. The contractor arranges for all salary payments based on the submission of time sheets from the communities. Group insurance plans, retirement plans, and maintenance of full financial accountability of contracted funds are also the responsibility of the contractor.

The contractors and the areas they cover are:

- ✦ Central Council for Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska (CCTHITA) in Southeast Alaska
- ✦ Tanana Chiefs Conference (TCC) for Interior Alaska
- ✦ Aleutian Pribilof Islands Association (APIA) for the Aleutian Chain
- ✦ Association of Village Council Presidents (AVCP) for the Bethel region



**Tuntutuliak VPSO Sgt. Wasillie Gilila teaches the Drug Abuse Resistance Education program to school children.**



- ✱ Bristol Bay Native Association (BBNA) for the Bristol Bay region
- ✱ Copper River Native Association (CRNA) for the Copper River Basin near Glennallen
- ✱ Kodiak Area Native Association (KANA) for Kodiak Island
- ✱ Kawerak, Inc. for the Bering Straits region
- ✱ Northwest Arctic Borough for the Northwest Arctic region
- ✱ Chugachmiut Inc. for the Prince William Sound and Lower Cook Inlet regions

Midway through 2010, the Northwest Arctic Borough took over control of the program from the regional nonprofit in the Kotzebue area.

Part of the conceptual design of the VPSO Program is to provide a long-term career ladder for the rural, often Native, individuals seeking advancement in the public safety field. The Department of Public Safety provides continual training to those qualified individuals recommended by their contractor and oversight trooper, thereby enhancing opportunity for employment in municipal police and fire departments; or as a trooper, Alaska Wildlife Trooper, corrections officer; or in a private security position.

The C Detachment commander is responsible for managing the VPSO program. Of the 86 positions statewide in 2010, 60 of these VPSOs work within C Detachment boundaries. All training for VPSOs is

coordinated by the Anchorage Service Unit sergeant at C Detachment headquarters. This training is also made available to officers employed by the many different village or tribal government police departments.

## TRAINING

In 2010, 21 recruits began 10 weeks of intensive VPSO training at the Public Safety Academy in Sitka, with 12 ultimately graduating.

Collectively, VPSOs also participated in other training opportunities, to include:

- ✱ Nine days of annual training in Dutch Harbor, hosted by APIA
- ✱ Five days of annual training in Juneau, hosted by CCTHITA
- ✱ Five days of annual training in Bethel, hosted by AVCP
- ✱ Five days of annual training in Fairbanks, hosted by TCC
- ✱ Five days of annual training in Dillingham, hosted by BBNA
- ✱ Five days of annual training in Anchorage, hosted by Kawerak and attended by Chugachmiut, CRNA, and KANA VPSOs







**Tazlina VPSO Jodi Potts teaches the Drug Abuse Resistance Education program to school children during basic D.A.R.E. officer training.**



Select VPSOs participated in additional training opportunities, to include:

- ✳ Two separate two-week basic Village Police Officer academies in Bethel
- ✳ Three days of Drug Abuse Resistance Education (D.A.R.E.) in-service in Anchorage
- ✳ Two weeks of D.A.R.E. officer training at Fort Richardson
- ✳ Forty-hour Rural Firefighter course in Palmer
- ✳ Alaska Fire Conference in Seward
- ✳ Forty hours of an Alaska Police Standards Council certified Methods of Instruction (MOI) course in Fairbanks
- ✳ APIA VPSOs attended two separate domestic violence conferences, both in San Diego
- ✳ KANA VPSOs attended a three day tsunami operations workshop in Dutch Harbor
- ✳ KANA VPSOs attended two days of Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training (ASIST) in Kodiak
- ✳ NWAB VPSOs attended a two day crime scene and physical evidence refresher course in Kotzebue
- ✳ Kawerak VPSOs attended five days of Homeland Security training at the Center for Domestic Preparedness in Anniston, Alabama
- ✳ Kawerak VPSOs attended a three day child maltreatment prevention conference in Anchorage, sponsored by the Alaska Children's Alliance
- ✳ BBNA VPSO Sgt. Daniel Decker of Igiugig completed a Taser instructor course, joining AVCP VPSO Sgt. James Hoelscher of Hooper Bay as the only two Taser instructors within the VPSO Program

Other VPSOs participated in recruitment opportunities at Native Youth Olympics (NYO) in Anchorage, the Alaska State Fair in Palmer, and the Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) Convention in Fairbanks.

## HIGHLIGHTS

Highlights for 2010 incorporated the presentation of several awards:

- ✳ Letter of Appreciation to White Mountain VPSO Sgt. Dan Harrelson from C Detachment Commander Capt. Steve Arlow in reference to action taken in responding to an officer-involved shooting
- ✳ Certificate of Appreciation to Angoon VPSO Sgt. Charles Hartzell from the Division of Juvenile Justice for efforts taken to reduce the number of violations in juvenile hold practices
- ✳ A Letter of Appreciation to Nanwalek VPSO Cpl. Jay Levan from Chugachmiut VPSO Coordinator Skip Richards for commendable job performance
- ✳ A Letter of Appreciation to Kongiganak VPSO Sgt. Jonathan Otto from Bethel AST Post Oversight Trooper Lucas Altepeter for commendable job performance
- ✳ Award to Otto from the Kongiganak Traditional Council in recognition of valued service, dedication, and commitment to safety and the quality of life

## SUCSESSES

**Vacancies** – The Village Public Safety Officer Program had all but eight of the 86 authorized positions



Twelve Village Public Safety Officers graduated from the academy on March 12, 2010.



staffed at the end of 2010. The staffing is broken down among the contractors:

- ✱ APIA – five funded positions with all five filled
- ✱ AVCP – 28 funded positions with all 28 filled
- ✱ BBNA – 11 funding positions with 10 filled and one vacant
- ✱ CCTHITA – six funded positions with all six filled
- ✱ CRNA – four funded positions with three filled and one vacant
- ✱ Chugachmiut – three funded positions with all three filled
- ✱ KANA – five funded positions with all five filled
- ✱ Kawerak – 11 funded positions with nine filled and two vacant
- ✱ NWAB – five funded positions with two filled and three vacant
- ✱ TCC – eight funded positions with seven filled and one vacant

The high turnover rate is becoming a thing of the past due to better pay and benefits offered by the nonprofit organizations, thereby making the job more appealing. In 2010, 38 VPSOs were hired and 28 either resigned or were terminated.

## CHALLENGES

**Graduation rate** – Of the 21 VPSO recruits that attended the Public Safety Academy in Sitka in 2010, only 12 graduated. Three recruits were unable to continue the training due to medical reasons, two were expelled, and the other four did not finish due to personal issues. In 2009, only 11 of the 19 that started graduated. DPS is continuing to implement modified screening practices, including medical, in an effort to improve the success rate at the academy for the future.



# ALASKA STATE TROOPERS

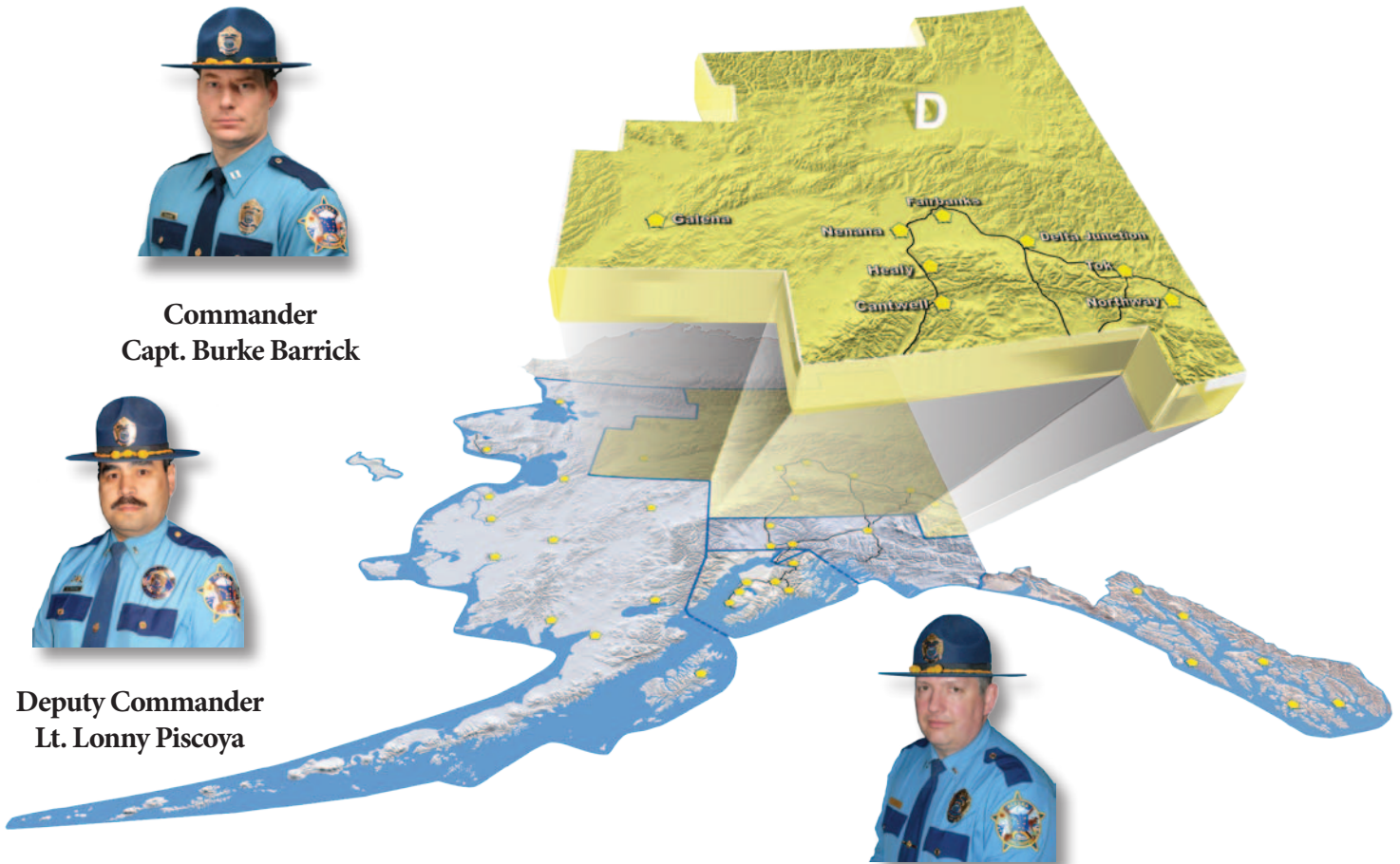
## *D Detachment*



**Commander**  
**Capt. Burke Barrick**



**Deputy Commander**  
**Lt. Lonny Piscoya**



**Deputy Commander**  
**Lt. Ron Wall**

### DETACHMENT COMMAND

Commander – Captain  
Deputy Commander – Lieutenant (Patrol)  
Deputy Commander – Lieutenant (Rural)

### DETACHMENT STAFF

1 Administrative Assistant  
1 Administrative Clerk

D Detachment has the most employees of the five detachments that make up the Division of the Alaska State Troopers with 79 total employees divided into 29 non-commissioned civilians and 50 commissioned troopers.

The detachment covers most of Interior Alaska and stretches from the Canadian border in the east an area between the villages of Unalakleet and Kaltag in the west, to Atigun Pass in the north down to milepost 147 of the Parks Highway in the south.

Over 111,131 people, or roughly one in every six Alaskans, live, work, travel, or recreate daily within the boundaries of D Detachment. There are eight different trooper posts in the detachment located in Fairbanks, Galena, Nenana, Healy, Cantwell, Delta Junction, Tok, and Northway. Of the 18 Village Public Safety Officer positions within the detachment, only five – Arctic Village, Beaver, Eagle, Huslia, and Tanana – were filled in 2010. Most of the detachment VPSO positions are supervised by the Roving Rural Unit out of the Fairbanks post.

D Detachment encompasses approximately 170,575 square miles or roughly one-fourth of the area of the entire state – an area slightly larger than the entire state of California (163,700 square miles). D Detachment includes the Fairbanks North Star Borough and the City of Fairbanks, which is the hub for the economic, medical, and





## 2010 D DETACHMENT ACTIVITY

- 21,519 calls for service, 21 percent of the reported activity for the entire division's 109,292 total calls for service
- 282 suspended driver's licenses cases resulting in 279 total offenses
- 153 natural or accidental death investigations
- \*729 cases of domestic violence with 893 separate charges
- \*1,292 motor vehicle crashes investigated
- 280 burglary cases reported with 268 total burglary offenses
- \*446 harassment cases reported resulting in 445 offenses
- 12 robbery cases stemming from 12 separate incidents
- 636 theft cases resulting in 619 offenses
- 722 assault investigations resulting in 737 offenses
- 450 vandalism cases resulting in 444 offenses
- 573 reported or suspected Driving Under the Influence cases resulting in 450 DUI offenses
- \*330 trespass cases resulting in 329 trespass offenses
- Issued 4,088 traffic citation
- 2,496 cases either closed by arrest or referred to the Department of Law for screening and prosecution – roughly 22 percent of all AST total cases statewide (11,373)
- \*highest number for AST detachments and bureaus

Alaska State Trooper Lt. Ron Wall



governmental services of dozens of villages and thousands of Alaska natives.

D Detachment plays a key role in the national security of the United States with four military installations (Fort Wainwright, Fort Greely, Eielson Air Force Base, and Clear Air Force Station) located within its boundaries. It is also important to the economic vitality of the state and nation because the detachment is home to hundreds of miles of the Trans-Alaska Pipeline, its pump stations and an oil refinery, highways critical to the state's infrastructure, and the Alaska Railroad. The two largest gold mines in the state – Fort Knox and Pogo – are also located within detachment boundaries. The only road access to the oil fields in Prudhoe Bay runs through the detachment.

Tourists, hunters, fishermen, and outdoor enthusiasts have discovered Interior Alaska as more people fly and drive to the heart of Alaska when they visit the state. With an increase in seasonal visitors and year-round residents to the region comes increased pressure on the detachment troopers to provide law enforcement and emergency services.

Year in and year out, D Detachment is one of the leading detachments of the Alaska State Troopers in the following categories: total motor vehicle crashes; total fatal motor vehicle crashes; total drug and alcohol cases investigated; total arrests for driving under the influence (DUI); domestic violence cases; and total property crimes reported including burglaries, vandalisms, and vehicle thefts. In 2010 D Detachment troopers received a total of 21,519 reports or calls for service, of which 991 were felony criminal cases, 2,484 reports were misdemeanor cases, and

18,044 were non-criminal reports or requests for service.

Interior Alaska is an important and growing part of the state and D Detachment has an important role to play in providing safe communities for the people of the region. However, Alaska State Troopers' ability to respond to the needs of the communities within the detachment is challenged by AST's efforts to keep up with the growth of the population, the remoteness of the region troopers patrol, the growing expectations of the public troopers serve, and by the growing complexity of law enforcement.

### ROADWAYS AND HIGHWAYS IN D DETACHMENT

The 4,730 miles of state maintained highways, roadways, and public roads within D Detachment are more than any other trooper detachment. Approximately one-third of the roadway miles in Alaska are within D Detachment boundaries. Most of these highways are relatively low volume and some are subject to seasonal travel, with the exception of those highways around Fairbanks.

### POPULATION SERVED BY D DETACHMENT

There are 111,118 people estimated to be living within D Detachment. By way of comparison, there were 96,378 persons living in the area in 2000. There are 75 established communities in Interior Alaska, both on and off the highway system, and D Detachment troopers are the primary public safety provider for 70 of them. An estimated 73,710 people live in areas where AST is the primary source for public safety.





A contingent of D Detachment Alaska State Troopers participated in the 2010 Police Memorial Day ceremony in front of the Fairbanks Police Department. They are, from left to right, troopers Ed Halbert, Sgt. Chad Goeden, Todd Moehring, Lt. Ron Wall, Steve Lantz, Sgt. Jason Pugh, Capt. Burke Barrick, Inv. Henry Ching, Al Bell, Robert Bressler, Travis King, Lt. Lonny Piscoya, and Alaska Wildlife Trooper Director Col. Gary Folger.



## D DETACHMENT POSTS

### Fairbanks Patrol

4 Sergeants

25 Troopers

2 Administrative Clerks (Evidence)

3 Building Maintenance Personnel

The Fairbanks post, the largest of the D Detachment posts, has a total of 25 civilian personnel and 33 commissioned troopers. The Fairbanks post serves as the operational center for the detachment. The post houses records, communications, evidence, administration and the offices for Alaska Wildlife Troopers, Alaska State Troopers, Fire & Life Safety, Alaska Bureau of Investigation, the Alaska Bureau of Highway Patrol, an investigator with the Alcoholic Beverage Control Board, and the main office of the Division of Motor Vehicles in Fairbanks.

There are a number of city, state, and federal agencies within the Fairbanks post boundaries that have overlapping jurisdiction with AST. Fairbanks patrol troopers regularly work with the Fairbanks Police Department; North Pole Police Department; University of Alaska-Fairbanks Police Department; Fairbanks International Airport Police and Fire Department; Alaska State Park Rangers; military police units on Fort Wainwright and Eielson Air Force Base; Alaska Railroad Authorities; the U.S. Park police; the FBI; U.S. Marshals; DEA; and other federal law enforcement agencies. Rural unit troopers work with and support the Fort Yukon and Galena police departments.

within D Detachment boundaries with its own police departments; however, Alaska State Troopers are called upon for assistance in emergencies in these communities and sometimes during times when the police department is not staffed. The Galena Police Department was without officers for seven months in 2010. Although an estimated 37,421 people who live within D Detachment jurisdictional boundaries rely on a municipal agency for primary law enforcement, most of the people in the region drive through, work, recreate, hunt, own property in, or transit through D Detachment on a weekly, if not daily basis. It should also be noted that the 111,131 population number does not take into account the large transient population of people who seasonally work, hunt, fish, or visit Interior Alaska.

Personnel within the Fairbanks post are assigned to various units depending upon their area of responsibility. Specialized units include patrol and roving rural. In 2010, the Judicial Services Unit that operates out of the Rabinowitz Courthouse in downtown Fairbanks was reorganized and became a part of the Alaska Bureau of Judicial Services. The two troopers, nine Court Services Officers, and two non-commissioned office assistants were supervised by the Alaska Bureau of Judicial Services command staff based out of Anchorage.

The Fairbanks-based D Detachment DUI Traffic Enforcement Team was added to the Alaska Bureau of Highway Patrol (ABHP) after the bureau formed in December of 2008. ABHP troopers operating in D Detachment are sometimes sent to other areas of the state to patrol special events, taking these troopers out of the Fairbanks area and putting them on roads elsewhere. Likewise, ABHP troopers from elsewhere in the state travel to D Detachment to help with traffic enforcement during special events like the annual Arctic Man event held near

Fairbanks and North Pole provide their own law enforcement services to the people within their city boundaries. Fort Yukon and Galena are the only outlying communities





Sgt. Kevin Yancey with the Fairbanks Rural Service Unit uses a satellite phone to establish contact with dispatch while working a case near Manley.



Paxson, and the Tanana Valley Fair held in Fairbanks. Troopers on the ABHP's Northern Team focus on highway patrol and conduct investigations of fatal- or serious-injury crashes.

D Detachment is the base for the 14-person Northern Special Emergency Reaction Team, a unit capable of responding to situations involving a higher-than-normal degree of danger to the public or responding officers. SERT members receive extensive training in techniques to safely and successfully resolve situations involving hostages, armed barricaded subjects, and the service of dangerous or high-risk arrest and search warrants. This unit is comprised of Alaska State Troopers and officers from the University of Alaska-Fairbanks Police Department and Fairbanks International Airport Police and Fire. Members shoulder SERT responsibilities on top of their normal policing duties.

#### **Fairbanks Communications Center**

1 Communications Center Manager  
15 Dispatchers  
2 Office Assistants

The Fairbanks Communications Center is the larger of two all-AST dispatch centers that operates on a 24-hour basis. Here, dispatchers consistently assist troopers and dispatchers from other detachments with Alaska Public Safety Information Network and Department of Public Safety established procedures. This center receives calls from complainants from both within Alaska and from the Lower 48 and, depending on the nature or location of the incident, the caller is then routed to the correct AST post or police department jurisdiction. It is also the AMBER Alert center for the state and the activation point for all AMBER Alerts statewide. The Fairbanks center also dispatches for Alaska Wildlife Troopers in Nome, Kotzebue, Aniak, Bethel,

McGrath, and St. Mary's. In addition, the communications center provides after-hours dispatching for Tok and Delta Junction posts, the Department of Environmental Conservation Oil Spill Hotline, and handles after hours deletions for all DPS warrants statewide. The center also handles requests from troopers across the state asking for authorization numbers as required by the Transportation Security Administration when flying while armed. The communications center is the back-up dispatch for the State Emergency Coordination Center that directs and controls disaster emergency response operations across Alaska.

#### **Rural Service Unit**

1 Sergeant

3 Troopers

The rural unit serves villages both on and off the road system. This four-person unit's jurisdiction goes as far west as Kaltag and north to Arctic Village, each located 310 and 241 air miles from detachment headquarters in Fairbanks where the unit is based. Because unit troopers have to travel a great distance to respond to a call, getting to the location is time consuming. In addition, adverse weather conditions can at times hamper a trooper's response time. Unit troopers provide public safety for 23 villages scattered throughout a sparse area. They are: Alatna, Allakaket, Arctic Village, Beaver, Bettles, Birch Creek, Central, Chalkyitsik, Chatanika, Chandalar, Circle, Coldfoot, Evansville, Eureka, Hughes, Fort Yukon, Livengood, Manley Hot Springs, Minto, Rampart, Stevens Village, Venetie, and Wiseman. To do this, the members heavily rely on air travel to respond to the different calls. Some members of the unit are certified to fly a state aircraft. Otherwise, troopers rely on a non-commissioned state pilot or charter a local aircraft service to fly to the villages off the road system. In 2010, this unit had three DPS







**Trooper Robert Nunley of the Galena post gathers evidence during an investigation in Kaltag.**



pilots to fly the Caravan and Saratoga aircraft that operate out of Fairbanks. Also available for the unit's use are boats, four-wheelers, and snowmachines normally assigned to Alaska Wildlife Troopers. The unit sergeant also supervises the two troopers at the Galena post. Of the six VPSOs in D Detachment, VPSOs in Eagle, Arctic Village, Tanana, and Beaver fall directly under the oversight of unit troopers. The Galena troopers provide oversight to the two remaining VPSOs in Huslia and Ruby

#### **Galena Post** 2 Troopers

The Galena post is located on the Yukon River and is almost due west of Fairbanks. Galena has a population of approximately 470 year-round residents with the city divided into two sections referred to as the new town and old town. The city has a full-time police officer with two holding cells located at the city police department. The Alaska Court System maintains an office and has a magistrate posted in Galena. As the site of a prior Air Force installation, Galena has a runway nearly 7,000 feet long. The AST post is located on the installation. Galena is serviced by daily commercial air service with flights into Galena and surrounding five villages. AST is primarily responsible for providing law enforcement services for the five villages in the Galena area – Huslia, Koyukuk, Nulato, Kaltag, and Ruby – and the approximately 991 people that live in these communities. The two troopers at this post also assist the Galena Police Department in emergencies, such as a crime in progress or a domestic violence, or when the police department has staffing issues. Galena was without a police department for seven months in 2010, leaving AST responsible for providing public safety in the town. Only three of the 14 villages in the Yukon River and Galena areas with authorized

VPSO positions were filled in 2010. AST has a riverboat and two snowmachines assigned to the post for winter and summer travel. Hunting periods during the fall mark a dramatic increase in search and rescue requests and hunting related activity.

