

H B

9 3

SPONSOR STATEMENT

CSHB 93()

An Act Relating to the Village Public Safety Officers Program
Representative Richard Foster

This bill would place the Village Public Safety Officer Program into the Alaska Statutes.

The sparsely inhabited communities in rural Alaska face challenges to public safety for individuals threatened with losses to life and property. Every community in the state requires public safety services. The VPSO program, created in 1980, addresses those critical public safety issues in rural Alaskan communities such as reducing loss of life due to fires, drownings, missing persons, and first provider of emergency medical assistance. The VPSO is the trained individual in the community to provide an immediate response to law enforcement issues. The VPSO, as an extension of the Alaska State Troopers, handles serious law enforcement matters until trooper assistance comes upon the scene. The first rung on a public safety career path for interested rural residents is through becoming a trained Village Public Safety Officer.

The VPSO's are the vital partners to the mission of the Department of Public Safety effort in rural Alaska. This bill will formally include the VPSO program in Alaska statutes, and formalize the program in the Department of Public Safety. This action will enable the department, through regulations, to establish criteria for entry and participation of interested individuals, implement training standards, and provide uniform administrative parameters for the statewide program. Finally, passage of this bill will instill pride within the ranks of those VPSO's now in the frontline public safety efforts in rural Alaska.

8-LS0465NE
Cook
2/25/93

CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 93 ()
IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA
EIGHTEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY

Offered:
Referred:

Sponsor(s): REPRESENTATIVES FOSTER, Menard, Nicholia

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 "An Act relating to the village public safety officers program."

2 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

3 * Section 1. AS 18.65 is amended by adding a new section to read:

4 ARTICLE 8. VILLAGE PUBLIC SAFETY OFFICERS.

5 Sec. 18.65.670. VILLAGE PUBLIC SAFETY OFFICERS PROGRAM. (a)

6 There is created in the Department of Public Safety a village public safety officer
7 program to assist local governments and villages through nonprofit regional
8 corporations to appoint, train, supervise, and retain persons to serve as village public
9 safety officers to administer functions relative to the protection of life and property in
10 rural areas of the state.

11 (b) With funds appropriated for that purpose, the commissioner of public
12 safety shall provide grants to nonprofit regional corporations for village public safety
13 officers.

14 (c) The commissioner of public safety may adopt regulations related to village

1 public safety officers, including minimum standards and training, criteria for
2 community or corporation participation, and the interaction between the Department
3 of Public Safety and village public safety officers.

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
1993 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

BILL NO: CSHB 93

Revision _____ Dept. Affected: Public Safety
 Title: "An Act relating to the village
public safety officers program." BRU: Alaska State Troopers
 Sponsor: Representative Foster Component: Detachments
 Requestor: Representative Foster COMPONENT SERIAL NO. 799

EXPENDITURES/REVENUES: (Thousands of Dollars) (inflation not included)

OPERATING	FY 94	FY 95	FY 96	FY 97	FY 98	FY 99
PERSONAL SERVICES						
TRAVEL						
CONTRACTUAL						
SUPPLIES						
EQUIPMENT						
LAND & STRUCTURES						
GRANTS, CLAIMS						
MISCELLANEOUS						
TOTAL OPERATING	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

CAPITAL	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
----------------	------------	------------	------------	------------	------------	------------

REVENUE FUND SOURCE:						
----------------------	--	--	--	--	--	--

FUNDING: (Thousands of Dollars)

1002 Federal Receipts						
1003 GF Match						
1004 GF						
1005 GF/Program Receipts						
1006 GF/MHTIA						
Other						
TOTAL	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

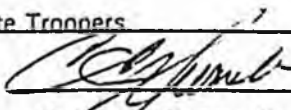
POSITIONS:

FULL-TIME	0	0	0	0	0	0
PART-TIME						
TEMPORARY						

Estimate of current year (FY 93) impact: \$ _____

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary.)

No significant fiscal impact upon the Alaska State Troopers is anticipated.

Prepared By: Francis C. Allan Phone: 269-5691
 Division: Alaska State Troopers Date: 3/3/93
 Approved by Commissioner:  Date: 3/4/93
 Agency: Richard L. Burton, Dept. of Public Safety

PREPARER TO PRODUCE LEGISLATIVE OFFICE

For file

FISCAL NOTE

File Office

RECEIVED MAR 05 1993

BILL NO: CSHB 93

DATE: March 3, 1993

TITLE: "An Act relating to the village public safety officers program"

CONTACT: C.E. Swackhammer
Deputy Commissioner
465-4322

POSITION PAPER - Department of Public Safety

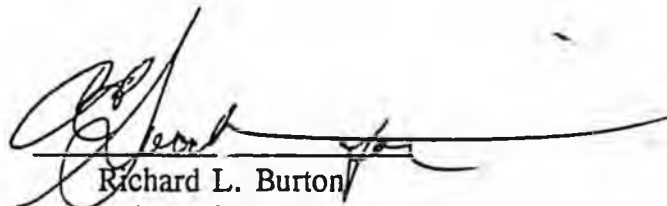
CSHB 93 amends AS 18.65 Police Protection by adding the Village Public Safety Officer Program to the Department of Public Safety's mandated programs, to aid in meeting the Department's responsibility to provide basic public safety services and law enforcement services to Alaska's rural communities. The bill provides the Commissioner with the authority to provide grants to nonprofit regional corporations for village public safety officers.

The Commissioner may adopt regulations related to VPSOs and training requirements for officers and criteria for community participation in this public safety program.

This bill will formalize the Village Public Safety Officer Program as an official responsibility of the Department of Public Safety. The program has informally been associated with the Alaska State Troopers for over twelve years. The passage of the bill is the first step to the orderly progression of this program from a pilot grant endeavor to a career. The results of this bill will be the advancement of qualified persons, skilled in meeting the first responder requirements of delivering public safety in rural villages, to the level of a profession. The ability to regulate the course of the program and its future, define how communities participate, and address the structure of the program will provide management tools to ensure sound efficient use of state resources.

The flexibility of being able to provide grants to nonprofit regional corporations for these services provides the Department the opportunity to continue to encourage village and regional participation in identifying public safety needs and priorities at their level, as well as allowing for the Department to assess the most cost effective approaches to delivering public safety and law enforcement services to rural communities.

The Department of Public Safety does not believe the passage of this bill will have a fiscal impact on the Department. Since this is the foundation step for formalizing and addressing future public safety and law enforcement needs in rural Alaska, this bill requires only that this program be considered as part of the overall mission of the Department.


Richard L. Burton
Commissioner

ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES, INC.

1992 ANNUAL CONVENTION

RESOLUTION 92 - 57

TITLE: SUPPORTING VILLAGE PUBLIC SAFETY OFFICERS

WHEREAS: community based public safety programs are required to maintain public safety in rural Alaska; and

WHEREAS: in 1981, the State Department of Public Safety started the Village Public Safety Officer (VPSO) Program, a community based public safety program, to address law enforcement, fire protection and search and rescue needs in rural Alaska's remote village; and

WHEREAS: since its inception, the VPSO program has dramatically improved public safety in rural Alaskan villages;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that delegates to the 1992 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives, Inc., endorses continuation and strengthening of the Village Public Safety Office Program and calls upon the Legislature to establish the VPSO program in state statute.

SUBMITTED BY: Bristol Bay Native Association

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS: Do Pass

CONVENTION ACTION: Do Pass



mark

TANANA CHIEFS CONFERENCE, INC.
Executive Board of Directors

Resolution 93-03

Village Public Safety Officers Program

Whereas, Senator Al Adams of the Alaska Eighteenth Legislature -First Session has introduced Senate Bill Number 15, and

Whereas, Senate Bill Number 15 addresses essential aspects of the Village Public Safety Officers (VPSO) Program, including training and compensation, and

Whereas, Tanana Chiefs Conference, Inc. (TCC) employees VPSO's for the benefit of member villages,

Now Therefore be it Resolved that TCC supports Senate Bill Number 15 and urges the Alaska Legislature to pass this bill into law.

C E R T I F I C A T I O N

I hereby certify that this resolution was duly passed by the Tanana Chiefs Conference, Inc, Executive Board of Directors on January 14, 1993 at Fairbanks, Alaska and that a quorum was duly established.



