

ALASKA STATE TROOPERS



2007 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



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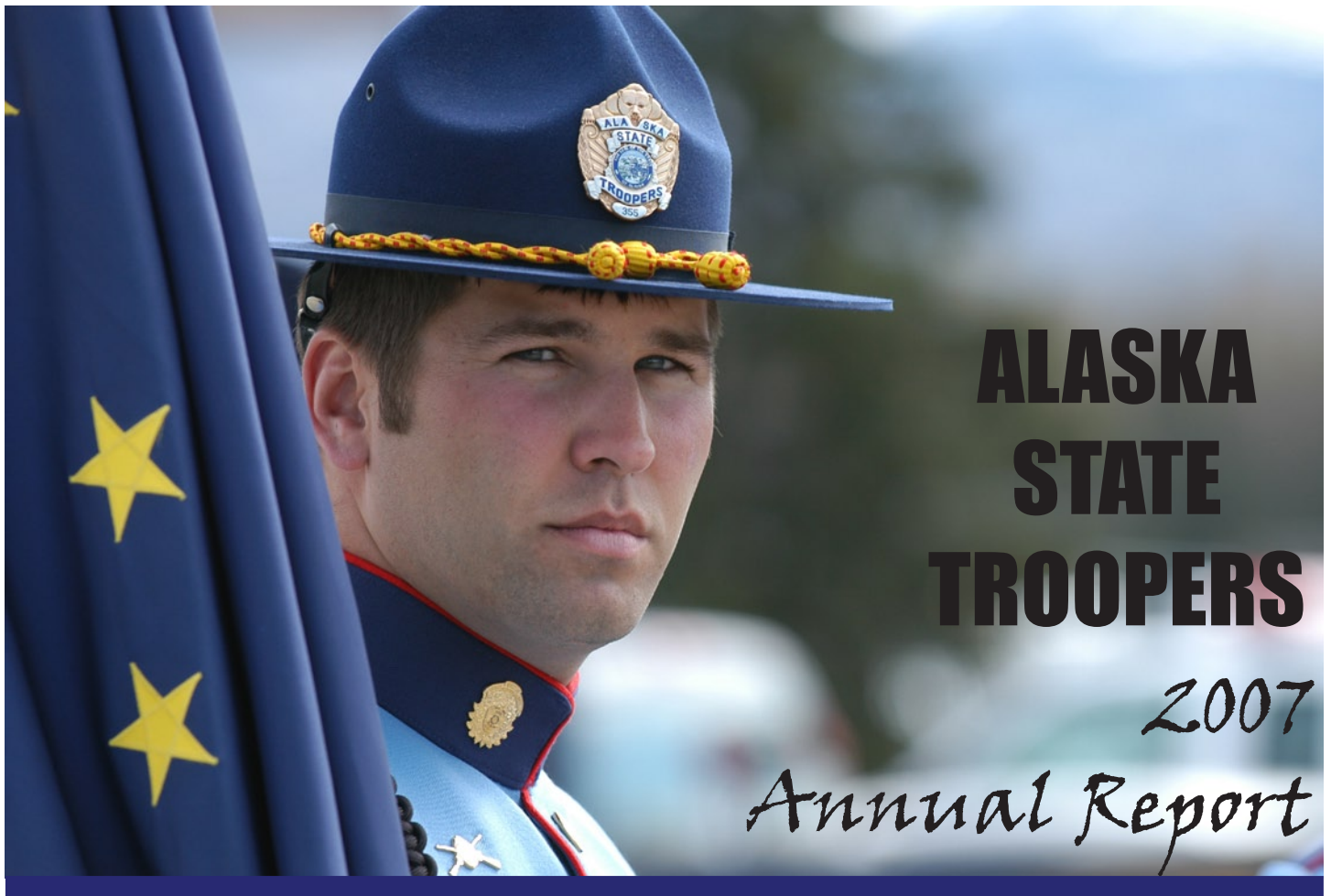
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ALASKA STATE TROOPERS

2007
Annual Report

CORE PURPOSE

Public Safety through Public Service

CORE VALUES

LOYALTY

Loyalty to Alaska, to the highest ideals of law enforcement and to the truth, regardless of outcome.

INTEGRITY

Integrity to remain steadfast, honorable and uncompromised in the performance of our duty.

COURAGE

Courage to make the right decisions in the face of physical danger and moral dilemma.

COMPASSION

Compassion to those in need regardless of circumstance or condition without bias.

LEADERSHIP

Leadership by setting the example of professional conduct and progressive public safety solutions

ACCOUNTABILITY

Accountability to Alaskans for our performance, our reputation and our perseverance.



ALASKA STATE TROOPERS

Office of the Director



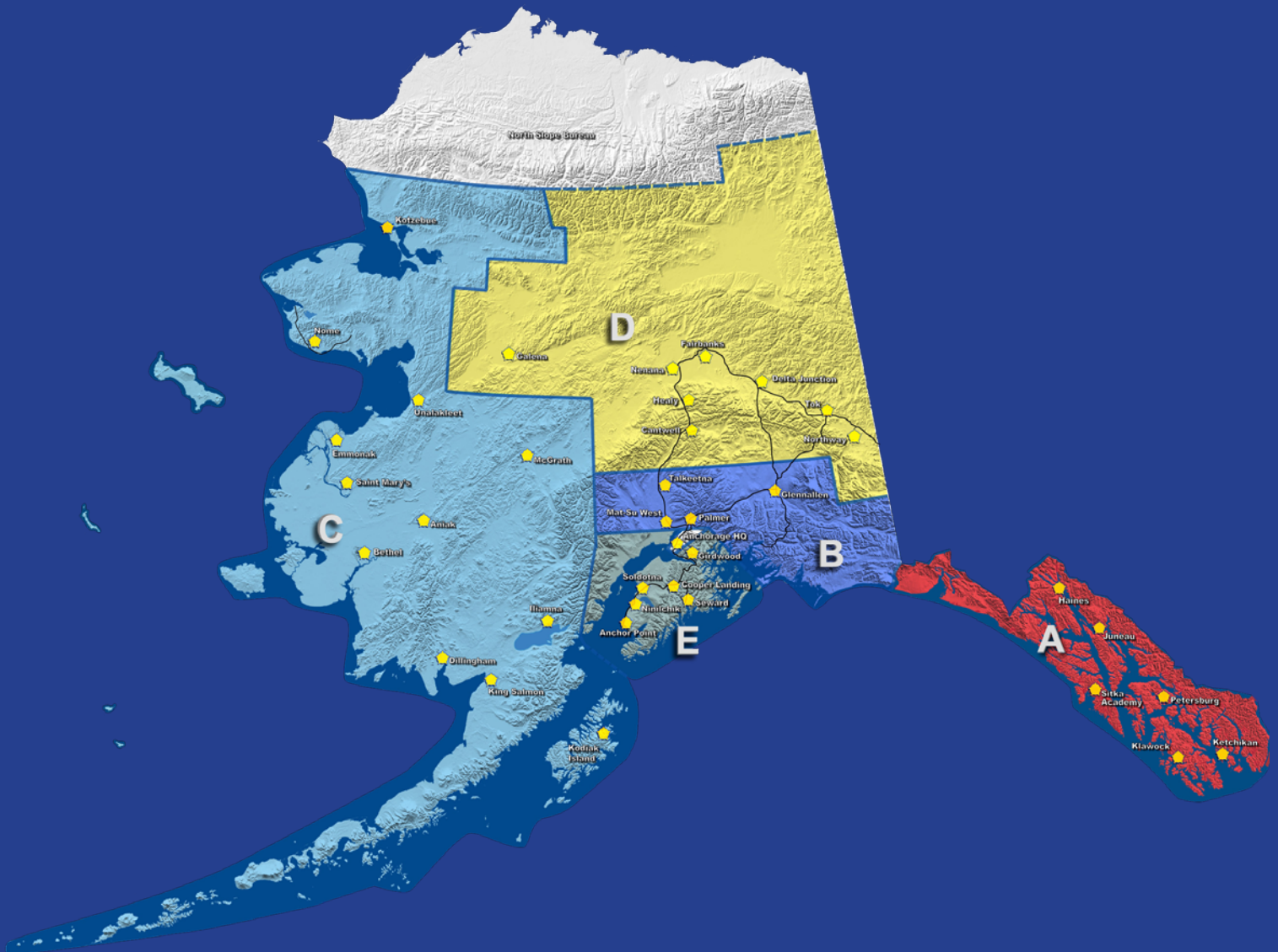
Deputy Director
Maj. Matt Leveque



Director of Alaska State Troopers
Col. Audie Holloway



Deputy Director
Maj. John Glick



ALASKA STATE TROOPERS

Director

The annual report of any enterprise, especially a public agency, is necessary to inform and educate service consumers and citizens who have a vested interest in the efficiency and cost of that enterprise. Administrators of a public agency have a duty to provide options and costs for each level of service and to provide the maximum professional service toward priorities. For correct oversight, the overseers must have an accurate assessment of the capabilities and challenges of the enterprise. That is the purpose of this annual report.

COLONEL AUDIE HOLLOWAY

Col. Audie Holloway listens to a girl during a visit to the village of Shungnak.

The assigned duties of the Alaska State Troopers are numerous and enormous. The employees of AST are proud and privileged to shoulder those duties on behalf of Alaskans. AST is required to investigate crimes, provide traffic law enforcement and safety on Alaska's road system, provide prisoner transport and security to the Alaska Court System, conduct and coordinate search and rescues, provide a presence for the prevention of public disorder, provide reassurance and assistance to any person, and provide regulatory and administrative oversight to a myriad of public business transactions. This report documents and describes the services that AST has provided to Alaskans in 2007.

The visible trooper on the highway or at a crime scene is the manifestation of a complicated organization. Without the technological and business support provided by Department of Public Safety non-sworn employees, troopers would be unable to carry out their assignments. The ability for AST to improve public safety depends upon the quality of the infrastructure that supports the trooper on the road.

AST is very cognizant of the need to provide quality services and constantly strives to improve those services with available resources. Except for minor continual adjustments, AST administrators are confident that the agency is as efficient as possible under today's circumstances. That is not to say that the administrators are satisfied with the quality of all services. Given adequate time, any investigation or assignment can be conducted competently, thoroughly and professionally. In public safety, the more heinous crimes and the greater threats to life usually receive the necessary time and resources to achieve an appropriate outcome.

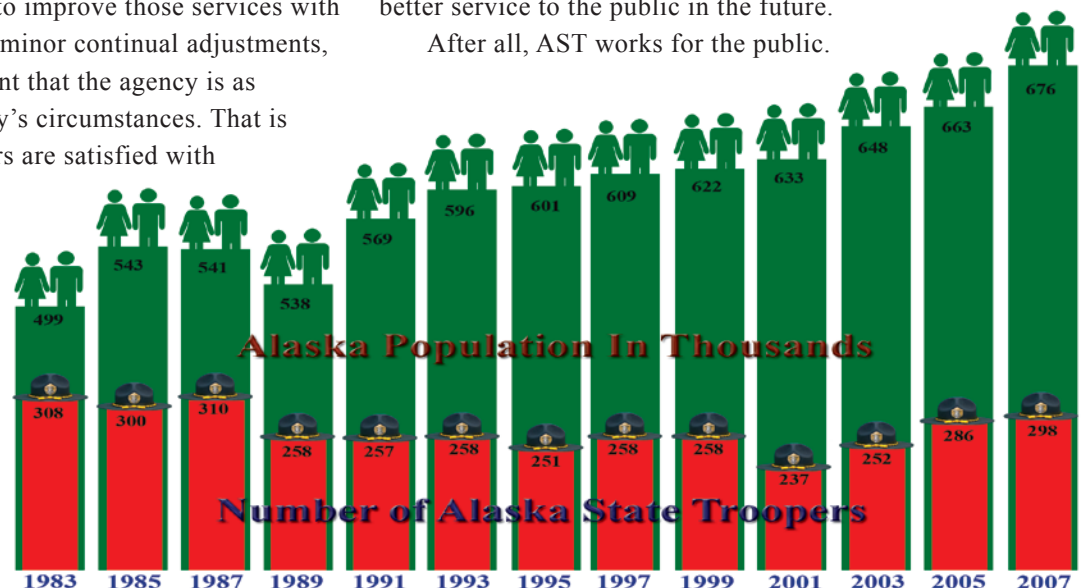
However, other crimes and duties may not get this same level of service and some calls for service may not receive a timely response. This can leave some victims with a feeling of dissatisfaction.

The challenge for AST is to provide as many professional services as possible to the public in the most efficient and cost-effective manner possible. This is a daunting challenge in a situation where it is difficult to fill state trooper vacancies.

Our recruiting, retention and training efforts are continual. Currently, almost all police agencies find it difficult to attract qualified and interested applicants to law enforcement. Many theories have been conjectured as to the reasons for this lack of interest in a law enforcement profession; however, there is not a definite conclusion.

In order to address this problem, all efforts must be coordinated and operate according to a well-understood and well-supported plan. This requires that all parties – the public, the legislature and the employees – receive information from AST that allows an informed assessment and opinion. We are sure that a prudent investment in resources today will ensure better service to the public in the future.

After all, AST works for the public.



ALASKA STATE TROOPERS

Headquarters

DIVISION OPERATIONS



Capt. Hans Brinke
Commander



Lt. Dan Lowden
Deputy Commander



Lt. Kat Peterson
Staff Projects
Technology



Lt. Nils Monson
Anchorage Judicial Services



Lt. Jeff Laughlin
Recruitment
Field Training Program



Lt. Barry Wilson
Search and Rescue



Lt. Jim Helgoe
DPS Academy Commander, Sitka



ALASKA STATE TROOPERS

Headquarters

Visual Specialist Justin Freeman videotapes Lt. Barry Wilson for a television public service announcement called "Slower is Faster."

Director's Office
 Director – Colonel
 Deputy Directors – 2 Majors

Alaska State Troopers Division Operations

Division Operations Commander – Captain

4 Lieutenants

1 Lieutenant (Vacant)

1 Lieutenant (Academy Commander in Sitka)

1 Lieutenant (Anchorage Judicial Services)

The Division of Alaska State Troopers' headquarters is located at 5700 East Tudor Road in Anchorage. The headquarters houses the Director's Office and Division Operations. 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 two bureaus, rather they extend Department wide to include the Division of Alaska Wildlife Troopers, Division of Fire and Life Safety and liaison responsibilities with various local, state and federal agencies.

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

- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| • Division Budget | • Emergency Operations and Homeland Security | • Felony DUI Vehicle Forfeiture Program |
| • Division Field Operations | • AMBER Alert | • ALMR Communications |
| • Recruitment | • Legislative Liaison | • Training |
| • DPS Academy | • Public Information Office | • Technology Standardization and Research |
| • Statewide Search and Rescue | • Employee Evaluation Standardization and Review | • Personnel Services |
| • Anchorage Judicial Services | • Traffic Safety | • Vehicle Fleet Coordination |
| • Field Training and Evaluation Program | • Grant Application and Administration | • Domestic Violence Training |



The sun rises while Alaska State Troopers and volunteer search and rescuers participating in multi-agency avalanche training exercise set up a staging area to dispatch people to the four different avalanche sites in Hatcher Pass and the Independence Mine State Recreational Area. The orange tent served as a warming tent for those coming back from the field.

ALASKA STATE TROOPERS

Division Operations

RECRUITMENT FIELD TRAINING AND EVALUATION PROGRAM



Field Training Officer Trooper Eric Hinton, left, and Trooper Recruit Jim Streicher outside the Palmer post.

Recruitment Unit

- 1 Lieutenant
- 1 Criminal Justice Technician
- 1 Administrative Clerk
- 5 Background Investigators

The Alaska State Trooper 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.

Recruitment Unit Statistics:

Trooper recruits

- 2,150 applications
- 381 identified potential recruits
- 96 interviewed
- 30 applicants hired

Lateral hires

- 28 applications received
- 7 interviewed
- 3 hired

Court Service Officer in Fairbanks and Anchorage

- 71 individuals applied
- 10 interviewed
- 6 hired

Deputy Fire Marshal

- 4 applicants
- 2 hires



Lt. Jeff Laughlin talks to people visiting the Alaska State Trooper recruitment booth at a job fair at the Mountain View Community Center.

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

- 18-week training program at the DPS Academy in Sitka – 20-30 percent of academy recruits either quit or do not graduate (consistent with national statistics)
- 15-week Field Training and Evaluation Program. Trooper recruits are expected to develop to the point of being able to independently perform all law enforcement functions – 20-30 percent of FTEP recruits either quit or are not acceptable (consistent with national statistics)
- 1-year probationary period

The 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 the rigors and activity of a normal trooper. They are also provided with daily training, feedback and evaluation of their performance. Due to the nature of the program, it is frequently viewed as a dramatically more stressful time than the time spent at the Public Safety Academy.

In the past decade, law enforcement has faced a puzzling struggle in the recruitment effort to fill positions and retain current personnel. Even though wages and benefits appear to be competitive, the industry nationwide has suffered stagnant or even negative employment rates. Law enforcement leaders are certainly concerned about current conditions due to the two-year hiring process, but are even more worried about the ability to attract candidates for the future.

ALASKA STATE TROOPERS

Division Operations

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY ACADEMY

Graduates of ALET Class No. 38 take the oath of service in November.

DPS Academy

1 Lieutenant
1 Sergeant
6 Corporals (1 Vacant)
1 Administrative Assistant
1 Administrative Clerk
1 Education Assistant
1 Maintenance Specialist

exceptions, municipal law enforcement agencies send their police recruits to the DPS Academy. The basic 15-week Alaska Law Enforcement Training (ALET) includes more than 900 hours of training.

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

Over the years, the academy's workload and curriculum have continued to grow as it provides training to law enforcement agencies from across the state. The Public Safety Training Academy is now considered the premier law enforcement training academy in the state for basic law enforcement training. With few

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



Academy Commander Lt. James Helgoe instructs academy students in the classroom.



Academy staff includes, from left to right, Cpl. Scott Carson, Cpl. Tony Wegrzyn, Sgt. Shane Nicholson, Lt. James Helgoe, Cpl. Ralf Lysdahl, Cpl. Cornelius Sims and Cpl. Grant Miller.



The Department of Public Safety Academy in Sitka.



The students go through physical training.

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 Public Safety Training 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 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 Alaska State Troopers and Alaska Wildlife Troopers 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, commercial fisheries enforcement, media relations, critical stress management, patrol rifle, 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 police officers, Village Public Safety Officers, Court Service Officers and trooper recruits is the result of a professional staff and high-quality training tailored to meet the unique needs of Alaska.

The vast majority of graduates of the DPS Public Safety Training Academy report the training they received was among the most useful and fulfilling aspects of their law enforcement career.



Cpl. Cornelius "Moose" Sims gives tips while teaching three students defensive tactics.



Cpl. Tony Wegrzyn inspects a student's wall locker.



Firearms training

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.

Facilities – Since the recent shut down of Sheldon Jackson College, the academy took on the challenge of finding another food service provider. This resulted in higher food costs and the need to bus the recruits to a location further away from the academy for meals.

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.

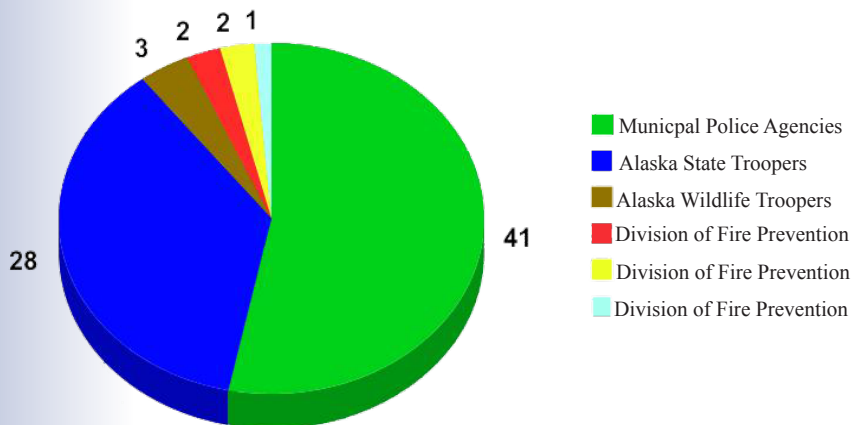


Lt. James Helgoe, right, videotapes Cpl. Grant Miller as he sprays a student with pepper spray to train a recruit to work through discomfort of getting sprayed in the line of work.



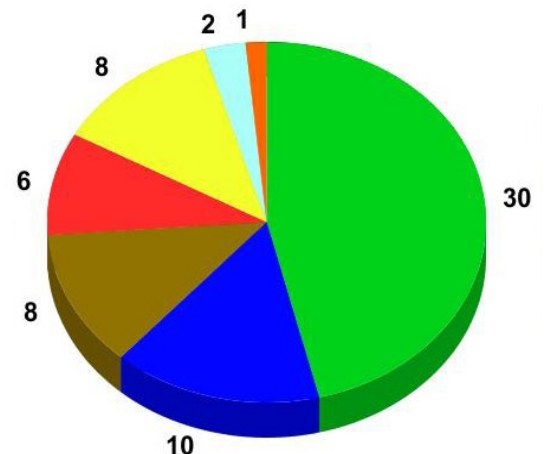
Alaska Law Enforcement Training Session No. 38 graduated 44 students from nine different law enforcement agencies in Alaska on Nov. 27, 2007

2007 ALET BASIC ACADEMY GRADUATES BY AGENCY AND ORGANIZATION



This pie chart represents the total number and make-up of students from the basic ALET recruit class. There are two 15-week ALET classes per year. The two classes produced 77 graduates in 2007.

2007 TOTAL TRAINING PROVIDED BY COURSE IN WEEKS



Source: Public Safety Training Academy Records

ALASKA STATE TROOPERS

Division Operations

SEARCH AND RESCUE

Members of the Alaska Mountain Rescue Group train by performing a grid search for clues to find a missing person .

Alaska has a land mass that stretches 587,878 square miles and a coastline of almost 34,000 miles. Within its borders are more than 3,000 rivers, three million lakes, rugged mountain ranges, massive glaciers and hundreds of miles of tundra and forests.

Alaska is home to approximately 676,987 residents, but also plays host to an influx of visitors who wish to experience the state's wilderness wonders first hand. That same majestic and remote wilderness that draws many adventurers and rugged individuals to Alaska can quickly turn deadly for the unprepared.

Of the state's land mass, 62 percent falls directly under the jurisdiction of the Department of Public Safety for Search and Rescues (SAR). By state statute, the Alaska State Troopers are responsible for overseeing virtually all SARs within Alaska. In certain instances, this responsibility is shared with the U. S. Coast Guard, the Alaska Air National Guard Rescue Coordination Center and the National Park Service.

A search isn't required for an operation to be considered a SAR. For example, a hunter in the wilderness with a GPS and a cell phone may be injured and in need of assistance. He is able to tell troopers exactly where he is. He is not lost and AST and volunteers do not have to search for him, but he does need to be rescued. This incident would still qualify as a SAR.

Every search and rescue is unique in its own way. In May of

2007, Alaska State Troopers, Alaska Wildlife Troopers, volunteers and other agencies safely rescued 281 passengers from the cruise vessel Empress of the North that ran aground in Southeast Alaska.

In another instance, more than 18,000 hours of trooper and volunteer time were expended on a search for a missing person in northern Alaska. Roughly 235 people from both within and outside the area, including as far away as Ketchikan, searched for the missing person. Unfortunately, the individual was not located. Events of this magnitude prove how Alaska's volunteer organizations assist the Alaska State Troopers on search and rescue operations. They provide expert skills and donate a tremendous amount of time to fulfill SAR missions.

There were 45 volunteer search groups throughout Alaska in 2007. They comprise of roughly 1,000 trained volunteers that are an invaluable asset to the Alaska State Troopers and to people in Alaska. However, not all of the registered volunteers are trained at the same level. Some have varying degrees of training in high angle rescue, water rescue, avalanche rescue, ground searches, all-terrain vehicles and snowmachine operation and canine searches. SARs in this state rely heavily on the services of volunteers as 70 to 75 percent of all SAR operations are conducted by volunteers on behalf of DPS.

During 2007, Alaska State Troopers conducted over 138 search and rescue missions. These missions involved over 25,281 trooper and volunteer hours and saved 444 lives. An additional 584 SAR-related events, such as the investigation into overdue hikers, hunters, motorists, boats and aircraft incidents, occurred in 2007. These events did not require a full search and rescue mission report. The result is total of 712 SAR-related incidents, or an average of about two per day.

AST's Helo 1, a Eurocopter AS350B3 (A-Star), was purchased in 2002 and put into service the following year. Since that time, AST's most capable helicopter with a primary mission of conducting search and rescue activities has accounted for 275 saved lives through 2007 – 81 of these in 2005 alone.

SARs are very time consuming and expensive in manpower, effort and money. The number of SARs will likely continue to increase due to greater access to the wilderness, more tourists, more citizens without proper training or precautions and the proliferation of bigger and more powerful recreational vehicles.



Alaska Search and Rescue Dog members Matt Hamby and his partner, Jack, wait in Helo 1 before flying to a search and rescue operation.

SAR operations are high stress, high energy, high demand and emotionally charged events that involve pressure from families and news media. To have a successful SAR, all these aspects must be addressed properly and sensitively. For that to happen, it takes training and planning.

There are two types of search volunteers: trained and untrained. Trained volunteers are usually members of a search organization. There are a number of these organizations in Alaska. The people in these groups are usually highly motivated and well trained. They understand search and rescue strategies and have the personal equipment needed to allow them to spend 24 hours in the field if necessary. These individuals are clue and evidence conscious. Most of the SAR organizations will only mobilize at the request of the Alaska State Troopers or a municipal police department. All AST dispatch centers have rosters and telephone numbers for the SAR organizations in the area.

Untrained volunteers often show up with inappropriate, inadequate or completely absent personal equipment. However, they are useful in large searches when close interval line search tactics are necessary. They can also be useful in support roles like providing transportation, expediting food or equipment for searchers and blocking trails.

Many volunteers are dispatched in what is referred to as a hasty team. These groups are small, lightly equipped teams that are sent into a search area to quickly check the high probability search areas where the missing subject might be found. They are usually the first searchers put into the field and hike, fly, snowmachine, four-wheel or boat along the missing person's intended route of travel. In many cases, a hasty team is able to quickly locate the person, thereby eliminating the need for larger scale search efforts.

Another valuable SAR tool is experienced SAR dog teams. SAR dog teams are located in Anchorage, Girdwood, Fairbanks, Juneau, Kodiak and Sitka.

Some search dogs are trained to find people buried under the snow or debris. Others can find people who are under water while some are even trained to look for bodies. Many of the canines are trained in more than one of these specialties.