#### **Cantwell Post** 2 Troopers 1 Office Assistant

The Parks Highway posts are responsible for approximately 154 miles of the Parks Highway from milepost 328 to milepost 147, and 56 miles of the 134 mile Denali Highway. Troopers at the Cantwell post are responsible for patrolling the Parks Highway from milepost 147 to 231 and 56 miles of the 136-mile Denali Highway. The Parks Highway is a major artery for vehicle traffic with heavy seasonal summer traffic. The Denali Highway is a mostly-gravel road that runs east of the intersection of the Denali and Parks highways in Cantwell and terminates at Paxson on the Richardson Highway. Cantwell has a static population base of approximately 219 persons. However, tourism from the nearby Denali National Park causes a dramatic increase in seasonal population and activity within the Cantwell patrol district, which encompasses the majority of park and hotels within the Cantwell area. During a typical summer, it is estimated that 500,000 tourists visit the park that is home to Mount McKinley, the tallest peak in North America. Troopers at the three posts have enjoyed a good working relationship with Denali National Park Rangers for many years. The Parks Highway posts also serve Kantishna, a community located on private property surrounded by federal park land at the end of the Denali Park Road. Traffic on this road is limited almost exclusively to official park vehicles and is closed to tourist vehicles. The Cantwell post also serves McKinley Park, a year-round community along



**Trooper John Williamson works on a report at his office in Healy. It was converted from a janitor's closet in the Community Center into an office for the Healy trooper.**



the Parks Highway between Healy and Cantwell. Cantwell experiences population influxes during the winter months as well due to snowmachine enthusiasts and caribou hunters. Search and rescue activity represents a sizeable portion of post activity. Vehicle travel on the Denali Highway is seasonal because it is not maintained in the winter months. It is heavily traveled by snowmachines and dog teams in the winter.

#### **Healy Post**

1 Sergeant (Vacant)  
1 Trooper

The sergeant position in Healy supervises four trooper positions located among the three Parks Highway posts at Healy, Cantwell, and Nenana. Healy, located at milepost 248 of the Parks Highway, has a population of approximately 1,000 residents. There is no city police service. The Usibelli Coal Mine and tourism industry sustains the local economy, with seasonal construction activity helping seasonal fluctuations in population and activity. The Healy post is responsible for patrolling the Parks Highway from milepost 231 to 276, however, troopers from the three Parks Highway posts sometimes overlap efforts or even take calls in the other posts' area of responsibility when needed. Dispatch duties are centralized in Fairbanks. The entrance for national park is located just inside the Healy patrol area at mile 239 of the Parks Highway and near Healy. The patrol area also includes Denali Village, a tourism-based community littered with large hotels and shops that largely shuts down during the winter.

#### **Nenana Post**

1 Trooper

Nenana serves as the major population base of the region with a population of approximately 378 people who

live within the Nenana city limits. The city has no police department. An additional 500 residents live in the area and in the nearby communities of Clear Air Force Station at milepost 283 of the Parks Highway and in the town of Anderson, which is accessed off the Clear Highway. The Nenana trooper is responsible for patrolling the Parks Highway from milepost 276 to 328. The Alaska Court System maintains an office that also serves other Parks Highway communities, some communities on the Dalton Highway north of Fairbanks, and some remote Yukon River villages. In 2010 the post location was moved to an office in the newly constructed court building in Nenana.

#### **Delta Junction Post**

1 Sergeant  
4 Troopers  
1 Dispatcher

The Delta Junction post is located near the intersection of the Richardson and Alaska highways. The Alaska Highway terminates at Delta Junction at mile 1422. The post is responsible for approximately 60 miles of the Alaska Highway from mile 1422 to 1380, approximately 121 miles of the Richardson Highway from mile 194 to 315, and the Denali Highway from Paxson to mile 79. There are also numerous agriculturally-based gravel roads in the area. Fort Greely is located near Delta Junction and serves as a cold weather survival school and training location for the military in the Interior. Fort Greely is also home to the National Missile Defense (NMD) system and employs a large contingent of military and civilian contractors associated with the NMD system. While these military facilities have their own military and civilian police departments, the town of Delta Junction does not. Delta Junction and its estimated 958 residents rely on troopers for their public safety. Delta Junction





**Trooper Steve Lantz of the Fairbanks post, in uniform, congratulates Jason Pugh, a sergeant at the Fairbanks post, during a run for the Alaska State Troopers Adventure Relay charity event.**



troopers also service the communities of Big Delta, Deltana, and Dry Creek that collectively have 2,936 residents for a total of 7,243 living in the area served by Delta Junction troopers. Delta Junction serves as a crossroads for traffic between Interior Alaska, the Lower 48, and Anchorage via the Alaska and Richardson highways. The Alaska Highway, the only road that connects Alaska to the Lower 48, officially ends in Delta Junction, 1,422 miles after it begins in Dawson Creek, British Columbia and 200 miles after the U.S.-Canadian border. Seasonal traffic reaches its peak during the summer months. Seasonal recreational activities represent additional traffic pressure. Annually, the Arctic Man winter snowmachine event is held at Summit Lake near the southern border of the Delta Junction area.

#### **Tok/Northway Posts**

1 Sergeant  
3 Troopers in Tok  
1 Trooper in Northway  
2 Radio Dispatchers

The Tok and Northway posts of D Detachment are located near the international border in eastern Alaska and on the Alaska Highway. AST personnel are responsible for three highways within the area. The area of responsibility extends from mile 1221 of the Alaska Highway to mile 1380 and mile 124 of the Tok Cut-off to mile 62. The area also includes the mostly gravel Taylor Highway from Tetlin Junction at mile 1302 of the Alaska Highway to Eagle. There the road breaks off and heads to Canada and the Poker Creek border crossing. This route is 175 miles of pavement and gravel road and is plagued with little or no way to communicate with the post. It is sparsely populated, but sees a fair amount of traffic during the summer. The trooper in Northway falls under the supervision of the Tok sergeant. There are

currently two dispatchers who work in Tok with periods of time covered by Fairbanks AST when no Tok dispatcher is on duty. There is one Village Public Safety Officer position authorized for the region in Tetlin, however, the position was vacant in 2010. AST is also working with the Tanana Chiefs Conference to add a Village Public Safety Officer in the village of Northway in 2011. Population within the area by these two posts is approximately 1,965 with a large influx of persons traveling through the area during the late spring through the fall. Population estimates include Tok, Tetlin, Mentasta, Tanacross, Dot Lake, Northway, Beaver Creek, Eagle, Chicken, and Healy Lake. The population center for the region is Tok with a static population estimated at 1,258. A U.S. Coast Guard Long Range Aide to Navigation, or LORAN, site was located near mile 1308 of the Alaska Highway until it was shut down in February after more than 50 years of providing navigational signal locations. An inactive U.S. Army fuel tank farm is located near mile 1320 of the Alaska Highway. Travel to most locations within the post's area is by marked patrol vehicle, except the Taylor Highway in winter, which is unmaintained. Tok/Northway troopers are equipped with patrol sedans, four-wheel drive SUVs, and snowmachines. Air travel is supplemented through support from Alaska Wildlife Troopers and local air carriers.

#### **SUCCESESSES**

**DUI enforcement** – D Detachment troopers and other law enforcement agencies in Interior Alaska have consistently accounted for a total of roughly 1,000 DUI arrests over each of the past several years. Troopers and local police are effectively locating, arresting, prosecuting, and convicting impaired drivers. In 2010, D Detachment patrol troopers made 450 DUI arrests. By way of comparison the Fairbanks-based unit of the Alaska Bureau of Highway





Members of the Northern Special  
Emergency Reaction Team go  
through scenario-based training.



Patrol made an additional 123 DUI arrests in 2010.

**Response to crimes of domestic assault** – D Detachment troopers investigated 621 domestic violence related offenses in 2010. Every trooper receives training in how to properly investigate and properly document crimes of domestic violence. Investigating crimes against people takes priority over all other types of calls for service. Every shift and post within the detachment is staffed by supervisors trained to evaluate domestic violence cases and to work closely with the local district attorney's offices to ensure successful prosecutions of DV related cases.

## CHALLENGES

**Lack of a turbine-engine helicopter** – D Detachment is one of the largest detachments in terms of geography and population load. Even though D Detachment receives a high volume of search and rescue requests every year, there is no helicopter based in Fairbanks capable of flying at high altitude, in cold temperatures, or carrying a useful payload. With the loss of the Military Assistance to Transportation (MAST) agreement with the air ambulance helicopter company at Fort Wainwright and with little or no civilian or private options for backcountry rescue or medical evacuation, the Alaska State Troopers in Fairbanks are increasingly being asked to provide assistance to lost hunters, boaters, and hikers and to people experiencing medical emergencies. The bulk of medical evacuation requests are handled by the Alaska Air National Guard's 210<sup>th</sup> Rescue Squadron, while AST handles most of the search and rescue calls. However, because the 210<sup>th</sup> is based out of Anchorage, they are not always available to respond to Fairbanks and increasingly more calls are being handled by troopers who are forced to charter aircraft or helicopters to perform the mission. A piston-engine Robinson R-44

helicopter is assigned to the Alaska Wildlife Troopers based in Fairbanks, but it was largely unavailable in 2010 due to maintenance and other mission requirements. In addition, the R-44 is inadequate for flying at high altitude, during cold weather, and it is incapable of hauling more than two or three passengers at a time. The R-44 is too small to accommodate a litter and a patient, it is underpowered for search and rescue or medical evacuation missions, and therefore, inadequate for all of the needs of the Alaska State Troopers.

**Property crime prevention and investigation** — The high call demand for D Detachment troopers makes it difficult to devote sufficient resources to properly investigate theft, burglary, and vehicle theft cases. Some property crimes are solvable crimes if investigating troopers have time to devote to the case. However, the trooper investigating a burglary is also the same trooper responding to vehicle crashes, domestic violence calls, impaired driver reports, and other in-progress crimes that are of a higher priority. There was no dedicated property crimes unit in D Detachment in 2010 and the lack of personnel to devote to investigating property crimes bears directly on the ability to properly investigate the cases, identify and prosecute suspects, and recover stolen property. With prices rising for gasoline, home heating oil, and with the remote nature of Interior Alaska, burglary and theft are ongoing and significant problems. The inability to resolve these crimes negatively impacts the public perception of the Alaska State Troopers. A dedicated burglary suppression unit or property crimes unit staffed by two or three troopers based out of the Fairbanks post would be the first step in addressing this problem. A burglary suppression unit would monitor burglary trends, conduct case follow up, track down stolen property, interface with other police agencies, and engage in some





## AN "AVERAGE" D DETACHMENT TROOPER

If there were such a thing, the average D Detachment trooper would have been assigned or completed the following in 2010:

- Responsible for approximately 3,629 square miles – an area larger than the state of Delaware
- Responsible for serving approximately 1,568 year-round members of the public
- Arrested 9 DUI drivers
- Issued 86 traffic citations
- Received, or been assigned, 27 motor vehicle crashes to investigate
- Assigned or received 457 calls for service including criminal cases, civil cases and calls for assistance
- Handled 53 cases which resulted in an arrest or a report being referred for prosecution
- Transported dozens of prisoners
- Spent dozens of hours testifying in criminal trials or at traffic court
- Investigated 3 non-homicide death cases and 19 domestic violence offenses

**Alaska State Trooper Sgt. Mike Roberts**

of the proactive anti-burglary techniques that have been successful in past years.

**Rural highway traffic enforcement** – Detachment troopers are responsible for patrolling all of the state highways and roadways within the detachment. D Detachment has more highway miles than any other detachment within the state and approximately 1,550 of those highway miles can be considered rural highways. Only the four-trooper Rural Services Unit, based out of Fairbanks, is tasked with patrolling the rural roads and highways north of Fairbanks. These roads include the Elliott, Steese, and Dalton highways. The same Rural Unit is also responsible for law enforcement support in many villages and remote communities not directly served by any of the other posts and not accessible by roads. Patrolling rural highways therefore is often a second or third priority for the unit. Consequently, the relative lack of staffing in the rural unit makes it difficult to routinely patrol these remote roads. These roads are extensively used year-round by commercial vehicles hauling large loads and increasingly for tourism and personal travel during the summer months. While the overall vehicle traffic is increasing, so are the calls for law enforcement services. The Rural Unit needs to be augmented by two or three more personnel or a new trooper post needs to be established along the Dalton Highway to provide a law enforcement presence along this vital highway.

### ANNUAL OR SPECIAL PROJECTS

**Arctic Man** – Every year during early April, thousands of snowmachiners, skiers, and outdoor enthusiasts gather near Summit Lake north of Paxson at a site near the Richardson

Highway to participate in the Arctic Man Ski and Sno-Go Classic. Arctic Man has grown from a gathering of a small handful of friends in 1985 to an event that now draws 10,000 to 15,000 people, creating a boom town virtually overnight. Alaska State Troopers, under D Detachment's command, annually sends roughly 16-20 troopers and accompanying support staff to Arctic Man to provide a law enforcement presence. During Arctic Man, troopers conduct anti-crime patrols, assist in search and rescues, arrange medical evacuations, take citizen complaints, and conduct DUI patrols in the surrounding areas. To deal with the week-long boom town, troopers must set up what is equivalent to a mini-criminal justice system to include having a prosecutor on hand to provide assistance.

**Field Training and Evaluation Program (FTEP)** – Various detachment headquarters in Fairbanks (D), Palmer (B), and Soldotna (E) are the three main training posts within the Division of the Alaska State Troopers. Every year two cycles of recruits graduate from the Department of Public Safety Training Academy in Sitka. Recruits complete an 18-week training course before moving on to the various detachments for field training. Each recruit undergoes a 15-week field training program once they reach the detachment. Each recruit requires three training officers and one field training supervisor to complete their training program. In 2010, D Detachment Field Training Officers trained 11 recruits, of which eight successfully completed the training. Field training is time consuming, labor intensive, and expensive. However, a well-run field-training program is absolutely vital to the long-term health of the organization and ensures that the state will always have well-trained and competent troopers to protect the public.





# ALASKA STATE TROOPERS

## *E Detachment*



**Commander**  
**Capt. Pete Mlynarik**



**Deputy Commander**  
**Lt. Dane Gilmore**



### DETACHMENT COMMAND

Commander – Captain  
Deputy Commander (Patrol) – Lieutenant  
**DETACHMENT STAFF**  
1 Administrative Assistant  
1 Office Assistant

E Detachment's area of responsibility covers 21,701 square miles and is twice the size of Massachusetts. There are 2,221 miles of roadway in E Detachment's enforcement area. There are 34 commissioned troopers and 16 civilians working in the detachment. The Kenai Peninsula, Girdwood, and the areas surrounding Girdwood have a total population of 58,266 people, according to 2010 Census records. Six cities within E Detachment – Kenai, Soldotna, Homer, Whittier, Seldovia, and Seward – have their own law enforcement. The troopers work closely with the six different police

departments. The detachment serves approximately 39,087 people residing outside the jurisdiction of these police departments. Excluding command staff, that equates to one trooper for every 1,221 people. Although E Detachment directly provides public safety to approximately 65 percent of the Kenai Peninsula's population, the remaining 35 percent of the people drive through, work, recreate, or hunt in E Detachment's area on a weekly, if not daily basis. This is not counting the thousands of people that flock to the peninsula to enjoy its plentiful outdoor activities in both the winter and summer. Most of the population resides in condensed areas leaving the majority of land mass undeveloped. Troopers face the challenge of sometimes having to travel 30 or more miles to a call on the road system. They must also frequently travel off the road system into the wilderness to handle search and rescue operations.







**Trooper Travis Lons walks back to his patrol car to run a drivers license and registration check during a traffic stop in Soldotna.**



In 2009, the multi-jurisdiction, multi-agency Alaska Bureau of Highway Patrol formed the Soldotna Traffic Team, consisting of a trooper sergeant and a Kenai Police Officer. In 2010, the bureau added two troopers to the Girdwood post to form the Girdwood Traffic Team. This team concentrates on traffic enforcement on the Seward Highway. Bureau members sometimes travel to other areas of the state to patrol special events, taking these troopers out of the Kenai Peninsula area and putting them on roads elsewhere. Likewise, ABHP troopers from elsewhere in the state travel to E Detachment to help with traffic enforcement during special occasions such as the Fourth of July celebration in Seward. ABHP team members focus on highway patrol and conduct fatal- or serious-injury crash investigations. These teams fall under the management of the bureau, but operate out of the Soldotna and Girdwood posts.

One of the three Alaska State Troopers' Special Emergency Reaction Teams (SERT) is located in E Detachment. This team has 14 authorized positions and is based out of Soldotna. It is made up of law enforcement and emergency medical personnel and is generally used for high risk events such as barricaded subjects or high risk search warrants. The team has members from the Alaska State Troopers, Kenai Police Department, Central Emergency Services, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

#### **Soldotna Post**

4 Sergeants  
13 Troopers  
2 Administrative Clerks



The troopers at this post respond to calls for service in the areas outside the city limits

of Soldotna and Kenai. Soldotna troopers handle calls on the Kenai Spur Highway from Soldotna to Nikiski (mile 2-3 and mile 14-30), on Kalifornsky Beach Road from Soldotna to Kasilof (mile 1-22), on the Sterling Highway from Jean Lake Hill to Clam Gulch (mile 65-118), and on Funny River Road from Soldotna to the end of the road (mile 1-16). This includes calls for service in all of the communities located along those roadways. The Soldotna post also responds to calls on the west side of Cook Inlet to include Shirleyville, Beluga, and the village of Tyonek. The areas across Cook Inlet require aircraft access. Soldotna troopers work closely with Alaska Wildlife Troopers, Kenai and Soldotna police departments, State Park Rangers, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife enforcement personnel.

#### **Anchor Point/Ninilchik Posts**

1 Sergeant in Anchor Point  
4 Troopers in Anchor Point  
1 Trooper in Ninilchik  
1 Office Assistant

These posts are not manned 24 hours a day. An on-call or standby trooper is assigned each day to handle calls that need a response after normal shift times. The Soldotna post also provides assistance after hours. Non-emergency calls received after hours are held until the next day. Standby can be an arduous task as the same trooper that had to get up to respond to a call in the middle of the night most likely will be required to work his or her regular shift the following day. Due to most of the time being spent responding to calls for service, there is very little time to conduct proactive patrols. The area of responsibility includes outside the cities of Homer and Seldovia and within the five Russian villages of

**Trooper Garrett Willis of Cooper Landing radios dispatch in order to run a drivers license and registration check on a vehicle during a traffic stop.**



Nikolaevski, Razdolna, Voznesenka, Kachemak Selo, and Ninilchik Russian Village. Handling calls in the Russian villages is often challenging due to cultural and language barriers. Troopers also handle calls in Halibut Cove, Jakolof Bay, Happy Valley, Fritz Creek, Port Graham, Nanwalek, and Kachemak City. Halibut Cove, Jakolof Bay, Port Graham, and Nanwalek are all located across Kachemak Bay and require a boat or aircraft to access. The posts also handle calls on the Sterling Highway from Homer to Clam Gulch (mile 118-170). One Anchor Point trooper is tasked with overseeing two Village Public Safety Officers located separately in Nanwalek and Port Graham. Anchor Point troopers work closely with the Homer Police Department. AST has a contractual agreement with the City of Homer for secondary dispatch services, facility use, and prisoner transport and security at the Homer jail. The City of Seldovia also has a police department of one officer. Troopers respond to calls when the officer is not on duty and in matters requiring in-depth investigations or situations where additional manpower is needed, which happens infrequently.

#### **Crown Point/Cooper Landing Posts**

1 Sergeant in Crown Point  
3 Troopers in Crown Point  
1 Trooper in Cooper Landing  
1 Office Assistant

These posts operate in the same fashion as the Anchor Point and Ninilchik posts. There is a standby trooper assigned each day to handle emergency calls after hours. Troopers cover the Sterling Highway from the junction where the Seward and Sterling highways meet,

to Jean Lake Hill (mile 38-65) and the Seward Highway from Seward to Hope Highway turnoff (mile 2-55). These posts cover calls coming from the estimated 2,974 people living outside the city of Seward and in Cooper Landing, Moose Pass, Lowell Point, and the village of Chenega Bay. Chenega Bay is located on Evans Island in Prince William Sound and is accessible only by aircraft or boat.

#### **Girdwood Post**

1 Sergeant  
3 Troopers  
1 Office Assistant

The Girdwood post's area of responsibility includes the estimated 2,570 people living in communities of Girdwood, Hope, Indian, Portage, and Bird that are considered a part of the Anchorage municipality, but do not fall under the Anchorage Police Department. Additionally, the post takes care of calls outside the Whittier and other underdeveloped areas of Prince William Sound. Girdwood troopers patrol the Seward Highway from the Hope Highway at mile 55 to McHugh Creek at mile 112 where the Anchorage Police Department takes over patrol duties. A large majority of the Girdwood troopers' duties consist of traffic enforcement and motor vehicle crash investigations. The Seward Highway Traffic Safety Corridor, from mile 87 to mile 117, falls within Girdwood's area of responsibility. All traffic traveling from the Anchorage area to the Kenai Peninsula goes through this post's boundaries. Girdwood troopers have developed a good working relationship with the local U.S. Forest Service enforcement personnel and







**Trooper Howie Peterson talks to John and Rebekah Vernon outside the Alyeska Resort.**



the Anchorage Police Department. This facilitates better overall delivery of public safety services. This post also utilizes standby because it is not manned 24 hours a day.