Jonathan Solomon, Sr.
Jonathan Solomon, Sr.
Secretary/Treasurer

NORTH AND NORTHWEST ALASKA MAYORS' CONFERENCE
KOTZEBUE, ALASKA
FEBRUARY 18 & 19, 1993

RESOLUTION NO. 93-37

A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE VILLAGE PUBLIC SAFETY OFFICER (VPSO) PROGRAM TO BE INCLUDED IN THE ALASKA STATUTES. REFERENCE SENATE BILL NO. 15 & HOUSE BILL NO. 93.

WHEREAS: the Village Public Safety Officer (VPSO) Program has been of vital importance in rural Alaska for twelve (12) years and VPSO's provide a difficult and critical service to safeguard the lives and property of all residents in their communities; and

WHEREAS: in addition to law enforcement, VPSO's provide a broad range of public safety services, including emergency medical services, fire protection and prevention, water safety, and search and rescue; and

WHEREAS: VPSO's are expected to be on call 24 hours per day, 7 days per week, 365 days per year with no trained relief, and are often personally confronted with life threatening situations while being grossly underpaid; and

WHEREAS: the North and Northwest Alaska Mayors support the Village Public Safety Officer Program in rural Alaska, recognizing the VPSO Program as the first, immediate, and often only public safety service available in rural Alaska; and

WHEREAS: the North and Northwest Alaska Mayors recommend that the State of Alaska formalize the VPSO Program by Alaska Statutory recognition to assure the future of service. Presently, the VPSO Program exists as a budgetary line item in the Department of Public Safety's annual budget. Statutory authority would legitimize and put VPSO Program standards and procedures into the Alaska Administrative Code, thus providing a mechanism for annual legislative review; and

WHEREAS: the North and Northwest Alaska Mayors also support a significant FY94 budget increase for the VPSO Program. Especially in the areas of training, equipment, and salaries; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CONFERENCE: that the Mayors of North and Northwest Alaska urge the Alaska State Legislature to pass Senate Bill No. 15 and House Bill No. 93; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED BY THE NORTH AND NORTHWEST ALASKA MAYORS' CONFERENCE THAT: we urge Governor Walter J. Hickel and the Alaska State Legislature to educate themselves on the current plight of the VPSO Program and to work with the VPSO Nonprofit Corporation managers and the Department of Public Safety to obtain a needs based Legislative Supplement which will address

the salary needs, equipment, training, and oversight needs of the program for FY94 and beyond.

PASSED AND APPROVED by the first session of the fourteenth annual North and Northwest Alaska Mayors' Conference this _____ day of February, 1993.

PRESIDENT

SECRETARY

INTRODUCED BY: _____

SECONDED BY: _____

VOTE: YES: _____ NO: _____

DIRECTED TO: Governor Walter J. Hickel
Alaska State Legislature
State of Alaska Department of Public Safety
Regional Non-profit Corporations

*Passed
Unanimous*

Paul

City Council
City of Atka
P. O. Box 47070
Atka, Alaska 99547-0070

Senator Al Adams
P. O. Box V
Juneau, Alaska 99811

February 3, 1993

Dear Senator:

We are writing to endorse support for Senate Bill 15.

We thank you for introducing this bill for several reasons. We consider transfer of the VPSO program to the state statutes a wise move. In addition to being under the review of the state legislature, we think that the VPSO program would maintain higher integrity and consistency.

Thank you.

Signed,

Michael Singa
Mayor

Atka City Council

Traditional Eagle Village Council
PO Box 19
Eagle Alaska 99738

Attn. Senator Georgiana Lincoln, Representative Eileen Nicholas
We the members of Eagle Village Council support the VPSO Program
100% and we also support Senate Bill #15 to put VPSO's into the
Alaska State Statutes.

Thank You for your time and we will be anxiously awaiting the
outcome of Senate Bill #15.

Sincerely; Eagle Village Council
Council Members,

Matthew Malcolm, Chief

Ethel Beck 2nd Chief

Oliver Lyman, Council Member

Rebecca Malcolm, Council Member

Norman David, Council Member

Bertha Ulyi, Council Member

Matthew Malcolm
Ethel Beck
Oliver Lyman
Rebecca Malcolm
Norman David
Bertha Ulyi

St. George Office:



Handwritten signature

Anchorage Office:

P.O. Box 922
St. George, Alaska 99591-0929
Tel: (907) 859-2263
Fax: (907) 859-2212

4000 Old Seward Hwy., Suite 301
Anchorage, Alaska 99503
Tel: 581-2124
Fax: (907) 561-4674

Senator Al Adams
P.O. Box V
Juneau, Alaska 99811.

Dear Senator Adams,

The V.P.S.O. Program has been an essential part of the booming, but orderly growth, of the "outback" rural communities of Alaska. Time and time again the rural radio stations of Nome, Dillingham and St. Paul Island, broadcast on their news hour how VPSO's have intervened with otherwise lawless towns of our State's far flung communities. In some cases giving up their lives for their committment to law and order.

At St. George a Harbor was built to enhance a stable economy for our community, along with this harbor we get processors who house three hundred fifty respectfully, each. With two floating processor's who dwarf our community of one hundred eighty people and no law enforcement personnel except for one VPSO. We have begun to realize in this community how valuable this position can be. These processors are "dry" companys which means no alcohol consumption is allowed among their workers, however at times some individuals have obtained alcohol and tend to consume until they are in a state of mind which is a danger to themselves, other processors, property and the St. George Community members. Most of these workers are on 30, 60, and 90 day contracts with these seafood processors. When the contract is up these individuals first thoughts are of obtaining alcohol for the soul purpose of getting inebriated in the shortest time possible and when that happens to many individuals all at one time we have a problem. The crab season of 1992 here in the Bering Sea attested to the above problems that only a VPSO can handle safely and correctly. We don't expect the crab season of 1993 to be any different. One finally comment is that the VPSO's in Alaska are the Eyes and Ears of the State Troopers. Thank You for your time.

Sincerely ;

Handwritten signature of Gregory P. McGlashan

Gregory P. McGlashan
Harbormaster
City Councilman

Allakaket Village Council

P.O. BOX 30 ALLAKAKET, ALASKA 99720
(907) 968-2241

February 4, 1993

Tanana Chiefs Conference
122 First Avenue
Fairbanks, Alaska 99701

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

We strongly support the Village Public Safety Officer positions for the rural areas. Mainly because the villages are located in remote areas where the State Troopers cannot respond to calls fast enough to prevent violence or crimes from happening.

Since we have had a Village Public Safety Officer located in our village, we have seen a decrease in suicides, domestic violence, and public disturbances.

I strongly recommend that Tanana Chiefs Conference continue to secure funding for this much needed service to the rural villages.

Sincerely,

Sally M. Sam
City Administrator



CITY OF MC GRATH

P. O. BOX 30 McGRATH, ALASKA 99627

PHONE (907) 824-3823

FAX (907) 824-3533

January 29, 1993

Ms. Daisy Stevens
VPSO Coordinator
Tanana Chiefs Conference
122 First Ave.
Fairbanks, Ak. 99701

Dear Ms. Stevens,

The City of McGrath would like to express their support of the VPSO program as an essential service to rural areas. We are in favor of Senate bill 16, which would make the program permanently funded. We hope the bill will pass and the program will be funded enough to raise the pay for these dedicated, underpaid people. If we can do anything to help in this matter, please do not hesitate to call on us.

Sincerely,

Glen A. Hanway
Glen A. Hanway
Mayor

cc: Senator Lincoln

THE
FOLLOWING
DOCUMENTS
ARE
POOR
ORIGINAL
COPIES

BEAVER TRIBAL COUNCIL
P.O. BOX 24029
BEAVER, AK 99724
(907) 628-6126
FAX 628-6812

January 29, 1977

Daisy Stevens,
V.P.S.O Coordinator
Tanana Chiefs Conference
122 First Avenue
Fairbanks, AK 99701

RE: Importance of V.P.S.O. program

Dear Daisy,

The Village of Beaver would like to suffer tremendously if the V.P.S.O. Program is cut, because of the following reasons:

1. He assist the CHA's with emergencies.
2. He teaches Fire prevention, snowmachine safety, gun safety, boat safety, to our children at the school.
3. He checks our fire alarms, fire extinguishers and make sure all equipment is in working order.
4. Enforces curfew, organized a search party for over due residents via snowmachine or boat.