Search managers realize that, like anything else, search dogs are not infallible. Dogs, like humans, have good days and bad days. As a whole, search dogs are responsible for a large number of finds in Alaska. Dogs are valuable even when they don't find anything. In these cases, the fact that the canine failed to alert sometimes means resources can deploy to other, higher probability areas.

Alaska is an enormous and remote state where individuals can become lost or disabled. For this reason, at any given time, there can easily be three or more separate SAR operations underway. Multiple SAR operations can severely tax all the resources used by DPS – especially the volunteers conducting the searches. Given the magnitude of the state, the demand for trained volunteers is great.

PILOT, TROOPER SAVE KAYAKER



Pilot Mel Nading holds Helo 1 steady while Sgt. Bryan Barlow steps out onto the skids to retrieve a kayaker from the frigid waters of Turnagain Arm on July 29, 2007. Photo courtesy Scott McNamara.

Helo 1 Pilot Mel Nading and Girdwood trooper Sgt. Bryan Barlow saved the life of a young man after he was knocked out of his kayak by a strong bore tide in the Turnagain Arm on July 29, 2007. The pair was on the way back from another Search and Rescue operation when the call came in about a kayaker in the water. The rushing currents and cold water made the rescue perilous and time critical, so the helicopter quickly diverted over the area near Bird Flats where Barlow and Nading spotted the young man in the frigid, quick-flowing water. As Nading maneuvered the helicopter mere feet above the kayaker, Barlow – confident with Nading's skills as a pilot – climbed out to get ready for the grab. With only the lap belt to keep him connected to Helo 1, Barlow balanced his feet on the skids and supported himself with one hand on the helicopter while he hoisted the man out of the water with one arm.

Fate put Barlow and Nading in the right place at the right time, but their ability to act under immense pressure in life-threatening situations, phenomenal piloting skills and willingness to put personal safety aside saved the young man's life. Actions like this put the selflessness in public service.

PEOPLE RESCUED ANNUALLY BY HELO 1

2003	52
2004	59
2005	81
2006	43
2007	40

ALASKA STATE TROOPERS

Division Operations

PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICE PANDEMIC INFLUENZA AMBER ALERT

Capt. Keith Mallard and trooper canine Duncan give an interview during a drug canine demonstration for Anchorage media.

PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICE

The Public Information Office (PIO) is responsible for providing the public with information on Trooper activities and significant events. The four-person office includes two visual information specialists and two information officers – positions filled by civilians. They produce and distribute public safety announcements and media on public safety. The PIO is also responsible for establishing print and maintaining professional relationships with local, regional and national media. This office produces the Department of Public Safety newsletter on a quarterly basis as well as other online publications. Radio and television commercials for “Click It or Ticket,” “Drink Drive Go to Jail” and the “Road Wise” programs of the National Highway Safety and Transportation Association are produced by the media specialists assigned to PIO.

PANDEMIC INFLUENZA AND ALL-HAZARDS PLANNING

The Alaska State Troopers are members of the Incident Management Team (IMT) for pandemic influenza and the emerging All Hazards Multi-Agency Coordination (MAC) Group. This group is activated in the event of a large scale incident that disrupts a large number of people or infrastructures within the state. The Department of Public Safety Commissioner, or designee will serve as the representative of the department and direct and advise on all law enforcement issues in the event of an incident.

AMBER ALERT

The Alaska State Troopers is the statewide coordinator for the Abducted Minor: Broadcast Emergency Response (AMBER) Alert program, which is designed to alert the public in the event of a child abduction. The Alaska AMBER Alert Plan was implemented in 2003 with the support and coordination of the Alaska State Troopers PIO office. The goal of the program is to implement a system that instantly galvanizes the entire state to assist in the search and the safe, rapid recovery of an abducted child. To that

end, the Alaska State Troopers, along with public and private sector agencies, local law enforcement and broadcasters in Alaska have voluntarily cooperated in the program. They are working to improve the system by facilitating the creation of several Child Abductions Response Teams (CART) to help in the event of an abduction.

The criteria for the activation of an AMBER Alert is: the victim must be under 18-years old or someone with a known mental or physically disability; law enforcement is reasonably certain an abduction has occurred and the victim is believed to be in imminent danger of serious bodily harm or death; and there is enough descriptive information of the victim, suspect or suspect vehicle to assist in the location of the victim. Once the criteria is met, the alert will be sent using the Emergency Alert System (EAS), which immediately broadcasts the information on television, radio and roadway information signs. The information is sent repeatedly for a designated period of time or until the child is located. The AST public information officers are crucial in coordinating the release of information during AMBER Alert activation.

As of 2007, Alaska has not needed to activate the alert for any reason other than a test. However, in December, Alaska State Troopers witnessed the effectiveness of the AMBER system by the capture of a woman in Alaska. The woman was recognized from an alert out of Texas regarding the minors that were not authorized to be in her care.



Lt. Barry Wilson, AST's AMBER Alert coordinator, gives an interview to media before an alert test in October.

ALASKA STATE TROOPERS

Division Operations

JUDICIAL SERVICES

A Court Services Officer handcuffs inmates in custody at the Nesbett Courthouse in Anchorage.

Alaska State Troopers have dedicated units in six urban areas to provide services to the Alaska Court System and the public. These units are called Judicial Services Units (JS). The units employ Court Services Officers (CSOs) and troopers to transport prisoners, serve writs and provide court security. These services are not limited to just JS units. Troopers perform these duties across the state in locations where there are no JS personnel.

There are JS Units in Anchorage, Barrow, Fairbanks, Juneau, Kenai, Ketchikan and Palmer. The units vary in size from one CSO in Barrow to 20 CSOs, one trooper, two AST sergeants and one AST lieutenant in Anchorage.

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 possess limited arrest authority.

The JS mission is compartmentalized regionally throughout the state and managed by detachment commanders within those respective regions. However, a consolidation effort was conceived in 2007 to improve uniformity of operation, standardize procedures, improve communication between the regional offices and provide for improved efficiency in the transport of prisoners. The consolidated command will also allow for a statewide central

point of contact for the Alaska Court System and the Department of Corrections when discussing operational topics important to the Judicial Services operation statewide.

Anchorage Judicial Services Unit

1 Lieutenant

2 Sergeants

1 Trooper assigned to the Alaska Fugitive Task Force

20 Court Services Officers

5 Administrative Clerks

2 Accounting Clerks

During 2007, Anchorage JS personnel:

- ✪ Transported approximately 35,127 prisoners
- ✪ Processed approximately 15,992 court writs.

The writs served include subpoenas, summons, complaints, writs of assistance, evictions, child custody orders, mental health commitments, domestic violence protective orders and several other types of court process.

Anchorage JS supplies one trooper to the Alaska Fugitive Task Force (AFTF) which is headed by the U.S. Marshals. The AFTF is tasked with apprehending fugitives in Alaska and provides assistance to other agencies in apprehending fugitives within and outside Alaska.



CSO Charles Mangold watches prisoners walk into a holding cell at the Anchorage Courthouse.



Sgt. Henry Kozloff and CSO Julie Dee Sharkey, members of the Anchorage Judicial Services Unit, go over the day's schedule at the Anchorage Courthouse.

ACTIVITY

Prisoner transport –

★ Fugitives arrested	78 by Anchorage JS
★ Statewide	125
★ Remand to jail requests from court	556
★ Court ordered mental commitments	35
★ Collected DNA Samples	275
★ Evictions	384
★ Superior Court arraignments	2,875
★ Municipality Court arraignments	4,744
★ Other In-Custody arraignments	3,511

Security – The two CSOs within the unit dedicated to court security responded to a number of calls for service. The statistics below reflect the officers' presence in long-term domestic violence hearings, which are conducted from 9 to 10 a.m, five days a week.

★ Medical Escort	28
★ Hands-on Medical Assist	8
★ Warrants Arrests	27
★ Security Standby	117
★ Disturbance	73
★ Security Escort (DV)	28
★ Subject Removal	11

Recently the number of CSOs increased in response to the demands of the Alaska Court System as it expanded its number of courtrooms. More courtrooms are expected to be added next year, placing even more demands on the JS Units. Additional courtrooms require more security, which usually translates into more prisoners to transport and more writs to serve. AST anticipates the need to increase the number of CSOs accordingly. The increase in CSO staffing will be also designed to relieve overburdened troopers of prisoner transport and writ service duties, thereby allowing troopers to spend more of their time focused on enforcement efforts.



Palmer Investigator Chris Long types up a report on his computer.

The Division of Alaska State Troopers worked on several technology projects in 2007 in an attempt to make the department more effective and efficient.

One such project involved the evaluation of a variety of different records management systems for future use by the troopers. Ideally, the selected records management system will be used statewide for completing and tracking case reports. It will also enable troopers to link, through software products, electronic crash reports and citations filed with the court and electronically transmitted to the Division of Motor Vehicles.

AST continues to evaluate tools that can better assist troopers on the road and in the field such as an in-car video system. This system provides valuable evidence collection and enhances officer safety. Another project acquired new and more reliable portable breathalyzer units for testing breath alcohol levels in the field.

Along these lines, the division is working very closely with other state and federal criminal justice agencies to ensure interoperability between systems. The division's goal is to have a statewide system that is less cumbersome to people in need of assistance. This type of electronic management will also aid in

gathering statistical data for use by the state as well as citizens.

The Alaska Public Safety Information Network (APSIN) Redesign Project. This project was implemented to replace the legacy APSIN, which has been in existence since 1984. APSIN is the central repository for information regarding Alaska Criminal History, wanted persons, missing persons, stolen property and court-ordered protective orders. It also provides seamless direct access to Division of Motor Vehicles information for the law enforcement community. APSIN consists of over 2,800 applications and millions of records accessed by over 3,300 users at more than 230 agencies statewide.

The new Windows-based APSIN system will integrate with desktop functionality that people use daily. This project is critical to law enforcement statewide because over 90 percent of all investigations and calls for service utilize APSIN. The new system will incorporate graphics and improved security and interoperate with key systems in use by our partner agencies. These agencies include the Alaska Court System, the Department of Law and Department of Corrections, as well as local police departments. This will enable law enforcement as a whole to more effectively serve Alaska far into the future.

ALASKA STATE TROOPERS

A Detachment



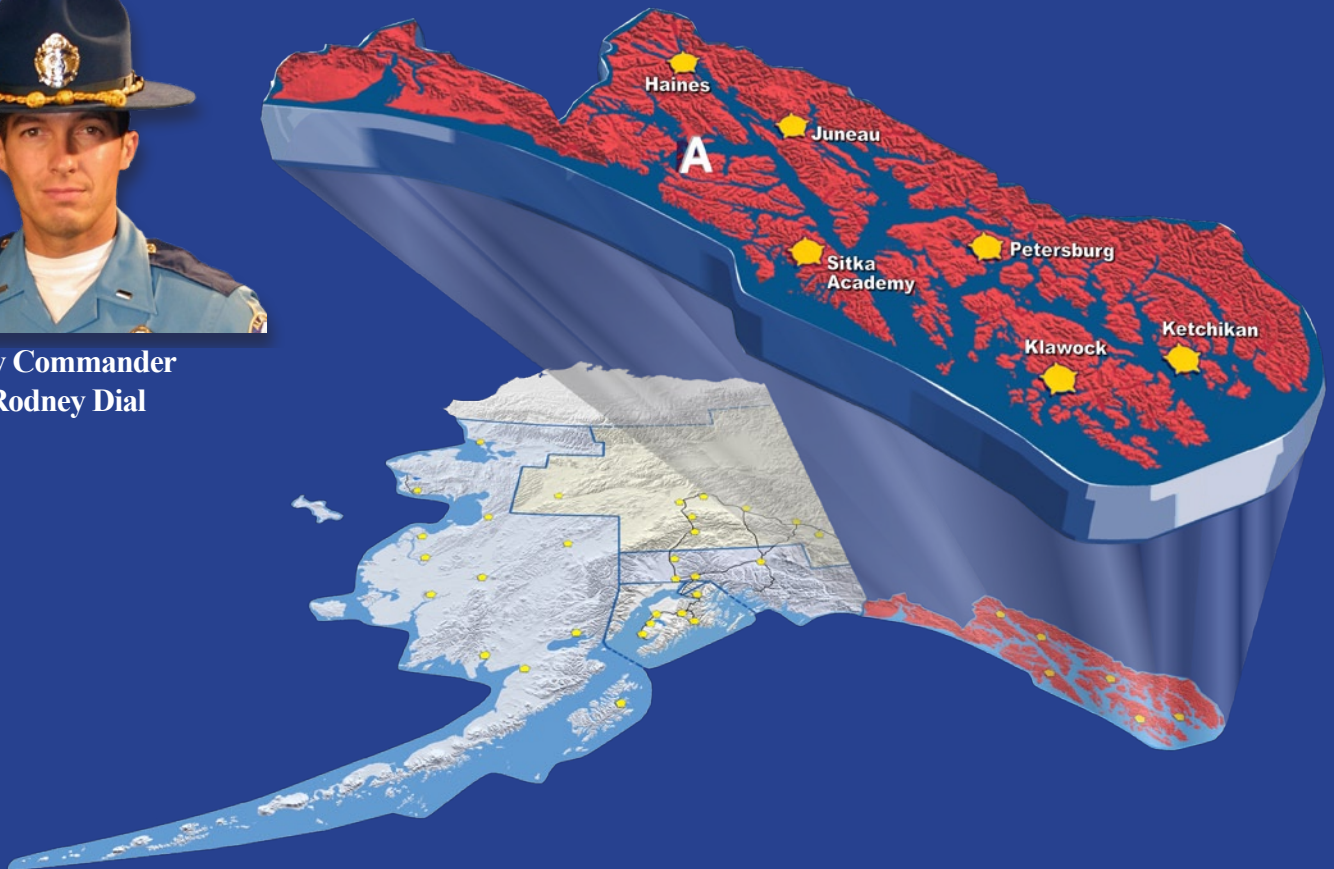
Detachment Commander
Capt. Kurt Ludwig



A Detachment Headquarters in Ketchikan



Deputy Commander
Lt. Rodney Dial



ALASKA STATE TROOPERS

A Detachment

Sgt. Gary Webb and Lt. Rodney Dial take scene measurements at a fatal motor vehicle crash outside Ketchikan.



Detachment Command

Detachment 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 very 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. The most economical means of travel through this region is the Alaska Marine Highway.

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 53,000 square miles, which is larger than the state of New York.

A Detachment consists of 33 employees assigned to five individual posts. These employees include 16 commissioned troopers, two of which are staff positions, five Court Services Officers and 12 civilian staff personnel. Of these 33 positions, two patrol trooper positions are vacant; one in Ketchikan and another in Petersburg.



Ketchikan Post

A DETACHMENT POSTS

Ketchikan Post

1 Sergeant

5 Troopers

2 Court Service Officers

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. There are more than 14,000 residents within the borough. The Ketchikan Post has the only round-the-clock AST Dispatch Center in southeast Alaska. The troopers here are responsible for patrolling the 31 miles of highway and numerous side roads, and providing public safety for the nearly 6,000 residents who live outside the city of Ketchikan. The native village of Saxman, with a population of approximately 400, 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.

Juneau Post

1 Sergeant

2 Troopers

3 Court Service Officers

1 Radio Dispatcher

1 Administrative Clerk

This post has eight personnel assigned. The sergeant supervises the Juneau, Haines and Petersburg posts and oversees the Juneau Judicial Services unit. Juneau troopers are responsible for patrolling the area outside the Borough of Juneau and also conduct daily traffic enforcement throughout the entire city. They are also responsible for all search and rescue events in northern Southeast Alaska. This area stretches from just north of Yakutat, along the Canadian border to the east and south to Petersburg. Juneau troopers investigate all crimes committed in the area's state correctional facilities and often spend the

majority of their on-duty time in outlying communities – most of which are only accessible by boat or floatplane – conducting investigations.

Klawock Post

1 Sergeant
2 Troopers
1 Administrative Clerk

This post is located in the City of Klawock on Prince of Wales (POW) Island, one of the largest islands in the United States. The Klawock troopers cover nearly 2,000 miles of roads, including logging trails and roads, on Prince of Wales Island. There are more than 12 communities on the island; Thorne Bay is the only community with a Village Public Safety Officer. Two of the communities, Klawock and Craig, have their own police departments. However, the area covered by those police departments is minimal. There is a VPSO vacancy in the village of Hydaburg.

Haines Post

1 Trooper

The Haines post is manned by 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 Skagway. 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. Border Protection/Immigrations and Customs Enforcement 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.

Petersburg Post

1 Trooper - Vacant since 1999

This post has been vacant since 1999. Some calls for service in the area are handled by the Alaska Wildlife Trooper assigned to the post. However, Alaska State Troopers frequently respond from Juneau or Ketchikan.

2007 SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

Empress of the North cruise ship grounding – In the morning of May 14, 2007, the cruise ship Empress of the North ran aground in Chatham Strait near Hannis Rock south of Juneau. Due to the extreme list of the vessel, approximately



U.S. Coast Guard evacuates people from the Empress of the North cruise ship after it ran aground May 14, 2007.

one half of the ship's life rafts were inaccessible. As a result, the ship's 281 passengers were evacuated to a barge before boarding one of two U.S. Coast Guard vessels that responded to the ship's emergency radio transmissions. All the passengers were later transferred to the Alaska Marine Highway's boat, the Columbia, and transported to Juneau. Hoonah's Alaska Wildlife Trooper was on scene aboard the patrol vessel Gowtu'Kan and reported the progress of the rescue operation. Other vessels in the area also responded to help as needed. The evacuation was extremely well managed by the ship's crew, the U.S. Coast Guard and the Alaska Wildlife Troopers. Because of the rapid and orderly response, no deaths or serious injuries occurred.

Tourist deaths – During the 2007 tourist season, 15 individuals were killed in tourist-related incidents in A Detachment within a 30-day time period.



Alaska Wildlife Trooper Sgt. Bernard Chastain, left, and Trooper Marvin Randall survey a plane crash.

On July 24, a pilot of a local air taxi service and four cruise ship passengers taking a flight-seeing tour around Ketchikan died when their plane crashed near Big Goat Lake in Misty Fjords National Monument.

On Aug. 6, a private plane carrying a pilot and three passengers, all New Jersey residents, crashed into an unoccupied home while attempting to land at the Sitka Airport.

On Aug. 16, six passengers in a local air taxi service carrying eight passengers and a pilot crashed near Traitors Cove north of Ketchikan. The passengers were traveling through Ketchikan on a cruise ship and had chartered a flight-seeing tour during their stop. An unusual weather front quickly entered the area and the cause of the crash was determined to be weather-related.

MAJOR FOCUSES AND ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITIES

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 DPS, USCG, 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.

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 to effectively investigate these crimes.

CHALLENGES

Search and rescues – The detachment averages approximately two dozen search and rescue missions each year. These SAR missions range from missing hunters, hikers and boaters, to missing aircraft.

The Alaska State Troopers in A Detachment do not have aircraft or vessels. Patrol troopers must charter aircraft to travel to the 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.



Trooper Jeffrey Landvatter conducting a traffic stop near Juneau.

Death Investigations – Because A Detachment troopers are responsible for all public safety services provided to the cruise ships sailing in Alaskan waters, troopers investigated 13 cruise ship deaths in 2007. 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 – One challenge within the detachment is for the past 10 years, the tourism industry has reported a 100 percent increase in tourism, going from 497,808 to more than 1 million people visiting the area. The tourism industry recorded a 5 percent increase in Southeast in 2007. This amounts to 50,000 additional visitors to the region. 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.

SUCCESSES

Handling the workload – The detachment is faced with a dramatic boom in population during the summer months each year. This increase is due to the nearly 1 million tourists visiting the region in a four-month time frame. There is an increase in the number of search and rescues, death investigations and assaults during the tourist season. The detachment's 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.

Dispatch center – 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 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.



Radio Dispatcher Tiana Walkowsky is hard at work at the detachment's dispatch center in Ketchikan.

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 2007:



- Responsible for approximately 3806 square miles – an area almost as large as the state of Connecticut
- Responsible for serving approximately 765 year-round members of the public
- Arrested two DUI drivers
- Issued 64 traffic citations
- Assigned nine motor vehicle crashes to investigate
- Assigned or received 357 calls for service including criminal cases, civil cases and calls for assistance
- Handled 22 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 four search and rescue related events
- Investigated two death cases and six domestic violence related offenses

Sgt. Brown's Christmas



Sgt. John Brown

Most people think of Christmas Eve as a time to gather around the tree with family, listen to Christmas carols and open presents. But Christmas Eve 2007 was a much different story for two hunters who ventured too far into the snowy wilderness, a woman on the run from Texas and the Alaska State Trooper they encountered that day.

The day started with the hunters – a father and son duo – out in search of deer.

The pair began their morning deer hunt on the local logging roads of the remote Prince of Wales Island, the third-largest island in North America and home to part of the Tongass National Forest. As Southeast Alaska begins to see snow in the lower elevations this time of the year, the upper elevations can already have several feet of snow.

By that afternoon, the 53-year-old son and his 80-year-old father were driving to find one last deer for the year. The younger of the two cares for several disabled people in his home and deer is a valuable food source to him.

They decided to give Polk Inlet a try, an area north of the Alaska Native Village of Hydaburg, a try. In doing so, they needed to climb over 1,000 feet before reaching the desired hunting spot. They encountered more and more snow as they ascended the mountain in their large four-wheel-drive truck. The short winter day was already beginning to darken when they agreed the snow was too deep to continue and decided to turn around.

Unfortunately, this particular logging road only had turnouts about every half mile or more. By the time they reached the next turnout, the ground was covered with more than a foot of the dense, heavy snow prevalent in the temperate rainforest and the truck became stuck. The men valiantly tried to shovel their vehicle free of snow. However, they soon concluded they were not capable of sufficiently pushing or shoveling the thick, wet snow enough to free themselves.

The son decided to walk the road out while the father stayed behind in the truck because he was still injured from a fall the week before. Meanwhile, the son had his own health issues, including a prior back injury. He walked more than four miles, stopping often because of excruciating back pain.

After the son reached the fifth and final mile, he met another hunter who gave him a ride back to his house. He tried summoning his friends for help, however, because it was Christmas Eve, either no one was available or they didn't have a vehicle that could go up the mountain.

At that point, the son turned to the Alaska State Troopers for help.

Sgt. John Brown was the on-call trooper who got the call for help that night. Because it was a holiday, Brown was also the only Alaska State Trooper on the island at the time. When Brown got the call, he was on his way home with a hot pizza, a family tradition used to ease the pressure of cooking the day before a large Christmas meal.

The younger hunter was near Polk Inlet by the time Brown caught up with him. While on the way to retrieve the father, Brown received the second critical call of the evening at 4:30 p.m. A fugitive from Texas was on the Inter-Island Ferry and scheduled to dock in Hollis at 6:30 p.m.

Brown knew going up the mountain and back down would take at least two hours. But he also knew that being stranded on a mountain top, even inside a nice pickup, can be fatal for the elderly man. In addition, the man had no food or water and was probably on numerous types of medication. So, Brown went up the mountain.

The elderly man was in good condition when Brown and the son reached him. Once everyone was safe and warm in the trooper vehicle, Brown faced his next dilemma – getting back down. As Brown tried to drive forward, the Expedition's tires spun in the snow and went nowhere. Brown slipped the vehicle in reverse and tried going backward. The tires spun freely again.

Luckily, Brown had a set of newly purchased chains in the vehicle. After putting the chains on, Brown drove forward for what he thought would be an easy turn around.

Brown, a trooper with 11 years experience, knew nothing was ever easy, especially on Christmas Eve, near the top of a mountain, in more than a foot of wet snow, with the smell of warm pizza filling the vehicle and "driving me crazy" as he remembers it. The Expedition remained stuck.

Brown took a moment to say a quick prayer and put the vehicle in reverse. The chains grabbed the snow and the vehicle inched down the mountain in reverse. His prayer turned into one for a turnaround to quickly appear, knowing the next one was about half a mile away. With his neck straining, they finally made it to the turn around without incident.

Brown quickly drove down the mountain in order to meet the ferry when it was scheduled to arrive. In this case, he had 45 minutes or less because it sometimes arrives early.

Once at the bottom of the mountain, Brown and the two men took off the chains as fast as they could, threw them in the backseat and headed to where the hunter had left his other vehicle. After successfully concluding the first adventure, Brown was off to catch the ferry and the fugitive.

The woman was wanted by U.S. Federal Marshals for kidnapping two boys from Child Protective Services in Texas. The U.S. Marshals had been on Prince of Wales in early December looking for her and her compound near Naukati. The Marshals believed she was a survivalist and likely armed and dangerous. An Alaska Wildlife Trooper had also heard the call and responded to assist Brown.

Brown and the AWT both arrived just minutes before the ferry docked at 6:25 p.m. In a show of cooperation and teamwork, the ferry captain and his crew slowly docked to give the two troopers time to arrive. Once the boat was tied up and passengers began to disembark, they met the woman and arrested her without incident.

At the time of her apprehension, the woman and the two boys carried an array of survival gear including fire starter, numerous multi-tools and long bows equipped with arrows.

After transporting the woman to the Craig Jail and placing the boys in state custody, Brown then again started home.

At 10:30 p.m., he finally walked through his front door with a pizza kept warm by the Expedition's dashboard heaters.

ALASKA STATE TROOPERS

B Detachment



Detachment Commander
Capt. Dennis Casanovas



B Detachment Headquarters in Palmer



Deputy Commander
Lt. Dave Tracy



Deputy Commander
Lt. Randy Hahn

ALASKA STATE TROOPERS

B Detachment

Sgt. Chris Hill, a patrol sergeant at the Mat-Su West post, talks to a driver he stopped for running a stop sign while turning on to the Parks Highway.

Detachment Command

1 Captain, Detachment Commander

1 Lieutenant, Deputy Commander (Palmer post)

1 Lieutenant, Deputy Commander (Mat-Su West post)

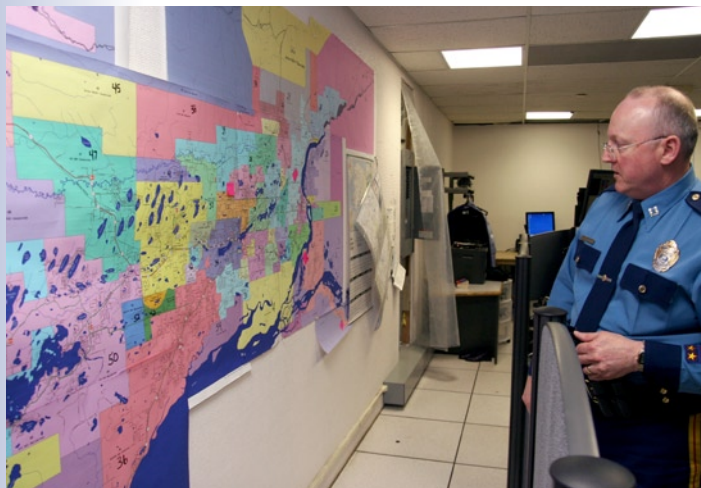
Detachment Staff

1 Administrative Supervisor

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. A large portion of B Detachment is encompassed by the Matanuska Susitna Borough. It is the fastest growing area in Alaska with an annual population growth estimated at approximately 4.2 percent per year. The borough ranked the 28th fastest growing area in the nation when compared with other counties in 2005.