#### **Soldotna Public Safety Communications Center**

- 1 Communications Center Manager (Borough Employee)
- 8 Full-time State Radio Dispatchers
- 8 Full-time Kenai Peninsula Borough Radio Dispatchers
- 1 Part-time Kenai Peninsula Borough Radio Dispatcher
- 1 Temporary Kenai Peninsula Borough Radio Dispatcher
- 1 Office Assistant

E Detachment supervises the Soldotna Public Safety Communications Center (SPSCC) located in Soldotna. The center dispatches for troopers, Soldotna Police Department, Central Emergency Services, Nikiski Fire Department, Ninilchik Volunteer Fire Department, Kachemak Emergency Services, Cooper Landing Volunteer Emergency Medical Services, Moose Pass Volunteer Fire Company & EMS, and Hope Sunrise EMS. In addition, the center provides limited dispatch services to State Parks, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Forest Service, National Marine Fisheries, and Alaska Department of Corrections. Four emergency call boxes located along the Sterling and Seward highways are managed by SPSCC staff. The center handles all 911 land-line based calls on the Kenai Peninsula except for calls within the cities of Kenai, Homer, and Seward. The center receives all cell phone based calls on the Kenai Peninsula and routes them appropriately if they originate in the cities of Kenai, Homer, or Seward. The 911 calls in the Girdwood area and between miles 75 and 112 Seward Highway are routed from the Anchorage Police

Department to the SPSCC. The system was upgraded in 2008 to give the center the ability to identify the locations of wireless callers. SPSCC is in the process of acquiring a Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) system. The new BHP positions add to the work load of the SPSCC without adding personnel to the center.

#### **SPECIAL ENFORCEMENT EFFORTS**

**Fourth of July** – Seward may see an additional 14,000 people inside the city limits and an additional 5,000 just outside the city limits during the holiday event that coincides with the running of Mount Marathon. The Girdwood Forest Fair in Girdwood also occurs during July Fourth weekend. Accompanying the festivals are an increase of illegal drug use and underage drinking.

**Highway safety corridors** – Two of Alaska's four safety corridors fall within E Detachment's jurisdiction. The highway safety corridors were developed to improve safety on stretches of highway that experience a high number of serious injury and fatal crashes. The Seward Highway Safety Corridor was established on May 26, 2006 and was extended a mile in 2007 to cover milepost 87 to 117. There were two fatal crashes in this corridor in 2010 that left two dead. This is down from the four fatal crashes with five victims in 2009. The Sterling Highway from Scout Lake Road to the Kenai Spur Highway, or milepost 83 to 93, was designated a safety corridor on July 1, 2009. There were no fatal collisions in this corridor in 2010. However, the Seward Highway outside the corridors had five fatal crashes that killed five people and the Sterling Highway outside the corridor experienced one crash that killed a person. E





**Trooper Mike Zweifel of the Crown Point post salutes Investigator Natan Bucknall, on left, and Sgt. Derek DeGraaf, both of the Alaska Bureau of Investigation. The three were part of an Alaska State Trooper honor guard at former Gov. Wally Hickel's funeral. The all-trooper detail was requested by Hickel's family.**



Detachment troopers issued 1,279 of the 2,405 traffic citations written in safety corridors in 2010 – the highest number for a detachment or bureau.

### SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

**Avalanches** – The Chugach Mountain Range, running from the backside of Eagle River to the Kenai Peninsula, while highly popular because of their close proximity to Alaska's largest city, can also be deadly especially during avalanche season in the spring. In February of 2010 an extensive search and rescue was conducted to recover two victims that were buried in an avalanche while snowmachining near Portage. One of the victims was found shortly after the avalanche by others in the snow machining party. The second victim was discovered after approximately three days of searching and utilizing search dogs and a 100 or more trained and untrained searchers.

**Search and rescues** – The rugged terrain and easy accessibility of the Kenai Peninsula contribute to the numerous search and rescues. One significant search and rescue took place on Nellie Juan Lake near Seward in February. On the afternoon of Feb. 5, AST received a report of a 911 report stemming from a SPOT Satellite GPS Messenger alert. The owner of the beacon was snowmachining with a group in the lake area when one of them was injured in a snowmachine crash. Another member of the group rode out to get help for the injured man. A group consisting of three troopers, a U.S. Forest Service Officer, and a medic from the Bear Creek Volunteer Fire Department snowmachined in to Nellie Juan Lake to bring the injured man out. It was dark and

snowing heavily when the rescuers departed the trail head. The trail ride had steep terrain and river crossings that taxed the technical skills of the rescuers. The group persevered and made it to the injured man. Because they were outside communication range, two troopers then snowmachined out to coordinate rescue efforts while the third trooper, Forest Service officer, and medic stayed behind to tend to the injured man. In order to get help, the smaller group made it out safely that night amidst foul weather and water crossings. Those that stayed behind to tend to him spent a very cold night outdoors and snowmachined out after the victim was airlifted to safety the next day.

### CHALLENGES

**Calls for service** – The Kenai Peninsula's population grows by an estimated 100,000 people during the summer months. This number is primarily made up of tourists. The complaints from these tourists are primarily handled by troopers. This brings the service ratio to one trooper providing public safety services to almost 4,000 people. There is no additional manpower during these busy months with the exception of special events. Troopers find it hard to spend any significant amount of time on investigations that do not have a readily identifiable suspect. Most of the time on patrol is spent responding to calls. According to standard prioritization, troopers respond most quickly to reports of crimes in progress, assaults, traffic collisions, search and rescues, and other threats to public safety. Most of these calls do not generate a report, but require a response. Because of the volume of calls the detachment receives, there



# AN "AVERAGE" E DETACHMENT TROOPER

If there were such a thing, the average E Detachment trooper would have been assigned or completed the following in 2010:

- Responsible for approximately 1,656 square miles
- Responsible for serving approximately 1,221 year-round members of the public
- Arrested 7 DUI drivers
- Issued 262 traffic citations
- Assigned 28 motor vehicle crashes to investigate
- Assigned or received 624 calls for service including criminal cases, civil cases and calls for assistance
- Handled 51 cases which resulted in an arrest or a report being referred for prosecution
- Transported dozens of prisoners
- Spent dozens of hours testifying in criminal trials or at traffic court
- Averaged 2 search and rescue related events
- Investigated 4 non-homicide death cases and 9 domestic violence related offenses



Alaska State Trooper Sgt. Bryan Barlow

is very little time left for proactive enforcement. The call volume has increased significantly in recent years due to the increase of cell phones usage, enabling people to report problems from virtually anywhere. Of the significant crimes, non-violent property crimes get the least attention because of the lack of time to investigate. Additionally, there are inadequate personnel resources to handle major events such as a wildfire.

**Proactive efforts** – E Detachment does not have a regular program to actively seek out arrest warrants or conduct Sex Offender and Child Kidnapper Registration compliance checks.

**SERT vehicle** – The detachment has an aging SERT vehicle that needs to be replaced because its reliability is questionable.

## SUCSESSES

**D.A.R.E. program** – One of the most significant areas of public outreach that E Detachment has is its Drug Abuse Resistance Education program. D.A.R.E. provides an excellent opportunity for troopers to interact with the public in a positive way and to teach children the dangers of drugs and alcohol. During various times in 2010, there were as many as six different D.A.R.E. instructors in the detachment. Those instructors were located in Soldotna, Cooper Landing, and Anchor Point.

The D.A.R.E.-certified trooper in Cooper Landing

is also a mentor involved in D.A.R.E. training for other law enforcement officers across the state.

**Response to domestic assaults** – E Detachment troopers do a good job of handling priority crimes such as domestic violence assaults. This is due to quality training and a good working relationship with the district attorney's office. The detachment is proactive in regards to training by participating as much as possible when finances and scheduling allow. Unfortunately, there are sometimes not enough troopers to cover the vacancies created when other troopers are sent to training.

**Assisting rural troopers** – Troopers that are trained at the detachment consistently pick rural posts for their next assignment. This is due to proactive response in assisting other rural detachments with temporary duty personnel, especially in C Detachment.

**Equipment** – The detachment is steadily acquiring more training and gear such as avalanche beacons and other avalanche rescue gear to aid in numerous search and rescue missions that the detachment is tasked with conducting. This new equipment has improved AST's efforts in search and rescue missions from past years.

**Training** – We strive to provide our personnel with training appropriate to their mission such as Street Survival, search and rescue training, avalanche training, and supervisory training.





# ALASKA STATE TROOPERS

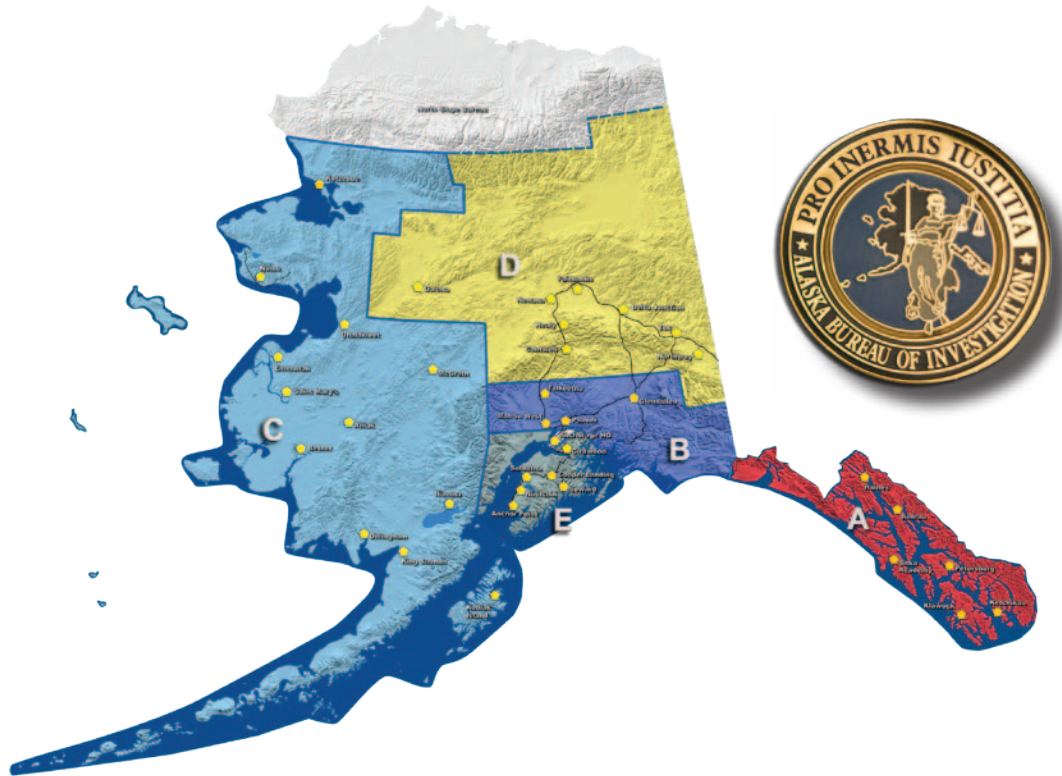
## *Alaska Bureau of Investigation*



**Commander**  
**Capt. Randy Hahn**



**Deputy Commander**  
**Lt. Dave Tugmon**



**BUREAU COMMAND**  
Commander – Captain  
Deputy Commander – Lieutenant  
**BUREAU STAFF**  
1 Administrative Assistant  
2 Office Assistants  
1 Criminal Justice Technician

The Division of Alaska State Troopers consolidated the criminal investigative resources of AST into the Alaska Bureau of Investigation (ABI) in 2003 with the intent to build the investigative capacity, capability, and expertise of the division. The mission of the bureau focuses on developing the investigative skills of personnel within the Department of Public Safety, and building collaborative relationships with other law enforcement agencies. Through these efforts, AST works toward increasing the effectiveness of investigative functions throughout the state.

ABI is composed of 49 authorized positions; 39 commissioned and 10 administrative support personnel. These positions are within a variety of specialized units and assigned to ABI posts located in Anchorage, Mat-Su, Fairbanks, and Soldotna. Each post location is staffed with at least one sergeant and a number of investigators based on workload for the region. However, all ABI personnel are prepared for deployment anywhere in the state as needs arise. At the close of 2010, one sergeant and three investigator positions within ABI were vacant. Six of ABI's positions, five investigators and one office assistant, continue to be paid through grant funds received in late 2009.

A captain and a lieutenant oversee the bureau from AST headquarters located in Anchorage. ABI units stationed in Anchorage include the Technical Crimes Unit, Financial Crimes Unit, Missing Persons Unit, Cold Case Investigation Unit, and Anchorage Major Crimes Unit.







Investigator Chris Long, Trooper Vic Aye, Investigator Aaron Meyer, Investigator Shannon Fore, and U.S. Deputy Marshal Leland Rakoz collaborate on a murder-suicide investigation in Chevak. Aye and Rakoz were in Chevak conducting sex offender compliance checks when the murder-suicide occurred. ABI investigators Long, Fore, and Meyer flew from Anchorage and Soldotna to Chevak to conduct the death investigation.



ABI also has multi-agency Child Abuse Investigation Units (CAIU) in the Mat-Su Valley and Fairbanks areas; Property Crimes Investigation Units in Soldotna and Mat-Su; and regional Major Crimes Units in Fairbanks, Mat-Su, and Soldotna. These units include funding made available to local agencies that have the ability to dedicate personnel to the unit facilitating a team approach to child abuse investigations.

ABI Major Crimes personnel in Anchorage and Child Abuse Investigation Unit personnel in Fairbanks are co-located with agencies that have similar functions to promote cooperation and collaboration and to increase services to those in need. The Anchorage Major Crimes Unit is co-located within the Anchorage Multi-Disciplinary Center, which houses members of the Anchorage Police Department, Office of Children's Services, Sexual Assault Response Team, and Alaska CARES (child forensic services). The Fairbanks CAIU is co-located with Stevie's Place (child forensic services), and the Family Resource Center. Co-location in this manner allows ABI personnel immediate access to the myriad of services potentially needed by victims. The intent is to follow this pattern as much as possible in the future and to explore other places where co-location is viable. In pursuit of this, the Mat-Su CAIU made preparations to occupy office spaces recently added to The Children's Place in Wasilla. This unit will finalize the move in early 2011.

The bureau develops and deploys expertise necessary to effectively investigate serious crimes. While units are distributed across the state and have regional responsibilities, ABI resources are integrated. Regardless of where a primary duty station is for an investigator, they deploy anywhere in the state to investigate serious crimes. This approach

takes advantage of individual or unit expertise to enhance investigations anywhere the need arises.

Collectively, ABI provides the following services:

- Assists federal, state, and local criminal justice agencies requiring specialized investigators and/or techniques
- Participates in local, state, and national programs, such as the Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force (ICAC), Sexual Assault Response Team (SART) and Multi-Disciplinary Team (MDT) programs
- Statewide investigatory support for all AST detachments and bureaus, and local law enforcement upon request by assistance with or by:
  - Documentation and investigation during autopsies
  - Search warrant applications and executions
  - Interviews
  - Crime scene investigation
  - Training
  - Investigates suspicious unattended deaths and homicides
  - Investigates serious felony assaults and robberies
  - Investigates sexual assault and child exploitation/sexual abuse of a minor cases
  - Investigates internet crimes against children and child pornography
  - Investigates burglary and other complex property crimes
  - Investigates complex financial and computer related crimes
  - Investigates and documents trooper-involved shooting cases
  - Investigates cases originating in state correctional facilities
  - Documents and disseminates information regarding homicides



Members of the Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force stand with Gov. Sean Parnell after he signed three crime bills that improves Alaska laws combating sexual assault and domestic violence. The ICAC team members are from left to right, Department of Homeland Security Investigations Special Agent Kevin Laws, AST investigator Sgt. Derek DeGraaf, TCU Criminal Justice Technician Angela Worthy, Gov. Parnell, AST Inv. Nathan Bucknall, and Anchorage Police Detective Kembery Seminuk from the APD Cybercrimes Division.



- ✪ Maintains state and national databases that document homicides and missing persons
- ✪ Conducts forensic computer examinations and electronic evidence recovery for DPS and other agencies

#### Technical Crimes Unit

1 Sergeant  
3 Troopers  
1 Criminal Justice Technician  
1 Office Assistant

In 2010, the Computer and Financial Crimes Unit was divided into the Technical Crimes Unit (TCU) and the Financial Crimes Unit (FCU). This was due to the need for greater specialization, resource development, and resource deployment into the field. Both are co-located in Anchorage. The TCU is part of the Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force and routinely conducts joint investigations with the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and Anchorage Police Department against online child exploitation investigation.

The use of computers to perpetrate, foster, and conceal criminal conduct has become a reality as criminal use of computers and cell phones constantly increases each year. In addition to online activity, the TCU has the capacity to forensically analyze any digital media to document any technology-facilitated crime. The unit also recovers electronic evidence from hundreds of cell phones per year. Personnel assigned to the unit are highly trained and competent in the use and application of technology. One full time TCU investigator works 15-25 proactive online child pornography cases each year. In addition to computer forensics, TCU personnel assist the DPS's Office

of Professional Standards (OPS) and other state agencies in significant or high profile investigations, as well as crimes involving the abuse of state resources.

In 2009 and early 2010, the TCU went to a network-based server storage, significantly increasing the volume and speed of the analysis of digital media. In August of 2010, the TCU forensic lab was flooded due to a sprinkler system failure. Approximately \$150,000 worth of equipment was replaced by the state's Risk Management and all the data was recovered.

In 2010, the TCU assisted DHS with contacting, interviewing, and arresting a suspect who traveled to Alaska from the Lower 48 with the intent to have sex with a minor under the age of 12. This crime mandates a minimum 30 years in federal prison.

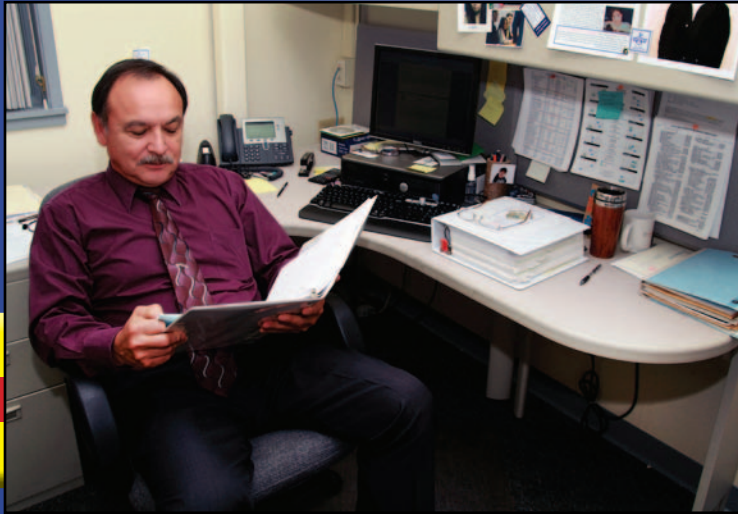
#### Financial Crimes Unit

1 Sergeant  
1 Trooper  
1 Investigator

The Financial Crimes Unit (FCU) routinely conducts investigations in conjunction with the Department of Law's Office of Special Prosecutions and Appeals; district attorney's offices throughout the state; and various federal agencies such as the IRS, FBI, U.S. Postal Service, U.S. Secret Service, and U.S. Attorney's Office. FCU personnel investigate significant high-value financial crimes, fraud cases, and crimes involving state resources. In 2010, the FCU was assisted by the TCU with several high profile cases involving theft by state employees including one theft of \$750,000 from the Alaska Division of Public Assistance.







Cold Case Investigator Jim Gallen pours through the case file for a cold case while sitting in his office. Photos of victims from other cold cases are taped to his desk cabinet.



## Child Abuse Investigation Units

### Mat-Su Unit

1 Sergeant  
3 Troopers

### Fairbanks Unit

1 Sergeant  
3 Troopers

The Child Abuse Investigation Units' (CAIU) primary focus is cases of child sexual and serious physical abuse cases. These units work closely with the Office of Children's Services, child advocacy centers, district attorney's offices, and other agencies in criminal investigations involving crimes against children. Within the parameters of Multi-Disciplinary Team (MDT) protocols and through the dedication of direct resources, the CAIUs are crucial to the effective investigation of these crimes. Because many cases concerning the sexual abuse of children involve child pornography, CAIUs work closely with the TCU to investigate child pornography and associated criminal acts committed against children.

Whenever possible, CAIUs integrate local police personnel with ABI personnel in the investigation of crimes against children. Investigators, regardless of agency jurisdiction, work together on all cases. CAIUs handle the majority of child-related crimes with the remainder investigated by personnel from regional investigation units.

### Missing Persons Unit

1 Office Assistant

The Missing Persons Unit (MPU) falls under the Anchorage Major Crimes Unit and tracks all

missing persons cases reported within Alaska. The Missing Persons Unit serves as the central repository for records regarding both juvenile and adult victims and serves as the gateway into the National Missing Persons Clearinghouse. The MPU manages both hard copy files and several computer-assisted programs that aid in the centralization of Missing Persons Clearinghouse information and information regarding unidentified human remains.

The Missing Persons Unit also manages the statutorily-required Alaska Homicide Registry and coordinates with the FBI's Violent Criminal Apprehension Program (ViCAP) to provide Alaska-specific data for federal reports. Missing Persons information can be viewed online: <http://www.dps.state.ak.us/AST/abi/missingpersons.aspx>.

The unit is staffed by one administrative support personnel and supervised by the ABI Anchorage Major Crimes sergeant.

### Cold Case Investigation Unit

4 Investigators

At the inception of the Cold Case Investigation Unit (CCIU) in 2002, there were 101 unresolved homicides cases in Alaska that were referred to the AST CCIU to investigate. These cases were initiated for killings that happened between 1961 and 2001. Recognizing that many of these cases are extremely complex and the investigation or review of these cases is time consuming, the department initiated a program of hiring experienced investigators to work these cold cases. These investigators are either retired troopers or former police officers. Members of the CCIU work closely with state prosecutors and police agencies in other states to pursue these homicide investigations. In addition, these highly experienced and capable investigators act as a ready





Fairbanks Investigator Jess Carson looks for evidence in the crawl space underneath a home in the North Pole area.



resource for mentoring less experienced personnel. They conduct case reviews and provide ideas and guidance for ongoing investigations.

In addition to the cold cases from AST jurisdiction, CCIU investigators assist and conduct investigations upon request from local police agencies. As the CCIU became known within the Alaska law enforcement community, requests for assistance began to come in from various local police departments who do not have the resources necessary to carry out intense or complex investigations.

Since its inception, the CCIU has arrested nine individuals for first-degree murder, which resulted in the closure of 11 unsolved felony cases. Three of those cases are awaiting trial, with the trial of defendant Kenneth Dion, charged with the murder of Bonnie Craig in 1994, set to begin in May 2011. In 2010, 19 cases were actively investigated by members of the CCIU.

