

**Adam Berg**

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**From:** Jonathan Shivel <vpso.shivel@kawerak.org>  
**Sent:** Monday, September 16, 2013 11:55 AM  
**To:** Adam Berg  
**Subject:** RE: Arming VPSO's Legislative Hearing

I will not be able to attend or listen in but would like my thoughts to be heard on this matter.

My thoughts on this subject, is that every VPSO that desires to be armed should be trained and armed.

Law Enforcement Officers all over the United States have lost their lives in the line of duty from being shot. But I know that every Officer will tell you that more lives of victims and Officers are saved due to the actions that they took using their firearm in their defense. Rather it be a round that was discharged to defeat a potential lethal threat or an Officer presenting his firearm to a threat causing that threat to stand down. An Officer with a firearm holstered in itself is a show of force and in most all cases is a major deterrence to anyone who may want to harm that Officer. If you were to ask anyone that may want to harm a Police Officer if they had a choice to go up against an armed Officer or an unarmed Officer who would they choose. Well that would be a no brainer..... Everyone in each Village knows that VPSO's are unarmed and in many Villages with a lot of criminal activity a VPSO goes through more @#%\$ than what his Trooper counterpart will go through when he/she is in the Village. Not only that as you know we VPSO's are the "First Responders" and we respond to some of the most violent crimes (Domestic Violence) by ourselves, no back up, no Troopers. In these situations, upon arrival we are going into the "UNKNOWN" where we will confront people who are in an unpredictable mindset.

House Bill 24 which passed and has become law, gives the right to each Citizen in the State to defend him/herself using deadly force against an armed person anywhere a Citizen has a legal right to be. But a VPSO does not have that right or ability under current State law to defend him/herself against an armed aggressor in the line of duty. Something is seriously wrong with that.....

With that said, I feel that arming VPSO's is not only the right thing to do, but it's the most logical thing to do. A VPSO should have the right to defend him/herself against an armed aggressor.

Thank you for listening.  
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**From:** Adam Berg [Adam.Berg@akleg.gov]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 11, 2013 11:18 AM  
**To:** [jhscaab+kawerakvpso1ist@legis.state.ak.us](mailto:jhscaab+kawerakvpso1ist@legis.state.ak.us)  
**Subject:** Arming VPSO's Legislative Hearing

Hello Kawerak VPSO's -

I'm emailing to let you know we are having a meeting on the idea of allowing VPSO's to be armed on September 26th, from 10 AM to 3 PM. The meeting will be at the Anchorage LIO, but we will have a toll-free number for any of you that would like to listen in and / or testify on the issue.

My boss, Rep. Bryce Edgmon, introduced a bill (H8199 is attached) near the end of the last legislative session that would prohibit DPS from saying you can't carry firearms. This meeting is being held to find out how VPSO's and their