For these reasons we feel that the V.P.S.O. program should be a permanent position, and because of the cuts in the State Troopers positions statewide.

Sincerely,

Arlene Pitka

Beaver Tribal Council
Arlene Pitka, Chief

cc: Greg Hope
files

FAX TRANSMITTAL MEMO

TO: Sen. Al Adams
DEPT: CRA Committee FAX #: 465-3242
FROM: C Wheeler PHONE: 443-5533
CO: _____ FAX #: _____
Post-It™ Brand Fax Transmittal memo 7871

NO. OF
PAGES
1

January 27, 1998

The Honorable Al Adams
Senator
State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1102

Senator Adams:

I support SB #15, statutory recognition of the V.P.S.U. program which is years, long overdue.

Those who have served and presently make that commitment to public service risk their lives; relinquish kin relationships; seldom receive recognition for a job well-done (on a daily basis); and serve for 'token' compensation. Their duties and responsibilities are paramount with personal sacrifice on a 24-hour basis. Most generally, they are the first on-the-scene as local police officer; coordinator/leader for search and rescue operations; emergency medical technician; and as well as liaison to the State Troopers, who respond and are on the scene hours, not days, later.

Formalizing the V.P.S.U. program would bring a much greater professional atmosphere, provide greater retention of personnel, a continuous on-going training program, and should provide for a reasonable pay schedule.

Rural law enforcement and public safety services are as important in villages as in urban communities and the value of human life must not be diminished because some choose to live in rural Alaska. They deserve better.

Thank you for your sincere consideration



C. Wheeler
POB 1209
Nome, Alaska 99762-1209

STATE OF ALASKA

WALTER J. HICKEL, GOVERNOR
 PLEASE REPLY TO:
 CRIMINAL DIVISION CENTRAL OFFICE
 P. O. BOX 110330 - STATE CAPITOL
 JUNEAU, ALASKA 99811-0300
 PHONE: (907) 465-3428
 OFFICE OF SPECIAL PROSECUTION,
 AND APPEALS
 1031 W. 4TH AVENUE, SUITE 318
 ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99501-5993
 PHONE: (907) 279-7424

Post-It™ brand fax transmittal memo 7671 # of pages >

To <i>LAVRU</i>	From <i>MARA</i>
Co. <i>Rep. Foster's office</i>	Co. <i>Sen. Adams' office</i>
Dept.	Phone #
Fax #	Fax # <i>465-3242</i>

NT OF LAW

MINAL DIVISION

January 25, 1993

The Honorable Randy Phillips
 Alaska State Legislature
 P.O. Box V
 Juneau, AK 99811

Dear Senator Phillips:

At the request of Senator Adams' staff, we offer the attached proposed substitute for SB 15, an act relating to village public safety officers (VPSO).

It is our understanding that SB 15 intended to codify the present VPSO program. To that end, subsections (a) and (b) of the proposed amendment attempt to describe the VPSO program as it exists today. As you may be aware, under the current program, the village public safety officers not employees of the state, but are employees of the regional corporations that hire them. This proposed amendment continues that practice, so that the department's role is not to employ the officers, but rather to assist the corporations and local governments in doing so.

This amendment also continues the current practice whereby the department, with funding provided specifically for that purpose, passes funds to regional corporations. This proposal would, however, broaden the program to make it possible for local government units to participate directly, rather than through a corporation.

This amendment reflects the goals of the current VPSO program, which is designed to provide a broad range of public safety functions, not solely law enforcement. We therefore felt it was best to create the program as a separate function in the Department of Public Safety, in a separate chapter in Title 18, rather than overly emphasizing the law enforcement role by putting the program in AS 18.65, which essentially deals with the law enforcement powers of state troopers.

We also felt that in defining the role of VPSOs it was more appropriate in subsection (a) to use the term "administer functions relative to the protection of life and property," which is a term used in other general public safety statutes, rather than

The Honorable Randy Phillips
Alaska State Legislature

January 25, 1993
Page 2

to introduce a new term, "basic public safety and law enforcement functions."

Subsection (c) of this proposal, like subsection (b) of SB 15, provides the commissioner with authority to adopt regulations to run the program and to set minimum training standards for officers.

Please contact me if I can be of assistance.

Sincerely,

CHARLES E. COLE
ATTORNEY GENERAL

By: Dean J. Guaneli
Dean J. Guaneli
Assistant Attorney General &
Criminal Division Administrator

DJG:jf

cc: The Honorable Al Adams
Alaska State Senate

Richard Burton, Commissioner
Department of Public Safety

Chris Lethin
Office of the Governor

Proposed substitute for SB 15

AS 18 is amended by adding a new chapter to read:

CHAPTER 69. VILLAGE PUBLIC SAFETY OFFICER PROGRAM.

AS 18.69.010. VILLAGE PUBLIC SAFETY OFFICER PROGRAM. (a)
There is created in the Department of Public Safety a Village Public Safety Officer Program to assist local governments and village or regional non-profit corporations to appoint, train, supervise and retain persons to serve as village public safety officers to administer functions relative to the protection of life and property in rural Alaska.

(b) With funds appropriated for that purpose, the commissioner of public safety shall provide grants to local governments and village or regional non-profit corporations for village public safety officers.

(c) The commissioner of public safety may adopt regulations related to village public safety officers, including minimum standards and training, criteria for community or corporation participation, and the interaction between the Department of Public Safety and village public safety officers.

Village Public Safety Officer Program

In the late 1970's, the Department of Public Safety recognized that there was a need for a wider range of public safety services in the villages than was provided by the Village Police Officer Program.

Bush conditions in Alaska are so completely at variance with urban conditions that they defy attempts to transpose urban public safety response mechanisms into rural villages. Needed was an approach to village public safety problems that is consistent with rural conditions, sensitive to ethnic lifestyles, cost effective, and gives some reasonable promise of being successful over the long term. This realization, coupled with the decline of the Village Police Officer Program, led to a proposal for a new public safety program tailored specifically for bush Alaska--the Village Public Safety Officer (VPSO) Program. The concept of the VPSO program was to train an officer in five public safety areas: fire suppression, law enforcement, search and rescue, water safety and emergency medical services. It was thought that this type of training would provide the VPSO with the rudimentary tools required to handle most incidents which are serious threats to life and property in the bush.

In 1979 a small pilot program was launched with 19 officers. Originally, the funding for the VPSO program was provided by a small Law Enforcement Assistance Administration (LEAA) grant; it was subsequently continued through the CETA Manpower programs of the regional Native corporations. The original program requested \$500,000 for fiscal year 1981; the legislature funded the project for \$2.9 million, supporting 52 VPSO positions. As the program developed and expanded, funding increased along with the number of officers authorized. By fiscal year 1982 the program had grown to 108 VPSO positions and 7 oversight troopers with a budget of \$6.7 million. Today the program supports 124 positions in the 123 villages with a budget of \$6.3 million.

Problems which the VPSO Program attempts to address

Many social and criminal problems requiring the public safety services stem from the widespread abuse of alcohol among village residents. Alcohol abuse stands as the primary crime-related factor in the villages. The VPSOs are proactive in enforcing Title 4 alcohol prohibition statutes, drinking and driving laws and providing drug and alcohol awareness messages at schools and in the villages.

Reduce water-related fatalities in Rural Alaska. Most of these deaths are alcohol related, although cold water and lack of knowing how to swim are contributing factors. The Oversight Troopers, as well as VPSOs, are thoroughly familiar with preventative methods, regulations, and laws relating to water safety. The Department of Public Safety provides training in the areas of boating safety, boating regulations, use of personal flotation devices (PFDs),

medical treatment, and public awareness through the VPSOs, media presentations, and publications.

Prior to the VPSO Program, on-site emergency medical situations were primarily the responsibility of the federally funded community health aide in villages that had this service. VPSOs receive 50 hours of emergency trauma and treatment training during their six weeks at the Public Safety Academy. This provides each VPSO community with on-site personnel trained and qualified to be the first responder or backup responder to emergency medical situations.

In addition to the aforementioned VPSO responsibilities, search and rescue is also a primary function of the VPSO. Each is given training in search and rescue methods and in the formation of rescue groups within their communities.