#### Property Crimes Investigation Units

**Soldotna Unit**  
1 Trooper

**Mat-Su Unit**  
2 Troopers

Property Crimes Investigation Units (PCIU) were established to investigate property crimes involving organized criminal enterprises, high-dollar losses, and complex cases involving the loss of property. Units were established in the Mat-Su, Fairbanks, and Kenai Peninsula regions. In 2008, the property crimes unit in Fairbanks was disbanded with the positions transferred elsewhere within AST. These investigators are supervised by ABI sergeants at their locations.

#### Regional Major Crimes Investigation Units

**Fairbanks**  
1 Sergeant  
3 Troopers  
1 Office Assistant

**Soldotna Unit**  
1 Sergeant  
3 Troopers  
1 Office Assistant

**Mat-Su Unit**  
1 Sergeant  
3 Troopers  
1 Office Assistant

**Anchorage Unit**  
3 Troopers

Regional Major Crimes Investigation Units (MCIU) are located in Fairbanks, Mat-Su, Soldotna, and Anchorage. MCIUs investigate cases of homicide, sexual assault, robbery, serious crimes against person(s), fraud, and property-related crimes. Regional MCIU personnel serve as a ready resource for patrol personnel who respond to suspicious deaths, burglaries, and other types of crime. Integration of ABI personnel and patrol personnel proves to be highly effective in coordination and resolution of investigations. The MCIUs are the backbone of the Alaska Bureau of Investigation as they handle calls for assistance from nearly every law enforcement entity within Alaska. The units' investigative efforts are frequently initiated by the team members themselves. Personnel from any unit are subject to temporary deployment anywhere in the state to meet the needs of the bureau.



**Mat-Su Major Crimes Investigator Andrew Adams uses a metal detector to look for evidence in the woods.**



In addition to conducting investigative operations, the regional MCIUs provide a host of auxiliary services to include:

- Provide individuals trained to serve as crisis negotiators
- Provide personnel to staff the Special Emergency Reaction Teams (SERT)
- Coordinate the availability of polygraph examiners to assist troopers and other Alaska law enforcement agencies in conducting criminal and pre-employment polygraph examinations for DPS applicants
- Provide statewide support with major investigations, follow-up interviews, and autopsies performed in Anchorage at the State Medical Examiner's Office
- Provide certified instructors for crime scene investigations, motor vehicle crash investigations, interviews and interrogations, computer forensics and electronic evidence training, and a variety of other training subjects such as SART and domestic violence
- Represent the department on a variety of working groups and task forces to include human trafficking, Internet Crimes Against Children, Child Justice Act Task Force, SART, and the U.S. Attorney's Office Financial Crimes Task Force

## CHALLENGES

**Response to remote locations** – The Alaska Bureau of Investigation is challenged by the vast number of cases it is tasked with handling as well as the distances that must be traveled in responding to events. ABI is further challenged by the evolution of forensic investigative techniques and upholding training and the experience to incorporate these techniques into investigative processes. While ABI primarily supports AST units, one of the critical missions of ABI is to support all police agencies across the state, which means

ABI personnel respond anywhere they are needed. Rapid response to a crime scene is critical. Personnel must be ready and available on short notice for deployment at all hours of the day, every day of the week. Travel to many locations can be difficult, time consuming, and resource intensive. Challenges increase the farther investigators are from sources of management, additional personnel, expertise, and logistical support. In order to reduce response time and decrease the chance of being at a remote site without the equipment investigators need, crime scene kits are kept at all major posts and available for immediate deployment. Technical issues are partially managed by using digital photography and digital audio recordings, which can be transmitted via the Internet and examined by other investigators who may be hundreds of miles away.

**Property crimes staffing** – ABI has also been challenged with committing adequate resources to investigate property crimes, which have been on the rise in recent years. The Property Crimes Investigation Units were established to provide dedicated investigators to investigate these crimes. Often times cases must be prioritized based on the resources available. Crimes against persons are always a priority and, on occasion, property crime cases must be left with patrol units for investigation.

**Follow-up investigations** – Also adding to the bureau's caseload is the need for follow-up interviews for troopers in the field after victims are sent outside the area where the crime originated. Many times an Anchorage investigator is tasked with talking to a victim while they are getting treatment in Anchorage for wounds inflicted elsewhere in the state. Other cases involve follow-up interviews in a sexual abuse case that originated in an area where there is an absence of properly trained forensic personnel or facilities to handle adequate sexual assault testing.





## 2010 ABI ACTIVITY

Below is a brief overview of some of the types of cases ABI investigated during 2010:

- Sexual Assaults – 98 offenses
- Sexual Abuse of a Minor – 127 offenses
- Polygraphs – 60 examinations
- ABI Assists within DPS – 235 events
- Cell Phone Examinations – 115 events
- Computer Forensic Exams – 102 events

Alaska State Trooper Sgt. Derek DeGraaf



### SUCCESES

**Homicide investigations** – During 2010, ABI participated in the murder investigations of 17 people, as well as the justifiable homicides of two additional individuals. Some of these cases did not ultimately fall under the case responsibility of ABI. Two of these investigations carried over to the following year.

**Cold case investigations** – Cold case investigators have continued to work on several cases during 2010 with 19 cases being actively investigated. It is anticipated that at least three cases will go to trial and an additional indictment will emerge from this investigative work in 2011.

**Child abuse investigations** – CAIU personnel traveled extensively to conduct investigations in all areas of the state and occasionally, the Lower 48. The efforts made in these cases will truly identify the viability of resolution. The CAIUs continue to aggressively pursue cases that, for a variety of reasons, remained unsolved.

**Missing persons** – In 2010, the Missing Persons section added approximately 2,280 missing person notices to the statutorily-required Missing Persons Clearinghouse used to assist law enforcement when unidentified human remains are found.

**Computer and financial crime investigations** – As a result of these increased resources within the unit provided in 2009, forensic examinations of cell phones and computers has doubled during 2010, resulting in the arrest of numerous child predators throughout the state as well as the Lower 48.

### ABI ACTIVITY

As a course of normal operations, members of the Alaska Bureau of Investigation invest significant time to ensure that justice is served to victims and their families.

An average homicide investigation would account for 76 working days, or nearly four months for a single investigator. If an investigator did nothing other than homicides, they could complete three investigations in a year – if they were considered average cases.

From 2005 through 2009, ABI personnel attended and documented an average of 52 autopsies per year. This trend continued through 2010, as ABI investigators were regularly called upon by other detachments to assist with autopsies.

As part of its mission, the Alaska Bureau of Investigation provides expertise, consultation, and technical support to all AST detachments and municipal police agencies as requested. The Alaska State Troopers and the Alaska Bureau of Investigation are committed to providing the best possible service to victims and their families. The work is difficult, but the rewards are great.

Although no two cases are the same, the following depicts the average time invested in various classifications of criminal investigations:

- Homicide – 610 hours
- Sexual Assault – 75 hours
- Sexual Abuse of a Minor – 45 hours
- Interview Assist – 8 hours
- Background Investigation – 2 hours
- Correctional Institution Case – 20 hours
- Autopsy – 8 hours





# ALASKA STATE TROOPERS

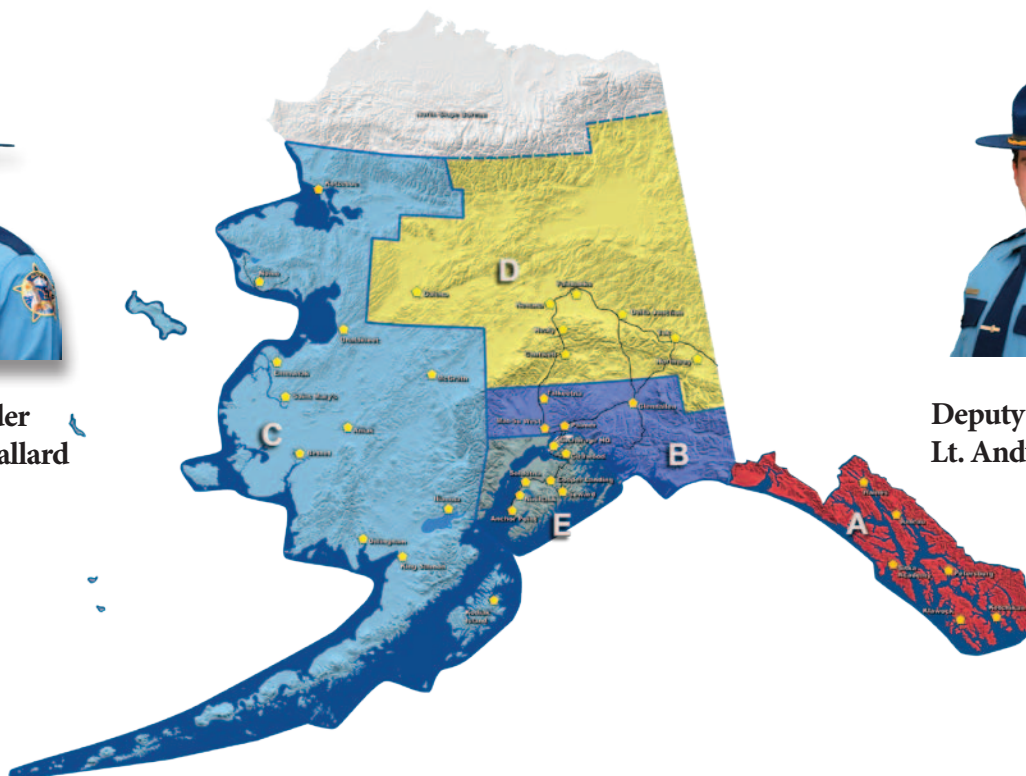
## *Alaska Bureau of Alcohol and Drug Enforcement*



**Commander**  
**Capt. Keith Mallard**



**Deputy Commander**  
**Lt. Andy Greenstreet**



**BUREAU COMMAND**  
Commander – Captain  
Deputy Commander – Lieutenant  
**BUREAU STAFF**  
1 Administrative Assistant  
1 Accounting Clerk  
1 Office Assistant

### ABADE'S 2010 OPERATIONAL OVERVIEW

The Alaska Bureau of Alcohol and Drug Enforcement, working closely with its federal and municipal partners around the state, has the unique ability to interdict and investigate cases across the state. Recognizing that drug abuse is not confined to any one geographical location or any economic strata, the bureau aggressively confronts drug and alcohol traffickers. Drug and alcohol abuse affects all Alaskans despite social, ethnic, racial, and economic status. Of all cases initiated by the Alaska State Troopers in 2010, 37 percent involved either drugs or alcohol, and sometimes both. For violent crime cases, alcohol and drugs were involved in 61.9 percent. These figures emphasize the importance of a cooperative plan to address the illegal use of drugs and alcohol within the state. Battling drugs and alcohol

The Alaska Bureau of Alcohol and Drug Enforcement (ABADE) provides a leadership role in coordinating law enforcement's efforts to reduce the availability of alcohol and controlled substances throughout Alaska. ABADE recognizes that a successful alcohol and drug program depends upon a unified effort, blending traditional law enforcement techniques with demand-reduction programs that address educational, social, and community concerns.





## ABADE's MISSION

- Interdict and seize alcohol and controlled substances that are illegally distributed throughout Alaska
- Identify and arrest distributors of controlled substances and illegal alcohol
- Provide training and investigative support to criminal justice agencies
- Support and participate in public education programs



in Alaska is an ever-developing effort to identify smuggling trends and to pin down the adaptive nature of the trafficker.

Alcohol, cocaine, heroin, marijuana, methamphetamines, and prescription drugs are identified as the primary substances of abuse and are the focus of most law enforcement efforts. During 2010, law enforcement officials observed that the number of local meth labs remained relatively consistent since 2007. Methamphetamine continues to be readily available throughout the state, but is more prominent in the larger populated areas. Perhaps just as significant are the abuse and sales of prescription drugs and the continued resurgence of the abuse of heroin in the urban areas. Alcohol and marijuana continue to be the overwhelming drugs of choice for Western Alaska.

ABADE continues to see significant increases in the seizures of imported heroin and methamphetamines. There has been a decrease in methamphetamine labs around the state, due in large part to outstanding precursor legislation instituted in 2006. That legislation established a database of people buying items such as certain cold medicine to help stem the purchase of the ingredients used to make meth. ABADE continued to see methamphetamine imported into the state in 2010. Through joint investigations, the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) saw a considerable increase in the amount of meth seized that year. In addition, ABADE has seen a significant increase in the amount of heroin imported into our urban communities. In January 2010, as a result of an Anchorage-based investigation, 10 pounds of heroin that was destined for Alaska was seized in Washington. Because this seizure never reached

Alaska, this amount is not included in this report's statistical data.

ABADE also recognizes that the ill-gotten gains of drug traffickers and alcohol smugglers promote an increase in lawlessness of all types. This lawlessness is not isolated to the use of controlled substances. It includes, but is not limited to, burglary, theft, domestic violence assaults, and murder. By eradicating such activity and arresting those who would profit off the misery of others, Alaska and its communities will be a much better and safer place to live and raise a family. The Alaska Bureau of Alcohol and Drug Enforcement, along with its partner agencies throughout the state, diligently dedicate its resources and energy toward that goal.

ABADE is committed to working with all interested agencies in the fight against substance abuse throughout the state by using innovative concepts to deal with the illegal sale and distribution of alcohol and drugs. The bureau is also committed to focusing on increased awareness and knowledge of drug abuse through educational presentations at the DPS Training Academy and in public forums, such as schools, service organizations, and other community groups.

Each year, ABADE publishes an annual drug report. In authoring this publication, ABADE endeavors to represent the drug situation in Alaska in a manner that provides the broadest possible picture of the true drug situation. This report can be located at <http://www.dps.state.ak.us/ast/abade/docs/2010ABADEAnnualReport.pdf>.







**Items seized in a methamphetamine lab bust.**



## STAFFING AND SUPPORT

Because of Alaska's geographical vastness and ethnic diversity, coupled with the limited number of law enforcement resources, no single law enforcement agency is capable of handling the drug and alcohol problems alone. Utilizing a combination of federal and state funding, ABADE participates in and funds a number of multi-jurisdictional forces around the state. ABADE encourages cooperative efforts between federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies and has taken a leadership role in fostering and developing many of these cooperative arrangements through multi-jurisdictional and multi-agency efforts. The ABADE headquarters office in Anchorage supports eight investigative teams throughout the state.

### **Alaska Interdiction Task Force**

- 1 DEA group supervisor
- 2 DEA agents
- 1 Trooper
- 1 Anchorage Police Officer
- 1 Anchorage Airport Police Officer
- 1 U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement Agent
- 1 Alaska National Guard Counter Drug Support Program (CDSP) Officer
- 1 AST Criminal Justice Technician
- 1 AST Drug Detection Canine

### **DEA Enforcement Group (EG)**

- 1 Trooper assigned to DEA unit

The Alaska Interdiction Task Force (AITF) is a federally funded task force sponsored by the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA). The Alaska State

Troopers turned over supervision of the task force to the DEA in July 2002. Prior to that the unit was known as the Airport Interdiction Task Force and the unit's primary mission was focused solely on airport interdiction efforts. The AITF is now responsible for investigations that involve drug trafficking at various ports of entry to include passengers and luggage arriving at airport terminals; packages, and cargo shipped through parcel delivery services; and commercial cargo carriers. The AITF is strategically located in Anchorage near the Ted Stevens International Airport, allowing the unit easy access to the airport and shipping companies where most passengers and parcels arrive.

In addition to the AITF, ABADE has an investigator assigned to the DEA Enforcement Group (EG) located in Anchorage. This federally deputized task force officer (TFO) works with other TFOs to conduct joint drug investigations around the state.

In 2010, these units served 27 search warrants resulting in the seizure of approximately \$1.7 million worth of illegal drugs.

### **Fairbanks Areawide Narcotics Team**

- 1 AST Sergeant
- 2 Troopers
- 1 Fairbanks Police Officer
- 1 North Pole Police Officer
- 1 AST Criminal Justice Technician
- 2 Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearm & Explosive Agents
- 1 CDSP Officer
- 1 AST Drug Detection Canine

The primary area of responsibility for the





## Marijuana seized in a grow bust.



Fairbanks Areawide Narcotics Team is in Interior Alaska, but also reaches as far north as Barrow and east to the Canadian border. The Fairbanks team works closely with the Fairbanks Police Department, University of Alaska-Fairbanks Police Department, and the North Pole Police Department as well as the uniformed patrol section of the Alaska State Troopers to educate, train, and support their efforts related to drug enforcement. The Fairbanks team also works closely with Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) agents and Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) agents assigned to the Fairbanks area. DEA and ATF complement the team's investigative ability by providing additional manpower, resources, and the possibility of federal prosecution of drug traffickers. Their focus is to identify and investigate street level dealers of crack cocaine, cocaine, crystal methamphetamine, marijuana, heroin, and the illegal distribution of controlled prescription medication as well as the illegal importation of alcohol to local option communities in Interior Alaska. Clandestine methamphetamine laboratories also remain a concern in the Fairbanks area. These labs are being operated in or near single and multi-family homes, where public health and safety is at an extremely high risk.

In 2010, the unit served 58 search warrants resulting in the seizure of more than \$135,000 in illegal alcohol and over \$1.9 million in illegal drugs.

### Major Offender Unit

1 AST Sergeant  
5 Troopers  
1 AST Criminal Justice Technician  
1 Prosecutor from Department of Law  
1 CDSP Officer

The Major Offenders Unit (MOU) focuses on major alcohol and drug distributors statewide. The MOU works independently and supports other ABADE units as well as local departments and federal agencies, as needed. Nearly every investigator has been clandestine lab certified and is called upon to respond to various locations to assist in dismantling these labs. The MOU is co-located with the Alaska Interdiction Task Force in Anchorage and shares a close working relationship with DEA, Internal Revenue Service, ATF, Immigration and Customs Enforcement, and Federal Bureau of Investigation.

### Mat-Su Drug Narcotics Enforcement Team

1 AST Sergeant  
2 Troopers  
1 Palmer Police Officer  
1 Wasilla Police Officer  
1 AST Criminal Justice Technician  
1 CDSP Officer

The Mat-Su Drug Enforcement team focuses on drug investigations within the Matanuska-Susitna region to include Palmer, Wasilla, Talkeetna, Glennallen, Valdez, and Cordova. The ABADE Mat-Su team works closely with the Palmer Police Department and the Wasilla Police Department as well as the uniformed patrol section of the Alaska State Troopers to educate, train, and support efforts related to drug enforcement.

This team is one of ABADE's most experienced units. They continue to balance their focus between long-term complex investigations and short-term lower level distributors. In 2010, heroin seizures continued to rise. Approximately 152.21 grams of heroin was seized by the Mat-Su Drug Enforcement team. When compared to the 16.3 grams seized in 2005,



# ABADE 2010 STATISTICS

Total cases initiated	5,438
Charges	2,314
Alcohol seized	2,929.27 liters
Total alcohol street value	\$556,480
Cocaine / Crack seized	22.15 pounds
Heroin seized	4.64 pounds
Hydrocodone seized	627.5 doses
Marijuana seized	316.07 pounds
Marijuana plants seized	3,822 plants
Marijuana grows	75
Methamphetamine labs	11
Meth seized/purchased	4.53 pounds
Oxycontin/Oxycodone	5,958 doses
Prescription pills per dose	2,668 doses
Total drug street value	\$14,793,194



it clearly illustrates the resurgence of heroin into today's urban drug culture.

The Mat-Su Valley continues to see numerous marijuana grows, ranging from relatively small grows of 20 plants to grows containing over 500 plants. Coupled with the Fairbanks area in the number of grows eradicated this year, these two areas are responsible for well over 62 percent of grows eradicated statewide. During 2010, this unit served 66 search warrants resulting in the seizure of more than \$5.3 million worth of illegal drugs.

## Southcentral Areawide Narcotics Team

1 AST Sergeant  
1 Trooper  
1 Kenai Police Officer  
1 AST Criminal Justice Technician

The Southcentral Areawide Narcotics (SCAN) team focuses on drug investigations primarily on the Kenai Peninsula. The team works closely with the Soldotna Police Department and Kenai Police Department. Communities within its area of responsibility are Homer, Soldotna, Kenai, Seward, Kodiak Island, as well as Girdwood and Whittier. The unit is dedicated to working closely with the local police departments in these communities and the uniformed patrol units of the Alaska State Troopers to educate and support their efforts in drug enforcement. The unit has also provided drug education to other agencies, such as Juvenile Services and the Office of Children's Services, regarding drug endangered children as well as drug and methamphetamine clandestine lab identification.

Over the last few years, the unit has made an effort to reduce meth labs on the Kenai Peninsula by monitoring Sudafed logs at the local

pharmacies and occasionally some Anchorage pharmacies. There has been a significant decrease in the number of clandestine laboratories discovered on the Kenai Peninsula. With the decrease in clandestine labs, SCAN investigators have observed an increase in the amount of processed methamphetamine and heroin being imported into the area. Also of note is the increase in the number of firearms seized in the association with the drug investigations.

In 2010, the unit served 20 search warrants resulting in the seizure of more than \$1.6 million worth of illegal drugs.

## Southeast Alaska Cities Against Drugs

1 AST Sergeant (Juneau)  
1 Trooper (Ketchikan)  
2 Sitka Police Officers  
1 Petersburg Police Officer  
1 Criminal Justice Technician I (Juneau)  
1 Sitka PD Drug Detection Canine

The Southeast Alaska Cities Against Drugs Task Force (SEACAD) is a pro-active task force whose primary goal is to eliminate drug trafficking in southeast Alaska. SEACAD has offices located in Juneau, Ketchikan, Sitka, and Petersburg. During the summer of 2010, the Sitka Police Department reassigned a drug detection canine to its officer assigned to the SEACAD office in Juneau.

The AST sergeant oversees and works hand-in-hand with the SEACAD project that is headed by Chief Sheldon Schmitt of the Sitka Police Department. Chief Schmitt, along with the Petersburg Police Department, provides narcotics officers to work alongside the AST investigators to focus on street level dealers, major offenders, and the manufacturing of controlled substances. Some of the investigative methods used by this team include





**This man was caught by Western Alaska Alcohol and Narcotics Team investigators trying to smuggle bottles of alcohol to a dry village by taping them to his body.**



interdiction activities and undercover operations. SEACAD members are also tasked with teaching drug related classes to the local municipal police departments throughout Southeast Alaska.

Although the Juneau Police Department and Ketchikan Police Department have their own individual drug units, they still hold seats on the SEACAD Board. SEACAD, JPD, and KPD investigators routinely work together to investigate the importation, sale, and manufacturing of controlled substances throughout Southeast Alaska. On occasion, the Craig Police Department provides an investigator to assist the Ketchikan SEACAD office with investigations on the Prince of Wales Island and in Ketchikan. An improved working relationship has also been developed with the DEA High Intensity Drug Trafficking (HIDTA) area task force in Seattle.