Personnel wise, B Detachment is a medium-sized detachment. The detachment is authorized for 48 commissioned Alaska State Troopers, seven Court Service Officers and 12 civilian employees.

The detachment covers approximately 52,465 square miles of territory, an area slightly larger than the entire state of Arkansas.



B Detachment Commander Capt. Dennis Casanovas looks over a map of different emergency areas in the Mat-Su Borough.

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. Approximately 34 percent of the population commutes to Anchorage for employment purposes. This does not take into consideration the vast number of trails that crisscross the detachment and are utilized by recreational traffic year round.

POPULATION SERVED

There are an estimated 89,297 residents living within the boundaries of B Detachment. Alaska State 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.

B DETACHMENT POSTS

Palmer Post

2 Sergeants

14 State Troopers

3 Administrative Clerks

2 Evidence Clerks

Mat-Su West Post

2 Sergeants

12 State Troopers

2 Administrative Clerks

Troopers from Palmer Post and Mat-Su West Post cover the same geographical area, from mile 29 to 110 of the Glenn Highway and also from mile 35 to mile 60 of the Parks Highway. Both posts provide direct services such as sex offender registration and criminal background checks to the general public.



Palmer CSO Pierre Burkette handcuffs two prisoners before their transport from the Palmer Courthouse back to jail.

Judicial Services Unit

1 Sergeant
1 State Trooper
7 Court Service Officers
2 Administrative Clerks

Most of Judicial Services Unit (JS) personnel have office space located in the Palmer Courthouse, a building that is undergoing major renovations scheduled to be completed in June 2008. JS duties include executing arrest warrants and civil processes, such as domestic violence protective orders and stalking orders, issued by the Palmer Court each year. A daily average of more 2,000 arrest warrants, issued by the Palmer and Glennallen Courts, awaited service by law enforcement personnel.

The Palmer-based Judicial Services Unit accounted for:

- 2,674 civil and criminal writs received from courts
- Approximately 7,000 prisoners transported
- An average of 2,000 pending arrest warrants per month

Southcentral DUI Enforcement Team

1 Sergeant
3 State Troopers

The Southcentral DUI team, which is funded through state

and federal grants, has a mission of ridding Alaska's roadways of impaired drivers. During 2007, nearly one-half of the DUI arrests made by B Detachment came from the four troopers working on the Southcentral DUI Team.

The success of the team relies heavily upon calls from the public. These calls are known as REDDIs, or Report Every Drunk Driver Immediately. B Detachment received more than 1,100 of these tips from the public in 2007. The teams can be deployed anywhere along the road system and sometimes travel to special events such as the Girdwood Forest Fair, the Seward's Fourth of July celebration and the Talkeetna Bluegrass Festival.

Glennallen Post

1 Sergeant
3 State Troopers
1 Administrative Clerk

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 the Valdez to where the Nebesna Road intersects with the Tok Cutoff at mile 63. 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 oversee the two Village Public Safety Officers assigned to Copper Center and Gulkana. The Gulkana VPSO position is vacant.

Talkeetna Post

1 Sergeant
4 State Troopers
1 Administrative Clerk

The Talkeetna Post has primary responsibility for the Parks Highway from mile 60 to 147.5 and shares the responsibility with the Houston Police Department from mile 51 to 60. Troopers assigned to this post spend a majority of their time responding to calls for service. Traffic enforcement is conducted when time permits.



Southcentral DUI Enforcement Team Sgt. Steve Adams



Copper Center Fourth of July parade

B DETACHMENT ACTIVITY

Forty-five personnel from the rank of trooper to sergeant are responsible for responding to requests from approximately 69,390 residents living outside of any city police department's jurisdiction. This is an average of one trooper serving every 1,542 people.

There are approximately 675 inmates housed in the three Department of Corrections institutions located within B Detachment: the Mat-Su Pre-Trial Facility in Palmer, the Palmer Correctional Center near Sutton and Point MacKenzie Correctional Farm located near the end of Point MacKenzie.

Correctional institutions not only rely upon B Detachment for support for moving prisoners to and from court, but 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.

Some of the criminal offenses recorded during the year were:

- 🔒 29,019 total calls for service
- 🔒 1,153 Theft offenses
- 🔒 654 Vandalism offenses
- 🔒 619 DUI offenses
- 🔒 651 Assault offenses
- 🔒 355 Burglary offenses (see Burglary graph on page 71)
- 🔒 217 Death investigations
- 🔒 127 Trespass offenses
- 🔒 72 search and rescue related events

A Highway Traffic Safety Corridor was created in B Detachment in October of 2006. The corridor is from mile 44.5 to mile 53 of the Parks Highway. Traffic violations within the corridor are subject to double fines. There are two other roadways within B Detachment – the Knik-Goose Bay Road and the Palmer-Wasilla Highway – undergoing scrutiny to determine if a designation as Highway Safety Corridors is necessary. High traffic volume and the number of fatal collisions and collisions with significant injuries along the roadways are just two of the factors to be considered.

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 resulted in more than 30,000 vehicles counted. This count was during mid-March 2007 on a weekday. While this vehicle number seems astounding, it is even more impressive when the number of cars on the road



Traffic patrol on Parks Highway

increase during the summer months by 30 percent. The increase is attributed, in part, to the arrival of tourists.

Service to the public – B Detachment is constantly trying to keep up with the public's demand for services. The detachment is located in what is considered the fastest growing area in Alaska. Troopers in this region often respond to emergency calls by themselves. Due to the overwhelming number of requests for law enforcement services (see Calls for Service graph on page 74), the public has become accustomed to having to wait, sometimes for hours, for a trooper to respond or to make contact via telephone.

SUCSESSES

Alaska State Fair highway enforcement – In late August and early September, the 12-day Alaska State Fair consistently attracts approximately 310,000 visitors to the fairgrounds in Palmer. Residents and tourists alike endure long traffic lines on the major roadways in and around Palmer. During the 2007 State Fair, there were 10 troopers working on this detail full time and five additional troopers assigned to fair highway enforcement for part of their work time. Every detachment around the state contributed one or more troopers to the focused enforcement. The AST Helicopter, Helo 1, and a pilot based in Anchorage also were utilized during the Alaska State Fair. A total of 1,795 citations were issued during the 12-day event. Overtime funding for the enforcement team came from combined grants for seatbelt enforcement and DUI enforcement from the Alaska Highway Safety Office. Helo 1 was used to spot traffic violations and erratic drivers, such as REDDIs. It also remained available to transport emergency responders to a scene where traffic congestion may have prevented a timely response by ground. Two AST motorcycles also aided in the effective traffic enforcement efforts. There were only six motor vehicle collisions in the State Fair highway corridors during 2007. Four of the collisions involved vehicle damage only and two involved personal injuries.

Talkeetna Bluegrass Festival – The Talkeetna Bluegrass Festival occurred on the first Friday, Saturday and Sunday in August. The event was held on about 140 acres of private land near mile 102 of the Parks Highway. AST used the Sunshine Fire Station for a command center. In addition to the B Detachment troopers assigned to work this event, two AST motorcycles and AST's Helo 1 were used to augment traffic enforcement efforts around the festival. Overtime grants for seatbelt and DUI enforcement from the Alaska Highway Safety Office were used to partially fund these efforts. A total of 131 citations were issued during the festival and no motor vehicle collisions reported.



Gov. Sarah Palin and the Alaska State Fair highway enforcement team

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 2007:

- Responsible for 1,166 square miles – an area larger than the state of Rhode Island
- Responsible for serving 1,542 year-round members of the public
- Arrested 13 DUI drivers
- Issued 217 traffic citations
- Assigned 31 motor vehicle crashes to investigate
- Assigned or received 644 calls for service including criminal cases, civil cases and routine law enforcement matters
- Spent dozens of hours testifying in criminal trials or traffic trials
- Assigned an average of one search and rescue case
- Investigated five death cases

Public safety through public service

From left, Troopers Josh Heinbaugh, Nathan Duce, Sgt. Duane Stone, Administrative Clerk Jane Flygstad and Trooper Elizabeth Haddad stand in front of the Glennallen post.

The men and women of Alaska State Troopers do not function on their own, but rely on a network of supporting players to help them carry out their job. The cooperation between troopers, Court Services Officers, AST administrative staff and community members during a sexual assault case in Glennallen in 2007 is a perfect example of it's not only the people wearing the uniform, but also civilian employees that are critical to AST's goal of providing public safety through public service.

A woman bicyclist touring Alaska as part of a cancer fundraising group over the summer encountered a man alongside the roadway about 10 miles from Glennallen. After man flagged her down and asked if she'd help him with his stuck vehicle he attacked her without warning. The man – who had recently been released from jail for a sexual assault conviction – pulled the woman from her bicycle and tried to drag her into the woods. Fortunately, a second bicyclist involved in the fundraiser came by and spooked the suspect. The man released the woman and drove away, almost striking both bicyclists with his vehicle as he fled.

Meanwhile, Jane Flygstad, the administrative clerk at the Alaska State Troopers' Glennallen post, was helping people at the front counter at the post the day of the attack. Something raised her suspicions when she heard the information regarding the search for the suspect as it aired over the trooper radio. She recognized the suspect's description from when he registered

as a convicted sexual offender months prior. Only four to five people register as a sexual offender at the Glennallen office each year, making it easy to keep track of particularly alarming cases. This man's description was lodged in Flygstad's memory. Not only did the suspect's description broadcasted on the radio match what she had read in the registration form, but his favored method of attack fit the profile of the most recent attack. Flygstad combed through man's paperwork and noticed he had listed a vehicle similar to the one reportedly involved in the attack. The file not only included the man's most recent address, but photographs of him as well.

This information was soon relayed to troopers who were out looking for the suspect. With this new information, they were able to locate the suspect's residence, his place of employment and eventually figure out where he was that afternoon. This further implicated him as a suspect as he had been clearing land just a few miles from where the attack took place. Furthermore, the victim and witness were able to positively identify the suspect from photos in the file. Glennallen troopers arrested the suspect a few hours later.

The man was charged and then convicted at a 2008 trial with kidnapping, attempted kidnapping, first-degree attempted sexual assault and two counts of third-degree assault.

Each Sunday of the approximate two-week trial, B Detachment Court Services Officers from Palmer transported the defendant from the Mat-Su Pre-Trial Facility in Palmer to the AST post in Glennallen, an approximate 145 mile trip one way. It's a lonely drive during the winter with little traffic to come along and spotty cell phone and radio service to call upon in case of an emergency.

During the week, the defendant was held in a jail cell at the troopers' office and taken each day to the Glennallen Courthouse – his movements closely guarded by troopers and CSOs. AST employed guards from the community to keep watch over the defendant in his cell during the 18 hours he was not in court.

On Friday evenings, after the trial ended for the weekend, CSOs would again drive the defendant the approximate 145 miles back to the Mat-Su Pre-Trial facility.

It's just one the examples of what may be a typical day to Court Services Officers in B Detachment, but highly unusual for any other police department in the country.

Important in this case are not only the logistics considered by the Alaska State Troopers when a felony trial is held in a rural area, but also the dedication of the Glennallen residents who agreed to watch the defendant in the local jail cell each night.



Administrative Clerk Jane Flygstad

ALASKA STATE TROOPERS

C Detachment



C Detachment Headquarters
in Anchorage



Detachment Commander
Capt. Steve Arlow



Deputy Commander
Lt. Tony April



Deputy Commander
Lt. Craig MacDonald



ALASKA STATE TROOPERS

C Detachment

Kotzebue post supervisor Sgt. Karl Main talks to a villager during a visit to Shungnak.



Detachment Command

- 1 Captain, Detachment Commander
- 1 Lieutenant, Deputy Commander (Anchorage)
- 1 Lieutenant, Deputy Commander (Bethel)

Detachment Staff

- 1 Administrative Manager
- 1 Accounting Technician
- 1 Accounting Clerk

C Detachment is not only the largest geographically, but is one of the most sparsely populated of the five detachments within the Division of Alaska State Troopers.

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 70,619 people living in the nearly 216,077 square miles of land in the detachment. In addition, there are 19,347 miles of coastal area within detachment boundaries. There are 52 commissioned troopers allocated to C Detachment, or an average of one trooper for every 1,441 residents. Of the positions authorized, only 40 were filled in 2007. Each trooper was responsible for 4,410 square miles of area in 2007.

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.

Various seasonal activities occur within this region and increase the population considerably. In the Bristol Bay and Kodiak region, 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.

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 various C Detachment supervisors stand behind AST Director Col. Audie Holloway and Deputy Director Maj. Matt Leveque. They are from left to right, Sgt. Leonard Wallner, VPSO coordinator; C Detachment Commander Capt. Steve Arlow; Nome Sgt. Andrew Merrill; Kodiak Sgt. Maurice Hughes; Kotzebue Sgt. Karl Main; Bethel Sgt. Perry Barr; Lt. Tony April; Lt. Craig MacDonald; Bethel Sgt. Teague Widmier; and Dillingham Sgt. Randal McPherron.



Trooper Dave Bump and AWT Jay Sears during a bootlegging bust near Togiak.



Bethel Sgt. Teague Widmier and Village Public Safety Officer Chris Alexie of Kipnuk.

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 this support net available when needed. Many villages appreciate this method of law enforcement and have a sense of involvement with law enforcement 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 (AST Supervisor and VPSO Training Coordinator)
1 Trooper
1 Administrative Clerk

The detachment headquarters in Anchorage also houses the trooper assigned to the Anchorage Service Unit. This trooper is responsible for follow-up investigations within the state jail system in Anchorage, 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 arrest warrants and other special projects.

The detachment is also responsible for managing the Village Public Safety Officer Program. The VPSO program has 70 VPSO positions authorized statewide with 47 of them filled at the end of 2007. Forty of these VPSO's work within C Detachment boundaries. All training for the VPSOs is coordinated by the sergeant in C Detachment Headquarters. This training is also made available to Village Police Officers

who fall within the different village or tribal government run police departments.

The detachment normally provides back-up service and emergency assistance for all city police departments. It also provides assistance for any major case investigations upon request.

C DETACHMENT POSTS

Bethel Post

1 Lieutenant
2 Sergeants
12 Troopers,
1 State Pilot II
3 Administrative Clerks

Bethel is a Western Alaska hub with a population of 5,650 residents. One or two of the Bethel troopers must cover the District Court needs within Bethel. This includes daily prisoner transports to and from the jail to courtrooms and transporting prisoners into Bethel from outlying villages

The Bethel Post serves 27 villages with a total of 12,366 residents in the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta.

Akiachak – 628	Kwigillingok - 361
Akiak – 350	Napakiak- 378
Atmautluak – 305	Napaskiak – 434
Chefornak – 449	Newtok - 353
Chevak – 941	Nightmute - 244
Eek – 284	Nunapitchuk – 545
Goodnews Bay – 235	Oscarville – 80
Hooper Bay – 1150	Platinum – 35
Kasigluk – 545	Quinhagak – 643
Kipnuk – 664	Scammon Bay – 517
Kongiganak – 436	Toksook Bay – 609
Kwethluk – 721	Tuluksak – 487
Tununak – 341	Mekoryuk – 208
Tuntutuliak – 442	



State Pilot Earl Samuelson, Bethel Troopers Mike Duffield and Mike Roberts and resident Teddy Pete on a call in Newtok.

Aniak Post

1 Sergeant

3 Troopers (1 Vacant)

1 Administrative Clerk

Aniak is a community of 506 residents with no city police department. It is east of Bethel by 150 river miles and 90 air miles. The village sits on the south bank of the Kuskokwim River at the head of Aniak Slough. The area encompasses five square miles of land. The total population in all villages covered by the Aniak Post is 1,453. The economy is based on government, transportation and retail services. The Aniak post serves the following 12 communities and associated populations:

Anvik – 102	Lower Kalskag – 253
Chuathbaluk – 90	Red Devil – 34
Crooked Creek – 129	Shageluk – 118
Georgetown – 3	Sleetmute – 75
Grayling – 164	Stony River – 42
Holy Cross – 199	Upper Kalskag – 244

McGrath Post

1 Trooper (Vacant)

This post will have one trooper in the summer of 2008. The trooper will be supervised by the Aniak sergeant. The community of 315 residents is located in the upper Kuskokwim River, approximately 220 air miles from Anchorage. 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 and is located on the Iditarod Sled Dog Race trail. Besides McGrath, the trooper will service four other communities with an additional 163 residents:

Lime Village – 26	Takotna – 46	Aleknagik – 237	New Stuyahok – 447
Nikolia – 88	Teilda – 3	Clark's Point – 66	Portage Creek – 9

St. Mary's Post

2 Troopers

The troopers at this post are supervised by the Bethel sergeant. The population in St. Mary's is approximately 521. The community is located on the Yukon River and participates in a commercial salmon fishery during the summer months. The city police department disbanded a few years ago. The St. Mary's post services the following five communities with an additional 2,223 residents:

Marshall – 388	Pitkas Point - 138
Pilot Station – 580	Russian Mission – 333
Mountain Village – 784	

Emmonak Post

2 Troopers

The post is located in a community on the lower Yukon River with approximately 777 residents. Economy is based on government and commercial fisheries. The post is supervised by a sergeant in Bethel and services Emmonak and three other communities with an additional 1,431 residents:

Alakanuk – 680	Kotlik – 599
Nunam Iqua (Sheldon's Point) – 152	

Dillingham Post

1 Sergeant

3 Troopers

1 Administrative Clerk

Dillingham, a community with 2,404 residents, is located at the extreme northern end of Nushagak Bay in northern Bristol Bay. It lies 327 miles southwest of Anchorage. The city can be reached by air and sea only. The fishing industry is the primary economic source in the area. The city has its own police department. The Dillingham post also is responsible for providing Judicial Services tasks for the Superior and District courts in Dillingham, moving prisoners to and from court as well as back and forth from Anchorage. Troopers also provide court security if needed and serve summons, 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. The Dillingham post services the following nine communities with an additional 2,358 residents:



Dillingham Trooper Dave Bump fingerprints a child at the Dillingham library.

Ekwok – 108	Togiak – 787
Koliganek – 192	Twin Hills – 81
Manokotak – 431	



Cold Bay does not have a city police department or troopers posted in the community. There are police departments in King Cove and Sand Point, communities that are both a plane ride away. The post's patrol area services 2,998 residents. 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 Anchorage Service Unit trooper and Dillingham post service the following nine communities in the Cold Bay region with the help from the Alaska Wildlife Troopers stationed in Dutch Harbor. The VPSO program has a strong presence in this region.

Adak – 136	Nikolski – 33
Akutan – 859	Shemya Station – 23
Atka – 74	Sand Point – 992
False Pass – 46	Nelson Lagoon – 69
King Cove – 756	



The post provides direct public safety services to 543 residents within the local community. 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. The King Salmon post is supervised by the Dillingham sergeant and services the following seven communities with an additional 661 residents.

Chignik Bay – 149	Port Heiden – 118
Chignik Lake – 128	Perryville – 119



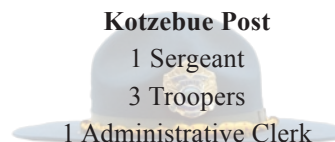
Dillingham troopers, from left to right, Jason Fieser, Dave Bump, Dan Sadloski and Sgt. Randel McPherron during a day at the range.

Egegik – 64	Pilot Point – 61
Levelock – 71	



Iliamna is located on the northwest side of Lake Iliamna and has a population of 93 residents. Newly opened in 2007, one trooper shares the post facilities with an Alaska Wildlife Trooper. Tourism, sport fishing and commercial fishing are its economic base. 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 and services the following five communities with an additional 694 residents.

Kokhanok – 175	Pedro Bay – 38
Newhalen – 167	Port Alsworth – 118
Nondalton – 196	



The post is located on the Baldwin Peninsula in Kotzebue Sound on a three-mile long spit, which ranges in width from 1,100 to 3,600 feet. A sub-hub office was established in the village of Selawik to allow more frequent trooper visits to due to this community's population and increased calls for service while troopers are diverted to prisoner transport. Prisoner transports between this region and Nome occur weekly, often impacting trooper duties and responses to calls for service. The 10 villages outside of Kotzebue consist of a total of 4,001 residents. Kotzebue has approximately 3,133 residents and its own city police department. It's also the regional hub and the nucleus of the NANA Regional Corp., the regional Native corporation,



Iliamna Trooper Vanessa Meade pauses during a snowmachine patrol.



Nome Trooper Jonnathon Stroebele stops to help a little girl playing in a puddle in Shishmaref.

and the Northwest Arctic Regional Borough government. Air is the primary means of transportation year round. Snow machines are used in the winter for local transportation. The Kotzebue post services the following 10 communities.

Ambler – 277	Kobuk – 119
Buckland – 461	Noatak – 489
Deering – 133	Noorvik – 636
Kiana – 391	Selawik – 828
Kivalina – 398	Shungnak – 269

Nome Post

1 Sergeant
5 Troopers

2 Administrative clerks

The Nome post provides coverage to an area with a population of 3,569 residents. It also provides assistance to the Nome Police Department when requested. Nome has a population of 3,495 residents. Nome 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 drunk driving patrols and motor vehicle crash investigations. Nome troopers 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. 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 the 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 Sled Dog Race and during the summer months for bird watching of exotic species. The Bering Straits Native Corp., one of the 13 Alaska Native regional corporations, is headquartered in Nome. The Nome post services the following 10 villages:

Brevig Mission – 328	Shishmaref – 608
Council – 7	Solomon – 2
Diomedes – 144	Teller – 256
Elim – 309	Wales – 136
Gambell – 662	White Mountain – 215
Savoonga – 712	

Unalakleet Post

2 Troopers

Unalakleet is located on the coast of the Bering Sea and has an estimated population of 724 and a commercial size airport. This community had a small police department, but it has since been dissolved. The post falls under the supervision of the Nome sergeant. The post serves the following four villages with an additional 1,603 residents.

Koyuk – 347	Shaktoolik – 214
St. Michael – 444	Stebbins – 598

Kodiak Post

1 Sergeant
5 Troopers
2 Dispatchers

This post is responsible for approximately 6,062 residents and has C Detachment's only state dispatch center. Additionally, Kodiak has a police department to serve its population of 5,689 residents. Known as "The Emerald Isle," Kodiak Island is the

largest island in Alaska and is second in entire United States, only to Hawaii. It has a large tourist and commercial fishing industry. Headquarters for Koniag Inc., the regional Alaska Native corporation, is located in Kodiak. The Kodiak post services the following nine communities

Aleneva – 48	Larsen Bay – 83
Akhiok – 33	Old Harbor – 187
Chiniak – 42	Ouzinkie – 155
Karluk – 27	Port Lions – 179
Womens Bay – 830	Afognak Island – 4478

C DETACHMENT ACTIVITY

Despite the low population density, Western Alaska has had the highest number of sexual assaults in the state for decades and 2007 was no different. The detachment accounts for almost half of the reported number of sexual abuse of a minor offenses and over half of the sexual assault offenses in the entire state.

C Detachment also leads the state in assault cases and was second to the Alaska Bureau of Investigation in the number of homicide cases investigated by only two.

C Detachment statistics:

- 👮 248 sexual assault offenses
- 👮 231 sexual abuse of minor offenses
- 👮 1,165 felony and misdemeanor assault offenses
- 👮 11 homicides
- 👮 14 suicides
- 👮 9,935 calls for service,
- 👮 1,823 arrests or charges referred for prosecution

Alcohol and drugs within this region are major influences in case activity. Most of the communities have voted to prohibit alcohol in their village. The practice of bootlegging or making homebrew equates to a large portion of case activities or has a direct relationship to the serious crimes being committed. Illegal drugs or misuse of prescription drugs is also prevalent throughout the region.

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. 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 our troopers to give them the tools needed to put together the best case possible for prosecution.

CHALLENGES

Service to public – In comparing the 2007 statistics with the 1999 Alaska State Trooper annual report, it appears little progress



Bethel troopers Henry Ching, left, and Mike Roberts brave the elements during a routine visit to Newtok.

has been made in deterring the most serious of crimes against people and young children within this region (see Statistical graphs on page 72). This information indicates that in 1999 there were 146 sexual assaults, 195 sexual assaults of minors, 253 felony assaults, 23 homicides and 796 misdemeanor assaults. Unless we approach these issues in concert with other service agencies, little change can be expected in the future.

Facilities – Many of our small posts only have a jail cell. Troopers must guard prisoners until they can be properly transported to larger 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. Often one trooper will escort seven or more prisoners alone on a small charter aircraft. In 2007, C detachment alone spent \$845,623 moving prisoners, impacting the department budget. This amount entails airfare, per diem and hotel costs, but not overtime. In 2007, the Dillingham troopers and Dillingham police officers transported 259 prisoners between jails in Dillingham and Anchorage due to overcrowding issues or court proceedings. Troopers also transported 564 prisoners from the Dillingham jail to the local court. In 2007, the Bethel post was responsible for a total of 3,843 prisoners either transported or guarded while in court proceedings.

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 they do 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 – C Detachment struggles continuously with keeping the civilian support staff positions filled. Much of this is attributed to the high cost of living within the region and great attraction to private sector jobs. The clerical staff are often recruited to the

private sector, which often pays more. These vacancies directly affect the overall mission of AST. The lack of support staff requires troopers to perform excessive clerical duties and requires command staff to go through time-consuming hiring procedures. The Kodiak dispatch center had two of three positions vacant most of 2007. At the same time, headquarters staff positions were vacant longer than filled and the clerks remaining worked weekends, holidays and extended shifts on a weekly basis just to try to keep up with demands.

The trooper vacancy rate was also high in 2007. Only one sergeant and a trooper occupied the four positions in Aniak for most of the year. This required both to be on call around the clock and days off were rare. Although overtime was excessive, the bigger concern was overwork burnout. Post vacancies frequently forced troopers throughout the detachment to work overtime.

SUCSESSES

Search and rescues – Search and rescue operations (SARs) have been one success story over the decades in this region. In 2007, C Detachment had 213 SAR-related events or the equivalent of four per week. The detachment had close to 30 percent of the total number of SARs for DPS in 2007. Most are a result of individuals traveling for recreational or community events between villages or subsistence hunting or fishing. Although SARs are hampered by communications, transportation, weather, temperature extremes and distances, they most often end successfully. There were 114 lives saved in C Detachment in 2007 as a direct result of SAR-related

activities. Six events resulted in the recovery of the remains of deceased individuals and seven people are still missing.