Funding

Funding for the Program is set up through a separate budget request unit with the Division of State Troopers' budget. The legislature provides funds for the Program. These funds are then channeled by individual contracts to ten regional non-profit Native corporations on a cost reimbursement basis. The primary purpose of regional contracting is to place the local administration of the Program into the hands of an organization sensitive to the specific needs of the areas to be served and to deal with a workable number of contracts while retaining a certain amount of regional flexibility. Each contractor, with the concurrence of the Division of State Troopers, selects which communities will participate.

Once the community has been selected, the local community, with the assistance of the State Troopers and contractor, is responsible for the selection and the daily activities of the VPSO. The contractor arranges for all salary payments based on the submission of time sheets from the communities. Group insurance plans, retirement plans, and maintenance of full financial accountability of contracted funds is also the responsibility of the contractor.

Support

Once selected, the VPSO receives support from the Alaska State Troopers. These "Oversight Troopers" assist on a day to day basis and provide to each a wide spectrum of the on-the-job training.

Law enforcement in most rural areas is the responsibility of the State Troopers. From Bush outposts the Troopers attempt to respond immediately to emergencies, as quickly as possible to felony cases, and as soon as possible to misdemeanors. Their efforts, however, are often hampered by delayed notification, long response distance, the uncertainties of weather and transportation, and limited manpower. In communities associated with the VPSO Program, citizens are afforded immediate response to all emergencies without delays caused by weather, distance, or budgetary restraints.

Although VPSOs are not expected to handle high risk or complex investigative situations, they do act as a valuable communications link with the Troopers, and their immediate action, as directed by the Oversight Trooper, can extinguish many potentially volatile situations and can often protect items of evidentiary value until trooper arrival.

Training

Currently, all Village Public Safety Officer recruits must pass a six-week resident training course held at the Department of Public Safety Academy in Sitka, Alaska. The basic VPSO course includes training in emergency trauma and treatment, procedural law, search and rescue, water safety, and arrest. Participants must also complete a required physical fitness program. Annual regional training, in one week increments, is also mandatory for VPSOs.

Through the Department of Public Safety's Fire Service Training Division, VPSOs receive 90 hours of training in basic fire fighting techniques, as well as instruction into the development of volunteer fire departments. A primary objective of the VPSO Program is to encourage the establishment of volunteer fire departments through concerted efforts by the Department of Public Safety, State Troopers, and VPSOs.

Once a VPSO is selected, he is assigned an "Oversight Trooper" (a commissioned Alaska State Trooper) to act as mentor and to provide technical assistance and on-the-job training. Oversight visits to the village are made by the trooper. During the visits the trooper provides on-the-job training in criminal investigation, fire safety, and other public safety areas. The Trooper meets with village leaders and the VPSO to discuss issues relating to the village's public safety needs and the VPSO's job performance.

Part of the conceptual design of the VPSO Program is to provide a long term career ladder for the rural, often native, individual seeking advancement in the public safety field. The Department of Public Safety provides advanced training to those qualified individuals recommended by their villages, the non-profit, and Oversight Trooper, thereby enhancing their chances for employment in municipal police and fire departments, or with the State of Alaska as a State Trooper, or Fish and Wildlife Trooper, state or local corrections officers, or in a government or private security position.

VPSO Job Description and Duties

The city manager, mayor and/or the village council in conjunction with the Oversight Trooper, decide what the VPSOs specific day to day duties will be. VPSO duties will often vary from village to village.

The following is a list of possible duties. It does not cover all public safety-related duties now being performed by VPSOs in the state but is a minimum guide of services the VPSO will provide.

1. Law Enforcement
 - a. Patrol on foot and enforce State laws and local ordinances.
 - b. Investigate misdemeanor crimes, traffic violations, and write reports.
 - c. Assist Troopers during felony investigation.
 - d. Transport prisoners

2. Fire Protection
 - a. Maintain fire equipment.
 - b. Conduct fire drills in schools.
 - c. Conduct fire department meetings.
 - d. Train volunteer firefighters in firefighting.
 - e. Conduct fire prevention surveys.

3. Search and Rescue
 - a. Organize a search and rescue team and act as a liaison for DPS in the community.
 - b. Train SAR team members.
 - c. Maintain a list of available SAR equipment and supplies on hand.
 - d. Direct SARs by coordination with the Alaska State Troopers.

4. General Public Safety Duties
 - a. Assist health aides in emergency situations.
 - b. Provide public safety information to schools and the public.
 - c. Provide dog control and vaccinate for rabies.
 - d. Water and snowmachine safety.

VPSOs WHO HAVE ADVANCED

* Perry Barr	. CSO, Trooper	VPSO/MPA Course
* Joe Masters	Trooper	
* Chris Masters	Sand Pt. / Unalaska PD	
John Terrell	Bristol Bay Borough PD	VPSO/MPA Course
Robert Seaslay	FWEO	VPSO/MPA Course
Tom Clark	Juneau Fire Department	VPSO/MPA Course
* Larry Dirks	Unalaska PD	VPSO/MPA Course
Steve Gomez	Maniilaq VPSO Coordinator	VPSO/MPA Course
Kennath Jewell	Kotzebue PD / Parole Officer	VPSO/MPA Course
* Howard Amos	AVCP VPSO Coordinator	
Ron Reynolds	FAA Aviation Security	
James Agner	Sand Pt. PD	
Ronald Avery	Aspen, Co. PD	
John Bilyau	Bethel PD	
Scott Eddy	Greens Creek Mine Medic	MPA
* James Galaktianoff	Constable	
* Calina James	Corrections Officer	
* Dennis Lincoln	Nome PD	
Paul Longpra	Bethel PD	
Kenneth Luce	Wrangell PD	
* Jerry Mackie	State Legislator	
Daniel Pasquariello	Dillingham PD	
* Elliott Reid	CSO	
* Wassillie Roland	Corrections Officer	
* William Roland	Corrections Officer	
* Walter Shane	St. Paul PD	
Kevin Short	Bethel PD / Cordova PD	
* Jon Trigg	Nome PD	
* Dean Westlake	Kotzebue PD	

* Alaska Native

VILLAGE PUBLIC SAFETY OFFICER TRAINING SYLLABUS

WEEK 1

<u>ADMINISTRATIVE, TESTING AND PHYSICAL EVALUATIONS</u>	3.0
<u>PHYSICAL LECTURE AND CLASS TIME</u>	<u>46.0</u>
<u>PATROL PROCEDURES</u>	5.0
<u>ROLE OF THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM</u>	2.0
<u>USE OF FORCE</u>	2.0
<u>PROBABLE CAUSE</u>	2.0
<u>CRIME PREVENTION</u>	8.0
<u>OFFICER SAFETY</u>	2.0
<u>ROLE OF POLICE</u>	2.0
<u>JUDICIAL PROCESS</u>	1.0
<u>POLICE ETHICS</u>	2.0
<u>ROLE OF THE COURT</u>	2.0
<u>ROLE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY</u>	2.0
<u>TESTING</u>	2.0
TOTAL	<u>91.0</u>

WEEK 2

<u>CRIMINAL CODE</u>	16.0
<u>REPORT WRITING</u>	15.0
<u>VPSO CONCEPT & HISTORY</u>	8.0
<u>TESTING</u>	2.0
TOTAL	<u>42.0</u>

WEEK 3

<u>CPR</u>	8.0
<u>EMERGENCY TRAUMA TRAINING</u>	32.0
<u>TESTING</u>	2.0
TOTAL	<u>42.0</u>

WEEK 4

<u>HAZARDOUS MATERIALS</u>	7.5
<u>SEARCH AND RESCUE</u>	10.0
<u>LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING</u>	12.0
<u>CORONERS PROCEDURES</u>	3.0
<u>COLD WATER SURVIVAL</u>	4.0
<u>TESTING</u>	2.0
TOTAL	<u>40.5</u>

Village Public Safety Officer Training Syllabus, Con't

WEEK 5

<u>CHILD SEXUAL ASSAULT</u>	2.0
<u>DOMESTIC VIOLENCE</u>	4.0
<u>ADVANCED SOBRIETY TECHNIQUES</u>	9.0
<u>INTERVIEW AND INTERROGATION</u>	3.0
<u>RULES OF EVIDENCE</u>	7.0
<u>VIOLENT CRIMES/VICTIM-WITNESS PROGRAM</u>	1.0
<u>ROLE OF THE PUBLIC DEFENDER</u>	2.0
<u>MIRANDA</u>	1.0
<u>LAWS OF ARREST</u>	1.0
<u>HOW TO HANDLE THE MENTALLY ILL</u>	3.0
<u>TESTING</u>	2.0
<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>38.0</u>