In 2010, SEACAD served 29 search warrants resulting in the seizure of approximately \$1.8 million worth of illegal drugs.

#### **Western Alaska Alcohol and Narcotics Team**

- 1 AST Sergeant (Anchorage)
- 3 Troopers (Anchorage)
- 3 Troopers (Bethel)
- 1 Trooper (Nome)
- 1 Trooper (Dillingham)
- 1 Trooper (Kotzebue)
- 1 Kotzebue Police Officer
- 1 Dillingham Police Officer
- 1 AST Criminal Justice Technician (Anchorage)
- 1 AST Criminal Justice Technician (Bethel)

This team's primary area of responsibility is

Alaska's western region to include the Aleutian Chain and Kotzebue, Nome, Bethel, Dillingham, and their surrounding villages. Due to the vast number of local option communities in Western Alaska, a significant portion of this team's focus is on alcohol enforcement. They target smugglers and bootleggers through undercover operations and interdictions. Alcohol shipped legally to regional hubs such as Nome, Bethel, and Kotzebue is then illegally distributed to nearby communities that have banned alcohol or have limited the possession of alcohol under the local option laws of Alaska.

As in previous years, the two most common methods of importing alcohol and illegal drugs into rural communities are via the U.S. Postal Service and local airlines. Because much of the alcohol and drugs being sold illegally in Alaska are shipped through the U.S. mail, the U.S. Postal Inspection Service conducts interdictions with direct support from AST and CDSP. These efforts consist of Postal Inspectors assisted by AST investigators and CDSP personnel monitoring packages en route to outlying villages and communities through postal facilities in Anchorage, Fairbanks, and Bethel. Suspicious packages are brought to the attention of the postal inspectors, who then decide how best to investigate the shipment.

The investigations of many of these seizures are coordinated through AST and other local law enforcement entities. The Postal Inspection Service relies heavily on support from ABADE. This support includes resources like scent detection canines, intelligence information, and follow-up efforts. Not only does this support assist in the seizure, it also helps successfully investigate and prosecute those involved in alcohol bootlegging and drug





# ABADE 2010 ACTIVITY

- Resulted in over 54,000 hours worked
- The service of 441 search warrants
- The filing of 1,949 charges for prosecution in either state or federal courts
- The seizure of a total of approximately \$18.4 million in illegal narcotics



trafficking. The cross deputation of AST WAANT team members by the Postal Inspection Service first occurred in 2007 and continued in 2010. This cross deputation has given WAANT investigators additional authority to conduct investigations involving postal parcels. Through this program, alcohol seizures with a street value of over \$90,000 and illicit drugs with a street value of over \$475,000 were interdicted in 2010.

Alcohol and marijuana continue to be the overwhelming drugs of choice for Western Alaska, however, WAANT investigators have witnessed a significant increase in the level of illegal prescription medication distribution as well as the presence of heroin and methamphetamines. WAANT continues to see mostly opportunistic sellers of alcohol with no real organizational structure to target.

In 2010, this unit served 79 search warrants, and seized over \$330,000 in illegal alcohol and just over one million dollars in illegal drugs.

## CHALLENGES

**Staffing** – For most of 2010, ABADE had various vacancies throughout many of its units. Based on the size of the unit, one vacancy can handicap the entire unit and hinder effective investigations. Once filled these vacancies require specialized training that can take many months to complete.

## SUCSESSES

**Overcoming staffing issues** – To combat staffing issues, investigators working in ABADE receive comprehensive training that enables them to investigate drug and alcohol cases anywhere in Alaska as needs arise. Despite staffing vacancies in many units, ABADE was able to conduct large scale investigations in several areas of the state and assist several Lower 48 law enforcement agencies to initiate and complete investigations within Alaska.



# ALASKA STATE TROOPERS

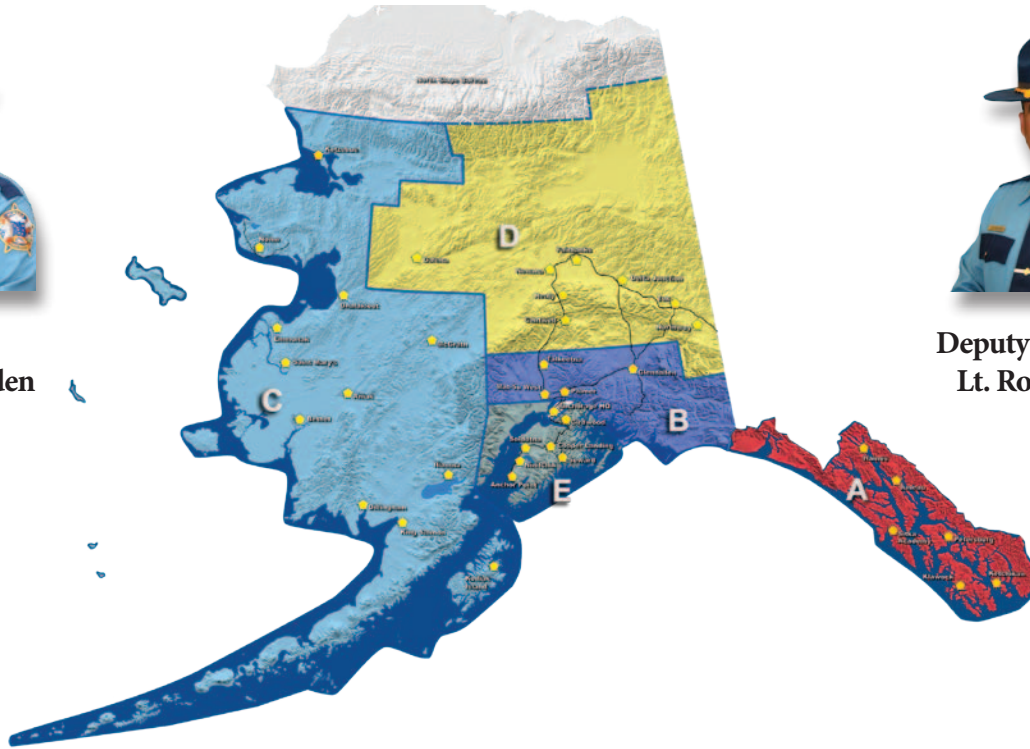
## *Alaska Bureau of Judicial Services*



**Commander**  
**Capt. Dan Lowden**



**Deputy Commander**  
**Lt. Robert French**



**BUREAU COMMAND**  
Commander – Captain  
Deputy Commander – Lieutenant

The Department of Public Safety is required by statute to transport prisoners, serve writs, and provide security for the Alaska Court System. The Division of Alaska State Troopers has established units in specific communities to provide these services to the court system and the public. These units are called Judicial Services Units. JS units employ Court Services Officers and Alaska State Troopers to perform these tasks. These tasks are not limited to the units; troopers perform these duties in locations where a JS Unit has not been established.

Judicial Services Units were formerly managed by detachment commanders within their respective regions. In 2009, AST completed a process of consolidating the JS units into single statewide bureau to improve uniformity of operations, standardization of procedures, improve communication between the regional offices and provide

for improved efficiency in the transport of prisoners and writ service. The consolidated command also allows for a statewide central point of contact for the Alaska Court System and the Department of Corrections when discussing operational topics important to JS operations.

In 2010, the Bureau of Judicial Services comprised of 11 units spread throughout the state. JS personnel are located in Anchorage, Fairbanks, Palmer, Kenai, Juneau, Ketchikan, Bethel, Nome, Dillingham, Barrow, and Homer. The bureau is staffed by eight troopers, 59 Court Services Officers, and 15 clerical personnel.

CSOs are a unique class of officers who work under the general direction and command of AST. They are not certified police officers, but are classified as peace officers. Among the duties they are assigned to perform, CSOs provide prisoner transport, court security, and process services under authority of Alaska statutes. They are armed and their arrest authority is limited to their primary duties.







**Anchorage Judicial Services Court Services**  
**Officer Joe Eichhorn provides courtroom**  
**security during a hearing.**



The writs served include subpoenas, summons and complaints, writs of assistance, evictions, executions, child custody orders, mental health commitments, domestic violence protective orders, and several other types of court writs. Prisoner transports include moves between jail facilities and courts for proceedings, and moves between jails within and outside a detachment. Court security includes physical security of court property, preventing prohibited items from being brought into the courthouse, responding to disturbances, and protection of the judiciary.

## JUDICIAL SERVICES SOUTHEAST

**Juneau Judicial Services**  
 3 Court Services Officers  
 1 Office Assistant

The unit is responsible for the security of the court buildings, protection of the judiciary, and maintaining the peace and order in the superior and district courtrooms. The Juneau unit serves one superior court justice (five when the full court is in session), two superior court judges, one district court judge, a magistrate, and a standing master. This unit is located in the Dimond Court Building on 4<sup>th</sup> Street used by the court system and other agencies.

In 2010, the Juneau Judicial Services Unit:

- ★ Processed 1,216 writs
- ★ Served 1,060 writs
- ★ Conducted two evictions
- ★ Performed 2,269 prisoner transports
- ★ Extradited three fugitives arrested in other states and returned to Alaska
- ★ Made 129 warrant arrests



**Ketchikan Judicial Services**  
 2 Court Services Officers  
 1 Office Assistant

Ketchikan JS services two superior court judges, a district court judge, and one magistrate. This unit is located in the multi-use building used by the court system and other agencies at 415 Main Street in Ketchikan.

In 2010, the Ketchikan Judicial Services Unit:

- ★ Processed 1,467 writs
- ★ Served 1,272 writs
- ★ Conducted two evictions
- ★ Executed two temporary mental health commitments
- ★ Performed 1,248 prisoner transports
- ★ Extradited three fugitives arrested in other states and returned to Alaska
- ★ Made 277 warrant arrests

## JUDICIAL SERVICES SOUTHCENTRAL

**Anchorage Judicial Services Unit**  
 2 AST Sergeants  
 26 Court Services Officers (2 Vacant)  
 5 Office Assistants  
 2 Accounting Clerks

The unit is responsible for the security of the court buildings, protection of the judiciary, and maintaining the peace and order in the appellate, superior, and district courtrooms. The Anchorage court campus includes two courthouses and a 369,000-square foot administrative building on three city blocks in downtown Anchorage. The Anchorage judiciary includes three supreme court justices

Anchorage CSO Ed Appellof keeps an eye on prisoners as they leave the holding cells in the courthouse basement.



(five when the full court is in session), three court of appeals judges, 15 superior court judges, nine district court judges, five magistrates, and five standing masters. Anchorage JS administrative and accounting staff also supports the bureau command staff.

In 2010, Anchorage Judicial Services Unit:

- ✪ Processed 5,178 writs
- ✪ Served 3,671 writs
- ✪ Conducted 266 evictions
- ✪ Executed 62 temporary mental health commitments
- ✪ Performed 27,080 prisoner transports
- ✪ Extradited 33 fugitives from justice within Alaska
- ✪ Extradited 20 fugitives arrested in other states and returned to Alaska
- ✪ Made 3,306 warrant arrests

#### Kenai Judicial Services Unit

1 State Trooper  
5 Court Services Officers  
1 Office Assistant

The unit is responsible for the security of the court buildings, protection of the judiciary, and maintaining the peace and order in the superior and district courtrooms. The Kenai court campus is one courthouse, which houses all of the administrative staff. The Kenai judiciary includes three superior court judges, a district court judge, and two standing masters.

In 2010, the Kenai Judicial Services Unit:

- ✪ Processed 2,093 writs
- ✪ Served 1,436 writs
- ✪ Conducted four evictions
- ✪ Executed two temporary mental health commitments

- ✪ Performed 2,513 prisoner transports
- ✪ Extradited three fugitives arrested in other states and returned to Alaska
- ✪ Made seven warrant arrests

#### Homer Judicial Services Unit

1 Court Services Officer

This unit is responsible for providing JS services to Homer and Anchor Point. This CSO operates out of an office in the Homer courthouse. The Homer court has one district judge.

In 2010, the Homer Judicial Services Unit:

- ✪ Processed 589 writs
- ✪ Served 454 writs
- ✪ Conducted two evictions
- ✪ Performed 73 prisoner transports
- ✪ Made 54 warrant arrests

These numbers are included in Kenai JS Units' overall numbers

#### Palmer Judicial Services

1 AST Sergeant  
1 Alaska State Trooper  
7 Court Services Officers  
2 Office Assistants

The unit is responsible for the security of the court buildings, protection of the judiciary, and maintaining the peace and order in the superior and district courtrooms. The Palmer court campus is one courthouse, which houses all of the administrative staff. The Palmer judiciary includes four superior court judges and three district court judges.







Anchorage JS CSO Phil McKee updates the daily list of prisoners who are to be transported back and forth between the jail and the Anchorage Courthouse.



In 2010, the Palmer Judicial Services Unit:

- ✪ Processed 1,963 writs
- ✪ Served 1,376 writs
- ✪ Conducted 12 evictions
- ✪ Executed 16 temporary mental health commitments
- ✪ Performed 5,985 prisoner transports
- ✪ Extradited 65 fugitives arrested in other states and returned to Alaska
- ✪ Made 1,215 warrant arrests

## JUDICIAL SERVICES INTERIOR

### Fairbanks Judicial Services Unit

- 1 AST Sergeant
- 1 State Trooper
- 9 Court Services Officers in Fairbanks
- 2 Office Assistants

The Fairbanks court is located in the 128,000-square-foot Rabinowitz Courthouse at 101 Lacey Street in Fairbanks. Additionally, there are three parking lots. The Fairbanks judiciary includes one supreme court justice (five when the full court is in session), six superior court judges, three district court judges, three magistrates, and two pro tem judges. The main duty of the trooper assigned to the Fairbanks unit is coordinating the extradition of fugitives to and from Alaska. In addition to the Fairbanks court, Fairbanks JS unit supports the eastern half of the Fourth Judicial District trial courts as needed. This includes courts in Galena, McGrath, Tanana, Nenana, Healy, Fort Yukon, Delta Junction, and Tok.

In 2010, the Fairbanks Judicial Services Unit:

- ✪ Processed 7,433 writs
- ✪ Served 5,177 writs
- ✪ Executed 360 temporary mental health

commitments

- ✪ Performed 9,710 prisoner transports
- ✪ Extradited eight fugitives arrested in other states, and returned to Alaska
- ✪ Made 1,461 warrant arrests

### Barrow Judicial Services Unit

1 Court Services Officer

A Court Services Officer is assigned to Barrow. This officer is responsible for providing JS services to Barrow and the surrounding villages. The Barrow court has one superior court judge.

In 2010, the Barrow CSO:

- ✪ Processed 308 writs
- ✪ Conducted 807 prisoner transports

## JUDICIAL SERVICES WESTERN ALASKA

In 2009, Court Services Officers were assigned to Dillingham, Bethel, Nome, and Homer after an absence of several years in these areas. The increase in CSO staffing is designed to relieve overburdened troopers of prisoner transport and writ service duties, thereby allowing troopers to focus more of their time on enforcement and investigative efforts. These CSOs handle the same JS duties as elsewhere. Because the correctional facilities in these remote locations have a time limit on how long a prisoner can be jailed, CSOs in Bethel, Dillingham, Nome, and the CSO operating out of C Detachment headquarters, assist with prisoner transports to and from Anchorage in addition to the correctional facilities and jails throughout Western Alaska. There are several scheduling factors that are taken into account when determining whether a CSO or trooper does the prisoner transport.



**Nome Court Services Officer Curtis Worland fingerprints a woman for a background check.**



### **C Detachment Support** 1 Court Services Officer

This Court Services Officer operates out of an office at the C Detachment headquarters in Anchorage. This CSO is assigned to the Anchorage Judicial Services Unit, but receives day-to-day supervision from the Anchorage Service Unit sergeant. The CSO routinely travels around Western Alaska providing judicial services support by conducting prisoner transports to and from Anchorage. The CSO also goes on temporary duty assignments for courtroom security during longer trials throughout C Detachment.

In 2010, the C Detachment Support CSO:

- ✪ Processed and served nine writs
- ✪ Conducted 774 prisoner transports

### **Bethel Judicial Services Unit** 2 Court Services Officer

The Bethel judiciary contains two superior court judges, one district court judge, and one magistrate. This unit is supervised by an AST sergeant assigned to the Anchorage Judicial Services Unit. The CSOs operate out of an office at the Bethel courthouse, but also do some work out of the trooper post in Bethel.

In 2010, the Bethel Judicial Services Unit:

- ✪ Processed 1,315 writs
- ✪ Served 941 writs
- ✪ Executed one temporary mental health commitment
- ✪ Conducted 10 evictions
- ✪ Performed 3,636 total prisoner transports
- ✪ Made six warrant arrests

### **Dillingham Judicial Services Unit** 1 Court Services Officer

The Dillingham court has one superior court judge. This unit is supervised by an AST sergeant assigned to the Anchorage JS Unit. This CSO operates out of an office at the Dillingham courthouse, but also performs some of the work out of the trooper post in Dillingham.

In 2010, the Dillingham Judicial Services Unit:

- ✪ Conducted 726 prisoner transports
- ✪ Extradited six fugitives arrested in other states and returned to Alaska
- ✪ Made 12 warrant arrests
- ✪ Served 114 writs

### **Nome Judicial Services Unit** 2 Court Services Officers

This unit is supervised by an AST sergeant assigned to the Fairbanks JS Unit. The CSOs operate out of the Nome post, which is located across the street from the Nome courthouse.

In 2010, the Nome Judicial Services Unit:

- ✪ Processed 358 writs
- ✪ Served 288 writs
- ✪ Conducted three evictions
- ✪ Performed 2,305 prisoner transports
- ✪ Made 32 warrant arrests



# ALASKA STATE TROOPERS

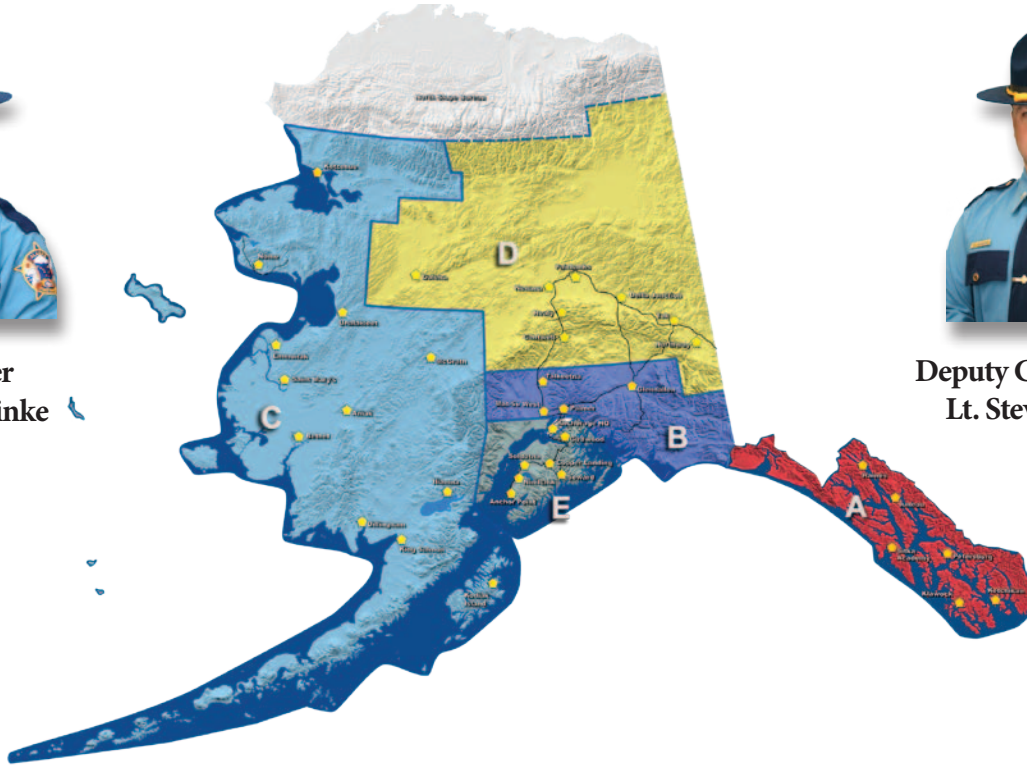
## *Alaska Bureau of Highway Patrol*



**Commander**  
**Capt. Hans Brinke**



**Deputy Commander**  
**Lt. Steve Adams**



**BUREAU COMMAND**  
Commander – Captain  
Deputy Commander – Lieutenant  
**BUREAU STAFF**  
1 Administrative Assistant II  
1 Visual Information Specialist  
1 Criminal Justice Tech

DOT&PF and DPS studied collision data and road data going back 30 years. Several stretches of road were identified that had unusually high numbers of fatal and major injury collisions over the years. DOT&PF looked at ways to reduce these types of collisions through engineering and DPS focused on enforcement. The two departments collaborated on the education aspect of the plan.

In 2007, the Department of Public Safety joined with the Department of Transportation and Public Facilities; other state, federal, and local agencies; and interested non-governmental groups to develop the Alaska Strategic Highway Safety Plan (ASHSP). The ASHSP contained four focal points to combat fatal and major injury crashes on Alaska's surface transportation system: engineering, enforcement, education, and emergency services.

With this, the idea to create a bureau within the Alaska State Troopers that specifically focuses on what occurs on Alaska's roads was put into motion.

Four stretches of roadway are designated Highway Safety Corridors as part of this effort:

- Seward Highway Safety Corridor (mile 87 to mile 117)
- Parks Highway Safety Corridor (mile 44.5 to mile 53)
- Knik-Goose Bay Road Safety Corridor (mile 0.6 to mile 17.2)
- Sterling Highway Safety Corridor (mile 83 to mile 93)





**Trooper Matthew Wertanen of the Fairbanks team steps up on the sidestep to talk to a semi-truck driver during a traffic stop on the Parks Highway.**



Of the 27,842 traffic citations issued in 2010, 2,405 were in these safety corridors.

Additional stretches of road are being reviewed for possible designation by the Safety Corridor Review Team that meets annually and provides recommendations to the commissioners of DPS and DOT&PF. This team includes members of DPS, DOT&PF, and the Alaska Highway Safety Office, which falls under DOT&PF.

With the assistance of federal funding and the Alaska Highway Safety Office, the Alaska Bureau of Highway Patrol (ABHP) was officially formed on Dec. 1, 2008 for traffic law enforcement duties statewide. Enforcement focus is, but not limited to, impaired driving enforcement campaigns, seatbelt enforcement, aggressive driving enforcement, fatal and major injury crash investigations, and education.