Search and Rescue operations in the detachment are facilitated by local village volunteer SAR 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.

Flying hours – In 2007, the assigned trooper pilots and a civilian State Pilot II flew 1,032 hours of incident-free missions within C detachment. The majority of these missions were SARs, prisoner transports and investigative trips to villages. This is a credit to C Detachment pilots, their training and good judgment and the aircraft section who maintains the aircraft.

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.



C Detachment Commander Capt. Steve Arlow talks to a girl during a visit to Shungnak.



Trooper Aileen Witrosky with Nome residents.


Equipment & Training – With assistance of federal COPS grants, C Detachment provides troopers and VPSOs with some of the latest technology such as arctic clothing, satellite phones, personal locator beacons, updated computers, digital cameras and recorders, snow machines, boats, ATVs and fire fighting equipment. 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 abuse and elder abuse identification.

Support of people in 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. Our 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.

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 2007:

- 
- Responsible for approximately 4,410 square miles – an area over twice the size of Delaware
 - Responsible for serving approximately 1,139 year-round members of the public
 - 203 calls for service
 - 24 felony and misdemeanor assaults
 - 7 burglaries
 - 8 larcenies
 - 10 sexual abuse of minor or sexual assaults
 - 4 search and rescue related events

In addition to the above activity, suicides and homicides, cases involving illegal importation of alcohol and other minor calls for service required trooper response. The following is the number of hours in select categories each trooper dedicated to other duties:

- Investigations – 435 hours
- Patrolling – 370 hours
- Report Writing - 268 hours
- Prisoner Transports - 134 hours
- Court – 73 hours
- VPSO oversight - 135 hours

Kotzebue's frequent fliers



Inmates on aircraft bound for Nome.

While waiting at a public aircraft terminal for a plane to take prisoners from Kotzebue to Nome, a woman walked up to her handcuffed boyfriend for one last good-bye. Even though the transporting trooper, Shaw Miller, told her to leave the prisoner alone, she grabbed her boyfriend in a hug and cried “no, no!”

She then pleaded with Miller, the sole trooper accompanying the group of prisoners to Nome that day, to let her boyfriend go while others in the small airport office watched the outburst. Miller not only needed to keep one eye focused on the group he was responsible for, he now had to deal with an emotional woman. At the same time, he needed to make sure there was nobody in the waiting area ready to join in to aid an escape attempt, protest the arrest or hand off contraband such as cigarettes or drugs to the prisoners awaiting transport.

“Because it’s a public terminal, family members come up to prisoners all the time,” said Sgt. Karl Main, supervisor of the Kotzebue post. “That’s an every (prisoner transport) occurrence.”

The woman soon found herself joining her boyfriend in handcuffs and charged with disorderly conduct.

In 2007, several family members of inmates were arrested after they attempted to disrupt a transport or tried to slip items to the person in custody after being told not to. These incidents left many troopers in situations where they had to further divide their attention between people both in and out of custody while detaining the friend or family member.

The Kotzebue Regional Jail, capable of holding only 14 prisoners, must constantly off-load inmates and in

turn receives those traveling back from Anvil Mountain Correctional Center (AMCC) in Nome. Prisoner transports occur twice per week in order to ensure inmates make their scheduled appearances at the courthouse in Kotzebue.

The lack of a video link program within the Northwest Arctic Borough region, coupled with court ordered appearances, causes the number of prisoners being transferred to grow rapidly.

Once the court appearance is finished, prisoners are usually transported back to Nome to await their next hearing. A video link system – which allows the prisoner to appear over a closed circuit television system – in Kotzebue would alleviate the number of prisoners traveling between Kotzebue and Nome. It would also save money in the long run because it costs \$2,000 per trip to charter the plane. Additionally, it would dramatically enhance safety as inmates would rarely leave the custody of a secured facility.

Currently, prisoners are picked up at their assigned facilities and transported to the air terminal where they’re escorted inside to an area where other civilian travelers check in. There is no underground facility or transport hall to keep them secluded from the general public. During this time, the trooper must be on high alert.

It’s not uncommon for as many as 14 prisoners to transfer from Kotzebue to Nome. However, in order to ensure some level of officer safety, only seven to eight prisoners are transferred from each location at a time. Prisoner transport takes three to four hours for the assigned trooper to complete. That is time out of the duty day and time away from criminal investigations, writing reports and assisting the public. It takes an additional one to two hours to schedule the transports while also handling calls for public assists and investigations.

Only one trooper can be spared for the day to conduct the transport. This allows the other trooper to stay at his or her assigned post to respond to calls for service. If no other trooper is working, another trooper on a regular day off is placed on stand by from his or her residence until the transport is complete.

The aircraft used in this transport is a simple twin engine commercial aircraft used to transport normal civilian passengers or freight when not chartered by AST.

The trooper is required to keep a high level of awareness during the transport. Each trooper, whether he or she is from Nome or Kotzebue, is aware of the fact that at any time, a simple disturbance could result in a life-threatening situation at 2,000 feet. That danger is greatly multiplied by the number of prisoners.



Trooper Terry Sheperd keeps a watchful eye over inmates climbing on a plane transporting prisoners from Kotzebue to Nome.

VILLAGE PUBLIC SAFETY OFFICER



DPS Commissioner Walt Monegan and Savoonga VPSO John Peratrovich.



C Detachment is responsible for overseeing the operation of the Village Public Safety Officer (VPSO) Program. The VPSO 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, medical issues and law enforcement support.

At the program's inception there were 124 funded VPSO positions to provide services to rural communities. That number fluctuated over the years and has now dwindled to 70 positions in 2007. Of those positions, only 47 were filled. The presence of VPSOs has had a significant impact on improving the quality of life in the participating villages.

Village Public Safety Officers are generally the first to respond to many calls for help from community members, hence VPSO's motto "First Responders – Last Frontier."

Although the program is intended to facilitate local control over public safety services, the management actually resides with three entities: the village itself, the regional nonprofit Native corporation and the Alaska State Troopers. The nonprofit corporation manages the day-to-day operational costs with the assistance from their assigned VPSO coordinator. The primary purpose of the regional

nonprofit Native corporations is to place the local administration of the program into the hands of an organization more aware of the specific needs of the areas served. They are also able to negotiate with each of the villages within their regions through memorandums of agreement.

Law enforcement in most rural areas is primarily the responsibility of AST. From rural outposts, troopers attempt to respond to calls in order of their priority – emergencies, felonies and then misdemeanors. These efforts are often hampered by delayed notification, the long distances required for a response, the uncertainties of weather and transportation and personnel limitations.

In communities associated with the VPSO Program, citizens are afforded an immediate response to all emergencies without delays that could otherwise be 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 with troopers. Their immediate action can resolve many potentially volatile situations and can often protect important evidence until troopers arrive.

A VPSO Task Force was established in 2007 by the legislation to determine the validity of the program and its inability to expand to the level of VPSO employment in past decades.



VPSO fire service training.



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



Eight Village Police Officers graduated from the DPS Academy in March 2007. From left to right, Paula Yunak of Scammon Bay, George “Skip” Robinson of Tanana, Charlie Hartzell of Angoon, Jedidia Atchak of Chevak, John Friendly of Eek, Tim Beaucage of Eagle, Michael Lejarzar of St. George and Brandon Lewis of Tuluksak.

The Task Force was comprised of seven members; three state Senators, the Commissioner of Public Safety, the Attorney General and two chief executive officers of the nonprofit organizations. They toured rural Alaska and established town meetings in Nome, Savoonga, Gambell, Bethel, Mt. Village, Emmonak and Kodiak to gather information and input from the VPSOs and the communities. The Task Force report will be released in 2008 with recommendations.

2007 HIGHLIGHTS

VPSOs had several training opportunities in 2007 including Street Survival Training in Anchorage; Learn to Return (cold weather survival); Reid Interrogation; Drug Abuse Resistance Education training and a student safety summit held in Anchorage. Additional training included two week-long regional training sessions in both Bethel and Kodiak. Regional training topics included Taser certification, OC spray and ASP baton. This training was funded by federal COPS grants.

Highlights for the year included presenting prestigious awards to three VPSOs. Kawerak Inc.’s VPSO Cpl. John Peratrovich of Savoonga received a Commendation for Honorable Service for both the disarming of an intoxicated citizen and the significant reduction of violent crime and alcohol related offenses in that

community. Kodiak Area Native Association’s VPSO Sgt. Roy Jones of Larsen Bay received a Commendation of Valor for saving the life of a member of the community. The third award was presented to the Association of Village Council Presidents’ VPSO Jacob Tobeluk Jr. of Nunapitchuk who was honored as VPSO of the Year for AVCP.



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

ALASKA STATE TROOPERS

D Detachment



Detachment Commander
Capt. Burke Barrick



D Detachment Headquarters in Fairbanks



Deputy Commander
Lt. Lonny Piscoya



Deputy Commander
Lt. Ron Wall



ALASKA STATE TROOPERS

D Detachment



Sgt. Brian Wassmann, the Rural Unit supervisor, walks back to his patrol vehicle following a traffic stop on Farmers Loop Road.

Detachment Command

Detachment Commander – Captain

Deputy Commander (Patrol) – Lieutenant

Deputy Commander (Rural Unit) – Lieutenant

Detachment Staff

1 Administrative Assistant

1 Administrative Clerk

Of the five trooper detachments within AST, D Detachment has the largest number of personnel with 97 employees, including 32 civilians, 55 commissioned troopers and 10 Court Service Officers. There are eight different trooper posts in the detachment. These posts cover most of Interior Alaska, stretching from the Alaskan-Canadian border in the east to the village of Kaltag in the west, from Atigun Pass in the north down to milepost 147 of the Parks Highway near Byers Lake in the south. D Detachment posts are located in Fairbanks, Galena, Nenana, Healy, Cantwell, Delta Junction, Tok and Northway. These posts provide the primary law enforcement services for over 70 Interior Alaska communities including 30 Alaska Native villages and over 20 highway linked communities. Over 104,574 people, or roughly one in every six Alaskans live, work, travel or recreate daily within the boundaries of D Detachment. This includes the 90,963 residents of the Fairbanks North Star Borough. 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 related assault cases; total traffic citations issued; death investigations; search and rescue missions; and total property crimes reported including burglaries, thefts and vehicle thefts.

D Detachment encompasses approximately 170,575 square miles or almost one-third of the entire state, an area slightly larger than California. D Detachment includes the Fairbanks North Star Borough and the city of Fairbanks that acts as the hub for the economic, medical and governmental services of dozens of villages and thousands of Alaska Natives. There are 78 public and private schools within D Detachment boundaries.

In 2007, there were 104,574 people living within the D Detachment boundaries. By way of comparison, there were 96,378 people living in the area in 2000.

D Detachment is responsible for 4,730 miles of public roads, more than any other trooper detachment. Approximately half of the highway miles in Alaska are within the D Detachment boundaries. Most of these highways are relatively low volume and subject to seasonal travel, with the exception of highways around Fairbanks.

D DETACHMENT UNITS AND POSTS

Fairbanks Post

4 Sergeants

22 Troopers

2 Evidence Clerks

Building Maintenance – 3 Personnel

Traffic Safety Team

1 Sergeant

2 Troopers



A majority of the 800-mile long Trans-Alaska Pipeline running from Prudoe Bay to Valdez travels over land within D Detachment.



Trooper Mike Wery does paperwork at his desk at the Fairbanks post.



Sgt. Tim Schoenberg waits for Sgt. Odean Hall to reload his magazine before resuming Special Emergency Reaction Team training at the Fairbanks firing range.

Rural Service Unit

1 Sergeant
3 Troopers

Fairbanks Communications Center

Communications Center Manager
15 Dispatchers
2 Administrative Clerks

The Fairbanks Post has a total of 38 commissioned troopers and 28 civilian personnel to serve an estimated population of 90,963.

The rural unit serves villages both on and off the road system. They are: Altana, Allakaket, Arctic Village, Beaver, Bettles, Birch Creek, Central, Chalkyitsik, Chatanika, Chandalar, Circle, Coldfoot, Ester, Evansville, Eureka, Fairbanks, Fort Yukon, Fox, Livengood, Manley Hot Springs, Minto, Moose Creek, Olnes Pond, Rampart, Salcha, Stevens Village, Venetie and Wiseman.

Judicial Services Unit

1 Sergeant
1 Trooper

9 Court Services Officers in Fairbanks and 1 in Barrow
3 Administrative Clerks

The Fairbanks Judicial Service unit is located in the Rabinowitz Courthouse at 101 Lacey Street. In the control room, a Court Services Officer is responsible for monitoring cameras and alarms and controls movement of doors for prisoners, along with controlling the opening and closing of doors for entrance and exits of vans transporting prisoners.

In 2007, CSOs and JS troopers:

- Transported and moved 8,351 in-custody inmates, including 4,517 felony suspects, between the pre-trial jail facility and court hearings

- Managed 3,834 in-custody inmates during video link appearances at the Fairbanks Correctional Center

- Remanded 69 subjects to custody at the courthouse

- Served approximately 7,710 writs

In addition to the court rooms and judges currently being served by the JS unit, construction has already begun in order to add two courtrooms for an additional two Supreme Court judges taking the bench in 2008.

Cantwell Post

1 Sergeant
1 Trooper
1 Administrative Clerk

Cantwell has a static population base of approximately 225 people. Cantwell troopers are responsible for patrolling the Parks Highway from mile 147 to 213. Cantwell's economic base revolves around tourism and railroad activity. Denali Park tourism represents a dramatic increase in seasonal population and activity within the Cantwell patrol district. An estimated 500,000 tourists visit Denali Park during a typical summer. A sergeant, based in Cantwell, oversees all three posts along the Parks Highway located in Cantwell, Healy and Nenana. Dispatch for these locations is centralized in Fairbanks.

Nenana Post

1 Trooper

Nenana serves as the major population base of the region with a population of approximately 500 year-round residents within the Nenana city limits. An additional 500 to 1,000 residents live in the area and in the nearby communities of Clear Air Force Station at mile 283 of the Parks Highway and in the town of Anderson which is accessed from the Clear Highway. The region's courthouse is also located in Nenana.

The trooper in Nenana is responsible for patrolling the Parks Highway from mile 276 to 328. In addition, the trooper services the town of Nenana after the community disbanded its police department a few years ago.

Healy Post

1 Trooper

Healy, located at mile 248 of the Parks Highway, has a population of approximately 1,000 residents. Part of this population lives here during the summer tourism season concentrated around the nearby Denali Park. There is no city police service. The Usibelli Coal Mine sustains the local economy with seasonal construction activity producing fluctuations in population and activity. The Healy trooper is responsible for patrolling the Parks Highway from mile 231 to 276.

Delta Post

1 Sergeant

4 Troopers

1 Dispatcher

The Delta 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 and for approximately 121 miles of the Richardson Highway from mile 194 to 315, and the Denali Highway from Paxson to mile 79. There are numerous agriculturally-based gravel roads in the area. The Tanana River flows to the north of Delta Junction.

Tok/Northway Post

1 Sergeant

3 Troopers in Tok and 1 in Northway

2 Dispatchers

The Tok and Northway posts of D Detachment are located near the Alaska border in eastern Alaska and on the Alaska Highway. AST personnel are responsible for three highways within the area. This area of responsibility extends from mile 1221 Alaska Highway to mile 1380 (Johnson River Bridge); mile 124 Tok Cut-off to mile 62; and from Tetlin Junction (mile 1302 Alaska Highway) to Eagle and Boundary at the Canadian border; and Poker Creek on the Taylor Highway (approximately 175 miles).

Population within the area is approximately 4,313 with a large influx of people traveling through the area during the late spring through fall. Population estimates include Tok, Tetlin, Mentasta, Tanacross, Dot Lake, Northway, Beaver Creek,



Cantwell post

Eagle, Chicken and Healy Lake. The population center for the region is Tok with a static population of between 1,200 and 1,400.

Galena Post

2 Troopers

The Galena Post is the only detachment post located off the road system and accessed mostly by air. Galena is on the Yukon River at Mile 530 and is almost due west of Fairbanks. It has a population of approximately 700 year-round residents with the city divided into two sections referred to as new town and old town. Approximately three miles separate the two sections. All city functions and buildings are located in the new section. 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.

CHALLENGES

Property crime prevention and investigation — The high call demand for D Detachment troopers makes it difficult to devote time for crime prevention and to thoroughly investigate theft, burglary and stolen vehicle cases.

Traffic enforcement – Due to the high workload, patrol troopers are only able to devote a minimum amount of time to traffic enforcement each day. Much of the traffic enforcement is conducted in conjunction with federally funded weekend and holiday overtime efforts designed to reduce motor vehicle crash related fatalities.



Fairbanks DUI Enforcement Team member Sgt. Rodney Johnson



Trooper Neal Carlson investigates a vehicle collision.

In 2007, there were 21 fatal motor vehicle crashes in Interior Alaska resulting in 23 fatalities. This accounts for almost one-quarter of all traffic fatalities in the entire state (84).

Domestic violence (DV) investigations – Despite the fact that troopers are doing well responding to DV calls, challenges emerge in tackling the necessary follow-up investigation.

SUCSESSES

DUI enforcement – D Detachment troopers and other law enforcement agencies in Interior Alaska have consistently accounted for roughly 1,000 DUI arrests over each of the past several years. Troopers and local police are effective in locating, arresting, prosecuting and convicting impaired drivers. A dedicated three-trooper DUI detection team was established in 2007 as a separate unit within the detachment. In 2007, D Detachment, thanks in large part to the success of the DUI team, led the division with 678 DUI arrests (see DUI graph on page 73).



Cones mark the distance between measurements to use in Photogrammetry.

Response to crimes of domestic assault – D Detachment troopers investigated 565 domestic violence related offenses in 2007, the second most of any detachment within the Alaska State Troopers. Every trooper receives training in how to properly investigate and properly document crimes of domestic violence. Investigating crimes against persons takes priority over all other types of calls for service. Every shift and post within the detachment are 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.

Traffic enforcement – D Detachment troopers wrote more traffic citations in 2007 than any other trooper detachment in the state. Troopers wrote 10,511 traffic citations, the second year in a row that the detachment accounted for over 10,000 citations (see Traffic Citations graph on page 73). Troopers also issued thousands of verbal warnings for a variety of traffic infractions and offenses in addition to the citations issued. D Detachment troopers try to conduct proactive traffic enforcement patrols when time allows by targeting stop sign violators, speeders, aggressive or reckless drivers and impaired operators.

Photogrammetry – During the summer of 2007, six D Detachment troopers received training in the use of Photogrammetry from the Utah Highway Patrol. The system allows for a to-scale diagram of a crash scene included in a case report detailing a fatality or serious injury collision. Photogrammetry uses a high-end camera to capture the needed information with specially numbered traffic cones and markers used to mark distances. A computer program triangulates the distances captured in the photo taken of the scene of the crash.

ANNUAL AND 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 & Sno-Go Classic. Arctic Man has grown from a small gathering of friends in 1985 to an event that now draws 15,000 to 17,000 people, creating a boom town virtually overnight. Alaska State Troopers, under D Detachment's guidance, annually sends about a dozen troopers and accompanying support staff to Arctic Man to provide a law enforcement presence as well as to assist in search and rescues, arrange medical evacuations, take citizen complaints and conduct DUI patrols of the surrounding areas. To deal with the week-long boom town, troopers must set up what is equivalent to a mini-criminal justice system

ACTIVITY

In 2007, D Detachment received and or responded to:

- 22,962 calls for service (24 percent of the reported activity for the division's 95,367 total calls for service)
- 402 total burglary offenses
- 13 Robbery offenses
- 366 Trespass offenses
- 711 Vandalism offenses (see Vandalism graph on page 79)
- 678 Driving Under the Influence, or DUI offenses
- 3,040 Offenses resulting in an arrest or referral for prosecution
- 10,511 Traffic citations issued
- 30 Sexual Assaults

Other work that D Detachment members spent significant hours on in 2007 included:

Death investigation cases – By Alaska statute, all unattended deaths must be investigated by a law enforcement officer. In 2007, D Detachment troopers either responded to, or investigated 142 deaths including natural, accidental and suicide deaths.

Search and Rescue – Alaska statutes require the Alaska State Troopers to be the lead agency on all search and rescue operations that take place on land within AST's jurisdiction. In 2007, D Detachment troopers managed, coordinated, and in most cases,



Arctic Man patrol efforts.

paid for 104 separate search and rescue related events including actual search and rescue missions and reports of overdue hunters, boaters, snowmachiners, pilots, hikers and others.

Motor vehicle crashes – The detachment either received reports of, or investigated, 1,418 motor vehicle crashes in 2007, the second largest number of crashes behind only B Detachment with 1,431 reported crashes. There were 21 fatal motor vehicle crashes resulting in 23 people killed. Almost one of every four statewide vehicle related fatalities occurred in D Detachment. These numbers include crashes that involved single and multiple motor vehicle collisions, commercial vehicles, motorcycles, ATV's and snowmachines, as well as motor vehicle crashes involving moose and pedestrians.

AN "AVERAGE" D DETACHMENT TROOPER

If there were such a thing the average D Detachment trooper would have each been assigned or completed the following in 2007:



- Responsible for approximately 3,280 square miles – an area larger than the state of Delaware
- Responsible for serving approximately 2,011 year round members of the public
- Arrested 13 DUI drivers
- Issued 202 traffic citations
- Received, or been assigned, 27 motor vehicle crashes to investigate
- Assigned or received 442 calls for service including criminal cases, civil cases and calls for assistance
- Handled 58 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 two search and rescue related events
- Investigated two death cases and 11 domestic violence offenses

All in a day's work

The Yukon River

Alaska State Troopers sometimes need to go to great lengths to catch their suspects.

It's not uncommon for the job to ask troopers to go after a suspect living deep in the wilderness, running from a troubled past. These people often develop skills that not only help them survive in Alaska's harsh living conditions, but also aid in eluding capture attempts. They often develop separatist personalities and resentment toward authority. Then, when they revert back to their criminal ways, the Alaska State Troopers are called upon to solve the problem. For the Northern Special Emergency Reaction Team (SERT), it meant a lot of planning, flying, snowmachining and snowshoeing in the middle of the winter to catch a wanted man living in a remote cabin on the Yukon River some 150 miles from Fairbanks.

With this particular case, troopers in Galena received a report that a person living in the woods along the Yukon River had broken into nearby cabins and stolen firearms. The man had warrants out for his arrest, was described as unpredictable, potentially armed with stolen firearms and certainly dangerous. When Galena-based troopers approached the wanted man in a remote ravine, he told them he was armed and would shoot himself if they came closer. Not only were the troopers concerned for their own safety, but they didn't want the man to hurt himself – they called for SERT.

SERT units are capable of responding to situations involving a higher-than-normal degree of danger to the public or responding officers, and to provide safe, tactical response and resolution. SERT units rapidly deploy to an area and quickly assess the situation and develop a myriad of tactical plans in an effort to bring an incident to the safest conclusion possible for all involved.

In this case, no one knew exactly where the man lived until Ruby's Village Public Safety Officer Mark Haglin tracked him down. Because the man was potentially dangerous, the unarmed VPSO was unable to arrest the suspect. However, Haglin managed to establish a rapport with the man by delivering cigarettes and food to a drop site in the woods near the suspect's camp.

Working with the troopers in Galena and Fairbanks, Haglin

eventually coordinated an additional supply drop for the suspect as troopers formed a plan to arrest the wanted man. Together, SERT members AST's Lt. Lonny Piscoya, Sgt. Scott Johnson, Sgt. Odean Hall, AWT Trooper pilot Sgt. Scott Quist, University of Alaska-Fairbanks Police Chief Sean McGee and Fairbanks International Airport and Fire Officer Mike Suter planned the operation to include conducting flight reconnaissance of the remote area the day prior to their mission.

On a cold and clear winter day common in the Interior, the team set out by trooper aircraft – a Cessna Caravan – to nearby Ruby. They dressed in cold weather gear similar to what villagers wear in order to blend in with the locals. A local resident loaned the team and Haglin snowmachines to travel 16 miles downriver to get closer to the secluded camp. The team snowmachined past the suspect's camp to the opposite side of the river and circled back to avoid detection. They traversed the final two miles by either snowshoe or boots, ultimately crawling on top of the snow for the last several hundred yards. The hike in took three hours due to the deep snow. The temperature was a chilling 10 degrees above zero.

Once they were in position above the suspect's camp, Haglin dropped the supplies at the pre-arranged site on the river and out in the open. When the man appeared out of the woods, the team moved down the hill and into the man's camp, cutting him off from his shelter and firearms. The suspect was then taken into custody without injury to anyone involved and without single round being fired. He was transported back to the village in a dog sled towed behind a snowmachine and flown back to Fairbanks with the team members.

In most jurisdictions in the United States, a situation like this would only require a handful of police officers or deputies to drive to the area in one or two patrol cars, arrest the suspect and then drive the person to a holding facility. In Alaska, the same call can take hours and sometime days to handle; often times utilizing fewer people and more equipment such as, trucks, aircraft, ATV's, snowmachines and even snowshoes. Other factors such as snow, rain, wind or rough seas can also complicate responses.



Pilot Sgt. Scott Quist and SERT member Sgt. Odean Hall survey the area for the mission.



Troopers fly over the remote area along the Yukon River where the suspect is presumed to reside.

ALASKA STATE TROOPERS

E Detachment



Detachment Commander
Capt. Pete Mlynarik



E Detachment Headquarters in Soldotna



Deputy Commander
Lt. Dane Gilmore



ALASKA STATE TROOPERS

E Detachment



Trooper Garrett Willis of Cooper Landing checks the registration on a van during a traffic stop.

Detachment Command

Commander – Captain

Deputy Commander (Patrol) – Lieutenant

Detachment Staff

1 Administrative Supervisor

2 Administrative Clerks

E DETACHMENT POSTS

Soldotna Post

4 Sergeants

12 Troopers

3 Administrative Clerks

E Detachment is located primarily on the Kenai Peninsula, an area that is increasingly becoming known as the recreational getaway for a large variety of people from both inside and outside Alaska. The detachment's area of responsibility covers 21,701 square miles, an area larger than Massachusetts and New Jersey combined. There are 2,221 miles of roadway in E Detachment's enforcement area.

The detachment employs 63 people including 34 commissioned troopers, four CSOs and 25 civilian employees. The Kenai Peninsula and the areas near Girdwood have a population of approximately 54,714 people. That equates to one trooper for every 1,710 people.