WEEK 6

<u>CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS</u>	6.5
<u>SEARCH WARRANTS/CRIMINAL COMPLAINTS</u>	4.0
<u>LATENT PRINTS</u>	4.0
<u>CRIME SCENE PRACTICAL</u>	8.0
<u>REPORT REVIEW</u>	1.0
<u>COURTROOM TESTIMONY /DEMEANOR</u>	2.0
<u>MOOT COURT</u>	4.0
<u>FINAL EXAM</u>	3.0
<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>33.5</u>

TOTAL OF ALL WEEKS 287

The VPSO program BRU has three components, the largest is for contracts with regional non-profit native corporations. The VPSO program was authorized more positions than it could consistently fill and funds which would otherwise have been used for authorized positions lapsed. Therefore, when budget reduction scenarios emerged during the mid 1980's, funding was reduced from contracts to account for the equivalent of "vacancy and turnover savings". However, aggressive program management combined with the ability to fill all positions would provide the Contractors with a dilemma. They would have the ability to fill all positions, but would be required to "force vacant" positions to stay within the authorized funding. This, of course, defeats the purpose of having authorized VPSO positions.

Estimate to reduce underfunding/vacancy factor: \$380,000

In some instances, not all contract funds allocated for VPSO positions could be spent due to high VPSO turnover or inability to recruit VPSOs. Funds have then been used for other VPSO Contractor administrative expenses by contract amendment. In state terminology that would be the same as transferring personal services to other line items.

One approach would be to more fully fund the contracts for direct VPSO costs (e.g. salary, benefits etc.) and disallow any contract amendment which would transfer those funds to other line items of expenditures. This, however, prevents the VPSO Contractor from utilizing available funds to cover legitimate needs.

VPSO Program MANAGERS
RESOLUTION - 93-01

At a meeting of the VPSO Program Managers regarding the future of the Village Public Safety Officer Program the managers representing 124 rural communities felt compelled to submit to the Alaska Legislature the following statement:

WHEREAS the Village Public Safety Officer Program over the past 12 years has shown itself to be a needed and effective program for providing basic public safety services such as law enforcement, emergency medical services, search and rescue and fire prevention and suppression in rural Alaska, and

WHEREAS this provides a safe environment that enhances the quality of life, is conducive to economic development, and through prevention and early intervention saves costs associated with public safety, and

WHEREAS up to 55% of the rural population utilized the services of the VPSO during the past year, and

WHEREAS the authority for the VPSO Program currently resides ONLY as a line item in the budget of the Department of Public Safety and is at risk without statutory protection,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the VPSO Program Managers representing 124 rural VPSO communities urge the Alaska State Legislature to adopt Senate Bill #15 and House Bill #93 to place authority for the VPSO Program into the Alaska Statutes.

Dated this 24th Day of March, 1993.

Joe King

Reserve Inman

George Cole

Howard J. Ames

Ship Richards

Robert...

Daisy Stevens

Charles T. Huchings

[Signature]



CENTRAL COUNCIL
Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska
ANDREW P. HOPE BUILDING
320 West Willoughby Avenue • Suite 300
Juneau, Alaska 99801-9983

March 24, 1993

Honorable Walter J. Hickel
Capitol Building
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Dear Governor Hickel:

During the general election in October, 1992 a survey about the VPSO Program was handed to 10% of voters as they exited voting booths in 10 Southeastern Communities. 50% of the surveys were returned.

The survey explored how the residents felt about the program as well as soliciting information about program direction, use and understanding.

55% of those responding used the services of the VPSO in the year preceding the survey. There is strong feelings that the program is needed in each and every community that has a VPSO. Law Enforcement and Emergency Medical Services rate the highest in importance on the minds of rural residents.

There is widespread concern regarding the illegal use of alcohol and drugs. Residents want to see more enforcement presence, not less. As one respondent stated, "When we don't have some form of law here, the teens and some adults go rampant with drugs and alcohol."

The following pages are copies of slides presented to the VPSO Program Managers outlining the results of this survey. Similar surveys conducted in other VPSO regions yielded similar results. Please call me if you have any questions about this.

Sincerely,

George B. Cole
VPSO Program Manager

cc: Members of the Alaska Legislature



Central Council VPSO Community Survey

- ◆ A. Why do a survey in the first place?
- ◆ B. Who should we ask?
- ◆ C. What questions should we ask?
- ◆ D. What were the results?
- ◆ E. What do the results mean?
- ◆ F. What should we do with the results?

A - Why do a survey?

- ◆ 1. Find out how we are doing
- ◆ 2. Determine problem areas
- ◆ 3. Establish statistical base
 - » Measure future progress
 - » Show work results
- ◆ 4. Help with resource allocation
 - » Training
 - » Positions
 - » Travel/Communications
 - » Equipment

B - Who to ask?

- ◆ a. Who would respond?
- ◆ b. Who would be listened to?
- ◆ c. Who would respond reasonably?

Voters

C - What to ask?

- ◆ 1. **Our concerns**
 - » Field personnel (VPSOs)
 - » Management interests

- ◆ 2. **Funding agency concerns**
 - » Meeting program goals
 - » Worth the money?

- ◆ 3. **Served population concerns**
 - » Needs assessment
 - » Gripes
 - » Accolades

C - 1 Our Concerns

- ◆ a. **From regional training**
 - They don't know VPSOs are peace officers
 - People don't know what roles the 3 entities play in the program

- ◆ b. **From Management**
 - How does the community feel
 - » About the program?
 - » About the personnel?
 - » About the service?
 - Is the service being used?
 - » Which are most important?
 - General comments

C - 2 Funding Agency Concerns

- ◆ a. **Training**
 - » Especially new hires

- ◆ b. **Entity roles defined**
 - » Local councils understand roles
 - » Non-profits explaining program

- ◆ c. **Program effectiveness**
 - » Do people know what the program provides
 - » Do people use the program

C - 3 Client Concerns

- ◆ a. **About the overall program**
 - » Local participation
 - » Trooper participation
 - » THCC participation

- ◆ b. **Competency of VPSO**
 - » Level of training
 - » Personal confidence

- ◆ c. **General comments**

C - Survey Breakdown

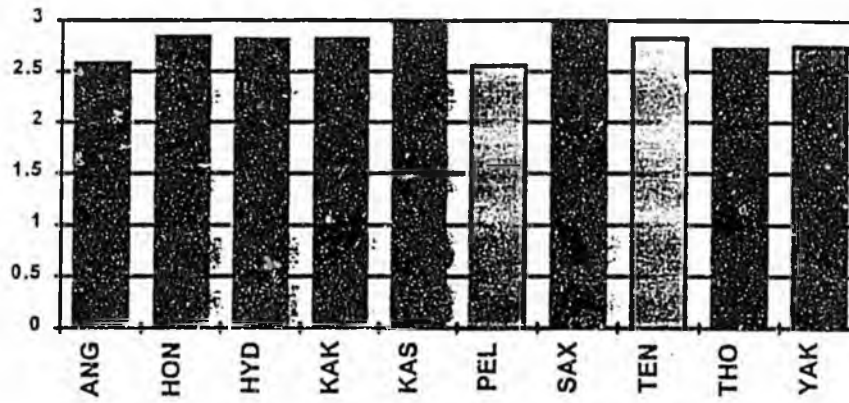
- ◆ 4 Sections
 - » General feelings about the program
 - » Rank services in order of importance
 - » T/F about roles, training, feelings, use
 - » Comments section

D - What were the results?