Outside bureau headquarters at the Mat-Su West post in Wasilla, ABHP has three mobile teams assigned to address traffic safety needs on Alaska's roadways. The teams deploy to various parts of the state depending on special events or planned focused enforcement. The Mat-Su team is also based out of the Mat-Su West post in Wasilla. Likewise, the Fairbanks team was based out of the post in Fairbanks and the Soldotna team based at the Soldotna post. ABHP's success has been due to strong partnerships with AHSO, DOT&PF, and municipal law enforcement. The multi-jurisdictional teams also include officers from local police departments to bolster the existing teams while awaiting approval of additional trooper positions. First to join ABHP was the Palmer and Wasilla police departments, followed by an officer from the Kenai

Police Department in 2009. A Fairbanks police officer joined the Fairbanks team in 2010.

With specialized training, troopers in ABHP perform investigations of crimes that occur on Alaska's roads. This includes investigations of crashes, the transportation of stolen goods, drug trafficking on the roadways, DUI cases, and much more. The ultimate goal for the bureau is to help bring the number of major injury and fatal collisions down to zero. It is the bureau's position that even one death on Alaska's roadways is unacceptable.

#### **Mat-Su Team**

1 Sergeant  
5 Troopers (1 vacant)  
1 Palmer Police Officer  
1 Wasilla Police Officer  
1 Commercial Motor Vehicle Officer

#### **Fairbanks Team**

1 Sergeant  
4 Troopers (1 vacant)  
1 Commercial Motor Vehicle Officer  
1 Office Assistant  
1 Fairbanks Police Officer

#### **Soldotna Team**

1 Sergeant  
5 Troopers (2 vacant)  
1 Kenai Police Officer  
1 Commercial Motor Vehicle Officer  
1 Office Assistant

In addition to civilian administrative and commissioned staff, a civilian visual





Patrol cars with the Alaska Bureau of Highway Patrol follow the hearse carrying the body of a slain Hoonah Police officer as a caravan of about 100 patrol vehicles winds its way through Anchorage from the mortuary to the Ted Steven International Airport.



information specialist was assigned to ABHP for the educational promotion of safe driving behaviors in Alaska. These media campaigns aim to educate the public about correct driving behaviors and focused enforcement efforts. ABHP recognizes the need to influence positive driving behavior through educational outreach for success in reducing the fatal and major injury collisions on Alaska's roads.

Visual Information Specialist Justin Freeman created and aired 14 media campaigns addressing impaired driving, seatbelt use, dangerous driving, and distracted driving. Two campaigns created after ABHP was established were nominated for Emmy Awards and three campaigns were awarded Telly Awards in 2010 for campaigns created in 2008 and 2009.

## ANNUAL OR SPECIAL PROJECTS

In years past, AST has responded to the need of extra enforcement during annual events. Many of the events took substantial resources to oversee and ensure public safety. Detachment commanders would solicit assistance from other detachments to help provide highway safety during special events. The strain for detachments to maintain adequate staffing while aiding other detachments during special events in their areas was extremely difficult. From its inception, ABHP has taken the lead in supplementing detachments during special events with a focus on highway safety and traffic control. The following are events that ABHP responds to annually:

- Arctic Man enforcement in D Detachment

- Fourth of July enforcement in E Detachment
- Labor Day enforcement throughout the state
- Memorial Day enforcement throughout the state
- Palmer State Fair enforcement in B Detachment
- Deltana Fair enforcement in D Detachment
- Tanana Valley Fair enforcement in D Detachment
- Anderson Bluegrass Festival enforcement in D Detachment
- Iditarod Restart enforcement in B Detachment
- Talkeetna Bluegrass Festival enforcement in B Detachment
- Mount Marathon enforcement in E Detachment
- Fireweed 400 Bike Race enforcement in B Detachment
- Alaska State Troopers Adventure Relay from Fairbanks to Seward
- Multi-jurisdictional and multi-agency enforcement throughout the state
- Dignitary security throughout the state

## CHALLENGES

**Funding** – ABHP is required to apply for grant funding yearly through the Alaska Highway Safety Office. Funding through AHSO is a competitive process. When applying for funds, the bureau has to provide written strategies, goals, and performance measures to show how the money will be used and how overall performance will be monitored. An example of this would be used in applying for funds for an operation on seat belt enforcement and education. It's a well-known fact that seatbelt use saves lives. The goal of the enforcement is to increase seatbelt use. The bureau would find out what current data showed for seatbelt usage and what the total monthly seatbelt citations







## Alaska Bureau of Highway Patrol

### ABHP 2010 ACTIVITY

ABHP is assigned primary, but not sole, responsibility for the investigations of fatal and major injury motor vehicle crashes statewide. ABHP conducted 528 motor vehicle collision investigations in 2010. Of which:

- 354 were damage only collisions
- 139 were injury collisions
- 32 were fatal collisions

ABHP troopers and police officers also handled the following in 2010:

- 9,556 traffic citations issued, the most for AST statewide
- 7,800 warnings issued
- 24,650 contacts
- 609 arrests for various crimes
- 369 impaired driving arrests
- 88 drug cases

was for the year under review. The bureau would then predict what we expected that data to be by the end of the following year after enforcement and education had been applied. Typically, a five percent margin is used to measure progress of a program.

**Staffing** – As ABHP grows in positions, manning becomes an issue because of vacancies division-wide. Recruitment and retention of qualified law enforcement officers are major concerns. This concern is not just focused on AST, but other Alaska law enforcement agencies and the nation as a whole.

**Covering huge distances** – ABHP is assigned statewide traffic law enforcement responsibilities. Because of this, ABHP can be spread thin quickly while trying to cover a vast area with a small number of members.

**Call outs and travel** – Like patrol or investigative units, ABHP is not immune from being called out at all hours of the day and night to investigate fatal or major injury crashes or being assigned temporary duty assignments away from home for extensive periods of time.





# ALASKA STATE TROOPERS

## *Division Operations*

### TACTICAL DIVE UNIT



**Lt. Rodney Dial**



The Department of Public Safety has two Tactical Dive Unit (TDU) teams; one based in Ketchikan and the other located in Kodiak. Seven troopers are assigned to the TDU. All TDU divers are trained to a public safety dive standard set by the American Canadian Underwater Certifications, Inc. (ACUC).

The main missions of the TDU are search and rescue body recovery operations and underwater investigations. Department TDU teams have the ability to detect, document, and recover evidence located underwater. A wide array of equipment is utilized by the unit to include cable cameras, underwater cameras and video cameras, metal detectors, and lift bags. All equipment is provided by the state. Because the number of members has decreased in the past years, there continues to be enough dive equipment to outfit the unit. The unit annually requires routine equipment maintenance and smaller equipment replacements.

To become a member, troopers need to show an interest in diving and usually join the unit with at least a basic dive certification already in hand.

The TDU assists Alaska Wildlife Troopers in dive fisheries criminal investigations for sea urchin and sea cucumber harvests, to name a few. The TDU also provides support to Alaska Wildlife Troopers' marine vessels by conducting routine hull inspections and minor underwater maintenance. These efforts prevent or delay the need to haul the larger vessels out of the water, which can save as much as \$15,000 per occurrence. Private dive entities charge several hundred dollars per hour and are often not available when needed most, such as for body recoveries or evidence gathering.

In 2010, TDU conducted numerous mission dives including: body recovery, dive fishery enforcement, state vessel maintenance, search and rescue support, and evidence recovery.

The TDU continues to actively seek developmental training for all its instructors, and to increase the experience level of members with monthly dive training sessions. The goals for 2011 include all divers making at least 20 training dives, scheduling annual dive training, and developing the next generation of dive instructors. Typically, the annual training is conducted in Ketchikan in the fall. The timing is due to the clarity of the water and the location has some of the warmest waters in the state.



# ALASKA STATE TROOPERS

## *Specialized Units*

### CANINE UNIT



**Anchor**



**Argo**



**Chevron**



**Chusta**



**Duncan**



**Kilo**



**Marley**



**Roelle**



**Yukon**

The Alaska State Troopers Canine Unit consists of four dual purpose canine teams and five single purpose drug detection canine teams. The human part of the team functions as a trooper first and as part of a canine team secondarily. Dual purpose canine teams are assigned in Soldotna, Fairbanks, Ninilchik, and the Mat-Su Valley. As a dual purpose canine team, they are proficient in man tracking, suspect apprehension, building searches, area searches, and drug detection searches. The single purpose canine teams work solely as a drug detection canine team. The drug detection canines are stationed in Anchorage, Fairbanks, and Soldotna, but will respond to any location in the state.

In addition to training Alaska State Troopers' canines, in 2010 the unit supported and trained canine teams for the Fairbanks Police Department, Fairbanks International Airport Police and Fire Department, North Slope Borough Police Department, Kenai Police Department, Kodiak Police Department, Sitka Police Department, and the National Guard Counter Drug Support Program. AST offers eight days of training every quarter that is open to all police departments with canine teams wishing to attend. In addition, the AST Canine Unit offers annual certifications for canine teams for both patrol canine teams as well as drug detection canine teams.

In 2010, the Alaska State Troopers Canine Unit was directly involved in:

- 135 felony arrests
- 19 misdemeanor arrests
- Seizure of 4,745 grams of heroin
- Seizure of 9,112 grams of cocaine
- Seizure of 4,391 grams of methamphetamine
- Seizure of 156,613 grams of marijuana
- Seizure of \$647,569 cash from drug proceeds





# ALASKA STATE TROOPERS

## *Specialized Units*

### CRISIS NEGOTIATION TEAM



**Lt. Jeff Laughlin**

The crisis negotiation program was developed to train personnel who respond to significant and prolonged events and to work in concert with the Alaska State Troopers Special Emergency Reaction Team (SERT). Critical incidents are often resolved through dialog with the person in crisis. A

person trained in crisis negotiation can often de-escalate the situation and otherwise resolve the problem short of tactical intervention. In 2010, the Alaska State Troopers crisis negotiator component consisted of 29 troopers of various ranks and locations throughout the state.

In addition to classroom and practical training, negotiators train annually as a contingent of the SERT. During the training, negotiators work as a five-member team known as a Negotiation Response Team (NRT). A team most frequently deploys during protracted incidents. For example, a team responds when incidents involve barricaded subjects with hostages and where an expedient resolution is unlikely. A team includes a team leader, an intelligence officer, an equipment officer, a primary negotiator, and a coach. The coach assists the negotiator, enabling the negotiator to focus on the phone call and the subject. Meanwhile, the coach will listen in and pass information to the negotiator as well as takes information from the conversation and pass it along to others trying to diffuse the situation. The coach can also act as a secondary negotiator.

Although a full NRT response is warranted in some situations, it is more common for one or two negotiators to respond to events. This is due to logistical challenges often presented to this small, but highly-trained group.

#### SUCSESSES

Throughout the course of 2010, trained NRT members and troopers without any negotiator training responded to a variety of situations across the state, including barricaded gunmen and suicidal individuals. The vast majority of these events were resolved without the need for an escalation of force. Not all of the cases involved SERT activation.

In April 2010, several negotiators were able to attend a three-day advanced negotiator training course taught by the FBI in Anchorage. Additionally, negotiators were able to participate in the SERT Summer School in Fairbanks, enhancing their skills and affording the opportunity for personnel of various disciplines to train together in various scenarios.

#### CHALLENGES

The department has increased the number of trained negotiators from a historical low of 11 in 2007 to 29 by the end of 2010. Ongoing negotiator training continues to be a challenge. Training keeps members' skills honed, interest levels up, and allows members to stay current with equipment and trends in crisis negotiations.

Negotiators are stationed in each of the five AST Detachments and investigation units as follows:

AST HQ	1	C Detachment Kotzebue	2
ABI Anchorage	2	C Detachment Bethel	1
ABADE Anchorage	1	C Detachment St. Mary's	1
ABJS Palmer	1	D Detachment Fairbanks	6
A Detachment Klawock	2	ABI Fairbanks	1
A Detachment Ketchikan	2	ABI Soldotna	1
B Detachment Palmer	2	E Detachment Soldotna	1
B Detachment Talkeetna	1	E Detachment Seward	1
C Detachment Anchorage	1	E Detachment Girdwood	1
C Detachment Nome	1		



# ALASKA STATE TROOPERS

## *Division Operations*

### DRUG ABUSE RESISTANCE EDUCATION



**Naomi Sweetman**

The mission of the Drug Abuse Resistance Education (D.A.R.E.) program is to teach Alaskan kids to resist drugs and violence. The D.A.R.E. curriculum is unique because it uses law enforcement officers to teach young students in the classroom before risky behavior starts.


D.A.R.E. officers bring a valuable drug prevention program to their communities. They not only teach children to resist drugs and violence, the specially trained officers also impart critical decision-making skills to the students. The D.A.R.E. officer develops long-term relationships with children, parents, and community members to make the program an effective community policing strategy and a benefit to local police agencies as well as the entire community.

Of the 129,187 students in Alaska's public school system, 3,448 were involved in the D.A.R.E. curriculum. Of that number:

 728 were in the kindergarten through fourth-grade program


 2,241 were in the elementary school program

 381 were in the middle school program

 98 were in the high school program

There were 73 officers that taught the D.A.R.E. curriculum in their local school for the 2009-2010 year. This includes:

 30 municipal police officers

 13 Alaska State Troopers

 13 VPSOs

 16 federal officers

The D.A.R.E. program was taught in 61 schools in 21 of the 54 state school districts. Three communities added the D.A.R.E. program for the school year, bringing the total number to 49.

Expanding the D.A.R.E. program is achieved by training new officers through yearly two-week, 80-hour initial D.A.R.E. Officer Training sessions. Each of the attending officers from across Alaska is trained to teach the D.A.R.E. curriculum to students at elementary and middle schools within their community. The local police agency takes control of the program once the officer is trained and implements it based on the needs of the community. Customizing the program to individual communities is how the D.A.R.E. program remains so effective in meeting the diverse needs found within Alaska.

During 2010, one training session was conducted in September at Fort Richardson, the Army installation on the outskirts of Anchorage. Thirteen new law enforcement officers – three military officers, one municipal officer, six VPSOs, and three troopers – attended the course.

Providing certified D.A.R.E. Officers with advanced training is achieved through collaboration with D.A.R.E. Alaska, Inc. and Alaska D.A.R.E. Officers Association (ADOA). Historically, officers are selected each year based on specific criteria to attend the International D.A.R.E. Conference hosted by D.A.R.E. America. Unfortunately, due to a lack of funding for the D.A.R.E. Alaska Inc. office, only ADOA was able to sponsor and send one officer to the International D.A.R.E. Conference in Cincinnati, Ohio. Additionally, the state D.A.R.E. office sponsored two officers to attend the International Conference; one of those officers received his certification in the high school curriculum.

The state D.A.R.E. office and ADOA, in collaboration with D.A.R.E. Alaska, Inc., conducted a two-day in-service in February 2010. The Youth Safety In-Service was open to attendees from school districts, police departments, and D.A.R.E. Officers. Over two and a half days, D.A.R.E. officers received enhancement lessons and the new middle school curriculum.

There were 43 attendees for in-service, including five school officials and school resource officers and 23 D.A.R.E. officers from around the state.









**The 2010 Drug Abuse Resistance Education Officer Training Class and Mentors.**



These D.A.R.E. officers were:

-  13 municipal officers
-  4 VPSOs
-  3 Alaska State Troopers
-  3 military police

D.A.R.E. Alaska, Inc. was able to secure funding to enhance the new D.A.R.E. curriculum, “Keepin it REAL,” with rural Alaskan students. The project utilizes videos from near peers to model the different strategies. In addition to every officer in Alaska receiving a copy, many tribal law enforcement entities in the U.S. and Canada requested copies of these unique videos featuring Native American students. The project was completed by June 30, 2010 and rolled out at the International D.A.R.E. conference. It was also included with the national videos as another option for D.A.R.E. officers worldwide.

In addition to operating the D.A.R.E. program, the D.A.R.E. office manages two other community policing initiatives – the Mat-Su Borough Secure Our School (SOS) project and the modified School Resource Officer (SRO) project. During the course of the SOS grant project, four targeted high risk schools received safety and security assessments based on the Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) process. Additionally, a trooper was assigned to each of the four schools and received specialized training in school resource activities. These troopers began making regular visits to the schools, teaching classes and serving as a resource to the schools. During 2010, this project trained three Mat-Su Borough staff members in CPTED evaluation techniques and two Mat-Su Borough staff members in the advanced concepts. During the course of this project, incidents of disorderly conduct, vandalism and major assaults decreased dramatically. Theft and minor assault incidents

also moderately declined.

The modified SRO project was implemented by training 12 troopers who serve communities in rural Alaska in the concepts of School Resource Officer activities. The goal of this project is to strengthen the relationships between the SRO trooper, the school, and the community. These troopers began providing school resource services to the following communities: Selawik, Kiana, Noorvik, Brevig Mission, Teller, Wales, Diomed, Nulato, Ruby, Illiamna, Newhalen, Nondalton, Pedro Bay, Port Allsworth, Gustavus, Angoon, and Tenakee Springs.

## CHALLENGES

Challenges continue to affect the D.A.R.E. program, namely the tightening of funding in municipal departments. With cutbacks, the D.A.R.E. program is often dropped from a community. The state D.A.R.E. office continues to provide training and materials at no cost to law enforcement agencies throughout Alaska. By providing this service, agencies that otherwise would not participate due to budgetary constraints are able to train officers and implement the D.A.R.E. program within their communities. These D.A.R.E. officers bring a valuable drug prevention program to the communities. In addition, the D.A.R.E. program successfully implements community policing strategies that benefit the entire community. The state coordinator is working with ADOA and D.A.R.E. Alaska, Inc. to develop strategies to continue to provide the quality and affordable training to all police agencies throughout Alaska. The Mat-Su Borough SOS project and the modified SRO project also face challenges, largely due to the rotation of troopers out of the targeted service area.





# ALASKA STATE TROOPERS

## *Division Operations*

### SPECIAL EMERGENCY REACTION TEAM



**Capt. Randy Hahn**

The Alaska State Troopers Special Emergency Reaction Team is comprised of three different elements – Southcentral SERT located in Palmer, Northern SERT in Fairbanks, and Southern SERT in Soldotna. All three teams are multi-jurisdictional teams and could not exist without

the participation of personnel from all divisions, detachments, and bureaus within Department of Public Safety as well as non-DPS agencies.

SERT is designed as a unit capable of responding to situations involving a higher-than-normal degree of danger to the public or responding officers, and to provide a safe, tactical response and resolution. SERT is intended as a rapid response unit – exercising principles of quick deployment to the scene, and containment of the event. In this manner, the incident is isolated and tactical options are utilized in conjunction with specific crisis negotiations techniques. The overall mission is to save lives and to do so in a manner that considers all available options.

In addition to the commissioned personnel who are assigned to each team, there are medics assigned to SERT. These medical personnel are provided by the emergency services departments in their respective areas. They undergo specialized tactical emergency medical services training in order to integrate into SERT and become fully capable to provide tactical medical support. There is one medic position on the Southern team, three on the Southcentral team and none on the Northern team.

Team strength for each of the teams is as follows:

#### **Southcentral Team**

22 authorized with six vacancies

#### **Southern Team**

14 authorized with three vacancies

#### **Northern Team**

14 authorized with no vacancies

The vacancy rate for all three teams is consistently comparable and typically ranges between 25-35 percent.

The following bureaus, detachments, divisions, and agencies contribute personnel to SERT:

- ★ AST B Detachment
- ★ Wasilla Police Department
- ★ AST Alaska Bureau of Investigation
- ★ Palmer Police Department
- ★ AST Alaska Bureau of Alcohol and Drug

#### **Enforcement**

- ★ AST E Detachment
- ★ U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- ★ Kenai Police Department
- ★ Central Emergency Services
- ★ Mat-Su Borough Emergency Services
- ★ Division of Alaska Wildlife Troopers
- ★ AST D Detachment
- ★ University of Alaska-Fairbanks Police Department
- ★ Fairbanks International Airport Police and Fire

#### **MISSIONS UNDERTAKEN**

The three teams completed approximately 15 missions in 2010. These missions included assisting ABADE with the service of several high-risk search warrants, the service of multiple arrest warrants, and the resolution of a number of barricaded gunman situations from crimes including domestic violence assault and homicide. Sometimes, the activation requires SERT members to travel to remote locations throughout the state. Of particular note, the three teams were combined to travel to Hoonah to resolve a barricade situation after the shooting of two police officers.

AST provides SERT support to local agencies that do not have their own tactical teams. In the event a SERT response is needed, the local agency typically contacts the detachment commander in that region. The commander





**Trooper Andrew Gorn brings up the rear during a SERT joint exercise with the FBI on Elmendorf Air Force Base.**



will then activate SERT. During any large scale event, SERT will also provide support to other agency tactical units to resolve critical incidents.

## TRAINING

Each of the teams trains in their respective detachments two days per month. In addition, the teams will travel to another location periodically throughout the year to conduct small joint training sessions, particularly when the training involves a facility or instructors that are not available elsewhere. All three teams meet once per year for a combined, two-week training session. This is comparable to the training standards that most collateral-duty SWAT teams utilize throughout the United States. However, unlike any other SWAT organization in the country, all three SERT elements can be combined seamlessly into one large unit with consistent operating tactics, training, and equipment.

## CHALLENGES

**Additional duty requirements** – All SERT officers are required to maintain a high degree of physical fitness and qualification on special weapons systems and tactics. This requires a high level of dedication and commitment.

**Other agency participation** – There is a continuing need to integrate other police agency personnel into SERT to ensure that mission requirements can be met – particularly in prolonged situations that are very personnel intensive.



**Equipment needs** – Specialized tactical equipment is expensive. In order to equip all three teams consistently, there is an ongoing requirement for dedicated funding for the replacement of critical items such as ballistic entry vests, chemical munitions, and replacement ammunition. There are no armored vehicles assigned to any of the teams. Because of this, AST must rely on the availability and loan of an armored vehicle from another agency to safely carry out missions in some situations. There continues to be incidents in all three locations of the state that would ordinarily require the use of an armored vehicle; however, access to such a vehicle is limited to the Southcentral location on an as available basis through the loan of the Anchorage Police Department's response vehicle. Although these vehicles demand a significant dedication of funds, receiving such valuable apparatus continues to be on SERT's list of critical equipment needs because they are directly related to our overall disaster preparedness and our ability to effectively respond to all-hazards incidents in the future.