The troopers in this post respond to calls for service in the areas outside the city limits of Soldotna and Kenai. The 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

5 Troopers

1 Administrative Clerk



Southern Special Emergency Reaction Team

These posts are not staffed 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. This post covers calls in the areas outside the city of Homer and Seldovia and in the five Russian villages of Nikolaevski, Razdolna, Voznesenka, Kachemak Selo and Ninilchik Russian Village. Handling calls in the Russian villages can be challenging due to cultural and language barriers.

Troopers also handle calls in Halibut Cove, Jakolof Bay,



A LifeGuard helicopter takes off with a patient injured in a one-vehicle rollover at Mile 89 of the Seward Highway.

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 them.

Seward/Cooper Landing Posts

1 Sergeant

4 Troopers

1 Administrative Clerk

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. They cover the Sterling Highway from the junction where the Seward and Sterling highway meet to Jean Lake Hill (mile 38-65) and the Seward Highway from Seward to Hope cutoff (mile 2-55). The Seward troopers work with and share a building with the Seward Police Department. AST has a contractual agreement with the City of Seward for clerical services, facility use and transport and security of prisoners at the Seward jail. This post covers calls outside the city of Seward and in Cooper Landing, Moose Pass, Lawing 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. A trooper provides oversight to the VPSO in Chenega Bay when staffed.

Girdwood Post

1 Sergeant

3 Troopers

1 Administrative Clerk

The Girdwood Post's area of responsibility includes the communities of Girdwood, Hope, Indian, Portage, Bird and the undeveloped areas of Prince William Sound. The post takes care of calls outside the city of Whittier. Girdwood troopers patrol the Seward Highway from Hope to McHugh Creek (mile 55-112). A large majority of this post's duties consist of traffic enforcement and motor vehicle crash investigations. The Seward Highway Traffic Safety Corridor falls within Girdwood's area of responsibility. All traffic traveling from the Anchorage area to the Kenai Peninsula goes through this post's boundaries. This post has a good working relationship with U.S. Forest Service enforcement personnel in this area.

Judicial Services

1 Trooper

4 Court Services Officers

1 Administrative Clerk

E Detachment runs the Judicial Services Unit out of the state court building in Kenai. Judicial Services is responsible for the movement of prisoners to and from the Kenai Courthouse and within the detachment. They are also responsible for the service of criminal and civil process. According to records from the Kenai JS office, in 2007, the unit:

- Moved a total of 5,229 individuals
- Handled 4,920 writs

Soldotna Public Safety Communication Center

1 Communications Center Manager (Borough Employee)

7 Full-time State Radio Dispatchers

7 Full-time Kenai Peninsula Borough Radio Dispatchers

1 Part-time Kenai Peninsula Borough Radio Dispatcher

1 Administrative Clerk

E Detachment supervises the Soldotna Public Safety Communication Center (SPSCC) located in Soldotna. The center dispatches for the Alaska State Troopers, Soldotna Police



Soldotna Trooper Matt Ezell walks back to a vehicle parked along the Sterling Highway after checking the driver's registration.



Radio Dispatcher Carisa Rodriguez handles calls at the Soldotna Public Safety Communication Center



Sgt. Rex Leath, Capt. Pete Mlynarik, Lt. Dane Gilmore and Sgt. Bryan Barlow on a snowmachine patrol.

Department, Central Emergency Services, Nikiski Fire Department, Ninilchik Fire Department, Cooper Landing EMS, Moose Pass EMS and Hope EMS. In addition, the center provides limited dispatch services to Alaska State Parks, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Forest Service and the Department of Corrections. The center handles all 911 land-line based calls on the Kenai Peninsula except those placed within the cities of Kenai, Homer and Seward. The center receives all cell phone based 911 calls on the Kenai Peninsula and routes them appropriately if they originate in the cities of Kenai, Homer or Seward. 911 calls in the Girdwood area and between Mile 75 and 112 of the Seward Highway are also routed from the Anchorage Police Department to SPSCC.

SPECIAL ENFORCEMENT EFFORTS

Fourth of July Celebration in Seward – The city may see an additional 14,000 people inside the city limits and an additional 5,000 just outside the city limits during the celebration and running of the Mt. Marathon race. Activity during this enforcement period in 2007 was:

- 79 case numbers
- 34 traffic citations written
- 5 DUI arrests
- 8 minor consuming alcohol cases
- 7 cases of furnishing alcohol to minors.

Forest Fair – The Girdwood celebration garners a large influx of young adults and juveniles. In the past, this event has been problematic as there are numerous cases of underage drinking and illicit drug use. B Detachment's DUI enforcement team traveled from the Mat-Su Valley to help stem illegal activities during this event in 2007. One of the DUI Team's troopers was on a stop of a suspected DUI when his vehicle was struck by another drunk driver. The patrol vehicle was a total loss, but fortunately the trooper was not injured.

It is not uncommon for the U.S. Forest Service enforcement personnel to ask troopers to take enforcement action in Forest Service campgrounds. Troopers do not usually fulfill these requests due to prioritizing of duties.

SEWARD HIGHWAY SAFETY CORRIDOR

This corridor was established on May 26, 2006 and extends from mile 87 to mile 117 of the Seward Highway. It was developed to improve safety on this stretch of road. This section of highway historically had an unusually high number of fatality collisions. In 2007 there were 966 traffic citations written within the corridor. Only one fatal collision was reported to AST in this corridor for 2007. This is in contrast to the three fatal collisions reported in 2006 and three in 2005.



The Seward Highway along the Turnagain Arm.



Anchor Point Trooper Greg Pealatore and his canine partner, Anchor, go through drug detection training at the Alaska State Trooper Canine Academy in June.

CHALLENGES

Enforcement – Because of the large volume of calls that the detachment receives, calls are prioritized and responded to. Cell phones have caused the call volume to significantly increase in recent years because it gives people the ability to ask for assistance from virtually anywhere.

SUCCESES

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 and conducts as much as possible when finances and scheduling allow.

D.A.R.E. program – The detachment has increased public outreach through its Drug Abuse Resistance Education program. D.A.R.E. provides an excellent opportunity for troopers to teach children the dangers of drugs and alcohol. There are four D.A.R.E. instructors in the detachment – two in Soldotna and one each in Anchor Point and Cooper Landing. 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.

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 2007:

- Responsible for approximately 678 square miles – an area approximately half the size of the state of Rhode Island
- Responsible for serving approximately 1,710 year round members of the public
- Arrested 11 DUI drivers
- Issued 173 traffic citations
- Received, or been assigned, 30 motor vehicle crashes to investigate
- Assigned or received 574 calls for service including criminal cases, civil cases and calls for assistance
- Handled 51 cases that 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 four search and rescue related events
- Investigated three death cases and 15 domestic violence related offenses



Trooper goes the extra mile



Trooper Mike Zweifel

A popular area for sheep hunters, Victor Creek is full of dangerous ice bridges, steep shale slides and narrow ledge walkways that have broken many bones, shattered gun stocks and demolished egos of those who choose to traverse the area. While most hunters are deterred by the extremely low sheep numbers and others, having made the trip through dangerous terrain, vow to never return.

A walk upstream on Victor Creek quickly deteriorates into steep terrain and ice bridges spanning over raging waterways that leave no room for error. It's impossible for most people to access the area, let alone carry a 100-plus pound pack with them. Most successful hunters carry in lots of rappelling gear, are experts at using the gear and stay in the area for an extended period of time.

Mike Zweifel had the opportunity to venture into this treacherous area near Seward – not for the enjoyment of hunting, but as part of his job as an Alaska State Trooper.

On Sept. 10, two Alaska residents tried trekking into the area with llamas in hopes of bagging a legal sheep. After several hours of strenuous bush-whacking, one of the hunters suffered a heart attack and died.

Zweifel was tasked with putting together a plan to extract the man's body; one that would not endanger any of the rescuers. The terrain did not allow helicopter access, and Zweifel prepared for a recovery effort on foot.

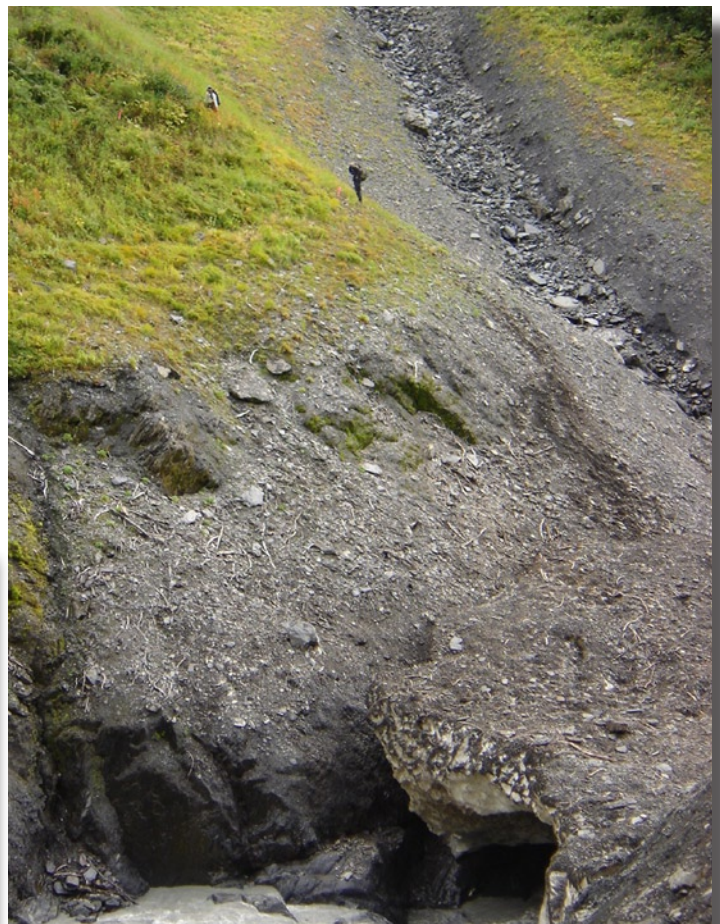
When light allowed the next day, Zweifel and several trained volunteers headed into the Victor Creek area. They also took two llamas that one of the volunteers owned. The terrain was so steep that in some areas, the llamas had to be lifted up onto rocks and ledges to ensure their advancement down the trail. The llamas were not able to cross the ice bridge for fear that they would fall through. They were left behind while Zweifel and the volunteers continued on.

After several hours, Zweifel arrived at the location where the hunter had died. The hardest part of the recovery was now before them. The hike back required steep side-hilling and crossing a precariously thin ice bridge that if broken through, led to the

raging river. After putting the body in a plastic sled, Zweifel and his helpers used hand lines to pull the sled across the side hills. Several times, the severity of the steepness required lowering the sled straight down avalanche chutes inch by inch. When they reached the ice bridge, they decided it would not support the weight of both the sled and a volunteer. Once again, hand lines were used to pull the sled across the bridge to rescuers on the other side.

After roughly eight hours of extreme hiking, the hunter's body was turned over to his family, bringing some closure to the unfortunate event. Troopers often deal with family members during recovery efforts and know that recovering the remains is very significant for psychological closure.

Zweifel's expedition is a perfect example of the unique challenges put in front of the Alaska State Troopers. It also shows what AST stands for. Troopers are frequently required to go to great lengths and literally anywhere in order to meet the needs of the public. Sometimes this also demands putting personal safety aside as Zweifel demonstrated.



Trooper Mike Zweifel on the trail.

Trooper Mike Zweifel and a volunteer rescuer scamper up a hill after crossing an ice bridge.

ALASKA STATE TROOPERS

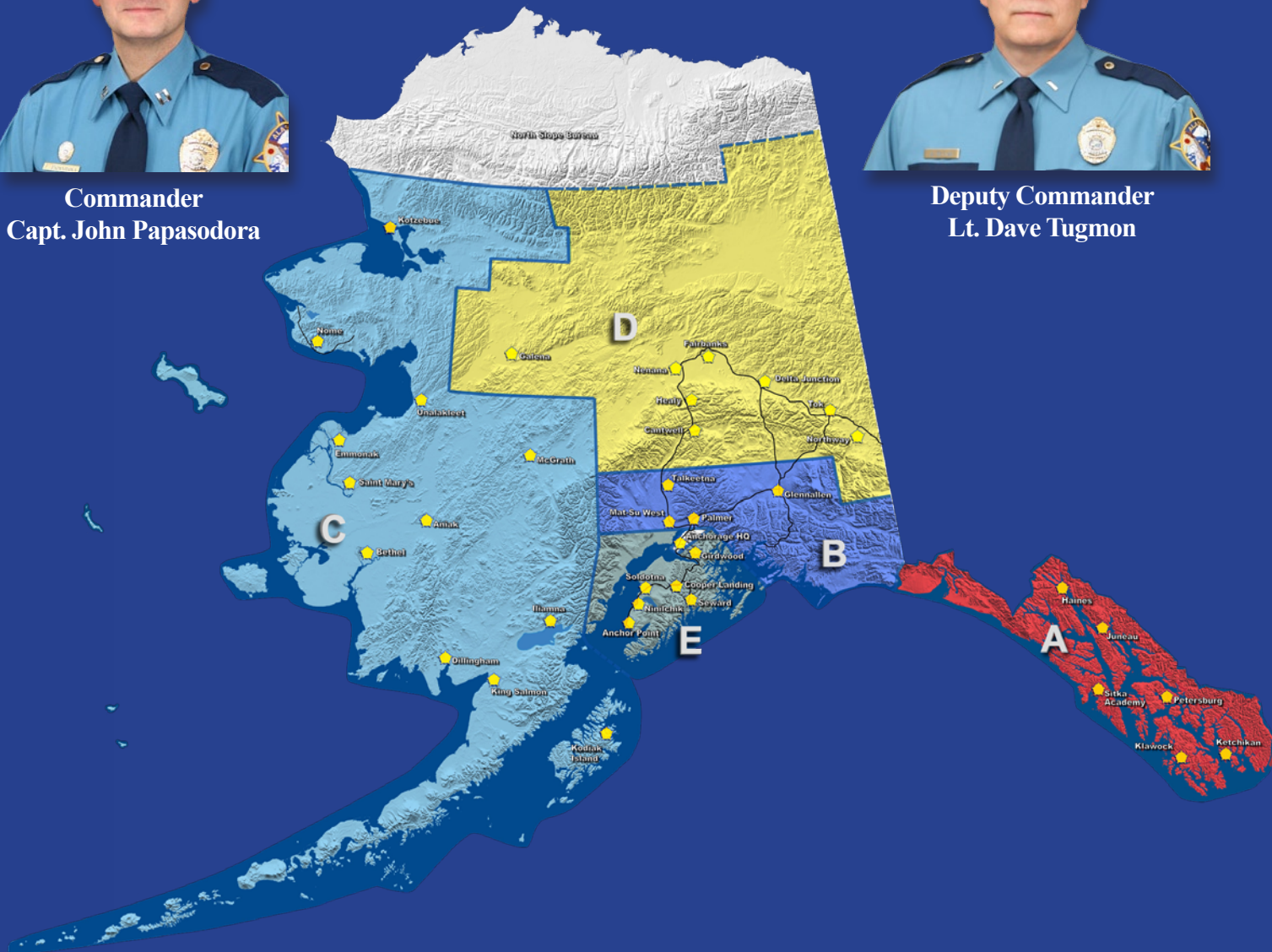
Alaska Bureau of Investigation



Commander
Capt. John Papasodora



Deputy Commander
Lt. Dave Tugmon



ALASKA STATE TROOPERS

Alaska Bureau of Investigation



ABI investigators and crime scene technicians gather evidence from the scene of an investigation.

Bureau Command

1 Captain

1 Lieutenant

Bureau Staff

1 Administrative Supervisor

3 Administrative Clerks

The 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 the Alaska State Troopers work towards increasing the effectiveness of investigative functions throughout the state.

ABI is composed of 45 authorized positions; 37 sworn and eight clerical support personnel. These positions are assigned to ABI posts located in Anchorage, Mat-Su, Fairbanks and Soldotna and within a variety of specialized units. 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 to deploy anywhere in the state as needs arise. At the close of 2007, six of the authorized sworn positions within ABI were vacant.

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

ABI also has multi-agency Child Abuse Investigations Units in the Mat-Su Valley and Fairbanks areas, which include personnel from the Wasilla Police Department and the University of Alaska-Fairbanks Police Department; Property Crimes Investigations Units in Soldotna, Fairbanks and Mat-Su; and regional Major Crimes Units in Fairbanks, Mat-Su and Soldotna.

ABI personnel in Anchorage are co-located with agencies

with similar functions to promote cooperation, collaboration and increase service to those in need. For example, 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). 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.

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.
- Provides statewide investigatory support for all 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
 - 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 burglary and other complex property crimes.
- Investigation of complex financial and computer related crimes.
- Investigation of cases originating in state correctional facilities.
- Documents and disseminates information regarding homicides.
- Maintains state and national databases documenting homicides and missing persons.
- Conducts forensic computer examinations and electronic evidence recovery for DPS and other agencies.

Computer and Financial Crimes Unit

1 Sergeant
2 Investigators

Since its establishment in 2003, the Computer and Financial Crimes Unit (CFCU) 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. The criminal use of computers to perpetrate, foster and conceal criminal conduct has increased. In addition to online activity, the CFCU has the capacity to forensically analyze computers to document the possession and distribution of child pornography. It also is able to recover electronic evidence from other forms of media.

Child Abuse Investigations Units

Mat-Su

1 Sergeant
2 AST Investigators
1 Wasilla Police Investigator

Fairbanks

1 Sergeant
2 AST Investigators
1 University of Alaska-Fairbanks Police Investigator

The first Child Abuse Investigations Unit (CAIU) was formed in 2003 in the Mat-Su area. A second unit was formed in Fairbanks in 2005. CAIUs focus on cases of child sexual and serious physical abuse cases (see Sexual Abuse of a Minor graph on page 72). This unit works 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 CFCU investigate child pornography and associated criminal acts committed against children.

Missing Persons Unit

1 Administrative Clerk

The Missing Persons Unit (MPU) falls under the Anchorage Major Crimes section 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



Cold Case Unit Investigator Tim Hunyor collects potential evidence during a warrant search.

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 at [Missing Persons Clearinghouse](#).

Cold Case Investigation Unit

2 Investigators in Anchorage
2 Investigators in Soldotna

Since 1961, 101 homicides cases remain unresolved within AST's jurisdiction. It had become increasingly difficult for homicide investigators to work these cold cases. 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 in 2003 to work these cold cases. Members of the Cold Case Investigations Unit (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 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, which do not have the resources necessary to carry out intense or complex investigations.



Michelle Czajkowski, a crime scene technician in Palmer, works on fingerprinting for a theft and forgery case.

Property Crimes Investigations Units

Mat-Su

2 Investigators (Both vacant for part of 2007)

Fairbanks

2 Investigators (Both vacant for part of 2007)

Soldotna

1 Investigator (never been filled)

Property Crimes Investigations 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. However, due to the higher priority given to crimes against persons, these positions were vacant for part of 2007.

Major Crimes Investigations Units

Mat-Su

1 Sergeant
3 Investigators

Fairbanks

1 Sergeant
3 Investigators

Soldotna

1 Sergeant
3 Investigators (1 Vacant)
1 Administrative Clerk

The regional MCIUs provide a host of auxiliary services:

- 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 Medical Examiner's Office
- Provide certified instructors for crime scene investigation, motor vehicle crash investigation, interview and interrogation training, computer forensics and electronic evidence training, domestic violence and a variety of other training subjects
- Represent the Department on a variety of working groups and task forces to include Human Trafficking, Internet Crimes Against Children, Sexual Assault Response Team and the U.S. Attorney's Office Financial Crimes Task Force

CHALLENGES

The Alaska Bureau of Investigation's challenges include the number of cases and distances that must be traveled in responding to events. ABI is further challenged by the evolution of forensic investigative techniques. 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.

SUCSESSES

Homicide investigations – The nationwide clearance rate for homicides is 60.7 percent as cited in the U.S. Department of Justice's "2006 Uniform Crime Report." The Alaska Bureau of Investigation and Alaska State Troopers consistently exceed the national closure rate. Homicide clearance rates for the last five years are:
2003: 17 cases resulting in 23 homicide offenses, 17 cases resolved
2004: 15 cases resulting in 17 homicide offenses, 15 cases resolved
2005: 13 cases resulting in 20 homicide offenses, 13 cases resolved
2006: 8 cases resulting in 16 homicide offenses, 6 cases resolved
2007: 10 cases resulting in 15 homicide offenses, 10 cases resolved
(see Person Crimes graphs on page 75-76)

Cold case investigations – Cold case investigators presented two cases at trial within the last year. One resulted in two convictions for the 1996 murder of Kent Leppink. Both convictions resulted in 99-years sentences being handed down to the defendants. The second case resulted in a conviction for the

1997 murder of Gretchen Sawyer in Glennallen. The defendant in that case received a sentence of 60 years.

The CCIU conducted additional investigation into the 1994 murder of Bonnie Craig following a Combined DNA Index System (CODIS) match on an out-of-state suspect. CODIS is a national DNA database used to catalog the DNA from unsolved cases for identification of remains and resolution of criminal cases. CCIU personnel traveled to New Hampshire to transport the defendant in this case back to Alaska.

Missing persons – In 2007, the Missing Persons section added 2,836 missing person notices to the statutorily-required Missing Persons Clearinghouse used to assist law enforcement when unidentified human remains are found.

ABI ACTIVITY

As a course of normal operations, members of the Alaska Bureau of Investigation invest significant time to insure that justice is served to victims and their families. Though 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 Assists – 8 hours
- Background Investigations – 2 hours
- Correctional Institution case – 20 hours
- Autopsy – 8 hours



ABI Sgt. Michael Burkmire dozes a road in the snow at a property in Portage that investigators recovered approximately \$150,000 in stolen heavy equipment, including the bulldozer.

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 2003 through 2007, ABI personnel attended and documented:

• 2003	112 autopsies
• 2004	84 autopsies
• 2005	58 autopsies
• 2006	80 autopsies
• 2007	51 autopsies
Average:	77 autopsies per year

This would account for 77 working days or a little over three months of work for one investigator assigned to autopsies alone.



Protecting the children

“Samantha” is a lonely 14-year-old with overbearing parents. He is an understanding older man who spends time “getting to know her” on the Internet and takes an interest in her life.

After a series of very sexually explicit and descriptive online chats, they decide to meet.

When the man shows up for what he thinks is a date with a precocious and curious 14-year-old girl in need of a friend, he instead finds out “Samantha” is a rather tall police officer named Marc. Marc has been an officer for a long time and has a gift that few law enforcement officers possess. He is trained in not only the hardware associated with computer and forensic analysis, but also in conducting online chats with those who would exploit

and victimize young people. In this case, Marc posed as 14-year-old “Samantha” to carry on a series of chats with a suspect who became very interested in meeting the girl for the express purpose of having sex with her.

Although “Samantha” had made it clear that she was only 14, the 33-year-old suspect had no reservations about meeting with her to have sex. Needless to say, his plans didn’t quite work out.

Each day across the country, an unknown number of youths are propositioned in chat rooms. This is done via instant messaging and email by those the victims may know as well as those who are total strangers. Armed with sometimes years of



ABI Investigator Nathan Bucknall goes through files on a computer looking for evidence in a child pronography case.

predatory experience, suspects frequently and effectively solicit enough information from children that not only allows them to identify the child, but often times to determine where the child lives and goes to school. Some of these children will go so far as to send suggestive, semi-nude or fully nude pictures of themselves to someone they have never set eyes on. Then there are those who have web-cams and send special video streams that get captured and exported to who knows where.

The simple fact is that sexual predators have found the mother lode with the Internet. It's one-stop-shopping and the choices are limitless. Recent Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) research found that the average kid between the ages of six and 18 will be propositioned many times by people who remain faceless and hidden within the electronic world of the Internet. Because predators are masked by the anonymity of the Internet, it is up to investigators like Marc and those who work within the Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) Task Force to protect those who don't know enough to protect themselves.

Because the individual units focusing on catching those who use technology to prey on children are small, the Alaska State Troopers' Alaska Bureau of Investigation works with officers like Marc from different local, state and federal law enforcement agencies. The problem required the cooperative assistance of multi-law enforcement agencies. ABI is constantly challenged by the rapid changes in technology and the ways this technology is used to perpetrate criminal conduct. This is particularly relevant in that Alaska has the highest per capita computer use of anywhere in the nation. If you were to visit the average home on any day of

the week, the chances of finding a person between the ages of six and 18 on the Internet are very probable.

Although technology can be used for a number of productive purposes, the misuse of technology, particularly computers, can have extreme ramifications. The use of technology to commit crimes has been detected in fraud, counterfeiting and the distribution of both adult and child pornography. Of these, child pornography has emerged as a massive issue that requires direct and unrelenting attention as the link between child pornography and child sexual abuse is well established.

The following are short excerpts from three cases – generated in two months at the end of 2007 – that demonstrate the magnitude of this issue. The list of cases is long and the prospect of additional cases grows each day.

In December, investigators from the ABI Computer and Financial Crimes Unit (CFCU) collaborated with Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) Officers to review two tips from the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC). The tips pointed to an Alaskan resident who had uploaded images of child pornography to online accounts. Investigators were able to find the suspect's physical address and served a search warrant that garnered printed images of Child Pornography as well as hundreds of VHS tapes, CDs and floppy disks containing child pornography. A disturbing aspect of this case is that images of local children were found on the suspect's digital camera. The suspect was arrested and jailed. This investigation was conducted as a joint Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) investigation involving local, state and federal agencies.

In November, the Michigan ICAC Task Force asked the CFCU to interview and arrest a former resident on a warrant out of Michigan. Like the scenario of Marc and his "Samantha" persona, the suspect chatted on-line with an undercover agent the suspect believed was a 13-year old child. As a result, the suspect was arrested and charged with two counts of Communicating with Another to Commit Children-Accosting For Immoral Purposes and one count of Communicating with Another to Commit Disseminating Sexually Explicit Matter to Minors.

Also in November, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police detained an Alaska resident at the U.S.-Canadian border at Beaver Creek for possessing child pornography. The RCMP grew suspicious of the suspect's passports stamps from Thailand, Taiwan and other countries known for sex trade. RCMP checked the computer equipment the person carried and found over 20,000 graphic images of child pornography. RCMP asked ABI to secure the suspect's residence in Alaska and search for other electronic evidence. The suspect was jailed in Canada on charges of possessing and importing child pornography and smuggling prohibited material.

These are just three of the plethora of child exploitation cases ABI participated in during 2007. Each week, numerous referrals are received from the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children that report details of suspected child sexual exploitation. The dimensions of this issue continue to grow with law enforcement working harder each day to meet the threat. Although the CFCU is relatively small, the working relationships established and the extensive training provided to our staff make them a formidable unit when dealing with technology-based crimes.