Community	Registered Voters	Surveys Sent	Surveys Returned	Percent Returned
Angoon	440	44	38	86%
Hoonah	439	44	19	43%
Hydaburg	270	27	16	59%
Kake	382	38	22	58%
Kasaan	105	11	11	100%
Pelican	173	17	9	53%
Saxman	778	78	10	13%
Tenakee	203	20	17	85%
Thorne Bay	412	42	29	69%
Yakutat	342	34	8	24%
Totals	3544	355	179	50%

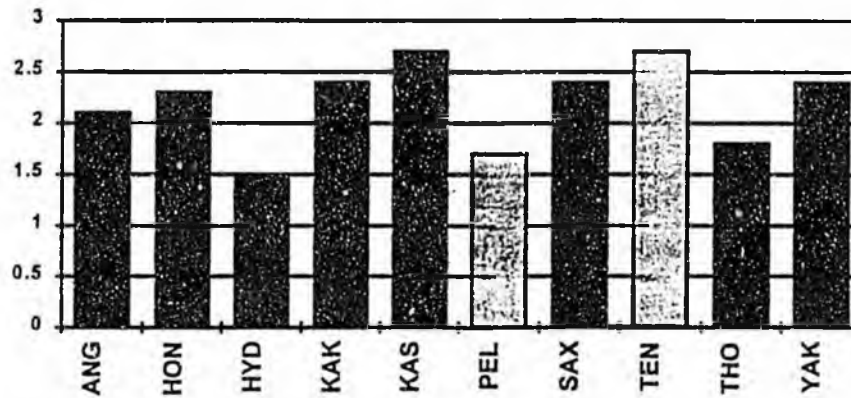
D.I.1 - The VPSO Program is needed in [your community]

0=strongly disagree, 1=somewhat disagree,
2=somewhat agree, 3=strongly agree



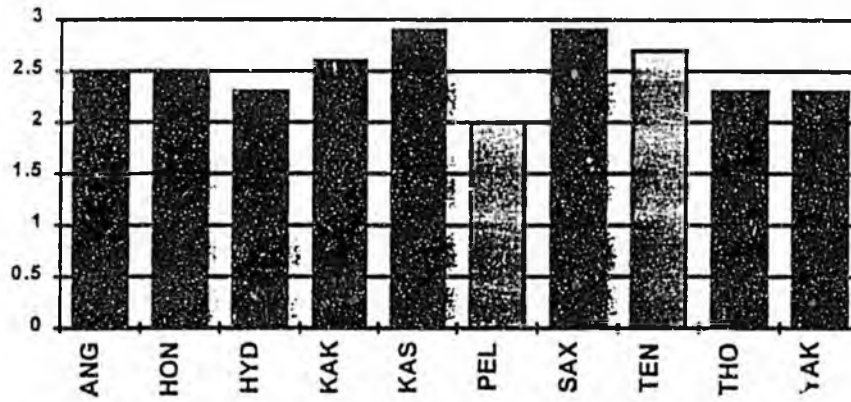
D.I.2 -The Program meets [your comm] public safety needs

0=strongly disagree, 1=somewhat disagree,
2=somewhat agree, 3=strongly agree



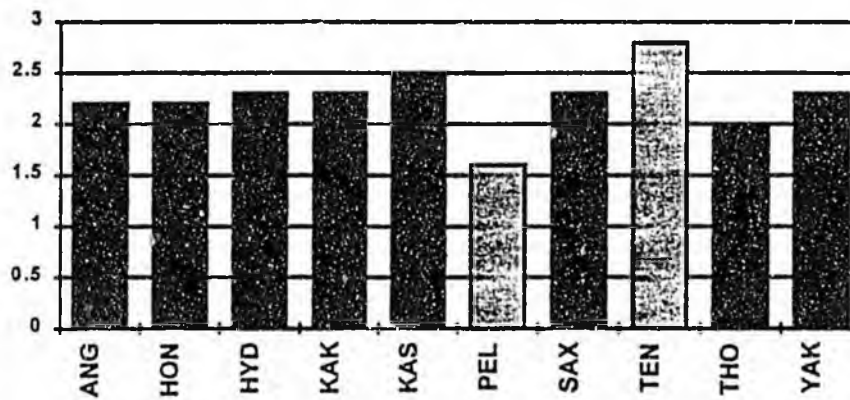
D.I.3 - You feel secure calling on your VPSO

0=strongly disagree, 1=somewhat disagree,
2=somewhat agree, 3=strongly agree



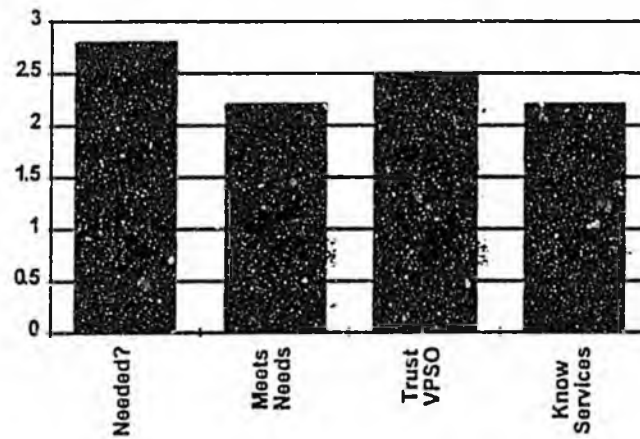
D.I.4 - I understand what services the VPSO offers

0=strongly disagree, 1=somewhat disagree,
2=somewhat agree, 3=strongly agree



D.I - Summary Totals

0=strongly disagree, 1=somewhat disagree,
2=somewhat agree, 3=strongly agree



D.II - PS Overall Ratings

◆ Rate 1,2,3 in order of importance with 1 being most important

- Fire Suppression and Prevention
- Law Enforcement
- Emergency Medical Services

◆ 179 surveys returned

- Lowest possible score (most important) = 179
- Highest possible score (least important) = 537

D.II - PS Services Rating

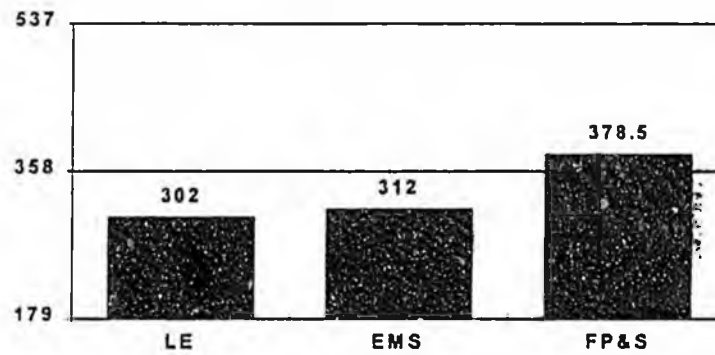
	<i>Fire Services</i>	<i>Law Enforcement</i>	<i>EMS</i>
Angoon	Second	Second	First
Hoonah	Third	Second	First
Hydaburg	Third	First	Second
Kake	Third	First	Second
Kasaan	Third	Second	First
Pelican	Third	Second	First
Saxman	Third	First	Second
Tenakee	Second	Third	First
Thorne Bay	Third	First	Second
Yakutat	Third	First	Second

D.II - PS Overall Ratings

- ◆ Rate 1,2,3 in order of importance with 1 being most important
 - Fire Suppression and Prevention
 - Law Enforcement
 - Emergency Medical Services
- ◆ 179 surveys returned
 - Lowest possible score (most important) = 179
 - Highest possible score (least important) = 537
- ◆ Actual overall ratings
 - Law Enforcement, 302
 - Emergency Medical, 312
 - Fire Services, 378.5

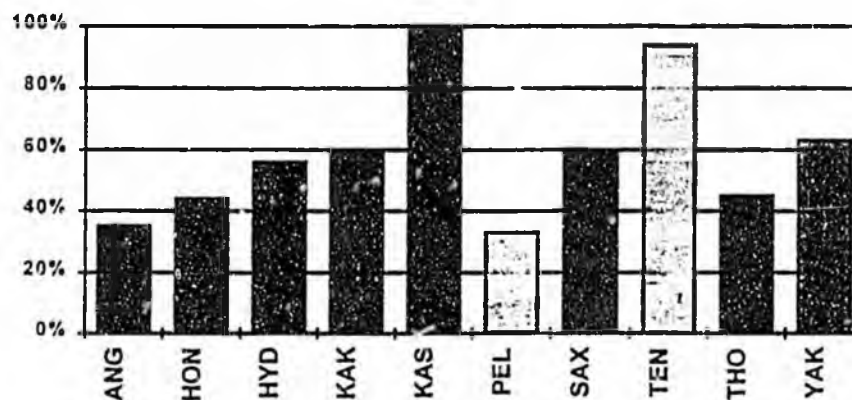
D.II - PS Overall Ratings

- Lower score = more important
- Range - 179 - 537



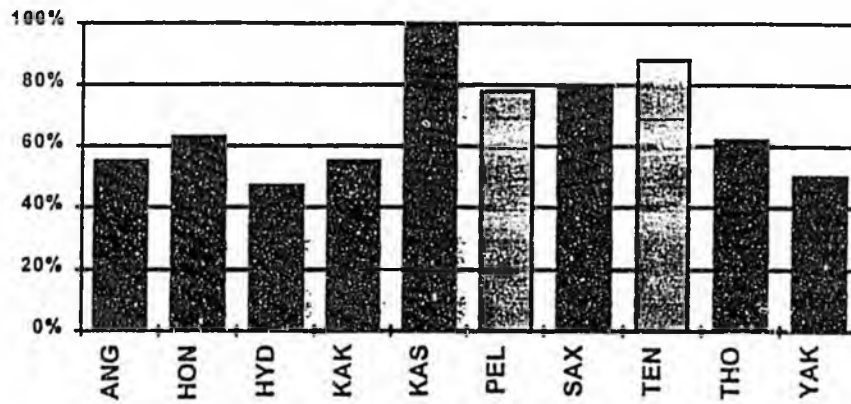
D.III - I used the VPSO services during the past year