## SUCCESSSES

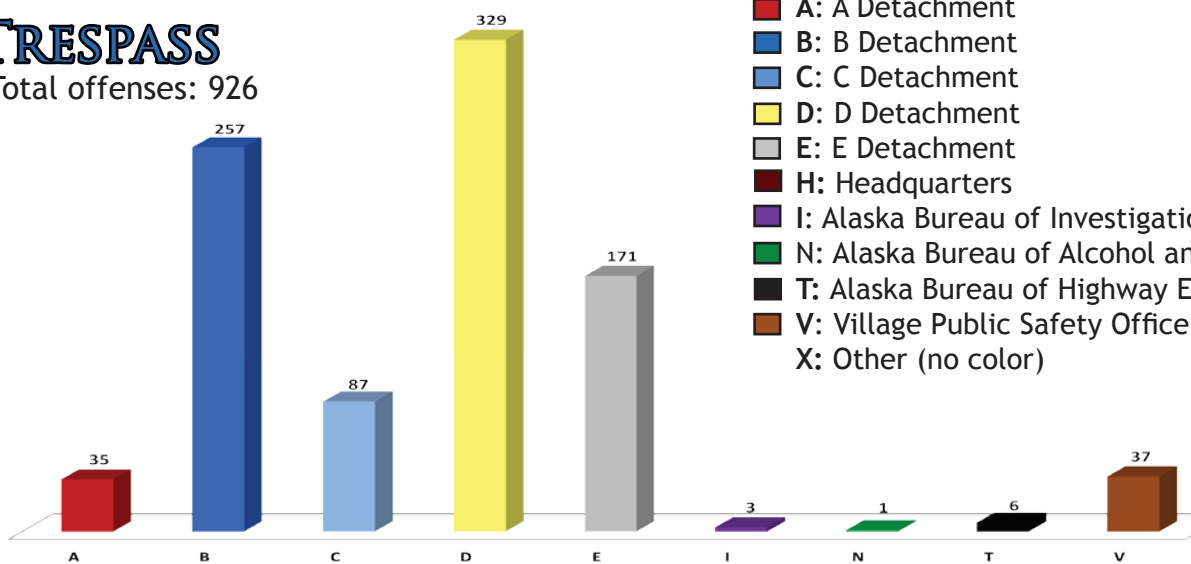
SERT continues to be utilized more effectively to assist ABADe in the recent years, with 2010 being no exception. In addition, SERT responds with more frequency to barricaded events, leading to a quicker, safer resolution for all involved, including the suspect. This is a positive movement from an overall agency perspective and can be attributed in part to better education and involvement of command staff, as well as demonstrated success by SERT.

# ALASKA STATE TROOPERS

## 2010 Statistical Data

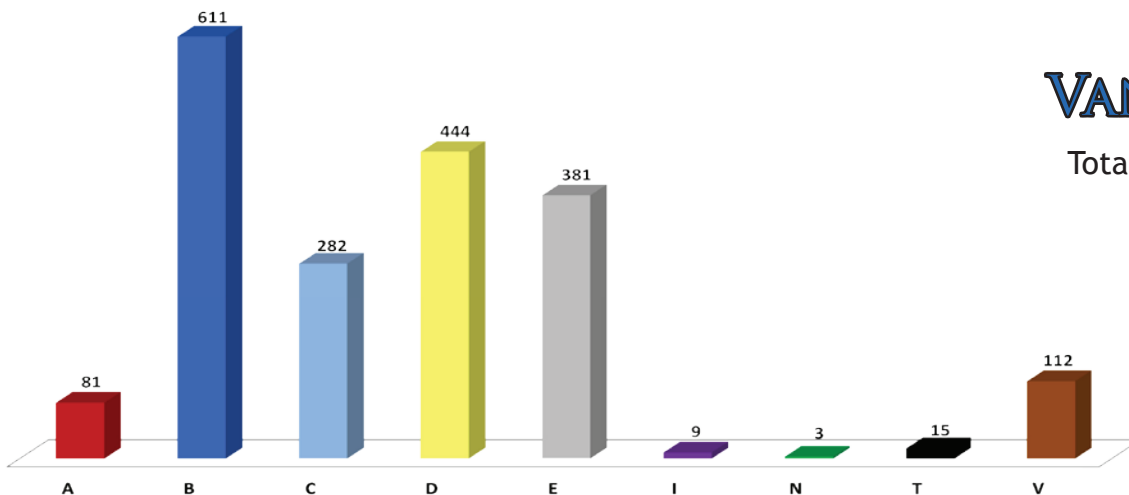
### TRESPASS

Total offenses: 926



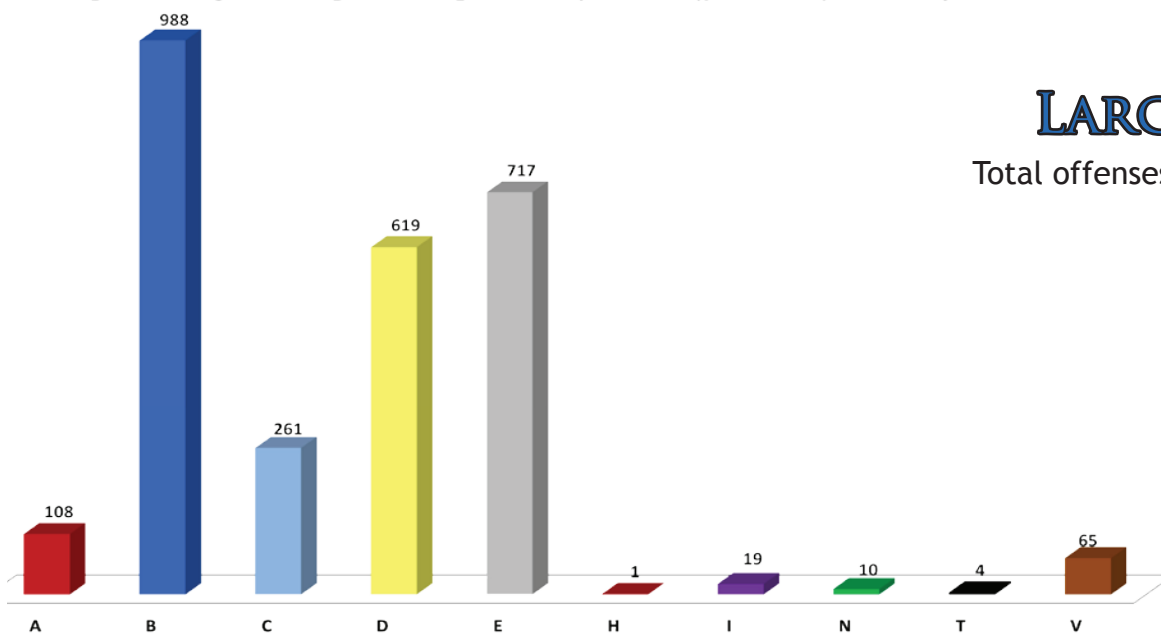
### VANDALISM

Total offenses: 1,938



### LARCENY

Total offenses: 2,792



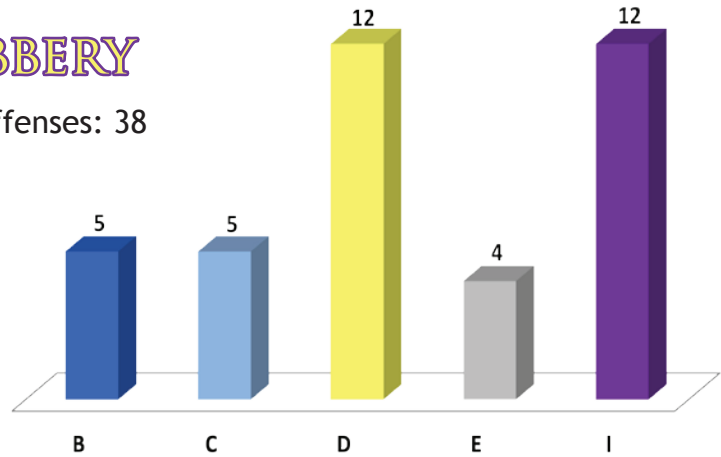


# ALASKA STATE TROOPERS

## 2010 Statistical Data

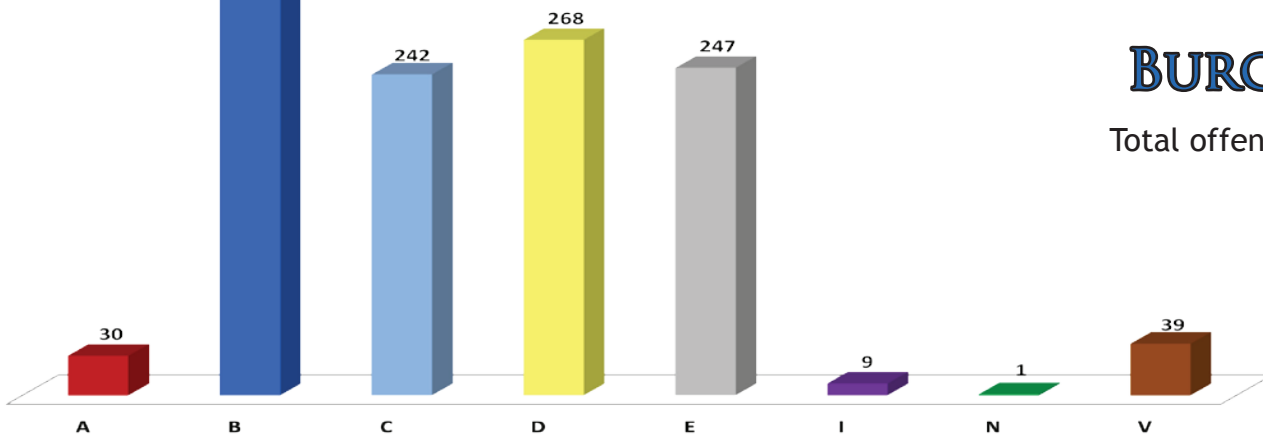
### ROBBERY

Total offenses: 38



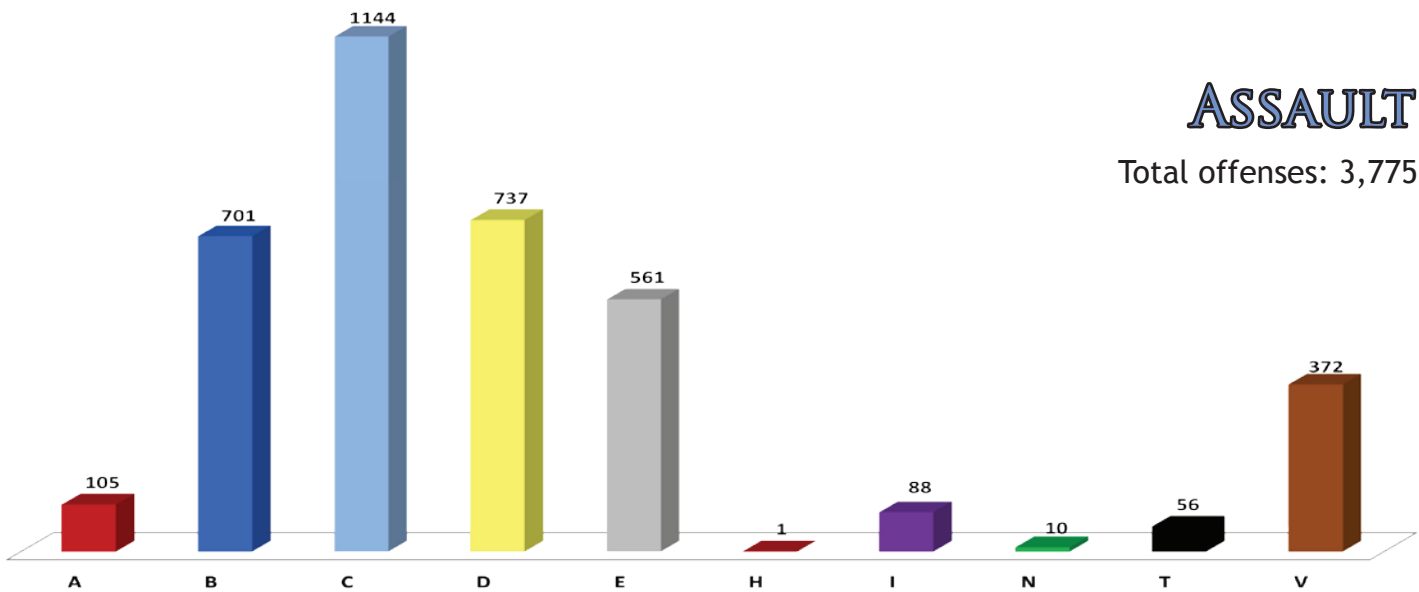
### BURGLARY

Total offenses: 1,163



### ASSAULT

Total offenses: 3,775

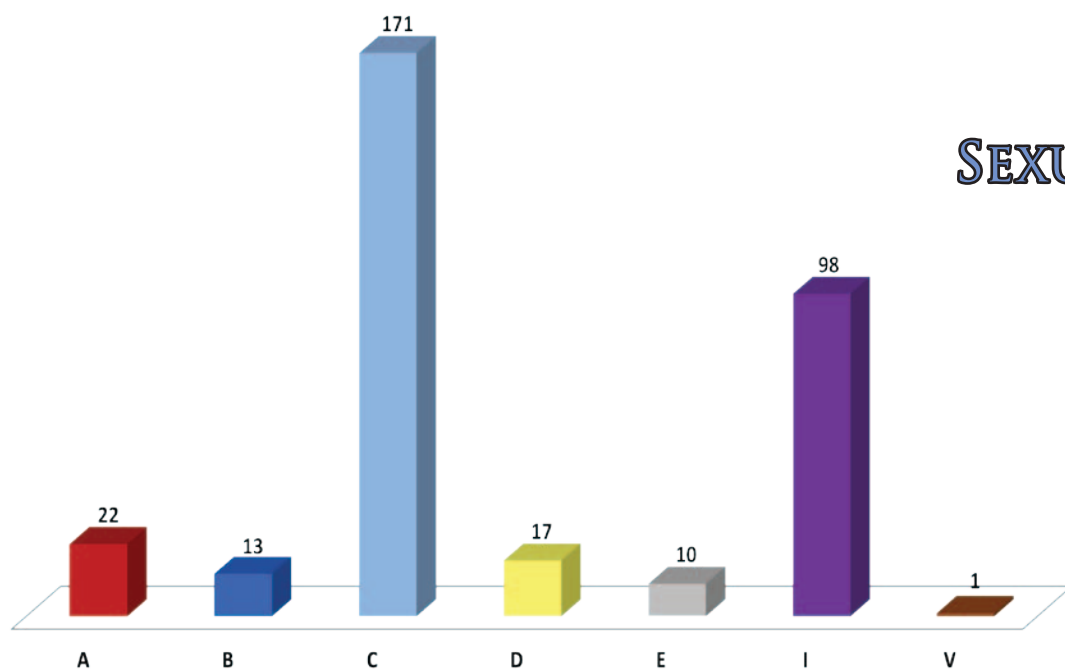


# ALASKA STATE TROOPERS

## 2010 Statistical Data

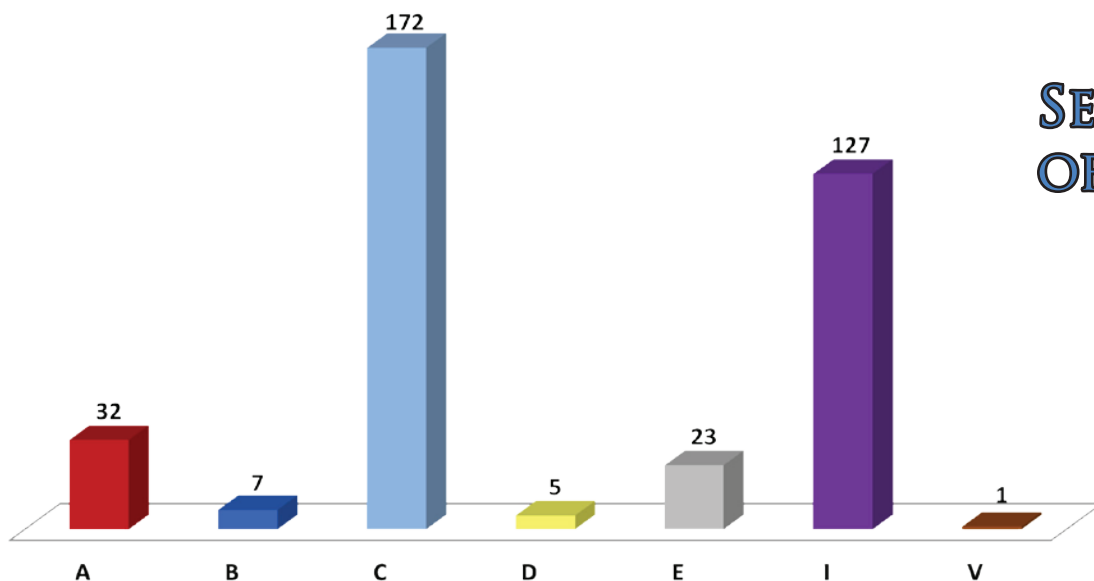
### SEXUAL ASSAULT

Total offenses: 332



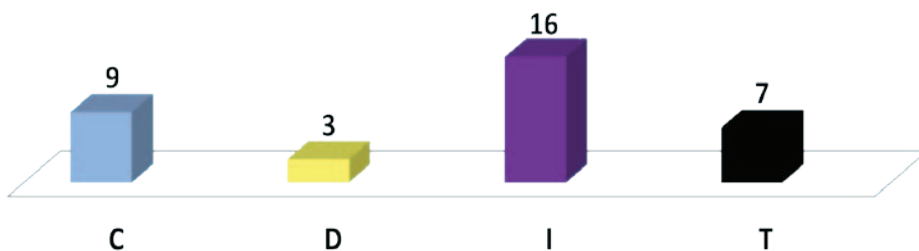
### SEXUAL ABUSE OF A MINOR

Total offenses: 367



### HOMICIDE

Total offenses: 35

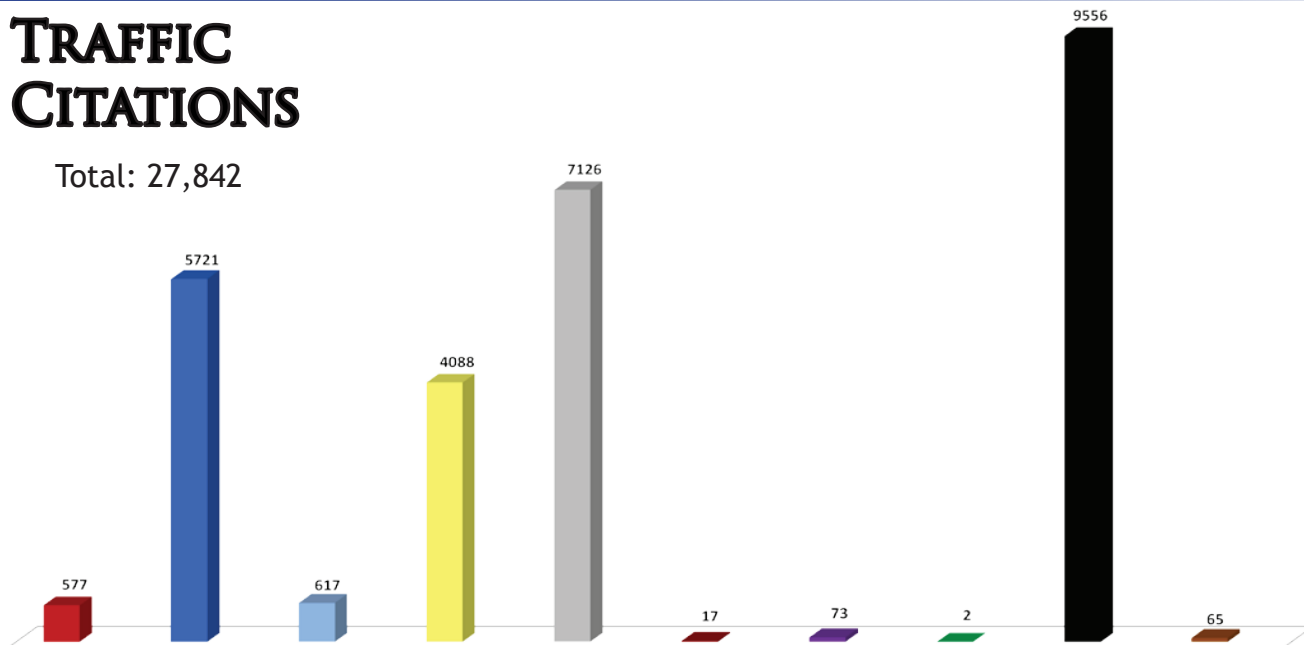


# ALASKA STATE TROOPERS

## 2010 Statistical Data

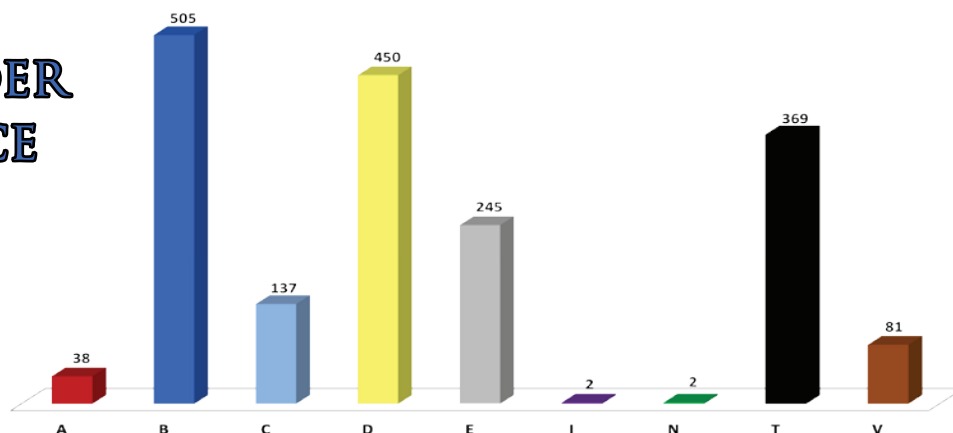
### TRAFFIC CITATIONS

Total: 27,842



### DRIVING UNDER THE INFLUENCE

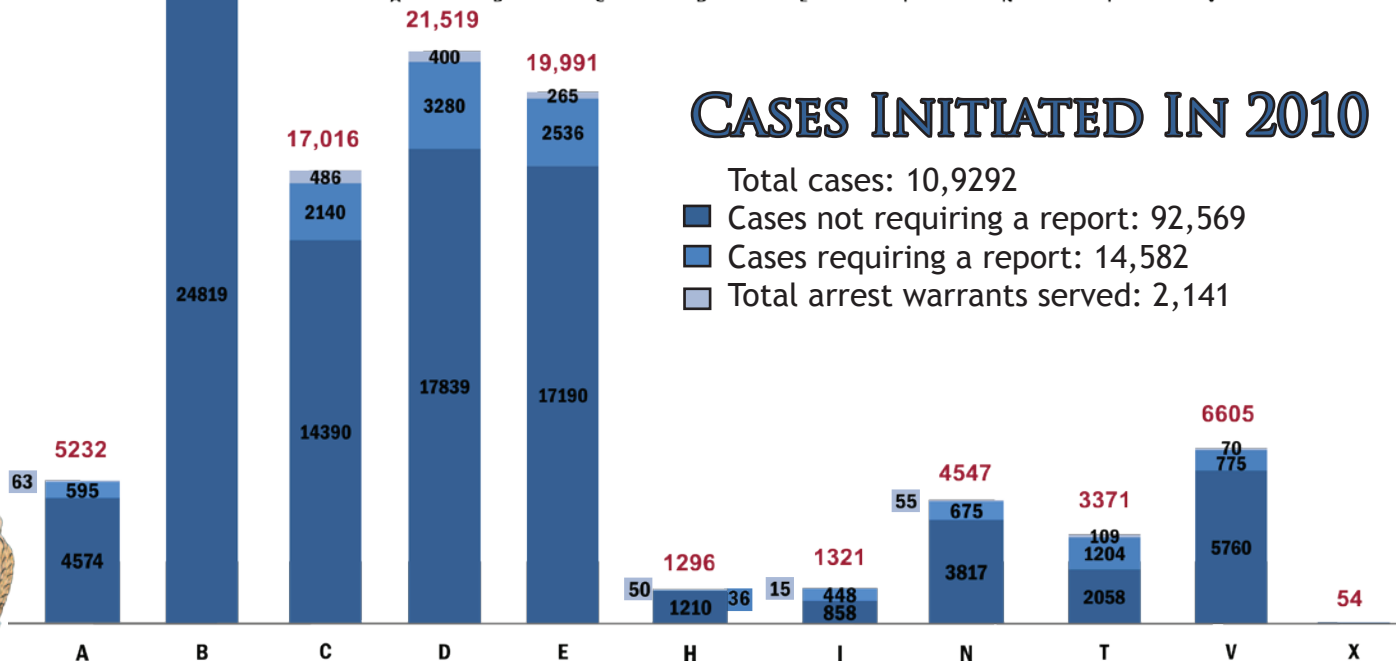
Total offenses: 1,829



### CASES INITIATED IN 2010

Total cases: 10,929

- Cases not requiring a report: 92,569
- Cases requiring a report: 14,582
- Total arrest warrants served: 2,141