ALASKA STATE TROOPERS

Alaska Bureau of Alcohol and Drug Enforcement



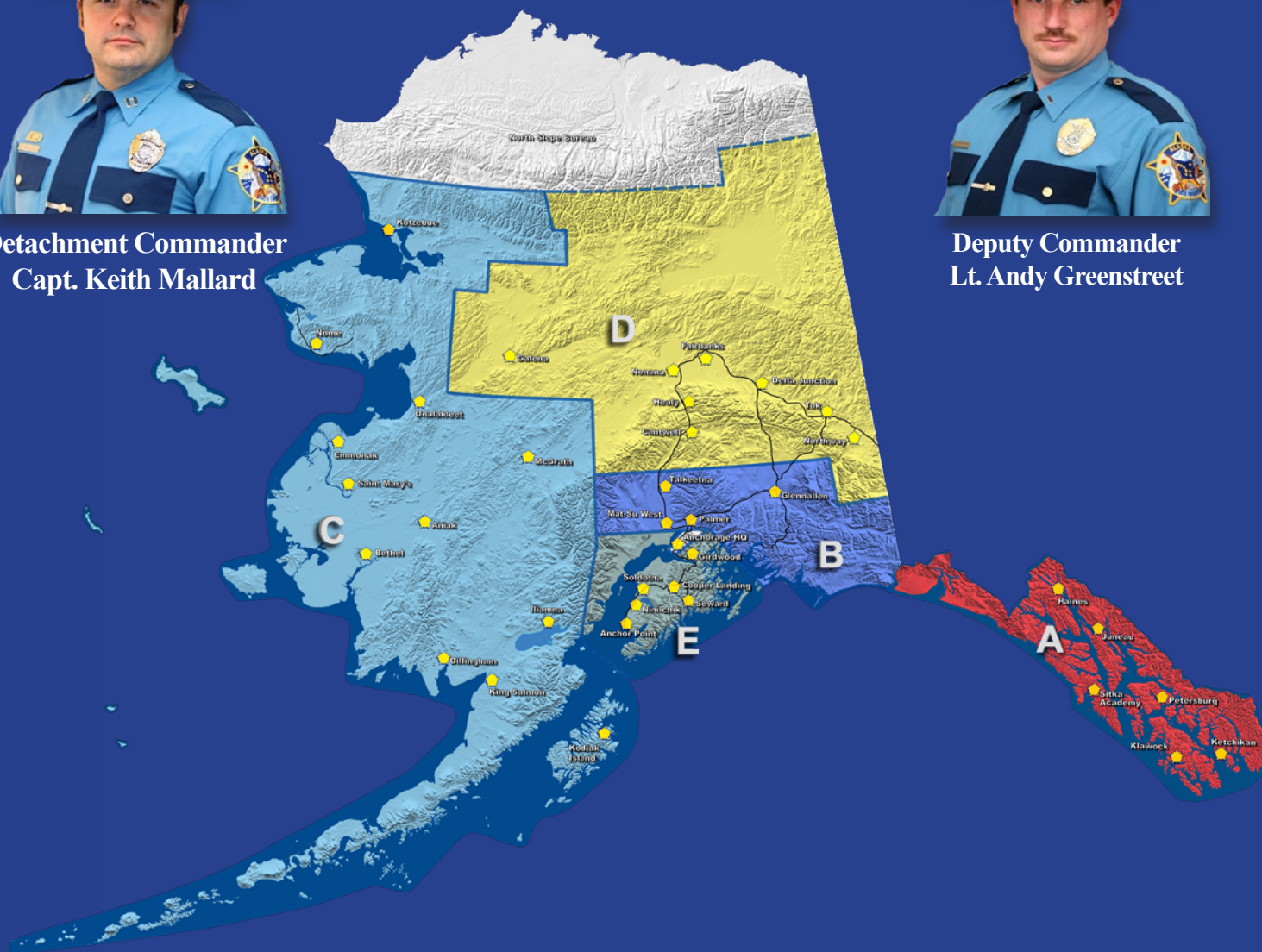
ABADE Headquarters in Anchorage



Detachment Commander
Capt. Keith Mallard



Deputy Commander
Lt. Andy Greenstreet



ALASKA STATE TROOPERS

Alaska Bureau of Alcohol and Drug Enforcement

A marijuana grow operation.

Bureau Command

1 Captain

1 Lieutenant

Bureau Staff

1 Administrative Supervisor

1 Accounting Clerk

1 Administrative Clerk

The Alaska State Troopers' 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.

MISSION OF ABADE

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

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. Using a combination of federal and state funding, ABADE funds and participates in a number of multi-jurisdictional forces around the state. ABADE encourages cooperative efforts between federal, state and local law enforcement agencies and takes a leadership role in fostering and developing many of these cooperative agreements.

Alaska Interdiction Task Force (AITF)

DEA group supervisor

2 DEA agents

2 AST Investigators (canine handlers)

1 Anchorage Police Officer

1 Airport Public Safety Officer

1 U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement Agent

1 from National Guard Counter Drug Support Program

1 AST Criminal Justice Technician

This task force is federally funded, sponsored by the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA). The AITF is 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.



Drug investigators suit up for the job of collecting highly toxic chemicals associated with manufacturing methamphetamines.



Chemical seized from a meth lab bust.



Kilos of cocaine wrapped to conceal the odor of drugs.

Fairbanks Area-wide Narcotics Team

1 AST Sergeant
2 AST Investigators
1 Fairbanks Police Investigator
1 North Pole Police Investigator
1 AST Criminal Justice Technician

The primary area of responsibility for this team is Interior Alaska, which includes Fairbanks and its surrounding area, north to Barrow, and east to the Canadian border. The Fairbanks team works closely with Fairbanks Police Chief Dan Hoffman and North Pole Police Chief Paul Lindhag, as well as the uniformed patrol section of AST to educate, train and support their efforts related to drug enforcement. This team also works closely with the Drug Enforcement Administration and Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms 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.

Major Offender Unit (MOU)

1 AST Sergeant
4 AST Investigators
1 AST Criminal Justice Technician
1 Prosecutor from Department of Law
1 CDSP

This unit 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 clandestine lab certification and responds to various locations to assist in dismantling clandestine methamphetamine labs.

Mat-Su Drug Narcotics Enforcement Team

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

This 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 Palmer Police Chief Russ Boatright and Wasilla Police Chief Angella Long, as well as the uniformed patrol section of AST to educate, train and support their efforts related to drug enforcement.

ABADE 2007 STATISTICS

Total cases:	4,270
Charges:	2,388
Alcohol Seized:	881.41 gallons
Cocaine / Crack Seized:	91.60 pounds
Heroin:	2.49 pounds
Marijuana Seized:	145.47 pounds
Marijuana Plants Seized:	4,981 plants
Marijuana Grows:	93
Methamphetamine Labs:	11
Meth Seized/Purchased:	8.713 pounds
Prescription Pills per Dose:	4471 doses
Total street value:	\$23,137,485.23

Southcentral Area-wide Narcotics Team (SCAN)

1 AST Sergeant
1 AST Investigator
1 Soldotna Police Officer
1 Part-time Kenai Police Officer
1 AST Criminal Justice Technician

Communities within its area of responsibility are located on the Kenai Peninsula (to include Homer, Soldotna, Kenai and 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 AST to educate and support their efforts in drug enforcement. The unit also provides 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.



Alcohol, drugs and money seized from a bootlegging case

Southeast Alaska Narcotics Enforcement Team (SEANET)

1 AST Sergeant
1 AST Investigator
2 Juneau Police Officers
1 Juneau Police Department Administrative Clerk

The primary responsibility for drug enforcement in Southeast Alaska lies with the SEANET. This team has offices in Juneau and Ketchikan. The SEANET AST sergeant oversees and works hand-in-hand with the Southeast Alaska Cities Against Drugs (SEACAD) project that is overseen by Sitka Police Chief Sheldon Schmitt. Chief Schmitt, along with Petersburg Police Chief Dale Stone, provides narcotics investigators to work alongside the SEANET investigators focusing on street-level dealers, major offenders and manufacturing.

Of particular note in Southeast Alaska is the quick rise in the availability, sales, possession and use of methamphetamine. It appears that most of the substance is introduced into the region in a powder form. It is manufactured at other locations and imported into Southeast Alaska.



A drug investigator collects highly toxic chemicals associated with manufacturing methamphetamines.



A commercial marijuana grow



Chemical seized from a meth lab bust



Kilos of cocaine wrapped to conceal the odor of drugs

Western Alaska Alcohol and Narcotics Team (WAANT)

- 1 AST Sergeant in Anchorage
- 2 AST Investigators in Anchorage
- 3 AST Investigators in Bethel (one canine handler)
- 1 AST Investigator in Nome
- 1 AST Investigator in Dillingham
- 1 AST Investigator in Kotzebue
- 1 Kotzebue Police Officer
- 1 Dillingham Police Officer
- 1 Criminal Justice Technician in Anchorage
- 1 Criminal Technician in Bethel

This team's primary area of responsibility is Alaska's western region, to include Kotzebue, Nome, Bethel, Dillingham and the Aleutian Chain. During all of 2007, a narcotics detection K9 was primarily stationed in Bethel, but worked in many of the hub communities in Western Alaska.

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.

Because much of the alcohol and drugs being sold illegally in Alaska are shipped through the U.S. mail, the U.S. Postal Inspectors Service conducts interdictions with direct support from AST and the CDSP. These efforts consist of U.S. Postal Inspectors, AST and Alaska National Guard Counter Drug Support Program (CDSP) members 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 cross deputization of AST WAANT team members by the Postal Inspectors Office occurred in 2007. This cross deputization gave several WAANT investigators additional authority to conduct investigations involving postal parcels.

The CDSP provides additional personnel support in several ABADE units. They provide operational resources,

which include, but are not limited to manpower, equipment and logistical support to federal, state and local law enforcement throughout Alaska. Financed under a special congressional appropriation, there is no cost to Alaska for CDSP personnel. This program contributes numerous resources not normally available to Alaska law enforcement agencies for assistance specific to drug investigations.

Each year, ABADE publishes an annual drug report. In authoring this publication, we endeavor to represent the drug situation in Alaska in a manner that provides the broadest possible picture of the true drug situation.

There are numerous agencies that conduct drug investigations in Alaska. While some agencies have a less formal relationship, most work closely with the Alaska State Troopers. In order to properly represent the true drug and illegal alcohol situation in Alaska, ABADE strives to provide statistics from agencies other than those that participate in Alaska Bureau of Alcohol and Drug Enforcement in the annual drug report. Information provided by all sources should be considered when attempting to measure how drugs are impacting the citizens of this state. The 2007 Annual Drug Report can be found at [Alaska Bureau of Alcohol and Drug Enforcement](http://www.abade.org) website.



Marijuana seized from a pot bust

ALASKA STATE TROOPERS

Specialized Units

TACTICAL DIVE UNIT
CANINE UNIT
SPECIAL EMERGENCY REACTION TEAM
CRISIS NEGOTIATION TEAM
DRUG ABUSE RESISTANCE EDUCATION



Alaska State Troopers Headquarters in Anchorage



Lt. Nils Monson
Crisis Negotiation Team



Naomi Sweetman
D.A.R.E.



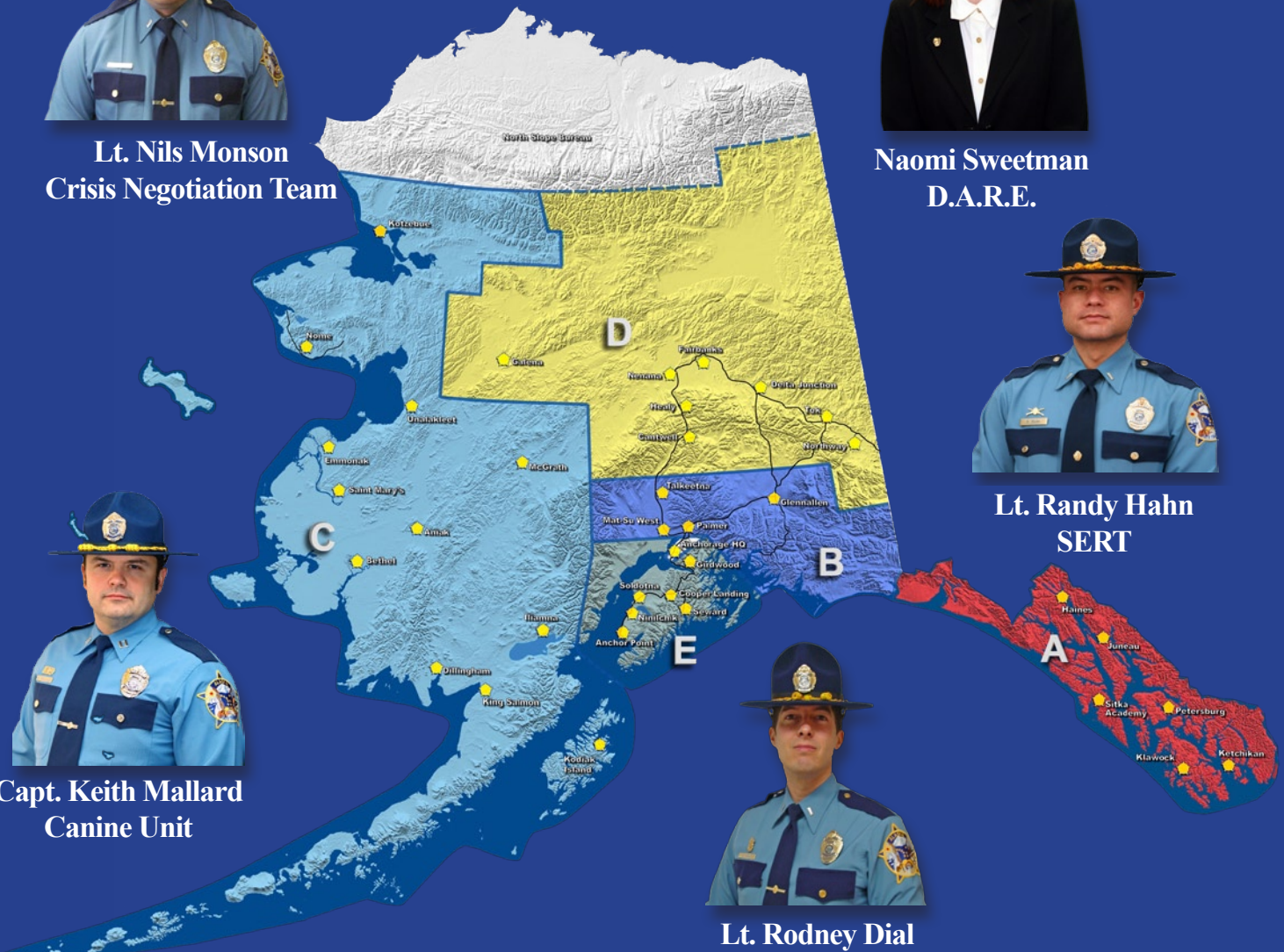
Lt. Randy Hahn
SERT



Capt. Keith Mallard
Canine Unit



Lt. Rodney Dial
Tactical Dive Unit



ALASKA STATE TROOPERS

Specialized Units



TACTICAL DIVE UNIT

A TDU member involved in a dive fishery patrol.

The Department of Public Safety has two Tactical Dive Unit (TDU) teams with one based in Ketchikan and the other located in Kodiak. Nine troopers are assigned to the TDU, including two dive instructors. All authorized divers are posted in both Kodiak and Ketchikan with the exception of one instructor posted in both Klawock and Fairbanks. All TDU divers are trained to a public safety dive standard set by the American Canadian Underwater Certifications, Inc. (ACUC).

The main mission of the TDU is to support search and rescue and body recovery operations and to conduct 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.

TDU assists Alaska Wildlife Troopers' dive fisheries criminal investigations for sea urchin, sea cucumber, etc. harvests. The TDU also provides support to Alaska Wildlife Trooper 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 if contracted out. Private dive entities charge several hundred dollars per hour and are often not available when most needed such as for body recoveries or evidence gathering.

In 2007, DPS TDU conducted an ACUC basic open water dive course and expanded operations to Kodiak. Shortly



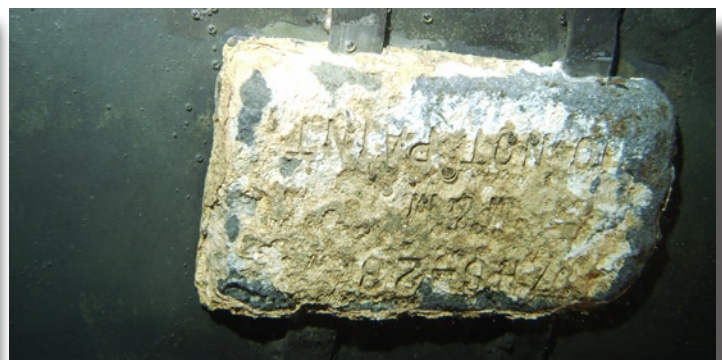
A TDU member surfaces at the end of a dive.

after the new team formation, Kodiak TDU divers recovered several victims from an aircraft accident in the waters near the community runway.

The DPS 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 2008 include all divers making at least 20 training dives, and the scheduling of an Advanced ACUC dive class in the fall of 2008.



TDU members, from front, Trooper Jesse Osborne, AWT Sgt. Bernard Chastain and Lt. Rodney Dial train in the Ketchikan City Pool.



A photo from an underwater inspection of the AWT marine vessel the Enforcer.

ALASKA STATE TROOPERS

Specialized Units

CANINE UNIT



Trooper Greg Pealatore and his canine partner Anchor.



Drug-detection dog Custa hits on a baggie of drugs hidden and waits for a reward from his handler, Investigator Rick Pawlack.



Trooper Patrick Nelson and canine Roelle practice tracking suspects during the canine academy in Fairbanks.

The Alaska State Troopers Canine Unit is comprised of troopers, who as a supplementary duty to their primary trooper responsibilities, take on the additional responsibility of training, caring for and handling a police canine.

The unit consists of three dual-purpose canine teams and three single-purpose drug detection canine teams. The dual-purpose canine teams are assigned in Anchor Point, Klawock and the Mat-Su Valley. The teams function as patrol troopers first and as canine teams second. The dual-purpose canine teams work as both a patrol canine team as well as a drug detection canine team. As a dual-purpose canine team they are proficient in tracking people, suspect apprehension, building searches, area searches and drug detection searches.

The single-purpose canine handlers are narcotics investigators assigned to the Alaska Bureau of Alcohol and Drug

Enforcement (ABADE), which handles drug and alcohol cases throughout Alaska. In addition to their duties as investigators, they handle a single-purpose drug detection canine. There are three such units serving Alaska, two in Anchorage and one in Bethel. They also respond to any location in the state.

In 2007, the Alaska State Troopers' Canine Unit was directly involved in:

- 124 felony arrests
- 59 misdemeanor arrests

Seizure of:

- 1,129.7 grams of heroin
- 30,194 grams of cocaine
- 2,032.2 grams of methamphetamine
- 16,530 grams of marijuana
- \$710,096 cash from drug proceeds.



One of the newest members of the AST canine unit, Duncan, sits beside drugs he detected in a packaged mailed to Alaska.

In addition to training AST canine teams, in 2007 the unit supported and trained canine teams for Fairbanks Police, Fairbanks Airport Police and Fire, Wasilla Police, Kenai Police, Kodiak Police, Valdez Police and Sitka Police. AST also opens an eight-day quarterly training session to all police departments with canine teams wanting to attend.

AST's canine unit is dedicated to providing a leadership role in the arena of police canine training and performance. In addition, the unit provides an opportunity for all police canine teams that train with the unit, upon their successful completion of a series of canine team performance tests each year, to receive an annual certification from the canine unit.

ALASKA STATE TROOPERS

Specialized Units

SPECIAL EMERGENCY REACTION TEAM

SERT members bail out of Helo 1 during a training session.

Alaska State Troopers Special Emergency Reaction Team is comprised of three different teams located in Palmer (Southcentral SERT), Fairbanks (Northern SERT) and Soldotna (Southern SERT). 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 rapid deployment to the scene, and containment of the event. In this manner, the incident is isolated and tactical options are used to neutralize the threat.

In addition to the commissioned personnel who are assigned

to each team, there are team medics assigned to SERT. These medical personnel are provided by the emergency services departments in their respective areas and undergo specialized Tactical Emergency Medical Services training in order to integrate into SERT and become fully functional as a Tactical Medic.

Team strength for each of the teams is as follows:

Southcentral Team

22 authorized with eight vacancies. There are three pending applicants for Southcentral SERT, two of which are prior SERT members.

Southern Team

14 authorized with five vacancies, one of which is on a long-term military deployment. There are no applicants for Southern SERT.



Palmer Police Officer and SERT member Jamie Hammons during SERT training .



Trooper Mike Peltier during training on the Yetna River.

Northern Team

14 authorized with four vacancies and no applicants for the team.

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
 Houston 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
 Division of Alaska Wildlife Troopers
 AST D Detachment
 University of Alaska-Fairbanks Police Department
 Fairbanks International Airport Police and Fire
 Fairbanks North Star Borough

MISSIONS UNDERTAKEN

The three teams combined completed nine missions in 2007. These missions included assisting ABADE with the service of

several high-risk search warrants as well as the arrest of three homicide suspects.

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 who then will 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 part-time 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.

In addition to the standard tactical operator training, AST provided SWAT Command and Supervision training to 12 personnel in 2007. This had been a clearly identified need for several years and was accomplished through division support.

ISSUES AND CHALLENGES

All SERT officers are required to maintain a high degree of physical fitness and qualification on special weapons systems and tactics. This requires dedication and donated off-duty time.

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.

Specialized tactical equipment is expensive. In order to equip all three teams consistently, there is an ongoing requirement for dedicated funding for replacement of critical items such as ballistic entry vests, chemical munitions and replacement ammunition. There are no armored vehicles included in any of the teams. Although these vehicles demand a significant dedication of funds, receiving such a valuable apparatus continues to be on SERT's wish list.

SERT has been utilized more effectively to assist ABADE in the recent years, particularly in 2007. This trend is very positive and needs to be continued as there are more violent encounters with drug offenders in Alaska and throughout the nation.

ALASKA STATE TROOPERS

Specialized Units

CRISIS NEGOTIATION TEAM

The Mobile Incident Command Center is equipped with radio and telephone equipment that can be used in crisis negotiations.



The Alaska State Troopers Crisis Negotiation component consists of 21 troopers of various ranks and locations throughout the state who received specialized training in the area of crisis negotiation. AST created the Crisis Negotiation program to respond to significant and prolonged events and to work in concert with AST's 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 physical intervention.

In addition to classroom and practical training, negotiators train biannually as a contingent of the SERT. At biannual 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 do not

appear they will result in a quick resolution.

A team includes a team leader, an intelligence officer, an equipment officer, the primary negotiator and a coach. The coach is also known as the secondary negotiator. This team works in conjunction with SERT. 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.

AST consistently invites other agencies to conduct joint-training operations. Some municipal police departments contribute to the NRT.

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

AST HQ	1
ABI Anchorage	1
ABADE Anchorage	1
ABI Palmer	1
A Detachment Klawock	2
A Detachment Ketchikan	1
B Detachment Palmer	3
C Detachment Anchorage	1
C Detachment Nome	1
C Detachment Kotzebue	1
C Detachment Bethel	1
D Detachment Fairbanks	4
ABI Fairbanks	1
E Detachment Soldotna	1
E Detachment Seward	1

CHALLENGES

At the beginning of 2007, the number of trained negotiators was at a historical low of 11. An additional 10 troopers attended negotiator training in 2007 to bring the total to 21.

Preferably, AST should have at least 30 trained crisis negotiators, which would more likely allow AST to have adequate negotiating available for response to missions and training.



In a hostage situation, CNT member Lt. Jeff Laughlin, right, will negotiate with a subject on a throw phone while Lt. Barry Wilson will pass information between Laughlin and others, allowing Laughlin to focus solely on talking to the subject.

ALASKA STATE TROOPERS

Specialized Units

DRUG ABUSE RESISTANCE EDUCATION

Trooper Mike Henry talks to one of his Drug Abuse Resistance Education classes.

The statewide D.A.R.E. office works closely with D.A.R.E. Alaska, Inc and the Alaska D.A.R.E. Officers Association (ADOA). D.A.R.E. Alaska, Inc. is a nonprofit organization dedicated to raising funds from the community to support and expand the D.A.R.E. program. The Alaska D.A.R.E. Officers Association (ADOA) is an organization made up of active D.A.R.E. Officers across Alaska and works to strengthen the D.A.R.E. program statewide.

Expanding the D.A.R.E. program is achieved by conducting a two-week, 80-hour initial D.A.R.E. Officer Training each year. During the course of this training, 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.

There were 64 certified D.A.R.E officers in Alaska for the 2006-2007 school year, 17 of those were Alaska State Troopers and six were Village Public Safety Officers.

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 and the entire community.

With decreased grant funding the D.A.R.E. office will be unable to offer training to police agencies statewide at no cost to the individual agencies. Historically, 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. D.A.R.E. Officers bring a valuable drug prevention program to communities. Once a D.A.R.E program is successfully implemented into community policing strategies, it benefits the entire community. Because of this, 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.



Seven troopers graduated from from D.A.R.E. officer training February 2007. Back row, Brian Zeisel (Healy) Andrew Adams (Talkeetna); Vance Peronto (Kotzebue); Josh Heinbaugh (Glenallen), front row Mike Henry (Anchor Point), Jesse Osborne (Ketchikan) and Timothy Powell (Tok).



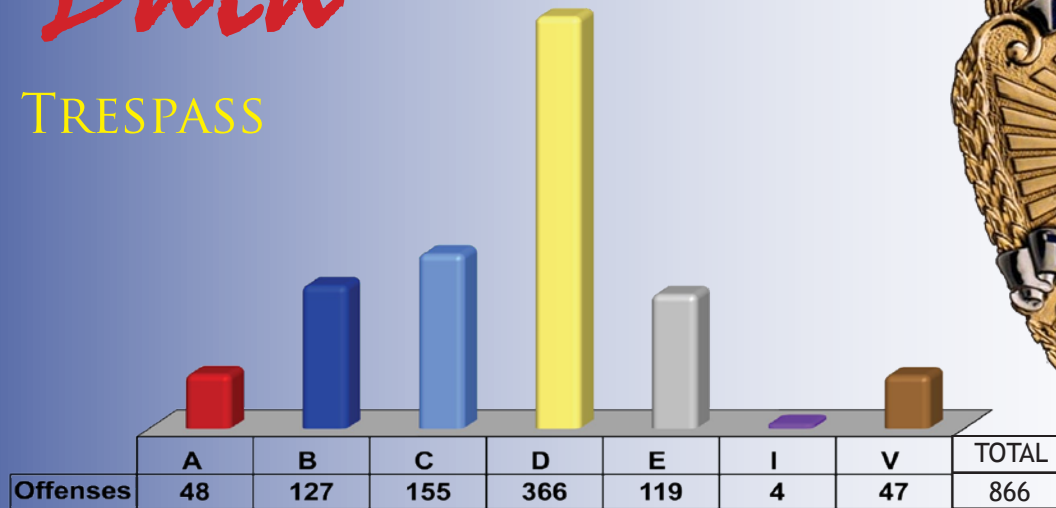
Talkeetna Trooper Andrew Adams in the classroom.