- Percent who answered "True"



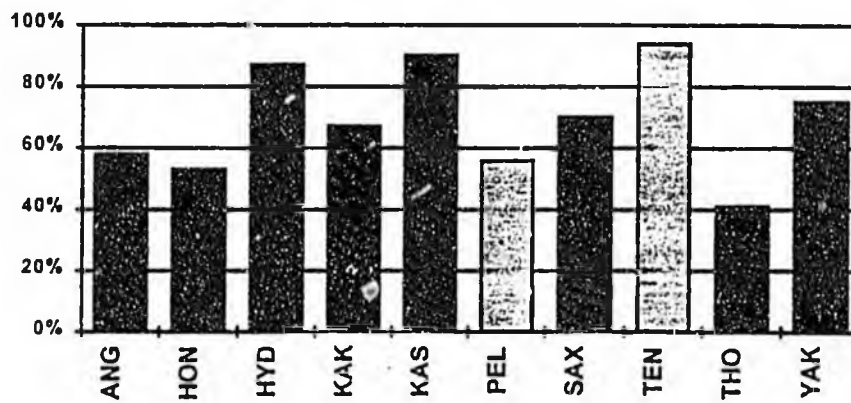
D.III - I understand my community's role in the program

- Percent who answered "True"

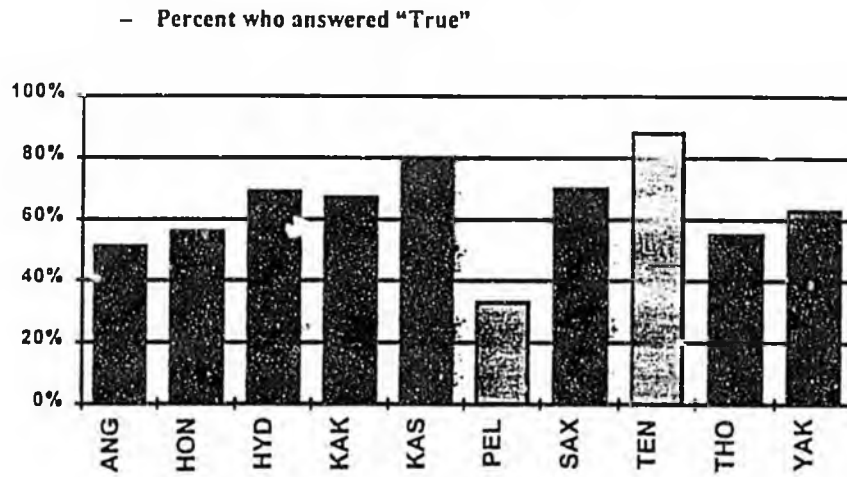


D.III - I understand AST's role in the program

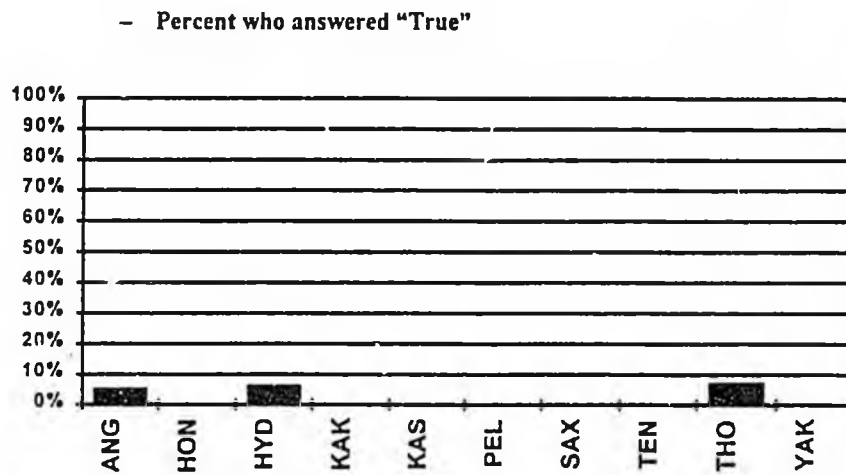
- Percent who answered "True"



D.III - I understand THCC's role

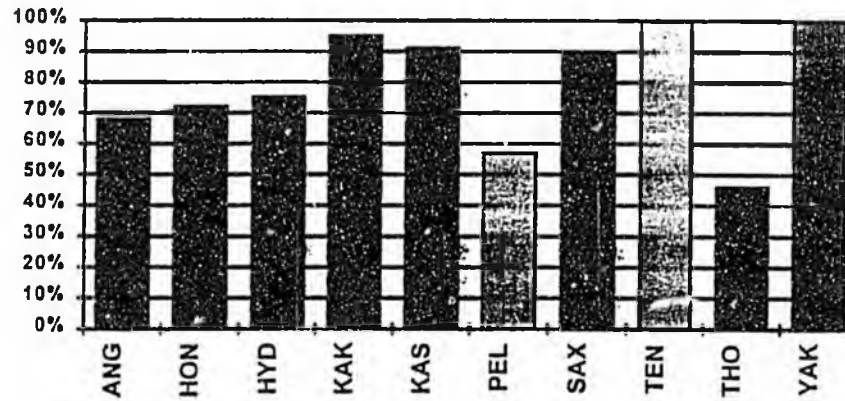


D.III - My community would be better off w/o VPSO



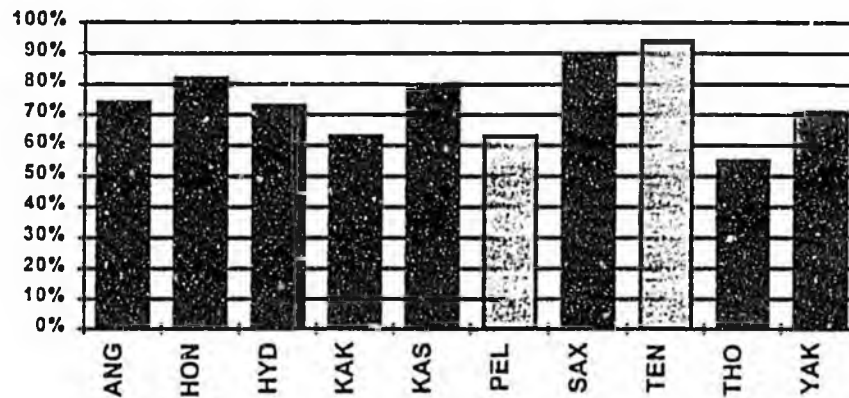
D.III - Our VPSO has the authority of a peace officer

- Percent who answered "True"



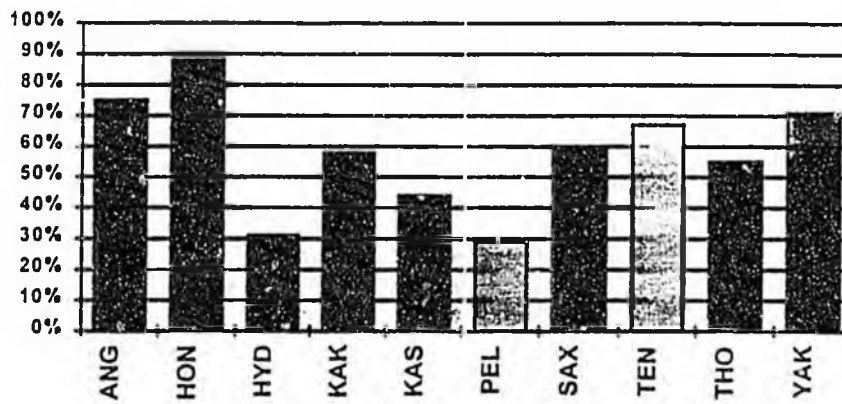
D.III - Train above the level of ETT

- Percent who answered "True"



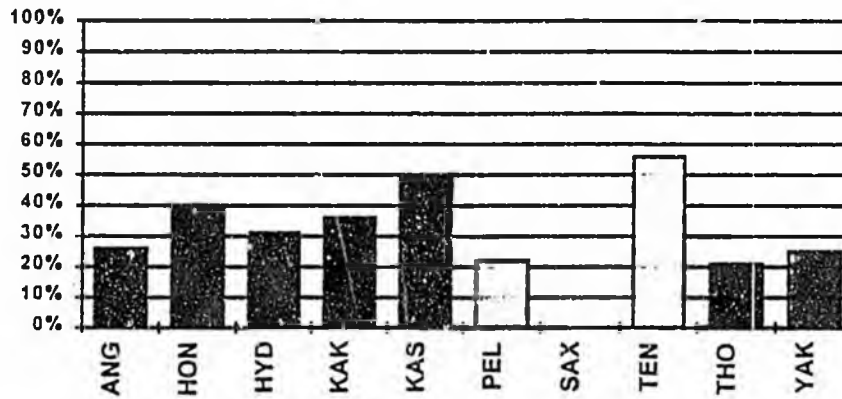
D.III - Our VPSO needs more fire training

- Percent who answered "True"

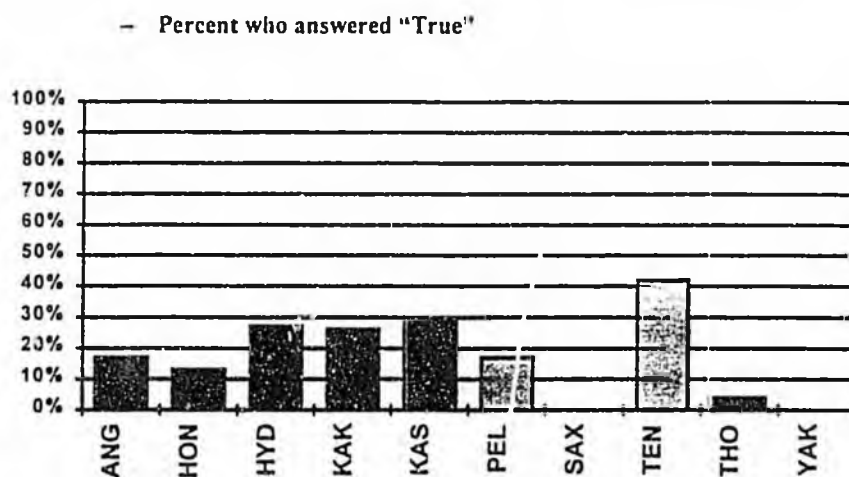


D.III - The Troopers visit often enough

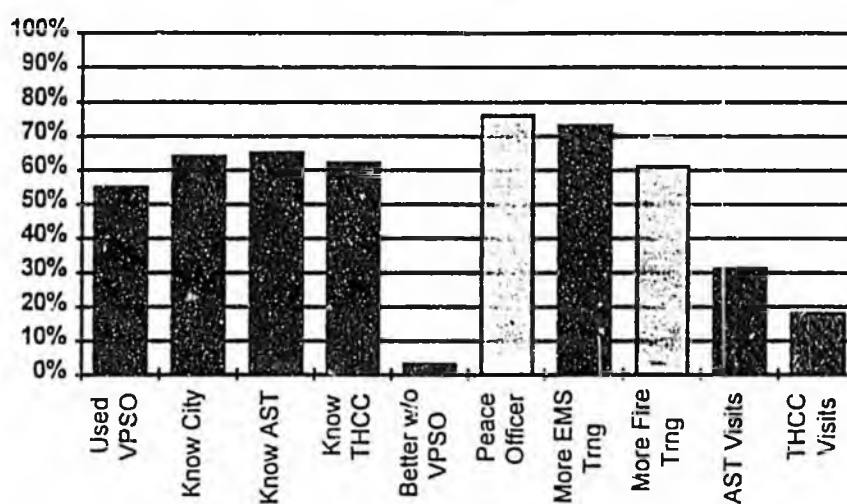
- Percent who answered "True"



D.III - THCC visits often enough



D.III - Overall Summary



D.IV - General Comments

- ◆ 76 persons commented
 - 9 were irrelevant
- ◆ 21% of comments were concerned about alcohol and illegal drug abuse
- ◆ 19% were concerned about improper local control
- ◆ 36% were concerned about law enforcement
- ◆ 9% concerned EMS
- ◆ 7% concerned fire services

D.IV General Comments

- ◆ Most persons who responded want to see more enforcement presence, not less
- ◆ The communities with the most negative comments are ones where we had poorly performing VPSOs
- ◆ The mostly positive comments come from communities with well performing VPSOs
- ◆ They want to see Troopers more often
- ◆ They want to see THCC Manager more often

E What does this all mean?

- ◆ **We are providing a needed and used service**
 - 55% who responded used the VPSO service in past year
- ◆ **Although LE rated #1, we need to keep high level of EMS training to meet community desire**
 - LE rated 302, EMS rated 312, Fire rated 378.5
- ◆ **We need to screen our VPSOs more carefully**
 - Positive comments in villages with well performing VPSOs
 - Negative comments in villages with poor performing VPSOs
- ◆ **We (THCC and AST) need to make quality visits that coincide with council meetings**
 - Some confusion about roles
 - Lots of comments about poor local control

F - What do we do with this info?

- ◆ **Do it again next year to see if there are changes**
- ◆ **Present it to the funding agency**
 - Hopefully that was done today!
- ◆ **Provide a summary to Legislature**
- ◆ **What do you think?**

HOUSE COMMITTEE REPORT

(7)

Date Referred: January 27, 1993

FURTHER REFERRALS:

Judiciary
Finance

Date of Committee Action: 3-25-93

The COMMUNITY AND REGIONAL AFFAIRS Committee considered:

HB 93

HOUSE BILL NO. 93

VILLAGE PUBLIC SAFETY OFFICERS PROGRAM

"An Act relating to the village public safety officers program."

RECOMMENDATIONS:

be replaced with C.S. For HB 93 (CRA) the same title a new title

have attached amendments(s)

do pass

do not pass

no recommendations

individual recommendations

additional referral to the _____ Committee

ADOPTS: _____ letter of Intent

ATTACHES NEW FISCAL NOTE(S): (Dept)

APPROVES PREVIOUS: (Dept/Date)

fiscal impact _____

fiscal note(s) _____

zero fiscal note Pub Safety

zero fiscal note(s) _____

SIGNING <u>DO PASS</u>	DP	OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS	DNP	NR	AM
<i>John Sanders</i>	✓				
<i>Carl B. White</i>	✓				
<i>John W. Bain</i>	✓				
<i>Ed Willis</i>	✓				
<i>Bill Williams</i>	✓				
<i>Paul [unclear]</i>	✓				
<i>Auley Olberg</i>	✓				

Auley Olberg
CHAIRMAN'S SIGNATURE



HOUSE COMMUNITY AND REGIONAL AFFAIRS

SUBJECT OF MEETING:

DATE: 3/25/93

PLACE: Rm. 124

HB 220
HB 71
HB 93
HB 198

NAME	REPRESENTING	BUSINESS/PERSONAL MAILING ADDRESS	ZIP	(H) PHONE	(W) PHONE	DO YOU WANT TO TESTIFY?	WHAT SUBJECT/ WHICH BILL?
Larry LaBelle	Rep Foster	State Capitol Juneau, AK	99801		465-3789	(Y) N	HB 71 - HB 93 - HB 198
Jay Frank	State Farm Allstate	431 N. Franklin St			6-5777	(Y) N	HB 34
John						Y N	
CHRIS GATES, DIR.	DEPT OF COMMERCE	DIV OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PO Box 110804			5 5467	(Y) N	HB 198
						Y N	
						Y N	
						Y N	
						Y N	
						Y N	
						Y N	
						Y N	