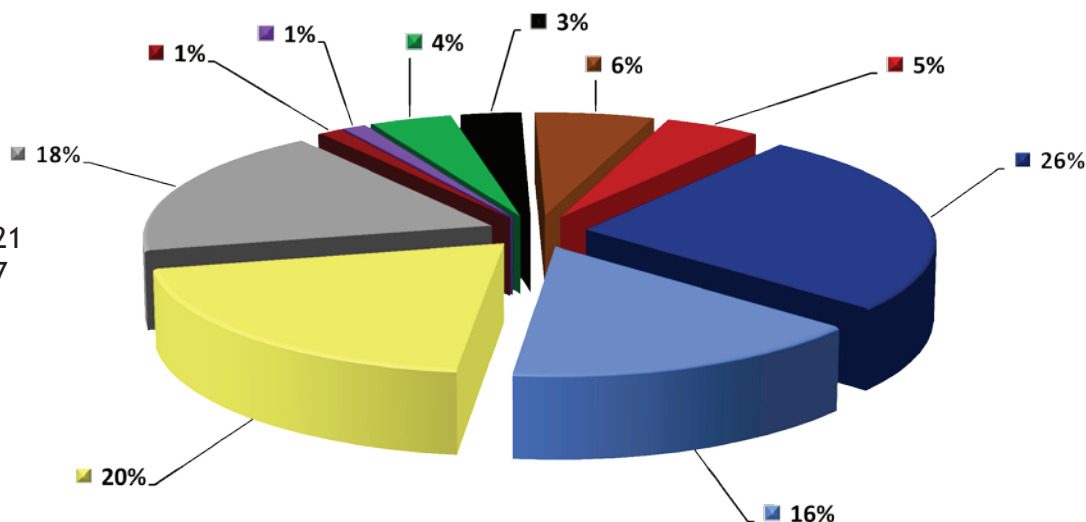
# ALASKA STATE TROOPERS

## 2010 Statistical Data

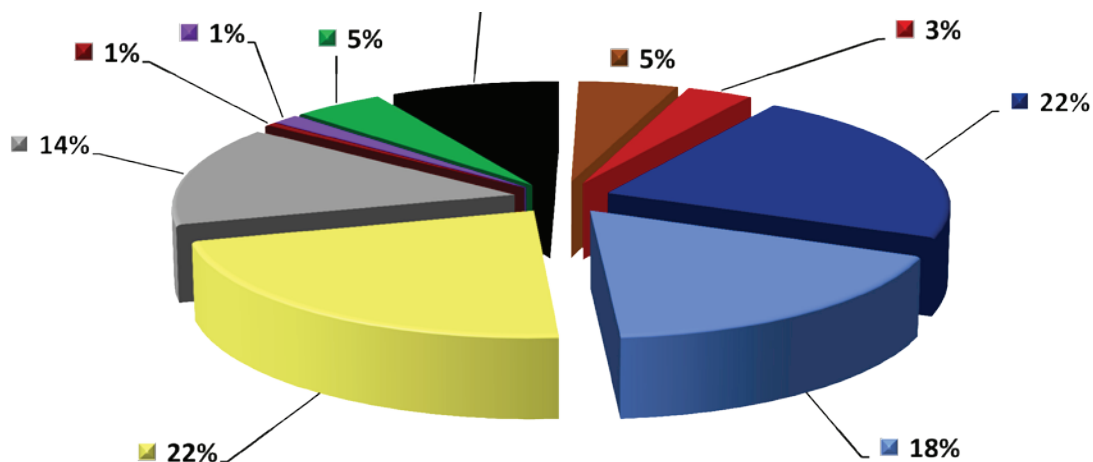
### CALLS FOR SERVICE FOR 2010

A Detachment = 5,232
B Detachment = 28,340
C Detachment = 17,016
D Detachment = 21,519
E Detachment = 19,991
Headquarters = 1,296
Investigations (ABI) = 1,321
Narcotics (ABADE) = 4,547
Traffic (ABHP) = 3,371
VPSO = 6,605
Other = 54

Total= 109,292



### CALLS RESULTING IN ARREST OR REFERRAL FOR PROSECUTION



A Detachment = 387
B Detachment = 2,546
C Detachment = 1,988
D Detachment = 2,496
E Detachment = 1,639
Headquarters = 55
Investigations (ABI) = 156
Narcotics (ABADE) = 532
Traffic (ABHP) = 988
VPSO = 586

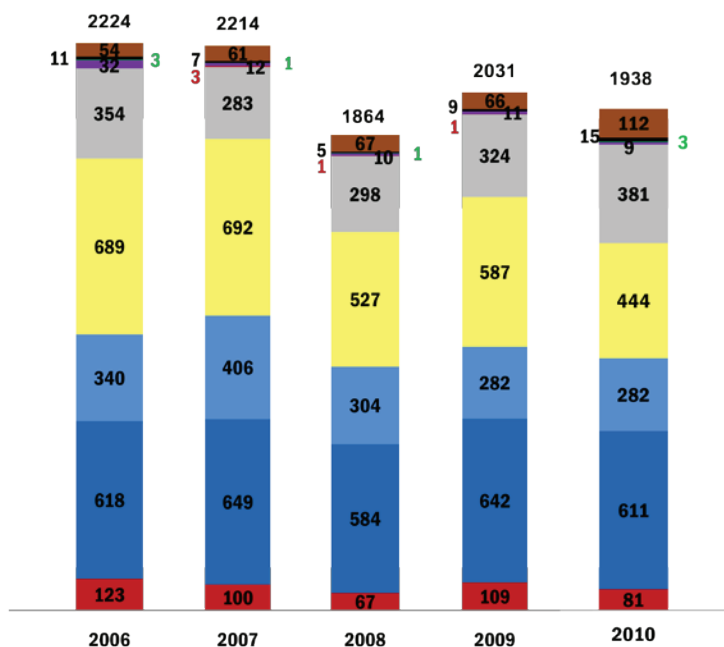
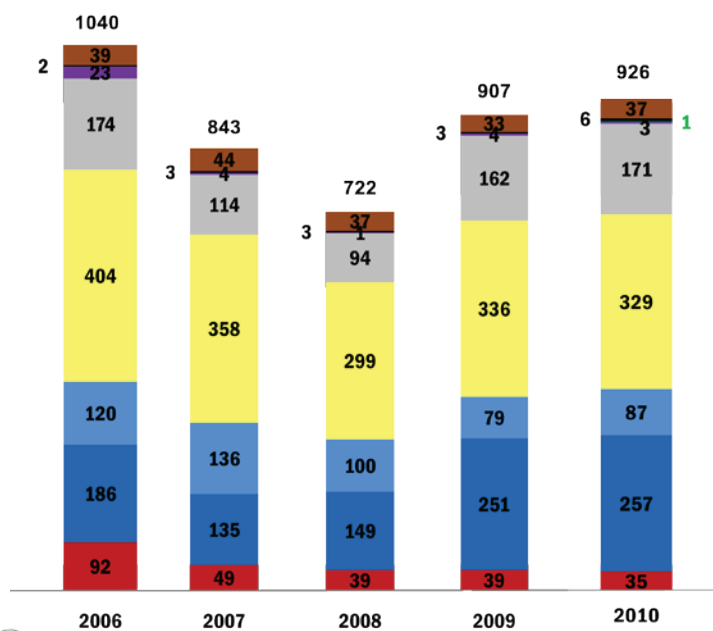
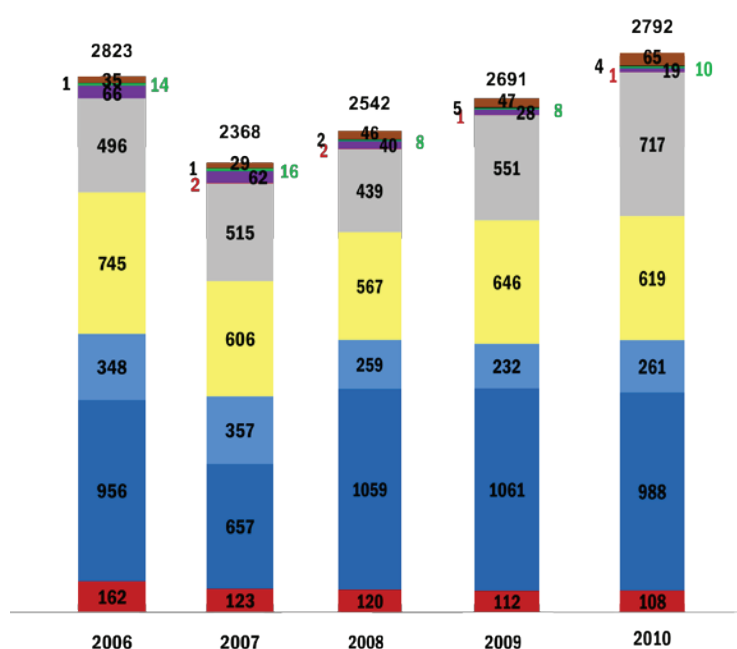
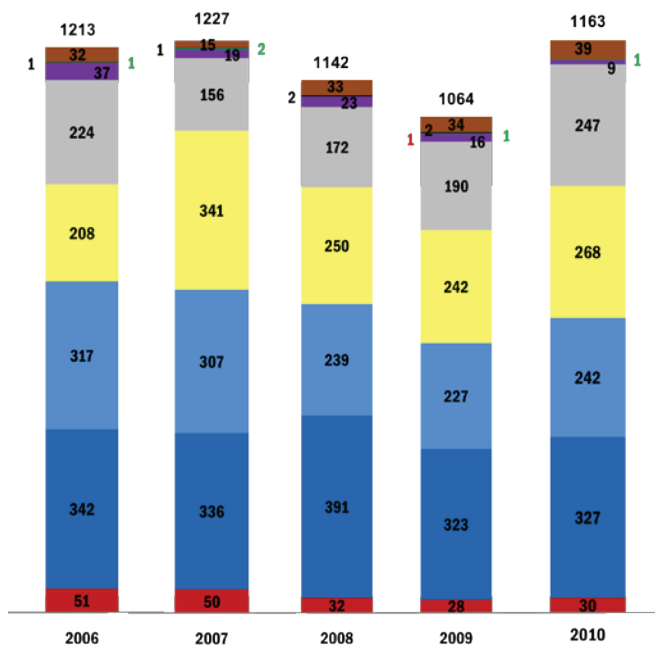
Total= 11,373



# ALASKA STATE TROOPERS

## Historical Data

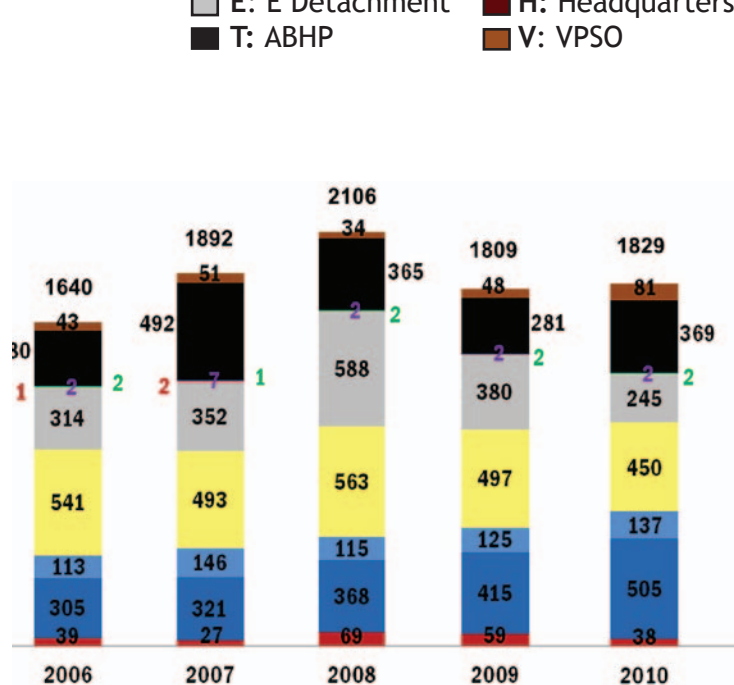
■ A: A Detachment   ■ B: B Detachment   ■ C: C Detachment   ■ D: D Detachment  
 ■ E: E Detachment   ■ H: Headquarters   ■ I: ABI   ■ N: ABAD  
 ■ T: ABHP   ■ V: VPSO



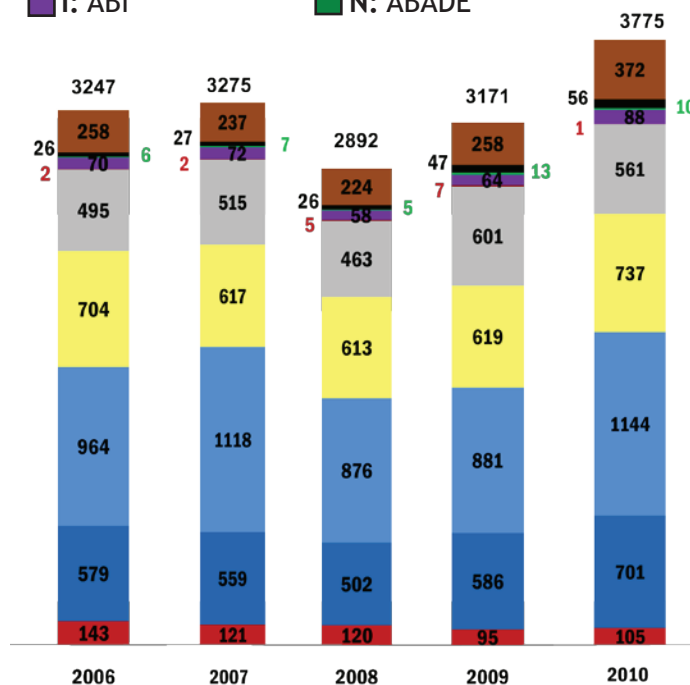
# ALASKA STATE TROOPERS

## Historical Data

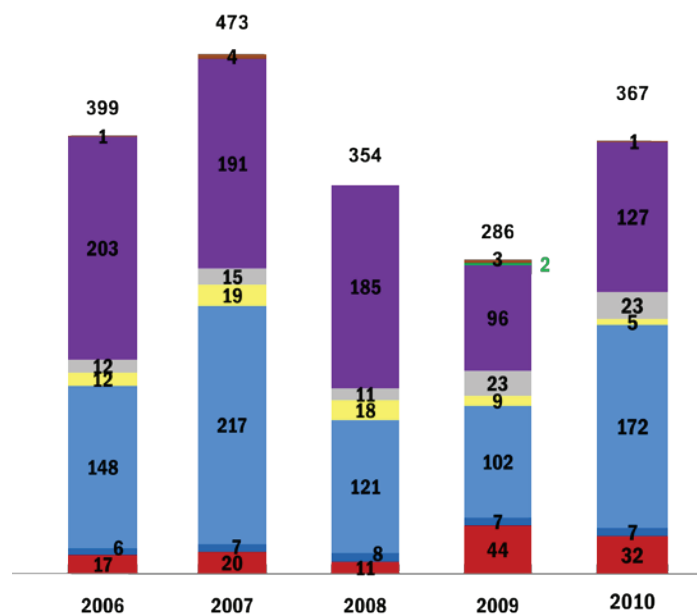
A: A Detachment    B: B Detachment    C: C Detachment    D: D Detachment  
 E: E Detachment    H: Headquarters    I: ABI    N: ABADÉ  
 T: ABHP    V: VPSO



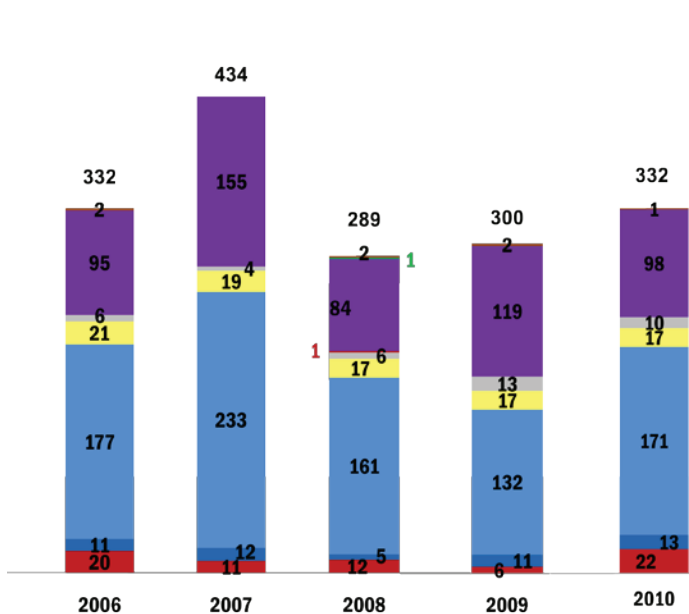
Driving Under the Influence



Assault



Sexual Abuse of a Minor



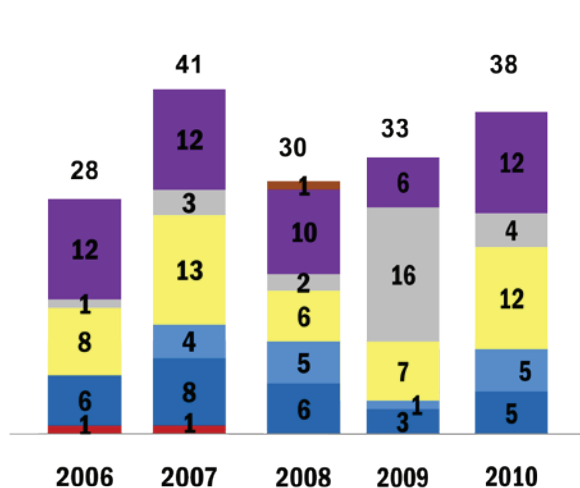
Sexual Assault



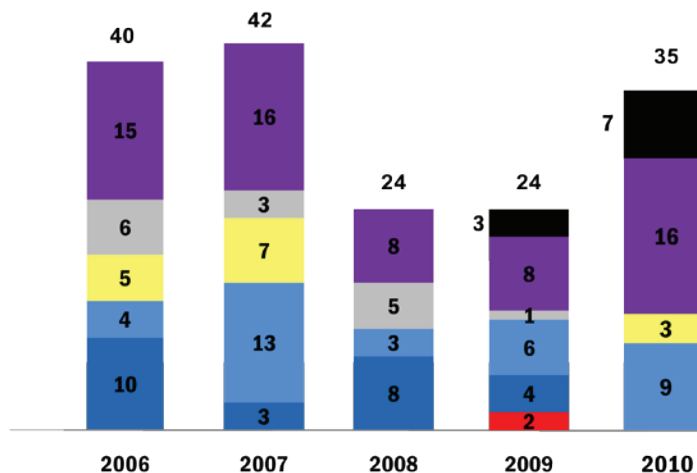


# ALASKA STATE TROOPERS

## Historical Data



**Robbery**



**Homicide**

# ALASKA STATE TROOPERS

## References

- I. Population data was obtained through the Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development and is adopted as U.S. Census data.
- II. Road mileage, land mass, and coastal area information was obtained through the Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities, Central Region Design and Engineering Services. The source data was the US Census Borough's Tigerline GIS files.
- III. Land mass and coastal areas were calculated utilizing GIS mapping applied to the boundaries, which were provided for the Alaska State Trooper detachments. The base layer for this analysis was the Alaska Department of Natural Resources' GIS layer showing a representation of Alaska at a 1:63360 scale.
- IV. Road mileage includes only those roads that are classified as being traversable by standard passenger vehicles and trucks. Excluded segments include those accessible only by four-wheel drive vehicles, usually one-lane dirt trail, and found almost exclusively in very rural areas. Sometimes the road is called a fire road or logging road and may include an abandoned railroad grade where the tracks have been removed.
- V. Statistical data was extracted from the Alaska Public Safety Information Network (APSIN) on March 30, 2011 utilizing an established method and custom programs designed and used by AST. Numerous activity codes were utilized based on approved criteria and grouped by unit identifiers. The numbers for the 2010 Annual Report were adjusted to reflect greater accuracy in statistical data, leading to differences in statistics listed in previous Alaska State Trooper annual reports.





# *2010 Annual Report*

A PUBLICATION OF

**ALASKA STATE TROOPERS**

PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICE

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