ALASKA STATE TROOPERS

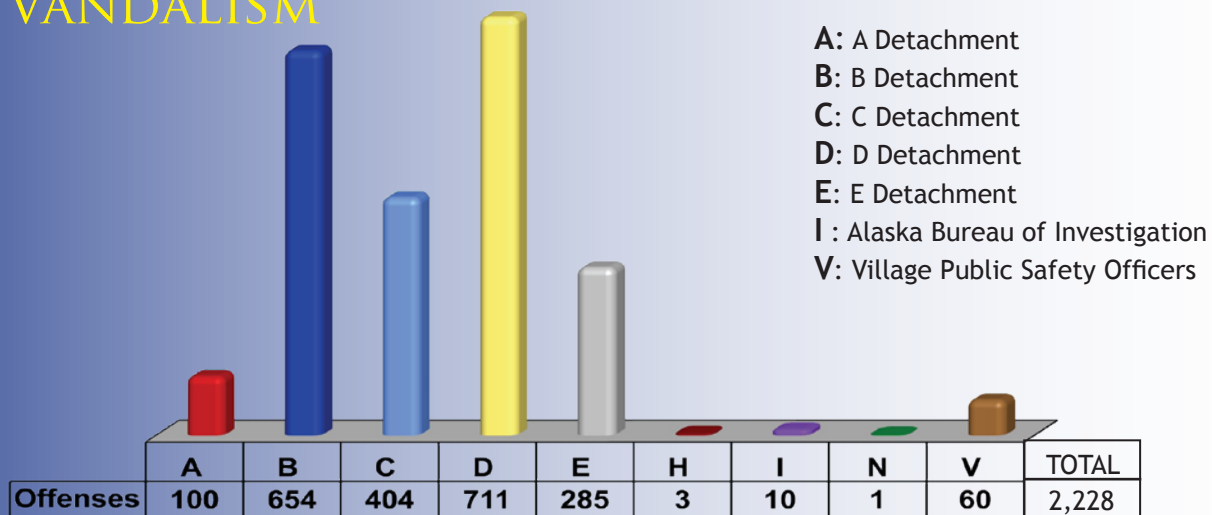
2007 Statistical Data



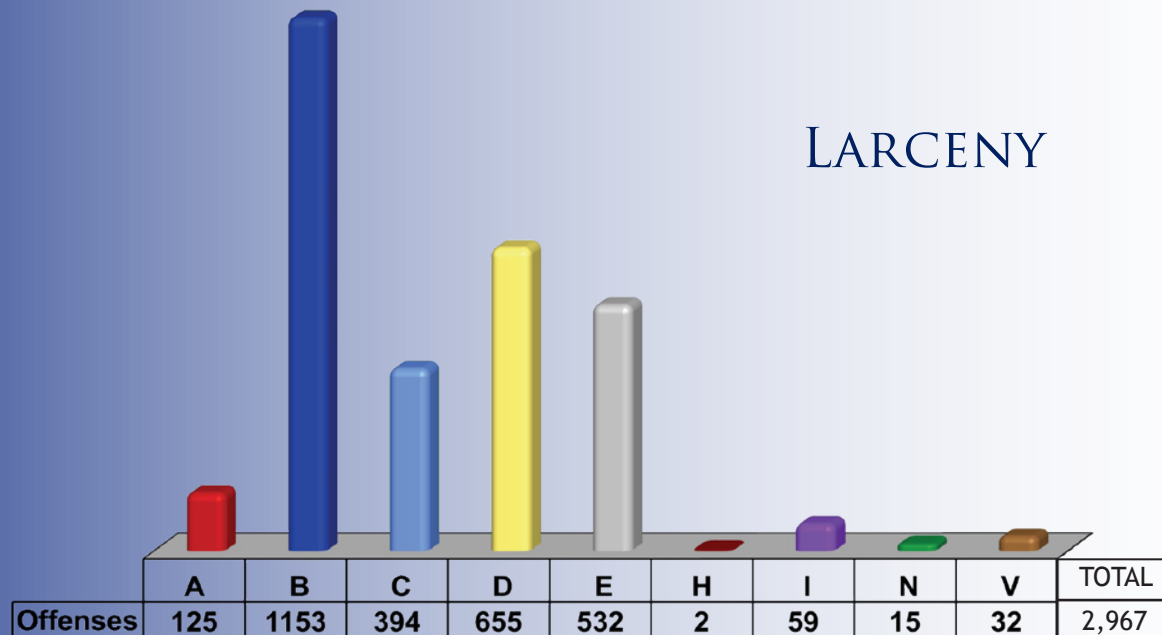
TRESPASS



VANDALISM



LARCENY

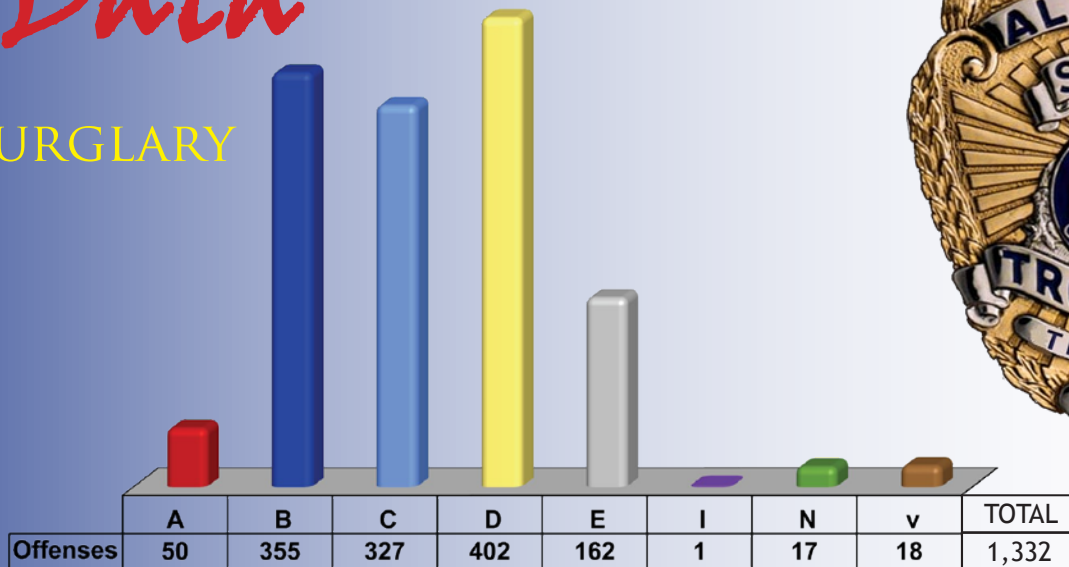


ALASKA STATE TROOPERS

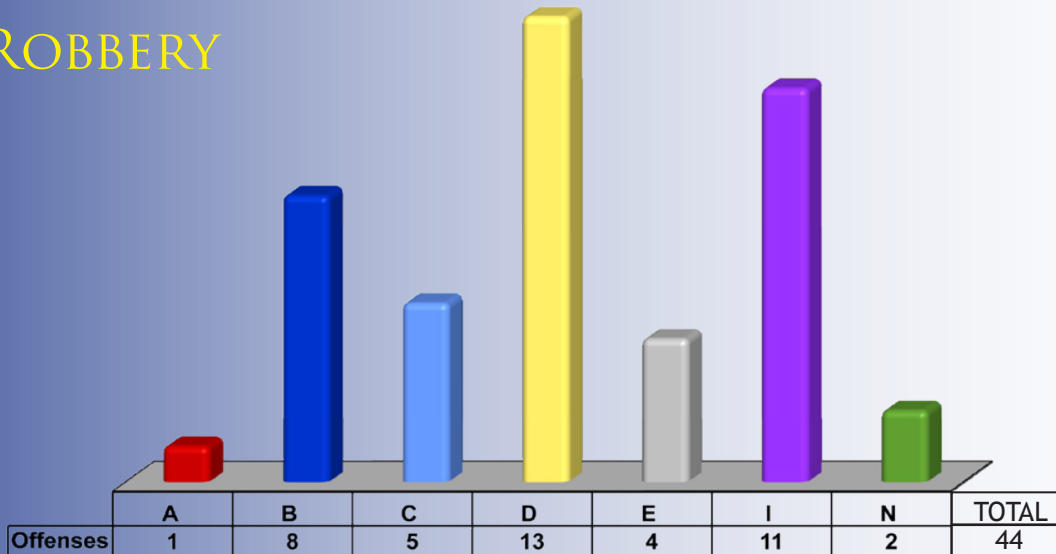
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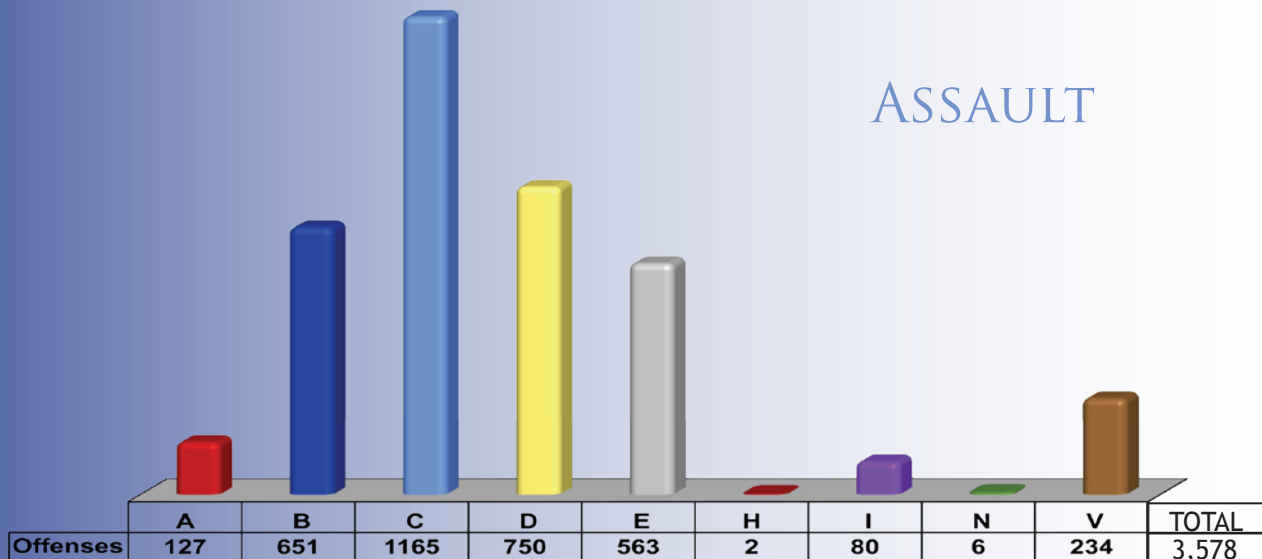
BURGLARY



ROBBERY



ASSAULT

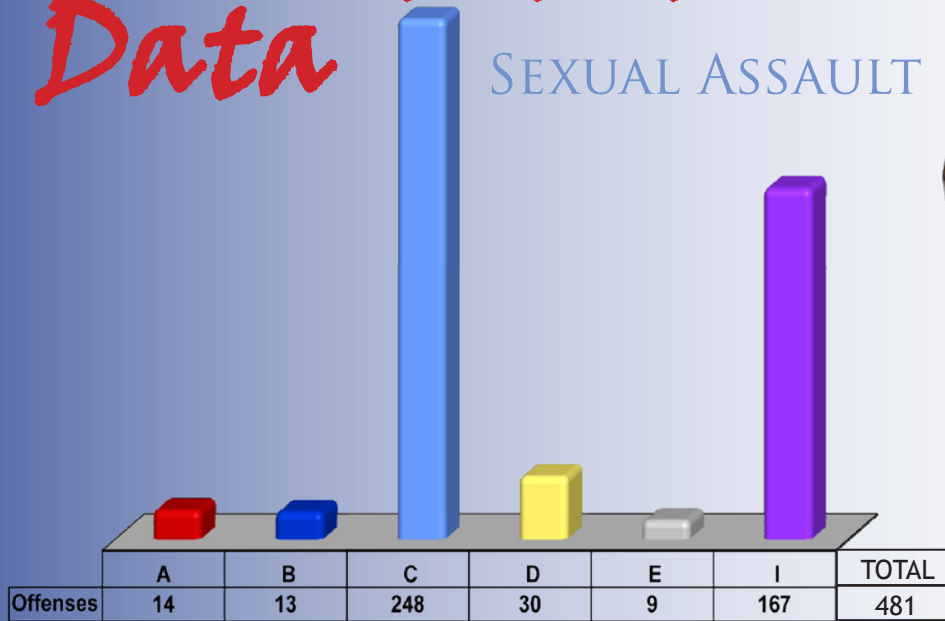


ALASKA STATE TROOPERS

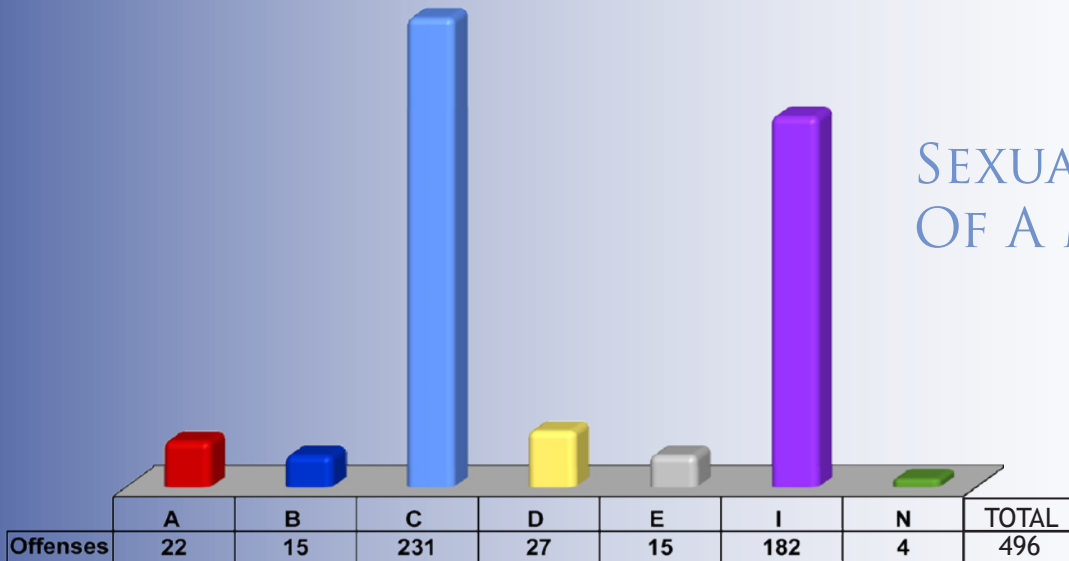
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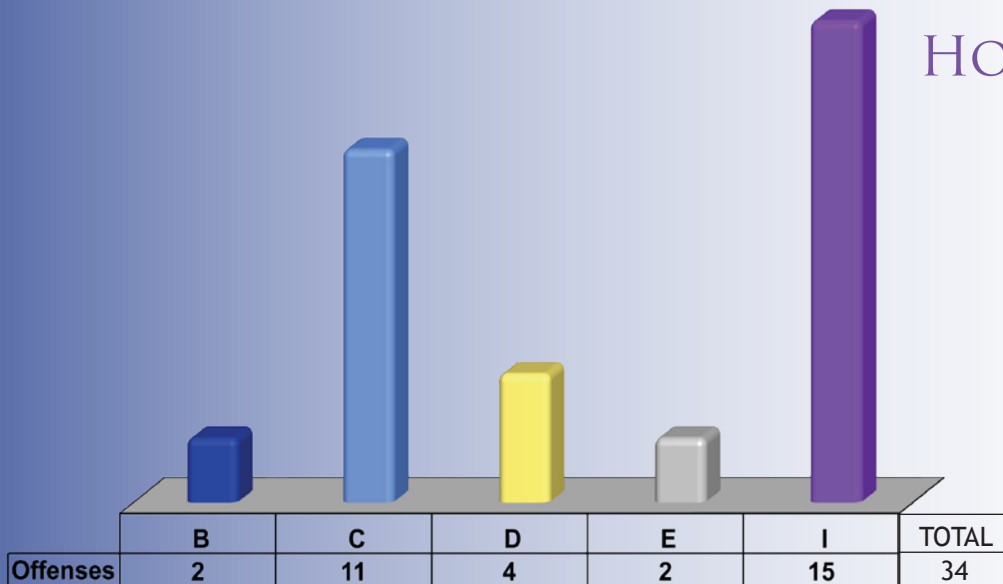
SEXUAL ASSAULT



SEXUAL ABUSE OF A MINOR



HOMICIDE

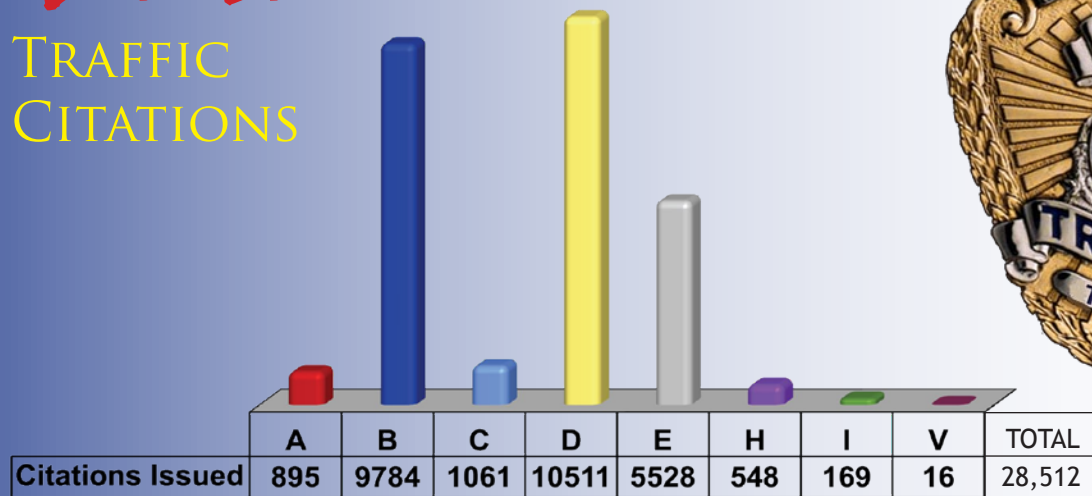


ALASKA STATE TROOPERS

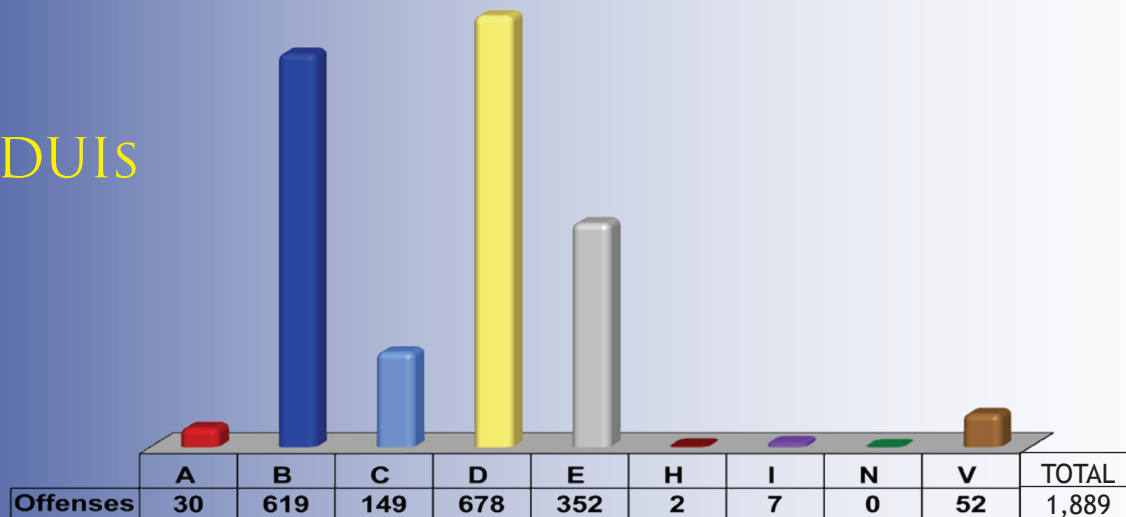
2007 Statistical Data



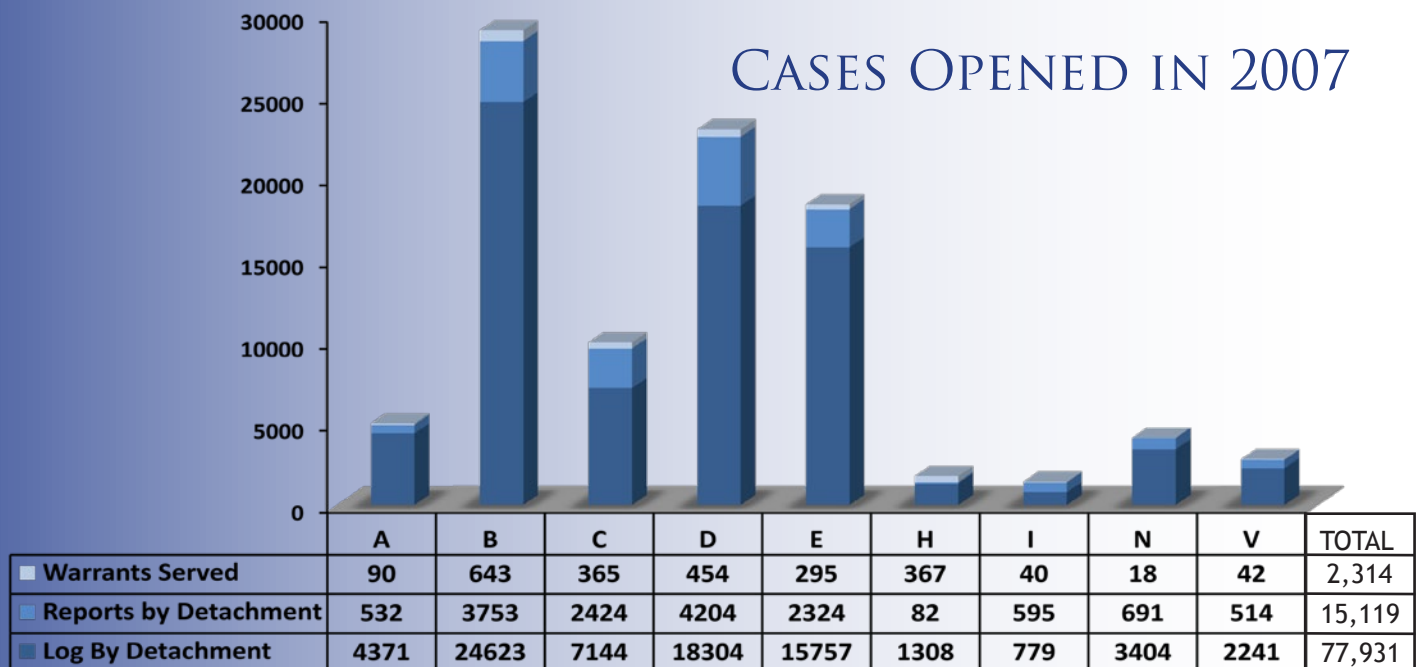
TRAFFIC CITATIONS



DUIs



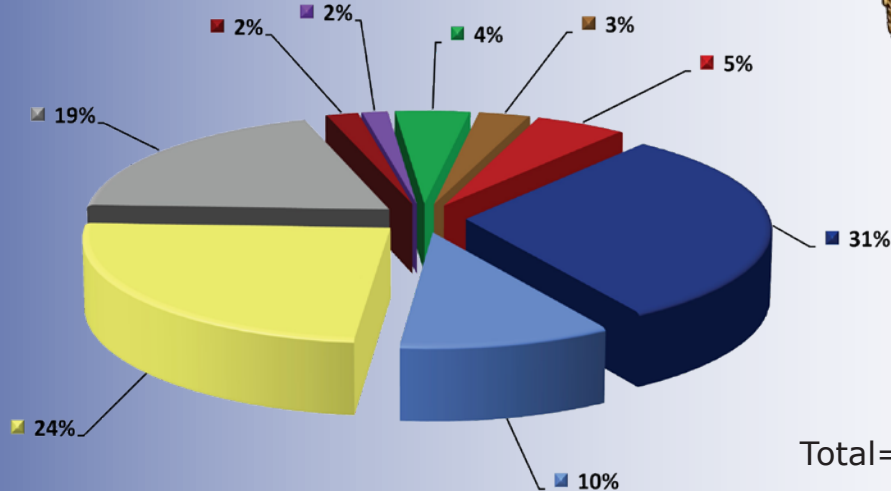
CASES OPENED IN 2007



ALASKA STATE TROOPERS

2007 Statistical Data

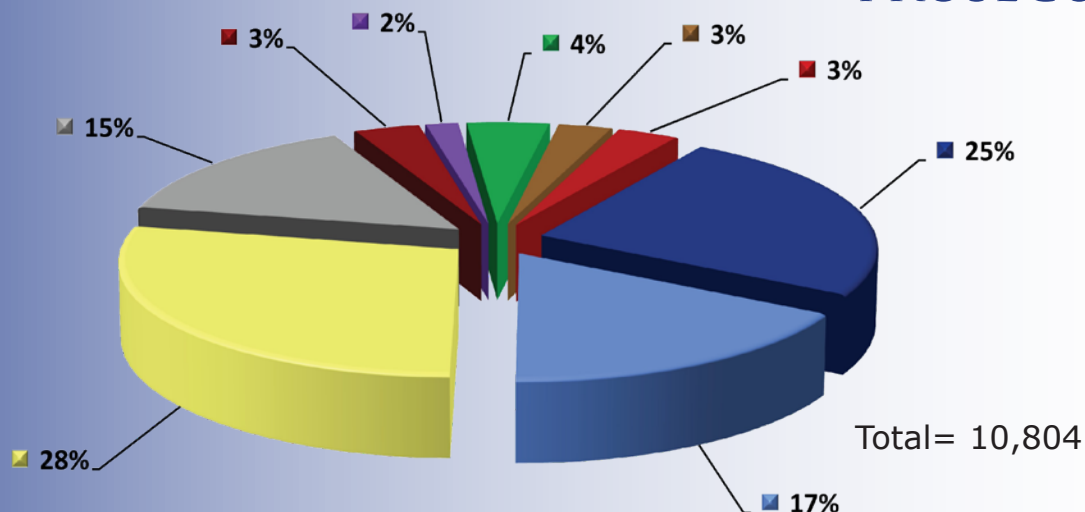
CALLS FOR SERVICE



Total= 95,367

A Detachment= 4,995	B Detachment= 29,019	C Detachment= 9,935
D Detachment= 22,962	E Detachment= 18,376	Headquarters= 1,757
Investigation Unit= 1,414	Narcotics Unit= 4,112	VPSO Program= 2,797

CASES RESULTING IN ARREST OR REFERRAL FOR PROSECUTION

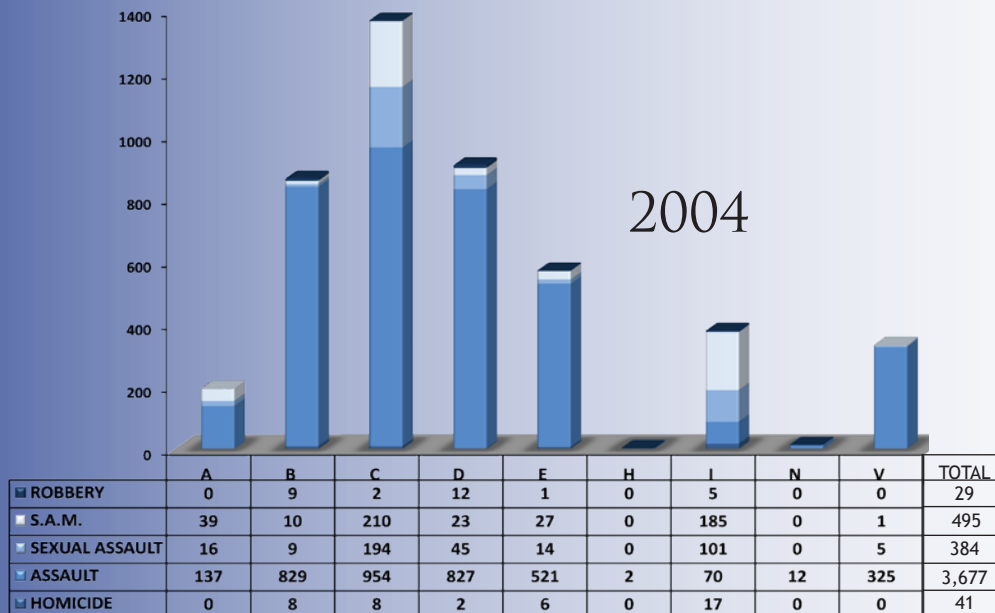
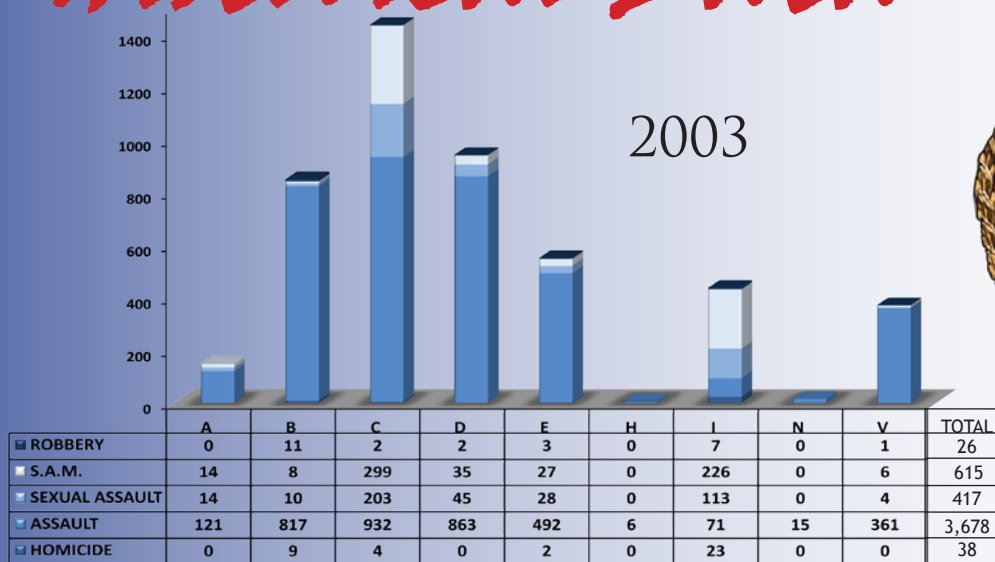


Total= 10,804

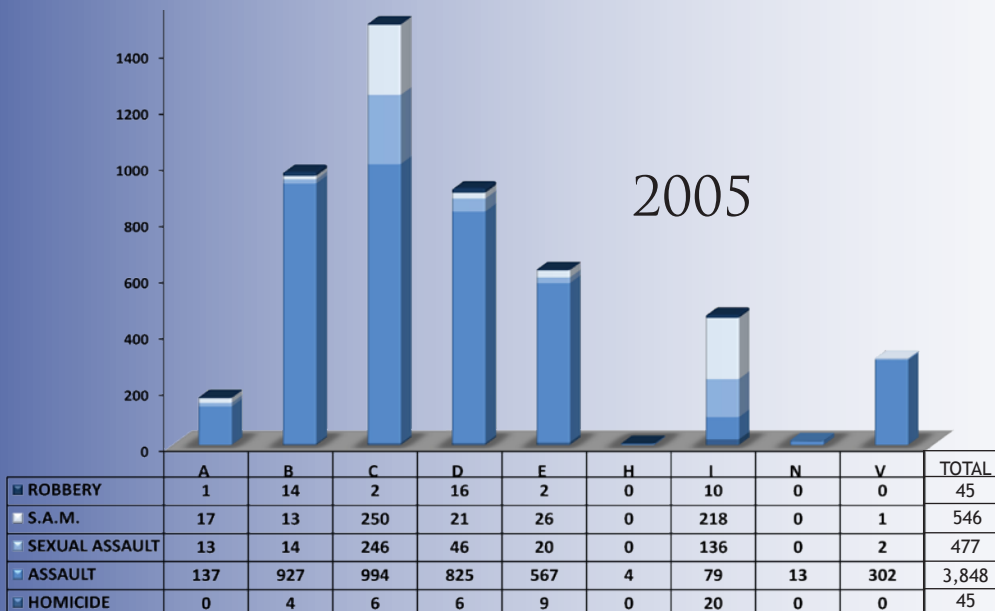
A Detachment= 306	B Detachment= 2,675	C Detachment= 1,823
D Detachment= 3,040	E Detachment= 1,623	Headquarters= 373
Investigation Unit= 187	Narcotics Unit= 471	VPSO Program= 306

ALASKA STATE TROOPERS

Historical Data



PERSON
CRIMES

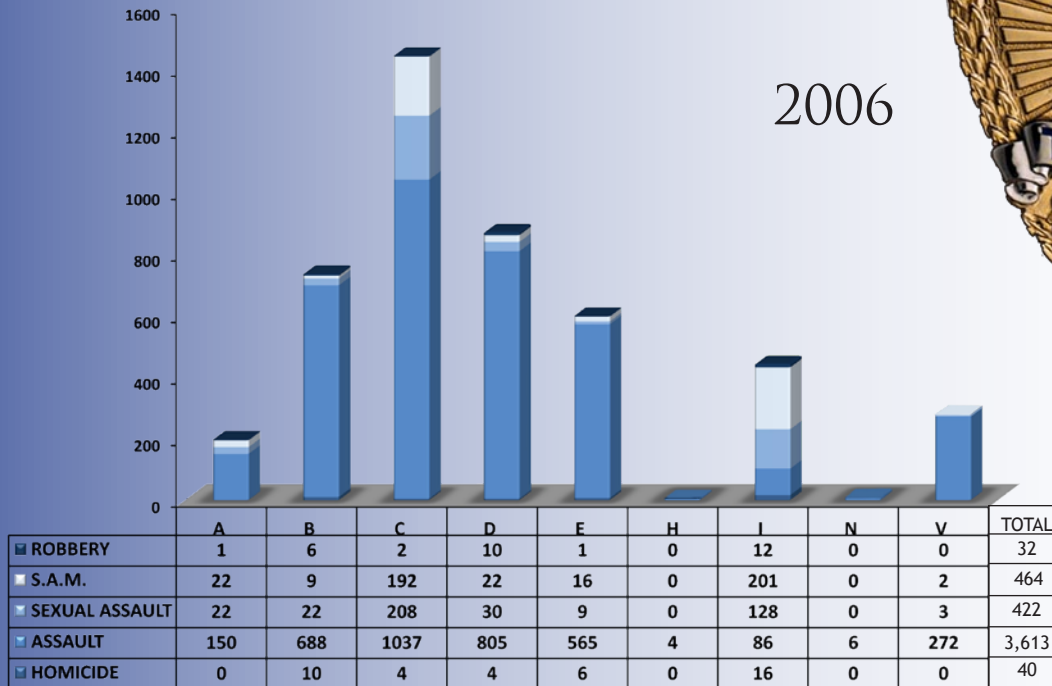


ALASKA STATE TROOPERS

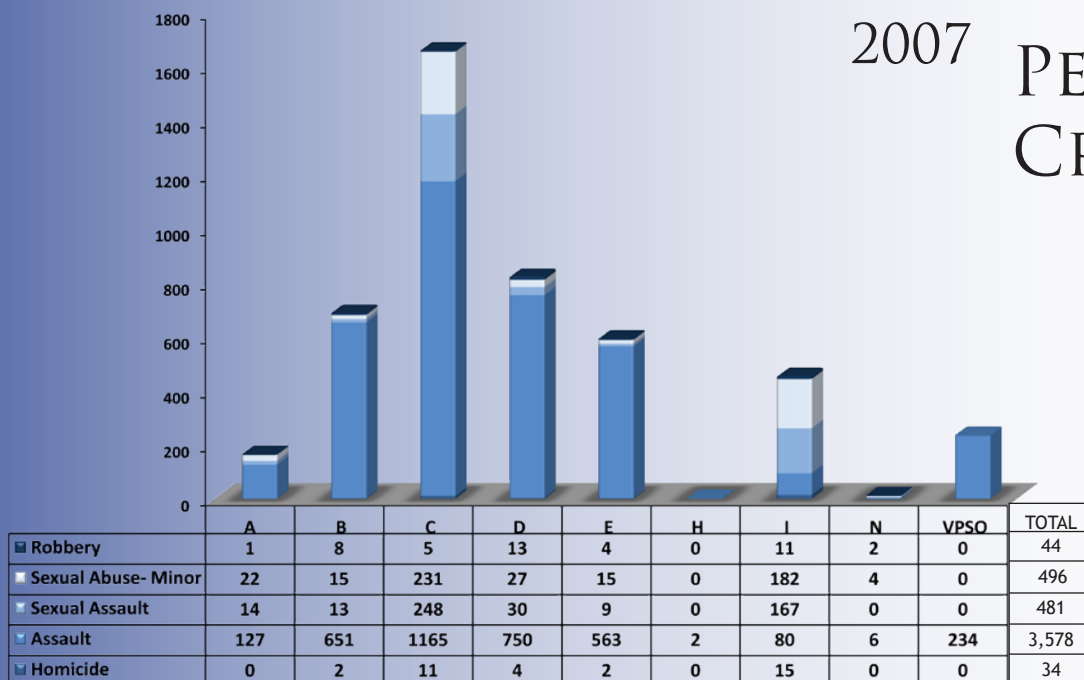
Historical Data



2006

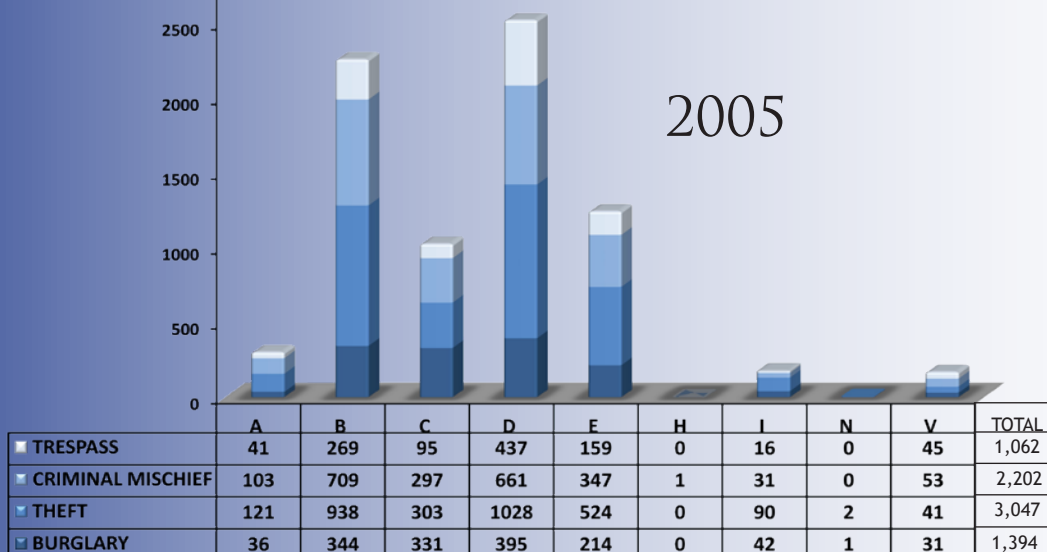
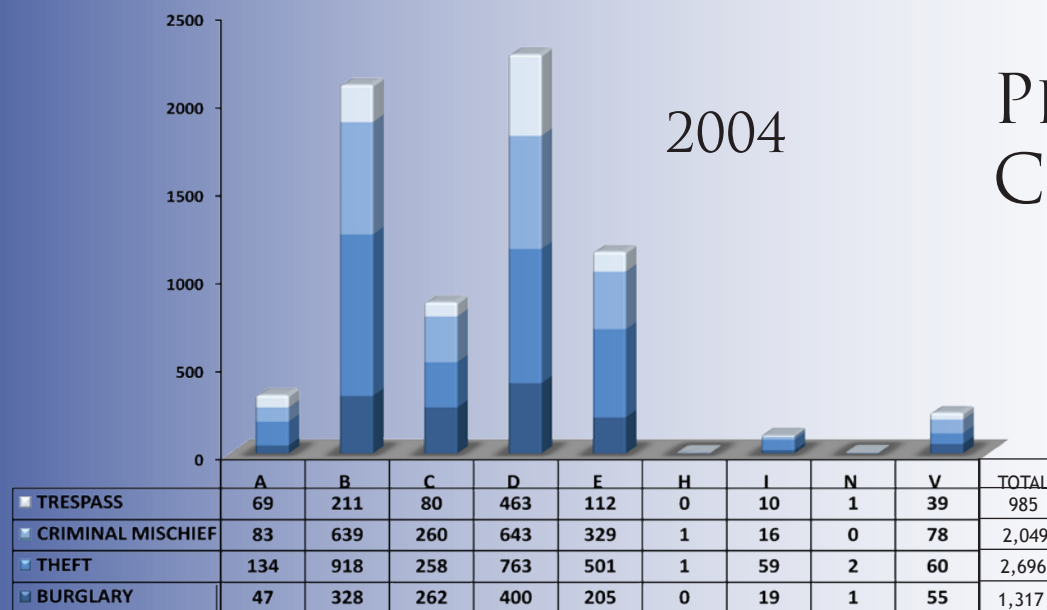
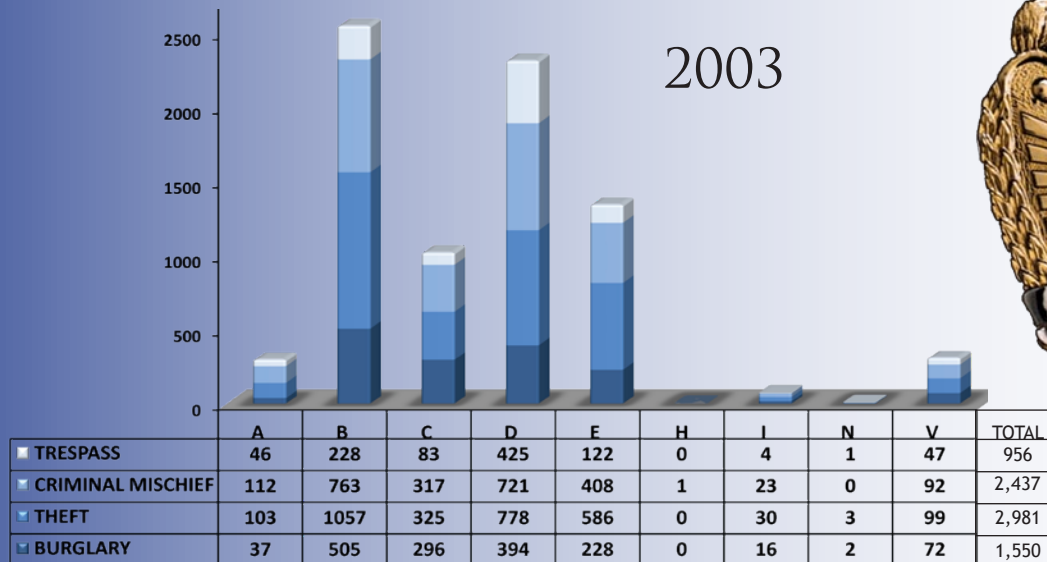


2007 PERSON
CRIMES



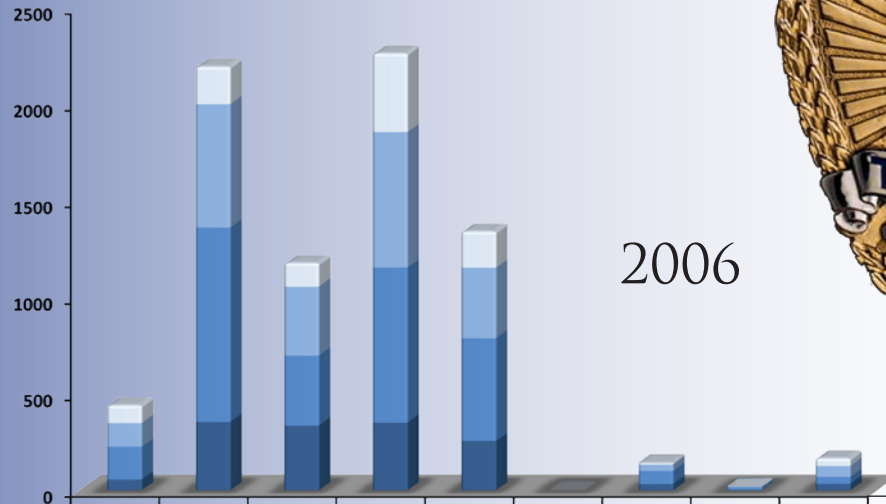
ALASKA STATE TROOPERS

Historical Data



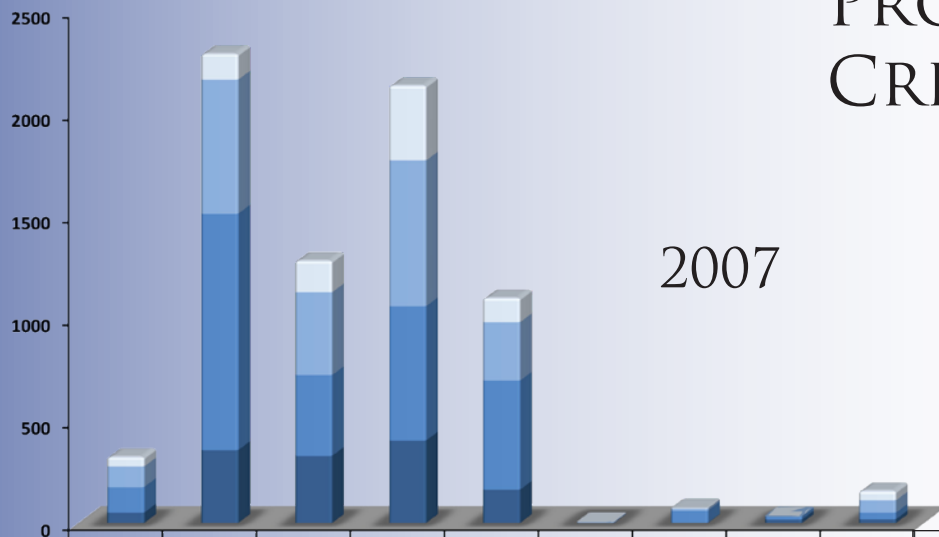
ALASKA STATE TROOPERS

Historical Data



	A	B	C	D	E	H	I	N	V	TOTAL
TRESPASS	92	195	122	408	189	0	11	0	40	1,057
CRIMINAL MISCHIEF	123	639	358	701	364	0	32	3	56	2,276
THEFT	169	1005	361	802	532	0	67	14	35	2,985
BURGLARY	56	354	335	350	255	0	34	1	35	1,420

PROPERTY CRIMES

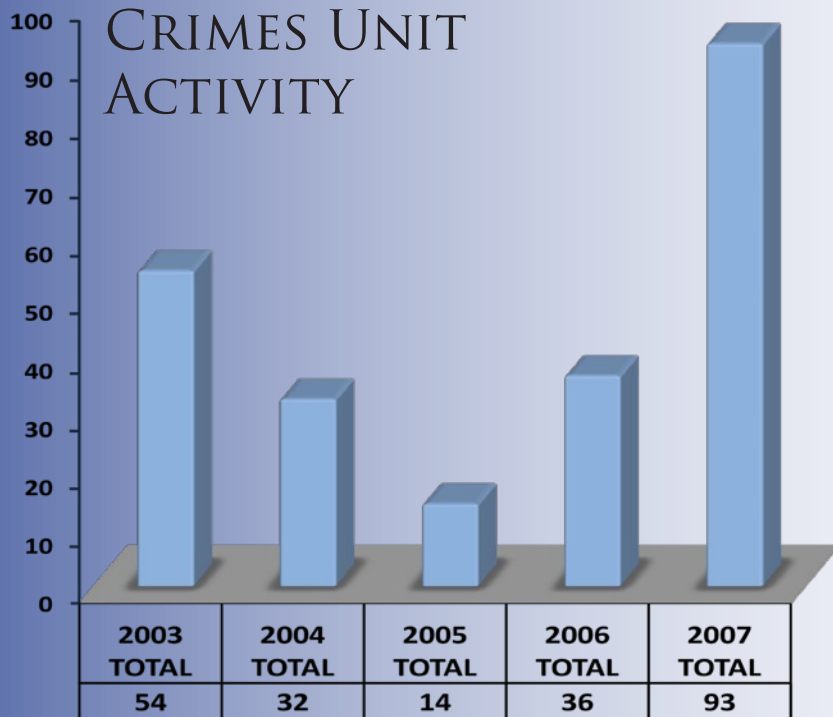


	A	B	C	D	E	H	I	N	V	TOTAL
Trespass	48	127	155	366	119	0	4	0	47	866
Vandalism	100	654	404	711	285	3	10	1	60	2,228
Theft	125	1153	394	655	532	2	59	15	32	2,967
Burglary	50	355	327	402	162	0	1	17	18	1,332

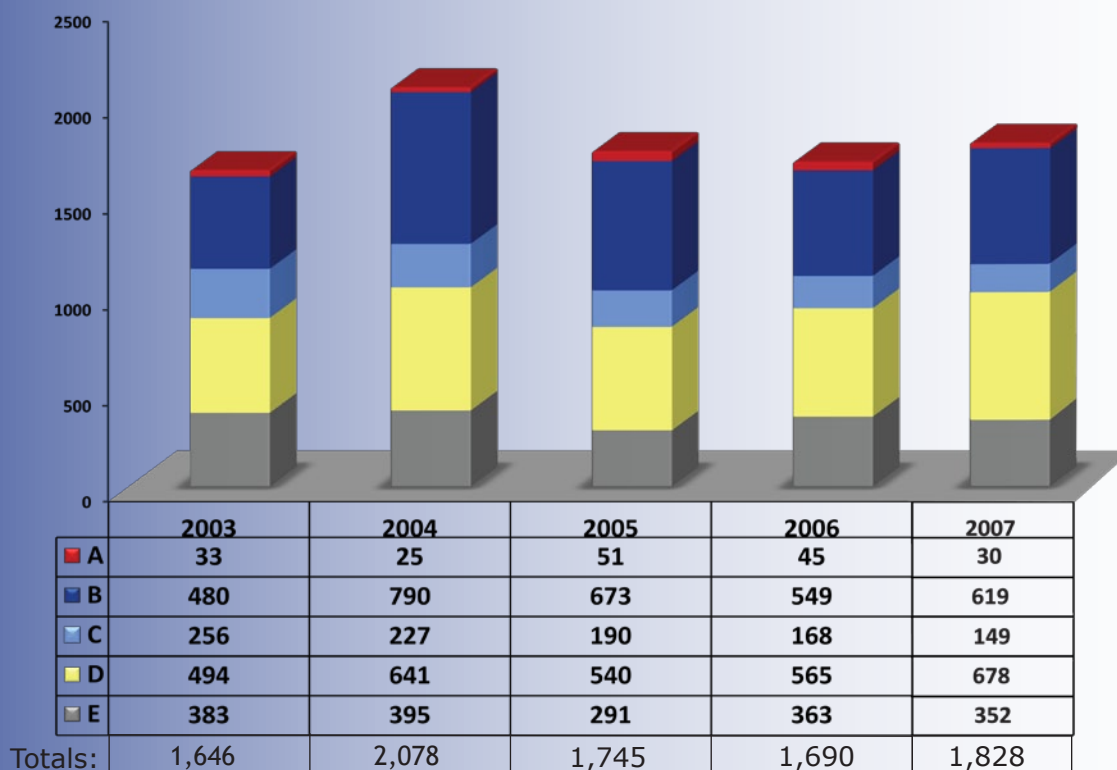
ALASKA STATE TROOPERS

Historical Data

COMPUTER AND FINANCIAL CRIMES UNIT ACTIVITY



DUIs PER DETACHMENT



ALASKA STATE TROOPERS

References



- I. Population data was obtained through the State of 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 State of 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 (www.census.gov/geo/www/tiger/tiger2006se/tgr2006se.html).
- 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 which are classified as being traversable by standard passenger vehicles and trucks. Excluded segments include those accessible only by four-wheel drive vehicles, usually a 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) 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.



2007 Annual Report

A PUBLICATION OF

ALASKA STATE TROOPERS

PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICE