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# ALASKA STATE SENATE VPSO TASK FORCE

## SENATOR DONALD C. OLSON
CHAIR

EMAIL:
Senator_Donny_Olson@legis.state.ak.us

(907)465-3707
(907)465-4821, FAX

ALASKA
STATE CAPITOL
ROOM 514
JUNEAU, ALASKA
99801-1182

**MEMBERS**: SENATOR FRENCH, SENATOR DYSON, COMMISSIONER MONEGAN, ATTORNEY GENERAL COLBERG, LORETTA BULLARD, MYRON NANENG

January 2, 2008

To VPSO Task Force Members:

The Senate VPSO Task Force meeting scheduled for this Friday, January 4, is cancelled and rescheduled for Friday, January 18, in Juneau, Beltz room.

Testimony is by invitation only. It will not be teleconferenced.

If you have any questions, please contact my staff, Denise Liccioli, at 465-3707.

Sincerely,

Senator Donald C. Olson

CC: Senator Lyda Green
Senate Secretary
Jeff Turner, Majority Press Office
Russ Kelly, Legislative Liaison, Office of the Governor
Jodi Jacques, Anchorage LIO Staff
Peg Warren, Juneau LIO Staff

# ALASKA STATE SENATE VPSO TASK FORCE


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December 5, 2007

To VPSO Task Force Members:

The Senate VPSO Task Force will hold another meeting to discuss and decide on the findings and recommendations for their report to the Legislature (due in February), as follows:

Friday, January 4, 2008, 8:00 am to 4:00 pm – Anchorage, Room 220 of the LIO

Testimony is by invitation only. It will not be teleconferenced.

If you have any questions, please contact my staff, Denise Liccioli, at 465-3707.

Sincerely,

Denise Liccioli for Senator Olson

Senator Donald C. Olson

CC: Senator Lyda Green
Senate Secretary
Jeff Turner, Majority Press Office
Russ Kelly, Legislative Liaison, Office of the Governor
Jodi Jacques, Anchorage LIO Staff

# ALASKA STATE SENATE VPSO TASK FORCE


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**MEMBERS**: SENATOR FRENCH, SENATOR DYSON, COMMISSIONER MONEGAN, ATTORNEY GENERAL COLBERG, LORETTA BULLARD, MYRON NANENG

September 7, 2007

To Distribution List:

This is to revise the Senate VPSO Task Force public meetings schedule in order to add teleconferencing at some of the locations; and to change the due date for any written testimony that is submitted. If this symbol "+" is shown below, then that meeting will be teleconferenced. Otherwise, the schedule is the same as previously distributed.

+ Tuesday, September 25, 3:15-5:15 pm - **Nome** - Rec Center

Wednesday, September 26, 9:30-11:30 am - **Savoonga** - City Hall, downstairs

Wednesday, September 26, 1:30-3:30 pm - **Gambell** - City Hall, downstairs

+ Thursday, October 4, 3:00-5:00 pm - **Bethel** - Cultural Center

Friday, October 5, 9:30-11:30 am - **Mountain Village** - Community Hall

Friday, October 5, 1:30-3:30 pm - **Emmonak** - City Complex

+ Monday, November 5, 9:00-11:00 am – **Kodiak** - Kodiak Inn

Monday, November 5, after the public meeting, the Task Force will also attend the VPSO Training being held in Kodiak.

If a person wishes to testify but cannot make it to one of the meetings, written testimony will be accepted by the Task Force. Written testimony must include the name and mailing address of the person testifying. It is preferable to use email for sending the testimony; however, it can also be sent via US mail. In either case, it is important to have the written testimony received by November 2. The email and USPO mailing addresses to use are shown above.

If you have any questions, please contact my staff, Denise Liccioli, at 465-3707.

Sincerely,

Senator Donald Olson by DL

Senator Donald C. Olson

CC: Senator Lyda Green
Senate Secretary
Jeff Turner, Majority Press Office
Christopher Clark, Acting Legislative Liaison, Office of the Governor

Distribution List:

Task Force Members

Mayors of Nome, Bethel, Savoonga, Gambell, Emmonak, Mountain Village, City of Kodiak, Kodiak Island Borough

Presidents of Gambell IRA Council, Savoonga IRA Council, Orutsaramiut Native Council, Emmonak Tribal Council, and Asa'carsarmiut Tribal Council

Aleutian Pribilof Island Association
Association of Village Council Presidents
Bristol Bay Native Association
Kodiak Area Native Association
Kawerak, Inc.
Tanana Chiefs Conference
Tlingit-Haida Central Council
Arctic Sounder
Nome Nugget
Delta Discovery
Tundra Drums
Kodiak Daily Mirror
Val Maxwell, VPSO Coordinator, KANA

# VPSO Task Force Public Meetings Agenda

In May 2007, the Senate passed SR7, "A resolution creating and relating to the Senate VPSO Task Force". This resolution created a Task Force to find ways to strengthen and improve public safety in rural Alaska by identifying problems with the Village Public Safety Officer (VPSO) program, and ways those problems might be addressed.

Senator Donald C. Olson was appointed Chair of the Task Force. Other members are Senator Hollis French, Senator Fred Dyson, Commissioner Walt Monegan, Attorney General Talis Colberg, Loretta Bullard (President, Kawerak, Inc), and Myron Naneng (President, AVCP).

The agenda for the public meetings to be held by the Task Force follows. If you wish to testify but cannot make it to the meeting, you can submit written testimony to the Task Force. If you do so, your name and address must be included with your testimony. It is preferable to use email (Senator_Donny_Olson@legis.state.ak.us) for sending your testimony; however, you can also send it via US mail to Senator Donald Olson, State Capitol Room 514, Juneau, AK 99801. In either case, it is important to have your written testimony received by November 2.

- Opening remarks – Senator Olson
  - Purpose of the Task Force
  - What we hope to accomplish
  - Process we are using
- Overview of the current VPSO program – Commissioner Monegan
  - Problems we're aware of, such as recruitment and retention, salary, etc.
  - Things that have already been tried, or are in the works
  - Introduction of tiered approach to public safety officers throughout Alaska
- Public input and discussion – please:
  - State your name for the record
  - State the problem or concern you have or have noticed, and
  - Concentrate on your recommendation and ideas for restructuring and improvements that would make the program effective.
- Closing – Senator Olson and other members of the Task Force

## Denise Liccioli

**From:** Denise Liccioli
**Sent:** Friday, August 10, 2007 3:43 PM
**To:** Loretta Bullard; Myron P. Naneng; Sen. Donny Olson; Sen. Hollis French; Sen. Fred Dyson ; Walt Monegan; Talis J Colberg
**Cc:** Alvin Jimmie ; Cindy Smith ; Allison Biastock ; Cathy Hoffman; Gina Appolloni ; Lucky Shultz; Lauren Rice; Svobodny, Richard (LAW); Glick, John; Valent Maxwell
**Subject:** Non-public meetings

Good afternoon everyone,

Yesterday I sent out the memo regarding the public meetings so I thought I should remind everyone that in addition to those public meetings, we will meet with the VPSOs in Kodiak on 11/5 and also meet in Anchorage on 11/19 and 11/20 to wrap everything up and generate the recommendations and report.

I also wanted to share some travel information since I will be making the arrangements for Senator Olson, Loretta Bullard and Myron Naneng; but the rest of you will have your staff make the arrangements. From the rest of this email, this is really information intended to be helpful for those who will be making the travel arrangements for you.

Nome - intend to fly into Nome out of Anchorage on flight 152 at 9:26 AM on 9/25; returning to Anchorage from Nome on flight 153 at 10:09 PM on 9/26. Staying at the Aurora Inn, 800-354-4606, on 9/25. I believe we will need to taxi to and from airport and hotel, and the charter. We will charter to Savoonga and Gambell on Hageland. As I understand it, the meeting places in both locations are a short walk from where we will land when we come in on the charter.

Bethel - intend to fly into Bethel out of Anchorage on flight 43 at 12:00 PM on 10/4; returning to Anchorage from Bethel on flight 46 at 8:36 PM on 10/5. Staying at Bentley's Porter House Bed & Breakfast, 543-3552, on 10/4. I believe we will need to taxi to and from airport and hotel, and the charter. We will charter to Emmonak and Mountain Village on Grant Air. I am still working on how we will get from the charter to the meeting place in Emmonak; but in Mountain Village, they will send a shuttle and it will cost $5 per person (each way, I assume).

Kodiak - You could fly in the day before and stay the night, or you could fly into Kodiak in the morning. If you fly in to Kodiak in the morning, the flight leaves Anchorage at 6 AM and it is not a jet. I have made reservations for those for whom I am responsible to come in the night before on 11/4 and stay at the Kodiak Inn, 800-563-4254, since that is where the public meeting will be in the morning. We will be done in time to make the afternoon jet out of Kodiak on 11/5, flight #33 leaves at 4:58 pm. The Kodiak Inn provides a courtesy shuttle from the airport to the hotel.

The meeting with the VPSOs is being coordinated with Val Maxwell. He is going to arrange transportation for all of us from the Kodiak Inn to the Coast Guard Facility where the training will be held. We will probably want to have lunch before the training, but again, Val is still working out the details and we may be able to lunch at the training. (I'll let you know the details later when they have been finalized and it is closer.) He will also arrange shuttles to take all of us to the airport.

Anchorage - those coming from out of town will fly in the night before on 11/18 so that we can meet essentially all day Monday and Tuesday if needed, leaving Anchorage after work on Tuesday 11/20. Our meeting place is at the LIO, room 220, for 11/19 and 11/20. I'm assuming that two days will be enough, but please speak up if anyone thinks it will take longer; if it takes less, no harm done.

Let me know if you have any other questions and I hope this is helpful information for the travel arrangers!

~Denise
x3707

# TESTIMONY

**Bristol Bay Native Association**

**MEMORANDUM**
**Village Public Safety Officer Program**
**Carla Akelkok, Program Manager**
**PO BOX 310**
**Dillingham, AK 99576**
**1800-478-5257, (907) 842-5257, (907) 842-5932-FAX, cakelkok@bbna.com**

**TO:** VPSO Task Force Committee
**FROM:** Carla Akelkok, VPSO Program Manager
**DATE:** 01/30/08
**SUBJECT:** VPSO List of Concerns for BBNA Region

VPSO Task Force Committee

Bristol Bay region is made up of a wide area that includes surrounding lakes, streams, rivers and bays depending on the location of the VPSO Post. Southwest Alaska weather conditions range from ambient temperatures of 40 degrees to the high 70 degrees in the summer; in the winter the temperatures can range from 30 degrees to minus 30 degrees, Fahrenheit. Bristol Bay boasts of the largest Alaska Salmon runs returning to spawning streams. Salmon harvest activities include commercial, sports and the subsistence fisheries The VPSO's work in an area that includes the Wood Tikchik State Park, 3 federal preserves and 2 national park systems, and the nearest community is often impacted by a high increase of tourism/visitor activity during the summer season.

For the most part the resident's practice of a Subsistence Lifestyle where the majority of the Bristol Bay communities rely on gathering or harvesting wild/organic food products from berries, birds, fish, moose, caribou, bears, eggs, etc. This activity has occurred over many generations and expresses the pride in one's ability to provide food and other necessary resources for their family over the eons.

Allowing input from the VPSO's and from a program administration perspective, BBNA submits the following comments by topic to the VPSO Task Force:

**Better Pay, Retirement and Benefits are needed to keep VPSO's:** The cost of living is very high in the rural villages as compared to the urban areas. A fair Retirement and Health Benefits package may attract individuals to apply for a VPSO position. Currently, a VPSO employed for 8+ years has accrued minimal retirement benefits.

**Vehicle's Needed:** VPSO's work often takes them out into the weather/elements where temperatures and high winds from wind chill temperatures from 20 degrees to -40 degrees below zero Fahrenheit, and can also experience 25-50+ knot winds during the winter months. Adequate appropriate transportation such as a covered vehicle would benefit public safety expectation at the local level. Use of the vehicle would be for normal patrol schedules, and to transport

**Vehicle's (cont'd)**

perpetrators to or from the holding cells to the airport safely. Aside from the VPSO's personal safety, there is a liability issue if a prisoner is resistant to arrest and combative, where a required/mandatory arrest is 2 to 5 miles from the holding cells.

NOTE: BBNA recently requested 4 vehicles thru DPS and were denied as Bristol Bay communities are not on the (south-central Alaska) road system.

Also, high fuel costs are a big concern for the oversight council, required to provide fuel for patrols and transports of prisoners. As well as the requirement to provide work space and holding cell facilities to house a VPSO in their community. The grant does not allow for space rent to the community. That rental income might offset a portion of the facility operating costs for the partnering community.

**Public Safety Building and Small Equipment:** At some sites the whole public safety building renovated, including the roof, siding, windows. Inside renovations include office space; adequate holding cells and other necessary items such as mattresses/bed and adequate bedding; bathrooms plumbing upgrades; adequate heating system; electrical work and lighting fixtures; a heated garages to store the vehicles; including the emergency preparedness equipment such as Fire Trucks. Small equipment from Office to Patrol needs are listed: VHF Radios, updated Laptops, Search and Rescue Supplies such as GPS, Radios, Satellite Phone, Flashlights, etc. Then factoring in extra backup as small equipment can break. Officers need adequate Desks, Internet/Computer Access for reporting Dispatch Cards, Fax/Copier/ Scanner's, etc. Some VPSO's need new Evidence Storage Rooms; also necessary to include a room for the AST that come to assist for more than a day and having to stay in the community overnight. Washer and dryer are necessary to keep the jail facility items clean for use for the next prisoner. Some VPSO's have different equipment needs in their communities from a Snow machine, 4x4 Wheeler, 6x6 Wheeler, Side by Side ATV, Skiff w/outboard and Trailer.

One VPSO in the Bristol Bay region, with the support of the community, successfully applied for a federal COPS grant for a snow machine; as there were no funds available through DPS.

**Housing Needs for a VPSO Family:** Adequate housing to accommodate VPSO and their family. An additional consideration would include assistance for heating fuel and electricity due to high costs of living in rural areas of the state.

**Other Housing for a VPSO:** We were also requested to provide approximate numbers of communities that would need housing for a possible VPSO position. Most VPSO's are already reside in their communities. However, if an applicant is hired from outside the community or region then there will be the need for adequate housing for the VPSO and his family. The current state grant contract lists up to 22 sites for the Bristol Bay region; but only funded up to 11 positions. We estimate that number to be about ½ that would need housing if there is an increase in positions totaling approximately up to 11 homes needed for our region.

**Additional VPSO Needed:** One VPSO covers his community that includes a Public State Park and the numerous lodges operating within the park system. In the summer the job includes patrolling on the lake and including its tributaries, or being called out for Search and Rescue. During the boating season the activity on the lake triples from spring breakup thru the fall season, late September, then the VPSO's busy schedule often prevents adequate coverage for the small community that encompasses both North and South Shores of the lake. The community has requested an additional VPSO position for their village for 2 years in a row. DPS has not provided a response to date of the status of this request. This is the busiest VPSO position in the Bristol Bay region with the most dispatch cards reported thru AST.

**State or Non-Profit Employees Continuation of Subsistence Leave:** VPSO's do use approved leave during subsistence seasons. Under the VPSO Grant Guidelines BBNA VPSO's are offered up to 90 days of Subsistence Leave Policy each year. BBNA would encourage that this option continue should the VPSO Program be moved to the State.

**Continuous Respect from Oversight Council, AST and BBNA:** VPSO's need the respect and support from their Oversight Council, AST and their employer. On the ground and at the fore-front the VPSO's are the resident's first contact when there are calls for public safety service. The relationship between all partnering entities must be visible and transparent, and provide fair support and oversight for the VPSO's.

**Communication between Oversight AST and VPSO:** VPSO's are required to provide Case Reports to DPS for documentation to the legislature for continuation funds to support the VPSO Programs for improvements and expansion of the program statewide.

**Leave of Absence from VPSO duties whether personal or job related:** VPSO's should be able to take a leave of absence from their VPSO duties with coverage from the Oversight AST for the time requested by employer giving notification to their Oversight AST and Council approval. It may range from personal leave to relief from duties due to a death/drowning investigation to receive counseling as needed.

I am available to respond to any questions, I can be reached at (907) 842-5257.

Cc: file

Village Public Safety Officer Program
Sgt. Clinton O'Malley
VPSO Thorne Bay

The VPSO program was created to give the rural villages an individual who has been trained in a number of different fields. Through the years the program has matured into a jack of all trades concept, where the VPSO assumes the roll as Law Enforcement Officer, Firefighter, Fire Chief, Medic Responder, Search and Rescue Coordinator, Probation/Parole supervision assistance, Municipal Code enforcement, Animal Control and vaccinator, DARE officer, School Resource Officer duties, Jail guard, process server, prisoner transport to name the major duties of the VPSO.

Due to the current financial situation in the rural areas of Alaska, many communities are turning to the VPSO program for a law enforcement officer. The communities cannot afford full time or part-time officers and have to choose between services such as clean water and trying to maintain aging equipment or hiring a law enforcement officer. Many times the "Police Department" is eliminated from the budget to save money, and the citizens are left with the delayed response time of the Alaska State Trooper's as they respond from a Hub community.

Many of the services in the rural communities are funded by state or federal agencies. Medical, water and sewer, school's, roads, and such are funded annually by state or federal programs, except for law enforcement. Communities cannot meet the qualifications for government COPS grants, or meet the requirements for the grants to qualify for continued funding.

That's where the VPSO program comes in to fill the roll of a community based law enforcement officer. These towns see the VPSO program as a godsend, and are looking to the VPSO program for a law enforcement officer. The local governments cannot afford even a part time law enforcement officer and see the need for someone to call in an emergency, who can respond within minutes, not hours, and who is there for the community, not for the region.

Because of the ongoing lack of funding in rural towns, there are many communities in the state that are new to the VPSO Program as funding for local law enforcement has become non existent. With the decrease in income for the local governments the number of communities that are going to be applying for a VPSO position are only going to increase. With the increased demand for village based law enforcement the state has not increased funding for the VPSO program but has cut the program by 70 positions in the last five years. This seems contradictory to the statements to the media by Alaskan politicians that they support rural law enforcement.

Rural Alaska is in desperate need for law enforcement and the VPSO program is geared for these small communities. The VPSO program was created specifically for rural Alaska and that's why rural Alaska needs this program.

With the VPSO program the State of Alaska gets officers who are trained by the Department of Public Safety, and who follow almost to the letter the same procedures as the Alaska State Troopers. These officers live and work in rural communities for much

less then the cost of a trooper. This is a one time per year grant by the state with no further costs. No retirement, medical, dental, vision, support staff (except for two funded by the grant, an accounting tech I, and a Sergeant PS). Equipment, and the cost to maintain and run the equipment. Office space and the costs associated with it. Cost of living allocation, state housing, and the myriad of costs associated with the Department of Public Safety. These are provided by the Non-Profits and the facilities by the Local Governments.

This does not include the savings to the State because of the decrease in crime when a VPSO becomes established in a community. That officer's presence within the community decreases the amount of criminal behavior and with that decrease in crime, comes the decrease in the costs of services to the victims and offenders. Medical services, correctional services (adult and juvenile), treatment services, trooper call outs, OCS, Probation/Parole, and all the other services, all funded by the state.

The cost per officer, when compared with the other law enforcement agencies in the State of Alaska show that the State gets a bargain with the VPSO program. If there was a State employee whose duties were the same as a VPSO, how much would that position cost per officer?

There are issues with the program that the state can address here and now. Many of the VPSO's still qualify for welfare. This is even true for me and my family. Without my wife working at the school and a monthly stipend from the local government I would qualify for food stamps and Medicaid. This should not be the case and this needs to be addressed. An increase in the starting salary and an increase across the board will solve this shameful aspect of the program. Also with the increase in pay the caliber of applicants will improve and the turnover rates will become steady or even decrease. The continued increases in salary to offset the increasing costs of living in rural Alaska, where all the VPSO's are stationed

Due to the current and future state of funding in the rural communities, the VPSO program's role in rural law enforcement is increasing. The Department of Public Safety has in the past few years, taken steps to streamline the VPSO program. This has been done by increasing the training time from nine weeks to ten weeks to include new training requirements, and the consolidation of non profits that administer the VPSO program.

What many people who live in Fairbanks, and the Anchorage areas don't understand is that crime in rural Alaska affects all of Alaska. If someone in a village gets assaulted or ran over because they know that there is no one to deter them, and the victim needs medical attention, where do they go if they need serious help? Anchorage or Fairbanks hospitals is where they will end up at and emergency rooms costs are astronomical. If the presence of a VPSO stops an assault at the Misdemeanor level and the person spends 30-60 days in jail as opposed to no one responding and the assault turns into a felony assault or Murder and the person spending 5 years to life in jail. Which costs the state more, the

answer is obvious. Less time in jail, troopers don't have to fly out, and no felony supervision costs. That alone will save the State of Alaska tens of millions of dollars.

That was just for the offender. There are savings with the victim also. The costs associated with the prosecution for a felony verses a misdemeanor, the costs of the crime lab, medical examiner, and children's services to name a few.

My recommendations for the VPSO Program are based on my experiences working in rural communities and serving the program for 10 years.

Due to the cost of living in rural Alaska at an all time high and with the starting wage being so low it is almost impossible to attract applicants.

1. Raise the starting salary to $20.00/hour.(even with this increase, many new hires will still qualify for welfare)
2. Raise the starting salary by $1.00/hour for the next five years.
3. Raise the pay by $5.00/hour.(offset the cost of living)
4. Increase the number of positions through out the State by 20 positions per year for three years.

Thank you for your support for the VPSO Program and your continued support in the future.

Sgt. Clinton O'Malley
VPSO Program
P.O. Box 19110
Thorne Bay AK 99919
Phone-907 828-3905
Fax-907 828-3909
Cell 907 254-8499
vpsoomalley@yahoo.com

## Denise Liccioli

**From:** Eric-Wilma Osborne [chagaiuk@gci.net]
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 06, 2007 11:40 AM
**To:** Sen. Donny Olson
**Subject:** please fwd. to VPSO Taskforce

The VPSO program is a private police force that covers the majority of the land mass of Alaska. Something without parallel in this or any other democratic nation. Although the troopers provide training and liasons with the program; VPSO's are corporate employees, with a supervisor who as likely as not started his or her job with no law enforcement, or legal background.

The State can not hire or fire a VPSO. In the worst instances, they can arrest them. But short of that, expressing a negative legal opinion about a VPSO by a Trooper leaves them open for a defamation suit.

State troopers tend to be rotated every few years and much of what they've learned goes with them. If a VPSO is under suspicion, all they have to do is wait out a change.

In living in a village in Western Alaska I witnessed a wide open drug trade, and physical reckless injury to one of my children. The response of the VPSO in that community always was influenced by the relationship he had established over decades with the dealer or the reckless operator,not necessariiy the law.

In going directly to the Troopers to attempt resolutions of these issues I detected a sense of frustration , similar to what I experienced, in varying degrees.

I had no honest response from the program's corporate management within the nonprofit. Any public action or admission that would reflect badly on their management, and adversely effect future funding or continued management, were buried with beaurocratic finesse.

As a result I feel a deep skepticism of the program as currently constituted. But there are several ways it could be improved.

1.Direct supervision of a regions VPSO's, with the right to hire and fire, by the State Troopers.

2.Any corporate supervisory personnel be required by statute to have several years law enforcement , a degree in criminology, or equivalent legal experience.

3.Have the boundary of the VPSO program in various areas of the State correspond to the Trooper contingents districts; ie. A,B C etc. This would help maintain a continuity in oversight of the program as troopers are transferred within their area.

4.Recruit returning veterans to become VPSOs. Veterans have useful training,institutional integrity, demonstrated courage,and commitment to public service.Alaska Natives have a great history of service to their country: why not continue it here?

5. Where possible recruit State Troopers from young competent VPSO's.

6.That the Trooper overseeing VPSO's in an area spend substantial time in its villages gaining a greater knowledge of their region and those they supervise.

7.Make VPSO's employees of the State. It would allow oversight of the program by competent professionals. It would also legitimize and ensure the continuity of the program.

Sincerely, Eric Osborne

## Denise Liccioli

**From:** Eric Osborne [chagaiuk@yahoo.com]
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 07, 2007 11:27 AM
**To:** Sen. Donny Olson
**Subject:** please note

Thanks.Please mention to Senator Olson,that as of last spring, Ed Titus is the State Troopers point of contact in White Mountain during Dan's frequent absences. As they say, Ed's reputation preceeds him.
EO
--- "Sen. Donny Olson"
<Senator_Donny_Olson@legis.state.ak.us> wrote:

> Got it!
>
> -----Original Message-----
> From: Eric Osborne [mailto:chagaiuk@yahoo.com]
> Sent: Wednesday, November 07, 2007 8:35 AM
> To: Sen. Donny Olson
> Subject: Fwd: please fwd. to VPSO Taskforce
>
> Note: forwarded message attached.
> Hopefully Jt'll get through this time Denise. EO
>
> _____
> Do You Yahoo!?
> Tired of spam? Yahoo! Mail has the best spam protection around
> http://mail.yahoo.com
>

_____
Do You Yahoo!?
Tired of spam? Yahoo! Mail has the best spam protection around http://mail.yahoo.com

EMMONAK CORPORATION
LOWER YUKON RIVER
P.O. BOX 49
EMMONAK ALASKA 99581
PHONE: 907-949-1129 FAX: 907-949-1412
EMAIL: EMMONAK@UNICOM-ALASKA.COM

October 17, 2007

Senator Donald Olson
State Capitol Room 514
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Re: Rural Alaska public Safety Officers

Dear Senator Olson:

Let me introduce myself, Paul Crane, Corporate Manager for Emmonak Corporation. Thank you for the opportunity to express our concerns with you upon your arrival to Emmonak, Alaska with the support you brought with you. We do hope your visit here was a meaningful visit and that they gained insight with our Public Safety issues that face our citizens across Rural Alaska.

We like the rest of the nation, honor those in uniform. For this reason we would like our Village Public Officers established into a uniformed standards that represent our honor and the respect that we have for them in Rural Alaska.

Last but not least, our public safety officers bring respect and honor to the citizens and communities they serve on behalf of the Great State of Alaska; a true spirit of Alaska's Alaskan Heritage Foundation.

On behalf of the board of directors of Emmonak Corporation, we look to your support in our own endeavor to provide remedies for our social ills for the honor that we want to pass on to our youth of Emmonak Alaska.

Sincerely,

Paul I. Crane
Corporate Manager

Cc: file, City of Emmonak, Emmonak Police Department

**LIO Nome**

**From:** Sen. Donny Olson
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 25, 2007 11:28 AM
**To:** Angelique Horton
**Subject:** FW: VPSO problems

*Angelique:*

*Please print the following email RE: VPSO issues in Buckland for Senator Olson and Denise. Thanks, Ginny Austerman*

---

**From:** Buckland City Council [mailto:city_of_buckland@yahoo.com]
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 25, 2007 10:50 AM
**To:** Sen. Donny Olson
**Subject:** VPSO problems

Good Morning Senator Olson;

The City of Buckland has been having communication problems with KANA, the organization that handles our region's vpso program.

We feel that this organization is too far from our region to properly manage the VPSO positions for the NANA region.

We have an applicant who is qualified and more than willing to fill the position here in Buckland. The KANA coordinator told the applicant to negociate what the Village of Buckland has to offer, an he feel that its the coordinator who needs to do this.

sincerely;
Darlene B. Hadley
City Administrator

---

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**Denise Liccioli**

**From:** Linae Sanger [Linae_Sanger@lksd.org]
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 18, 2007 11:45 AM
**To:** Sen. Donny Olson
**Subject:** VPSO

My superintendent suggested I email you with my concerns about what has happened and is happening in our village in relation to your local meetings on VPSO.

When I have emergencies at school, or hear of things happening outside of school, I have not been able to get ahold of a VPSO. I heard a rumor that our village's VPSO moved to another village. I have not seen a posting for the job.

I had an incident this fall where a student who was on probation for being drunk and threatening to kill a teacher last spring showed up at school drunk. I didn't know how he was going to react when I confronted him. I called around VPSO phone number, VPO phone number, and Troopers, but got no one. This could have been a very violent situation. FInally, I got a board member at the tribal office to come to school to be with me while I interviewed the student. Luckily, the student did not get violent and we didn't have to have a lockdown at school.

Later that week, the above student was with another student who was also on probation. The 2nd student was drunk, no pants on, and had a gun. This was during the evening hours. I tried to call Troopers and left 4 messages, but no one called me back. Again, this could have escalated into an extremely dangerous situation.

When the VPO who had been out of town finally got back, I reported these incidents to her. I don't know if anything has been acted on or not.

The troopers came to our village the following week, but did not pick up these two for violation of probation.

My main concern is that we need someone to respond when we have emergencies at school or in the village, especially those involving violence/weapons.

Thank you,

Linae Sanger, Site Administrator
Chief Paul Memorial School
Box 19
Kipnuk, AK 99614
Phone: 907-896-5011
linae_sanger@lksd.org

**Denise Liccioli**

---

**From:** Nellie Wesley [nellie.wesley@nautaaq.org]
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 04, 2007 11:29 AM
**To:** Sen. Donny Olson
**Subject:** Public Comment - AK Rural Justice

Please accept this as a comment to the Rural Justice department...

Rural Alaska is in dire need of public safety in the field of policing. Our community in Noatak went without a VPSO for many years even while KANA in Kodiak is advertising the position for several years now. We have couple locals that want the job but because of their background check they don't qualify for the position, even what happened in their past was almost 20 years ago and their lives are changed and alcohol free today. Can that background check be cleared after so many years?

You know, people CAN change, but yet we keep their records for the rest of their lives, many if not all of us go thru times in life we are not proud of one time or another, but a lot of us realize the need to change/quit drinking or other substance abuse etc. and do so, but unfortunately there are people stuck with records that stay for the rest of their lives, when changes are made like quitting drinking - the root of their problems or crimes they did while under the influence of alcohol.

Another note on that matter, when children (ICWA children) are displaced from their parents, and the grandparents want to take the children, but someone have a felony record in the household from many years back while under the influence of alcohol, same situation like the above they don't qualify to take their own grandchildren, when in fact they made a positive change and quit alcohol. Someone need to look into that situation and try to clear people's names after a period of time and not keep their criminal records for LIFE when they want to make a difference in their families or their communities (like taking grandchildren or patrolling and taking on the duties of policing).

Thank you for your consideration and taking comments from your constituents.

Respectfully,

N. Carol Wesley,
Noatak Resident
PO Box 54
Noatak, AK 99761
Phone: (907) 485-2173

## Denise Liccioli

**From:** JStrong08@aol.com
**Sent:** Friday, August 31, 2007 2:15 PM
**To:** Denise Liccioli
**Subject:** VPSO Program

HI. I am Joseph G. Strongheart, Sr., Nunam Iqua Tribal Council member. The following is my own personal feelings and ideas. Not the NITC.

For the Native Village of Nunam Iqua we do not see the benefits of the VPSO Program due to a few reasons:
1. we have not had anyone work here for a few years as a VPSO. Lack of interest, no applicants or do not qualify.
2. No housing and even if we did get a house available we probably would run into the Insurance problem and liabilities issues if we owned the house and wanted to let the person or persons use the building.
3. I like the Idea that if we do not use our existing money for the VPSO, then can we use this to have a trooper posted or stay here a few days or a day a week? This would help cut down our problems of Teen Drinking and Adults drinking and contributing to a minor. and other problems.
4. If not a trooper then someone who is a trained officer, like a certified or someone trying to get a certificate for a police job, willing to do a "FLOAT" or internship type position for Nunam Iqua come out and stay and get "ON the Job Training".
This way the money that is allocated to Nunam Iqua could be used for Nunam Iqua.
I understand that this may not seem like a solution, but, something is better than letting the problems escalate.

Get a sneak peek of the all-new AOL.com.

**Denise Liccioli**

---

**From:** Carin Finch [carin@unicom-alaska.com]
**Sent:** Friday, August 31, 2007 7:11 AM
**To:** Denise Liccioli
**Subject:** Public comment on the VPSO Program

Nunam Iqua has been eligible for a VPSO over the years, but primarily due to a lack of housing, there has been no VPSO in the village.
The result is that funding, which the legislature provided to help Nunam Iqua with public safety, does not accomplish the intended goal.

Recommendation:

VPSO funds be allocated by community.
If a community does not utilize their VPSO funds by hiring a VPSO, the funds would go to the nearest Alaska State Troopers.
The Alaska State Troopers would use those funds to provide additional assistance to the community.

Carin Finch
Box 28
Nunam Iqua, AK 99666

## Denise Liccioli

**From:** Sen. Donny Olson
**Sent:** Monday, August 27, 2007 4:58 PM
**To:** Denise Liccioli
**Subject:** FW: VPSO Program testimony

-----Original Message-----
From: Howard T. Amos [mailto:pantungan@yahoo.com]
Sent: Friday, August 24, 2007 10:44 AM
To: Sen. Donny Olson
Subject: VPSO Program testimony

My name is Howard T. Amos, I'm from Mekoryuk, Alaska.
I'm a former VPSO and manager as well. Today is August 24, 2007.

Village Public Safety Officer Program benefits each village that hires them. For a tribal or a City oriented communities without a VPSO struggle financially. Here are some problems:

1. A VPSO burns out because he/she is a human.
2. A VPSO supports his/her job by using own personal: Boat, 4-wheeler, vehicle, pay for their own gasoline/oil, put up troopers in their own homes.
3. VPSO's live with guns all their lives for personal/subsistence hunting. It is a crime to hire a police officer without any type of firearms protection. VPSO's lose their lives because the State of Alaska say its too risky, cost too much for insurance. Lawyers cannot say we can't handle firearms.
4. Cost of Living is astronomical in villages, everybody knows that, and yet VPSO's are like laborers. Compare their job with an Alaska State Trooper. People wonder why the turnover rate is so high, VPSO are paid pennies compared to an Alaska State Trooper.
5. Life Insurance, Retirement and other wonderful benefits that Troopers enjoy should benefit a VPSO as well.
6. VPSO's has cream of the crop, let them visit other VPSO who may be on verge of burnout to give encouragement and possibly help them do their job for several days.
6. Last but not least, We in villages are American citizens and deserve as much Police, Fire and Water safety protection as an average United States citizen.

Quyana,

Howard T. Amos
(907) 827-8621

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http://autos.yahoo.com/green_center/

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| 105 | **Police** | | | |
| 106 | | **Budgeted 2006-2007** | **Actual from 7/06-05/24/07** | **Proposed 2007-2008** |
| 107 | **REVENUE** | | | |
| 108 | Fines & Penalties | $3,000.00 | $1,010.00 | $1,000.00 |
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| 110 | **TOTAL REVENUES** | **$3,000.00** | **$1,010.00** | **$1,000.00** |
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| 112 | **EXPENSES** | | | |
| 113 | Wages & Salaries | $112,840.00 | $90,931.52 | $112,840.00 |
| 114 | Fringe Benefits | $17,000.00 | $13,673.27 | $14,669.20 |
| 115 | Personnel Expense Other | $500.00 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| 116 | Workman's Compensation | $4,125.00 | $6,268.50 | $6,435.90 |
| 117 | Telephone | $1,550.00 | $1,187.61 | $1,250.00 |
| 118 | Office Supplies | $0.00 | $2,166.19 | $2,000.00 |
| 119 | Postage & Freight | $150.00 | $88.65 | $100.00 |
| 120 | Program Supplies | $2,500.00 | $573.25 | $700.00 |
| 121 | Equip Repairs & Maintenance | $250.00 | $323.43 | $350.00 |
| 122 | Vehicle Fuel | $3,000.00 | $2,721.20 | $2,040.00 |
| 123 | Consultants | $0.00 | $2,908.82 | $350.00 |
| 124 | Equipment Purchases | $800.00 | $0.00 | $200.00 |
| 125 | Legal | $750.00 | $0.00 | $500.00 |
| 126 | Miscellanous Expense | $300.00 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
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| 128 | **TOTAL EXPENDITURES** | **$143,765.00** | **$120,842.44** | **$141,435.10** |
| 129 | | | | |
| 130 | **Operating Income (Loss)** | **-$140,765.00** | **-$119,832.44** | **-$140,435.10** |
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Village Public Safety Officers

# SUGGESTIONS AND IDEAS

June 18, 2007

Captain Steven Arlow
Alaska State Troopers C-Detachment
4500 West 50th Ave.
Anchorage, Alaska 99502

Captain Arlow:

On June 08, 2007 at approximately 0200 hours VPSO Roy Jones received a phone call from Joan Squartsoff stating that her house was on fire. When Officer Jones arrived at the Squartsoff residence he observed through a living room window that the interior of the house was engulfed in flames and thick, black, smoke was pouring out of a bedroom window. Unable to immediately locate Ms. Squartsoff, and at great risk to his personal safety, Officer Jones entered the house; low-crawling through the front door and into the living room. Despite his vision being impaired by the smoke, Officer Jones was able to locate Ms. Squartsoff who was lying on a sofa, wrapped in a blanket. Officer Jones grasped Ms. Squartsoff's ankle, pulled her from the couch to the floor, and out through the front door. After briefly assessing Ms. Squartsoff's condition, and finding her to be stable, Officer Jones re-entered the house and searched for other possible victims. Once satisfied that the residence was clear, Officer Jones successfully fought the fire, using several portable extinguishers.

It is clear that VPSO Roy Jones' actions on June 08, 2007 were instrumental in saving the life of Ms. Joan Squartsoff. His concerted firefighting efforts with portable extinguishers prevented the residence from becoming fully engulfed, and substantially reduced the threat of fire to the adjacent dwellings and the community at large. For these selfless acts of courage above and beyond the call of duty, I am recommending that VPSO Jones receive a commendation, and that his current application for promotion to Sergeant be approved without further delay.

Sincerely,
KODIAK AREA NATIVE ASSOCIATION

Valent L. Maxwell
VPSO Coordinator

## Comments and Ideas Expressed Regarding VPSOs

In no particular order, but the following were expressed (mostly verbally) with the intention of making known to those on the Task Force. The comment or idea is written as expressed, without verification or comment.

- Comment made by Senator Dyson: Could the VPSOs be part of the National Guard by sharing equipment and facilities?

- Sheldon Jackson College has developed a program with a justice emphasis, at the request of the Sitka Police Chief and others. It is a 2 year program, possible to do in less time. Arliss Sturgelewski has some information to share with the Task Force on this, and when she brings it to Senator Olson's staff, it will go out to you.

- (From Myron Naneng/AVCP):

  We have a booklet where we did an inventory of needs for VPSO's here in our region a couple of years ago. Many of the issues still remain and new issues have come up since.

  Oversight Troopers need to have cultural awareness training with VPSO's and villages that they work with. They are not missionaries who are to change the way people live in villages and the village structure of community policing needs to be respected by them. Villages also do their own community policing and they need to be supported to reduce any activity that is considered to be criminal, including orders by some villages that have had their Tribal courts outline restrictions for their own tribal members on behalf of their village.

  Housing needs is a need that we have to constantly work on with communities. State troopers in hubs have been built apartments that force them out of their own homes to be placed into one location, rather than around the community to help with community policing. One standard that is considered in the urban site is considered different for some hub locations.

  VPSO's are placed under strict scrutiny and limits, when even State Troopers have violated a game law are relocated elsewhere, where many of our VPSO's are not able to relocate and have a desk job as some troopers have the luxury of.

  These are just some of the issues that we have to work with in villages and region. We would like some consideration of these issues and work to resolve them where our VPSO's can work in harmony with oversight troopers and their community members in having safer communities. Quyana.

Native Village of Shungnak
P.O. Box 64
Shungnak, Alaska 99773
Phone: (907)437-2163
Fax: (907)437-2183

[redacted]

*Fax Transmittal Form*

To: Honorable Mayor Whiting, Honorable Pres. Greene, Honorable Pres. Bolen, Rep. Doule, Rep. Olsen
From Tickett

FAX #: 442-2990 ✓ 465-4586 ✓ 442-7827 ✓ 465-4821 ✓ 265-4123

Phone: (907)437-2163
Fax: (907)437-2183

| | | |
|---|---|---|
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| REPLY | ☐ | DATE SENT: 6-25-07 |
| REVIEW | ☐ | TIME SENT: |
| FYI: | ☐ | # OF PAGES INCLUDING COVER. 2 |

**Message:**

This letter is for the protection, health and safe well being for our community our people need to step-up and do something now before something happens and is too late to help.

Thank you
Crystal Tickett
for Charlene Tickett

Please help us get a VPSO to our village!!

June 21, 2007

To Whom It May Concern:

This letter is in regards to all the alcohol related incidents we have had here in Shungnak. Being a health care provider, I have seen a lot. I am very concerned about people drinking as well as underage drinking. I think that alcohol importation and home brew making in the villages should be stopped.

Shungnak is a dry community. Everyone traveling to Shungnak should have baggage checked. No matter who the person is. Recently a house burned down because of a brew party and a near death incident which involved weapons, also hidden domestic violence. We have our children looking up to us and we should be giving a good example, and by writing this letter of concern to you. I hope to see something done with this ongoing importation and home brew making.

Charlene Tickett

Charlene Tickett
CHP Shungnak

## Denise Liccioli

**From:** Tom Okleasik [okleasik@gci.net]
**Sent:** Friday, June 08, 2007 11:06 AM
**To:** Sen. Donny Olson; Rep. Richard Foster; Rep. Reggie Joule; Sen. Johnny Ellis; Sen. Albert Kookesh; Kim Elton; Rep. Beth Kerttula
**Cc:** Mike Coumbe
**Subject:** Fw: seattletimes.com: Beer-tax increase pitched to pay for more state patrol

Kia ora all,

FYI on a tax in OR - great potential to help fund VPSOs statewide that are so greatly needed particularly with alcohol abuse as the main cause.

Tom Okleasik

> This message was sent to as a service of The Seattle Times
> (http://www.seattletimes.com).
> ---
>
> Beer-tax increase pitched to pay for more state patrol Full story:
> http://seattletimes.nwsource.com/html/localnews/2003739411_beertax08e.
> html
>
> By Brad Cain
> The Associated Press
>
>
>
> SALEM, Ore. -- Several lawmakers formally pitched a nickel-a-bottle
> increase in Oregon's beer tax Thursday to help pay for more Oregon
> State Police troopers, but the idea seemed to go flat almost immediately.
>
> At a news conference, the lawmakers said the Legislature's recent
> approval of a budget allowing the Oregon State Police to hire 100 more
> troopers to patrol roads and freeways was a step in the right direction.
>
> But they said that is 39 troopers short of what's needed to restore
> around-the-clock coverage on the state's major highways, and far below
> the trooper numbers of the early 1980s.
>
> "We're in a crisis in this state, and it's getting worse," Sen. Rod
> Monroe, D-Portland, said at a news conference with Rep. Sal Esquivel,
> R-Medford, and Sen. Rick Metsger, D-Welches.
>
> To create a permanent, dedicated source of money to put more troopers
> out on the roads, the three lawmakers proposed the nickel-a-bottle
> beer-tax increase.
>
> Esquivel said it would reverse the "bipartisan erosion of this
> organization" over the years.
>
> However, the idea met with opposition from House Minority Leader Wayne
> Scott, whose caucus would have to provide at least some Republican votes.
> Approval would require at least 36 of the 60 House members, and the
> majority Democrats number just 31.
>
> Scott said House Republicans are opposing tax increases in general,
> even if it's for a good cause like putting more troopers on the road.
>
> "It's a regressive tax. It puts the burden on the wrong people," the
> Canby lawmaker said, adding that he worries the increase might hurt

> Oregon's microbrew beer industry as well.
>
> On the Democratic side, House Speaker Jeff Merkley said Wednesday that
> while there might be an argument for using a beer tax increase to help
> pay for increased patrols, it's not an issue that's at the top of the
> agenda as the 2007 Legislature enters its final weeks.
>
> "I think there's a lot more conversations about a tobacco-tax increase,"
> Merkley said, referring to the behind-the-scenes talks about boosting
> cigarette taxes to help pay for children's health insurance.
>
> Esquivel said the state needs to act now to protect public safety by
> creating a permanent funding source for state police. The Medford
> lawmaker said he wasn't fazed by Scott's comment that his fellow House
> Republicans won't support a beer-tax increase.
>
> "What's popular isn't always right," he said.
>
> The proposal by Esquivel and the others would put 70 percent of the
> revenue into a special fund that could be tapped only to pay for
> Oregon State Police. The rest would go to cities and counties, which
> could use it for public safety, or alcohol- and drug-treatment programs.
>
> A spokeswoman for Gov. Ted Kulongoski, Anna Richter Taylor, said the
> governor believes lawmakers need to come up with a permanent,
> dedicated funding source for state police, so the agency doesn't have
> to compete with other interests in budget deliberations.
>
> Richter Taylor said that while the governor is glad to see efforts to
> find a dedicated funding source for state police, the beer-tax
> proposal advanced by the lawmakers is lacking because "it doesn't
> specifically dedicate money to alcohol and drug treatment."
>
> Monroe said lawmakers need to raise the beer tax this session, because
> the 100 new trooper positions recently approved by the Legislature
> could be at risk in future tough times.
>
> "Once the economy goes down again, the state police will end up losing,"
> the Portland senator said.
>
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> ==========
>
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# NEWS ARTICLES

## Denise Liccioli

**From:** Allison Biastock
**Sent:** Thursday, September 27, 2007 1:36 PM
**To:** Denise Liccioli
**Subject:** for the record

Hi Denise, the Senator asked that this section from the "Trooper Beat" section of the Sept 27th Nome Nugget newspaper be included as part of the official record.

"On September 14th, Nome Alaska Bureau of Alcohol and Drug Enforcement completed an investigation and filed charges in Nome District Court on a family alcohol importation operation in Gambell. Martha Thomas, 35, of Nome, was sending three (3) of her underage children on numerous alcohol importation trips to Gambell, between August 2006 and March 2007. Investigation revealed that her sister, Susan Aningayou, 20, of Nome, was also importing alcohol on numerous occasions during the same time period and also selling alcohol in Gambell, with their father, Reginald Aningayou, 59, of Gambell. Martha Thomas and Susan Aningayou's brother, Brian Aningayou, 32, of Gambell, was receiving all of Thomas' children's imported alcohol and selling it in Gambell. The investigation revealed that over 140 – 50ml bottles of alcohol were transported, bartered or sold for $250.00 each in Gambell, during this time frame. Gambell is a local option community that voted to ban the importation and sale of alcohol, effective 9/1/81. The following charges were filed in the Nome District Court; Martha Thomas, License or Permit Required, 12 counts, Alcohol Importation, 12 counts and Contributing to the Delinquency of a Minor, 13 counts. Susan Aningayou, License or Permit Required, nine (9) counts, Alcohol Importation, nine (9) counts and Contributing to the Delinquency of a Minor, one (1) count. Brian Aningayou, License or Permit Required, 15 counts, Alcohol Importation, 15 counts, and Contributing to the Delinquency of a Minor, 13 counts. Reginald Aningayou, License or Permit Required, nine (9) counts, Alcohol Importation, nine (9) counts. The case was submitted to the Nome Juvenile Intake and Nome DAO."

Thanks! Sounds like the trip went well!

**Allison Biastock**
Office of Senator Hollis French
Anchorage 907 269 0234
Juneau 907 465 3892
allison_biastock@legis.state.ak.us
www.aksenate.org

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# Rural policing gets hard look

**KOTZEBUE: Kinship, lack of resources are challenges.**

By TAMAR BEN-YOSEF
The Arctic Sounder

*(Published: September 4, 2007)*

BARROW -- When the Northwest Arctic Borough, along with the state Department of Public Safety, scheduled a law enforcement conference in Kotzebue, it had no idea what to expect.

Neither did the Alaska State Troopers, who to an extent expected to arrive and temporarily serve as the community's punching bag for complaints and allegations.

But that was about as far from the truth as anyone could have predicted.

People who came to the conference last month at the National Guard Armory in Kotzebue meant business. And they were fully ready to work with the troopers to get it done.

They even came bearing awards of recognition and a song of prayer for those who work hard to protect their lives.

The Northwest Arctic Region struggles daily with some of the highest rates in Alaska for suicide and alcoholism, which inevitably leads to high rates of criminal charges for domestic violence and assault.

Fed up with the endless cycles of violence and the inability to control it, the region's leaders, law enforcement officials, Village Public Safety Officers program operators and interested residents worked for solutions.

The problems were evident from the welcoming remarks of borough Mayor Sikauraq Martha Whiting.

Currently, only one state trooper is assigned to the entire region, with one more arriving next month. Of 10 villages in the borough's jurisdiction, only two have VPSOs -- one for both Shungnak and Kobuk and another for Selawik.

With low pay, limited housing and often awkward family connections to the offenders, the VPSO job generally is not a sought-after position.

And even if there were to be VPSOs in every village, most do not have adequate holding cells, halfway homes or the personnel available to supervise anyone until troopers arrive.

For instance, when juveniles or inebriates are to be watched or removed from homes, the hospital or jail becomes the detox or holding facility. For lack of better facilities and staff, those individuals often are treated much like criminals instead of people who would benefit from counseling.

With commitments to fight the war on drugs and alcohol, borough residents now appear ready to take matters into their own hands.

"We need to take ownership of the plans," said Walter Sampson, president of the Leaders Assembly in Kotzebue. "That way if we make a mistake we can look at our plan and see what we did wrong."

Among the speakers and presenters were state Sen. Donald Olson, D-Nome, and state Rep. Reggie Joule, himself a resident of Kotzebue. Both joined Public Safety Commissioner Walt Monegan for an afternoon live interview on KOTZ radio with Suzie Erlich.

The three spoke of their vision for the region with regard to law enforcement and more specifically, the VPSO program.

Monegan said he strongly supports the VPSO program but was not pleased with its tendency to ebb and flow. His vision includes making the VPSOs state employees.

"I would like to codify the program and make it so that it is a permanent part of the public safety horizon," Monegan said.

Putting VPSOs all across the state, in the communities, is something long overdue, he said.

IMPROVING CULTURAL AWARENESS

They also commented on previous frictions between the community and the local troopers and the necessity for cultural cross-training and orientation for law enforcement personnel stationed in the villages.

"It would be beneficial for the community to form an elders' advisory group, so that when a new trooper comes in, the group would meet him and they could give the cultural orientation, and then the trooper would fly out to the villages and do a meet and greet, see what the town is about," Monegan said.

Leaving the conference with pages of suggestions on possible solutions, improvements and goals, residents remain aware of the work ahead for all those involved.

Most knew the conference was just the beginning.

But all seemed to agree, according to voiced opinions, that it was a beginning in the right direction.

And that, many said, already is better than what was there before.

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**Denise Liccioli**

**From:** Ginny Austerman
**Sent:** Thursday, August 30, 2007 12:56 PM
**To:** Denise Morris
**Cc:** Denise Liccioli
**Subject:** RE: Emailing: Alaska Newspapers, Inc.

*Thank you, Denise. I'm forwarding this on to Sen. Olson's staff person, Denise Liccioli. Denise is the Committee Aide for the VPSO Task Force. I'm sure she will appreciate the coverage.*

---

**From:** Denise Morris [mailto:DMorris@anjc.net]
**Sent:** Thursday, August 30, 2007 12:49 PM
**To:** Ginny Austerman
**Subject:** FW: Emailing: Alaska Newspapers, Inc.

This may be helpful as well.

Denise Morris
President/CEO
Alaska Native Justice Center
3600 San Jeronimo Drive, Suite 264
Anchorage, AK 99508
907-793-3550 phone
907-793-3570 fax

# Northwest Arctic residents, leaders rally to end violence

## Law enforcement meeting develops "new beginnings"

TAMAR BEN-YOSEF
tbenyosef@alaskanewspapers.com

When the Northwest Arctic Borough initiated, along with the state Department of Public Safety, a law enforcement conference in the Kotzebue they had no idea what to expect.

Neither did the Alaska State Troopers, who somewhat expected to arrive and temporarily serve as the community's punching bag for complaints and allegations.

But that was about as far from the truth as anyone could have predicted. People who came to the Aug. 15-16 conference at the National Guard Armory in Kotzebue meant business. And they were fully ready to work with the troopers to get it done.

They even came bearing awards of recognition and a song of prayer for those who work hard to protect their lives.

The Northwest Arctic Region struggles daily with some of the highest rates in Alaska for suicide and alcoholism, which inevitably leads to high rates of criminal charges for domestic violence and assault.

On the surface, the scenic region surrounded by a rich sea and a busy subsistence lifestyle is a calm and neighborly community - home to families connected to each other with ties deeper than the ocean's floor.

Yet underneath there are challenges that leave these quiet-spoken people seemingly helpless in the face of these modern-day truths.

Fed up with the endless cycles of violence and the inability to control it, the region's leaders, law enforcement officials, Village Public Safety Officers program operators and interested residents worked for solutions.

The problems were evident from the first welcoming remarks of borough Mayor Sikauraq Martha Whiting.

Currently, only one state trooper is assigned to the entire region, with one more arriving next month. Of 10 villages in the borough's jurisdiction, only two have VPSOs Ð one for both Shungnak and Kobuk and another for Selawik.

With low pay, limited housing and often family connections to the offenders, the VPSO job generally is not a sought-after position.

And even if there were to be VPSOs in every village, most do not have adequate holding cells, half-way homes or the personnel available to supervise anyone until troopers arrive.

For instance, when juveniles or inebriates are to be watched or removed from homes, the hospital or jail becomes the detox or holding facility. For lack of better facilities and staff, those individuals often are treated much like criminals instead of people who would benefit from counseling.

With commitments to fight the war on drugs and alcohol, borough residents now appear ready to take matters into their own hands.

"We need to take ownership of the plans," said Walter Sampson, president of the Leaders Assembly in Kotzebue. "That way if we make a mistake we can look at our plan and see what WE did wrong."

Among the speakers and presenters were state Sen. Donny Olson and state Rep. Reggie Joule, himself a resident of Kotzebue. Both joined Public Safety Commissioner Walt Monegan, for an afternoon live interview on KOTZ radio with Suzie Erlich.

The three spoke of their vision for the region with regard to law enforcement and more specifically the VPSO program. They also commented on previous contention between the community and the local troopers and the necessity for cultural cross training and orientation for law enforcement personnel stationed in the villages.

Leaving the conference with pages of suggestions on possible solutions, improvements and goals, residents remain aware of the work ahead for all those involved.

Most knew the conference was just the beginning. But all seemed to agree, according to voiced opinions, that it was a beginning in the right direction. And that, many said, already is better than what was there before.

Tamar Ben-Yosef/Alaska Newspapers

Alaska state Public Safety Commissioner Walt Monegan, state Sen. Donny Olson and state Rep. Reggie Joule speak about the future of rural law enforcement at a KOTZ Radio show in Kotzebue, Aug. 15.

Tamar Ben-Yosef/Alaska Newspapers

Alaska state Public Safety Commisioner Walt Monegan hands an award of recognition to Shungnak and Kobuk's village public safety officer. Otis Rolls, as Miss Arctic Circle, presents the framed Native Art award.



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# Policing the Bush (April 19, 2005 )

**State Supreme Court makes right call in discrimination case**

*(Published: July 28, 2007)*

When a drunk or angry resident in a small Alaska village goes on a rampage, it is a terrifying experience for the entire community. Residents have to hunker down and defend themselves while they wait for state troopers to fly in. Response time is measured in hours, not minutes. Bad weather can delay the trooper response even longer. The village may have a local public safety officer, but VPSOs are not trained to step into a violent situation.

This hybrid system of law enforcement -- a local safety officer with trooper backup -- isn't ideal. Some Bush communities would like more protection using highly trained troopers. They and some Native interests charged that the hybrid policing system reflected illegal discrimination against Alaska Natives, not the realities of life in the Bush, which include tough choices driven by limited resources.

Friday's ruling from the Alaska Supreme Court gave the right answer to those claims. The state's way of supplying police protection in the Bush is not discriminatory. It is a practical response to the difficulties of policing a vast, dispersed array of communities.

Yes, almost all the affected, arguably underserved communities are Alaska Native. But that is a coincidence of culture and geography, not proof of discrimination.

This case isn't like the separate-and-unequal school systems that were deliberately created by Southern states in the segregation era. Those states made no secret that they were delivering second-class services to what they considered second-class citizens.

In cases like that, it takes pressure from an independent judiciary to get legislators and governors to do the right thing. With law enforcement in the Bush, the driving force is a legitimate question of how best to use limited resources.

It's true, those limited resources make it easier for the Legislature and governor to shrug off the state's responsibilities and stint on the money for Bush law enforcement. And the increasingly urban-dominated Alaska Legislature is becoming less and less attuned to the needs of Alaska's predominantly Native Bush.

Unfortunately for rural Alaska, it has suffered a drastic erosion of political power since Alaska's oil boom began. Three reapportionments have shifted legislative seats from the Bush into faster-growing urban areas. Gone are the days when Bush political titans like Sens. John Sackett and Frank Ferguson or Rep. Al Adams controlled a Finance Committee. They played like a mini-Ted Stevens, steering abundant government cash to their constituents' needs.

With rural Native political power waning, it's understandable that some might turn to the courts for help. But the judiciary is reluctant to second-guess government spending priorities unless some law or constitutional standard is clearly violated. That wasn't the case here.

In a world of unlimited resources, Alaska could no doubt deliver much better law enforcement in rural Alaska. More troopers would help. Alaska's network of village public safety officers could be expanded. Their training could be better. Their pay could be improved.

Like many important public services these days, rural law enforcement is probably underfunded. That situation may be unwise and inequitable, but the Alaska Supreme Court is correct: It is not illegal.

BOTTOM LINE: Law enforcement in the Bush may be underfunded, but it is not because of illegal discrimination against Alaska Natives.

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**Ethics law**

*Quit the partisan stalling*

Republican Attorney General Gregg Renkes got out of office without getting sanctioned under the state's executive branch ethics law. The ethical standards in the law are not terribly specific, and the lawyer that his fellow Republican Gov. Frank Murkowski hired to review the case gave Mr. Renkes the benefit of the legal doubt.

Come to find out, the lawyer for the state personnel board would not have been so kind to the departed Mr. Renkes. The board's independent attorney concluded that Mr. Renkes' investment of at least $70,000 in a company whose interests he was promoting was in fact "significant." That commonsense finding would have triggered the public interest protections of the state ethics law.

Both lawyers who looked at Mr. Renkes' case agreed on an important recommendation for the future. They said the standards in the state ethics law should be more specific. Instead of using vague terminology like "significant interest," the law should set a bright line test for when the state's ethical protections kick in.

Setting that line should not be a partisan issue, but it's being treated like one. This case arises from a controversy inside Republican ranks, so nobody from the Legislature's Republican majority has stepped forward to fix this obvious problem. Nor has the governor offered lawmakers a proposed bill of his own.

Democratic lawmakers, in the minority and out of power, have jumped into the breach. Republican inaction has left them plenty of room to score partisan points by standing up for a stronger ethics law. Republican lawmakers have ignored the Democrats' bill.

That kind of knee-jerk, partisan stalling is a disservice to Alaskans. The governor's lawyer, Bob Bundy, offered lawmakers a detailed proposal for a tight, but not suffocating, ethical standard. Before the Legislature adjourns in May, Republicans should join ranks with Democrats to pass Mr. Bundy's recommendation or something very close to it.

BOTTOM LINE: The Legislature shouldn't go home next month without tightening up the state's executive ethics law.

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# Forum highlights shortage of rural police, judicial service (October 4, 2004)

The Associated Press

*(Published: July 28, 2007)*

ANCHORAGE (AP) - Rural villages lack adequate police and judicial service, according to speakers at a forum organized by the Alaska Federation of Natives and the Alaska Inter-Tribal Council.

Village residents said police are underfunded, inadequately trained and sometimes culturally insensitive.

Dozens of speakers called for more officers, stronger support of tribal courts and quicker response from Alaska State Troopers when major crimes occur.

"We're no different than the urban areas, said Sharon Clark of Clark's Point, a Bristol Bay village of about 66. "We deserve justice in our smaller communities."

Panelists, including most members of the newly formed Alaska Rural Justice and Law Enforcement Commission, also heard some successes, highlights and advice for improvement during the meeting Wednesday.

But a common theme among about three dozen rural residents who testified at the summit, sponsored by the Alaska Federation of Natives and Alaska Inter-Tribal Council, was the need to beef up the village public safety officer program. In many communities, the VPSO acts as a deterrent to crime.

The state has never funded the program well enough to put an officer in every village. There are currently about 65.

As a health aide visiting villages near Nome, Jenny Lee said, the presence of a VPSO has made her job easier by making villages safer and more stable. Many who testified said the state should fully fund the program and hire officers in every community.

Several VPSOs said they are on the job 24 hours a day, seven days a week, which contributes to the community's well-being. Dan Harrelson of White Mountain said he also teaches boating safety and enforces helmet laws, resulting in fewer accidental injuries. Enforcing curfew can improve student test scores, he said.

Others said that in villages with no officer, small crimes such as vandalism and truancy increase. Abused wives may have no one to turn to for protection. School counselors and village officials might have to respond to suicides or sexual assaults, speakers said.

The new commission, which U.S. Sen. Ted Stevens created last January, has been asked to consider new ways of improving rural law enforcement and justice, including laws and forms of government.

State officials have said, however, that funding increases are unlikely.

The state's rural law enforcement program relies on troopers posted in hub communities such as Bethel and Dillingham to respond to serious crimes. Many complained that trooper response often is slowed by the troopers' stretched resources, weather or what some rural residents view as indifference.

The rural justice commission holds its first official meeting this week, at which it will set out a plan for the coming year, said federal co-chairman and U.S. Attorney Tim Burgess.

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# Plea for funding VPSO program preceded officer's suicide

The Tundra Drums

*(Published: July 28, 2007)*

APRIL 24, 2005 -- *EDITOR'S NOTE: Simeon Askoak, a longtime Village Public Safety Officer in Russian Mission, delivered these remarks to the rural justice commission in Bethel on April 6. Two days later, he committed suicide.*

My name is Simeon Askoak, and I'm the VPSO in Russian Mission. I've been the Village Public Safety Officer in Russian Mission for 13 years now and of my 13 years that I've been a VPSO, we've been struggling every year to get our VPSO funding from the state to be continued on to another new year.

VPSO funding is very limited. Our fiscal year '05 operating budget from the state was not approved until November '04 of last year, and the program was about to be closed, shut down, until fiscal year 2005 and was finally approved by the governor.

At this time the village of Russian Mission, the City Council of Russian Mission, has no funding. The small communities like the Village of Russian Mission are broke right now and because of that, starting in the month of November of 2004, I began purchasing my own heating fuel for the public safety office, fuel for the vehicle that I use. Also, I pay for the fax and phone bill that I use.

I'm still paying for all these expenses. I pay for certified mail of my reports to the Alaska State Troopers, to the district attorneys, out of my own pocket.

When I was asked why I was doing that, I told them that the city government can no longer afford to pay for these expenses. And, last month sometime, on the 23rd of March, I could no longer afford to pay for those expenses, so the city and the police department ran out of heating fuel. The water line froze and then the water utilities company came by and said, "We're shutting down your water and sewer because you haven't been paying for them in the last few months."

And that's my dilemma at this time.

We need adequate, full funding for the VPSO program and we need to have it guaranteed that we'll always get the funding yearly from the state.

We're constantly facing this dilemma that the VPSO program will no longer be here. Last year we were almost shut down, and the VPSO fiscal year contract was extended through September 2005 of this year. And after 2005 I do not know what is going to be happening.

The VPSO program's motto is, "First Responders; Last Frontier." We are the first responders, we are the only law enforcement out in most of the villages that we have and there are only 24 VPSO positions funded at this time by the state.

In the rural communities, we are the only law enforcement agencies available. We enforce state laws, for instance drug and alcohol importation cases. We secure and investigate burglaries.

Sometime last month, in the course of two days, I did the same exact thing when our store was burglarized in the village.

What I did was, I secured the scene, I gathered evidence and I investigated, until I found the suspect. This is called doing the "legwork" for the state troopers.

And that "legwork" that I do and other VPSOs do, that is the backbone of the investigation. Without that, without that crucial intervention in the first few hours of the investigation, all the evidence would be destroyed and there would not be, we would not be able to apprehend the perpetrator later on.

We have been constantly seeking to obtain our basic police certification from the Alaska Police Standards Council for years, but we still haven't obtained that. I know we are unarmed. We still respond to "gun" calls, we still conduct "legwork investigations," for the troopers, and why haven't we been certified, even the basic police certifications?

Also, when a veteran VPSO retires, he has to go out and find another job in order to continue supporting his family. We are not in the state retirement system. The PERS (Public Employee Retirement System), we are not receiving that. If we do have to, we will have to buy into the PERS program, we would have to buy so many years and it's expensive to get it started.

And we'd buy that out of our own pockets.

The Russian Mission Public Safety Police Department has been closed as of March 23, 2005. That's due to lack of funding for heating fuel, water and sewer. The water and sewer bill has not been paid, and also I'm afraid that the light and power will be shut down pretty soon. The idea of fund raising to help the Russian Mission Public Safety came up, and I think this is pathetic to our program. It's degrading me as a VPSO. There should always be funding available from somewhere, like from the state, to keep it going.

And we just don't have the options or any other source of funding right now for the village of Russian Mission.

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Simeon Askoak's Bethel speech was transcribed by The Tundra Drums.

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# VPSOs walk a fine line in villages

By ALEX deMARBAN
ademarban@adn.com
*(Published: July 28, 2007)*

Evan Wonhola faced the harsh reality of being a village public safety officer early one morning, when a man in New Stuyahok threatened to kill his family.

The man's wife crawled on the floor of the house, crying, "What are we going to do?"

Rural justice, and finding ways to improve it, was one of several Native issues that delegates discussed at the 41st annual Alaska Federation of Natives convention in Anchorage on Thursday.

After the usual round of speeches from politicians, an estimated 3,000 delegates attended seven work sessions with the goal of solving such problems as global warming, costly energy and subsistence rights.

In one session, members of the Alaska Rural Justice and Law Enforcement Commission, created by Congress in 2004, heard disturbing stories from villagers and local safety officers about the lack of village law enforcement.

That commission traveled around the state, gathering stories about rural justice and presenting recommendations in a draft report released last year. The final report is about to be released, members said.

The state Department of Public Safety has addressed some of the concerns, such as recently adding several new village public safety officer positions, Bill Tandeske, commissioner of the Department of Public Safety, said by phone Thursday evening.

There is now funding for 80 village officers, who augment troopers in rural Alaska. But only 49 of those positions are filled.

The VPSO program reached its peak in the 1980s with 124 officers, according to a media report. There were 65 officers in 2004.

A handful of village officers who spoke at Thursday's meeting said VPSO numbers are falling because officers are underpaid, overworked and stressed out. The possibility of enforcing laws in small villages against cousins and aunts discourages prospects and working lonely hours with little support doesn't help, they said.

They told stories about officers who use their own snowmachines to transport suspects and about officers' houses becoming holding cells. Village officers, who may not carry guns, sometimes spend days waiting for troopers to arrive to deal with dangerous criminals, they said. Some said support has worsened since the state cut general funding to villages, cutting off money that once helped pay for their equipment or gasoline.





David Charles, a village public safety officer in Akiachak, said he pays for his own gas and works overtime unpaid. VPSOs quit, he said, because of the tough treatment they sometimes face from other villagers.

"Some days it's miserable for a VPSO," he said. "Some days you sit in your office and start crying."

Pay has improved, said Loretta Bullard, president of Nome-based Kawerak, a Native regional nonprofit serving the Bering Strait region, from about $11 an hour a few years ago to about $19 today. The Department of Public Safety has also increased funding, Tandeske said.

It spent $422,000 18 months ago, buying four-wheelers and other vehicles for every village public safety officer who asked, he said. Many of the complaints are outdated stories, he said.

"Some say there's not enough money, so you raise salaries," he said. "We instituted a retention bonus. People say they're paying for their own vehicles. I just don't buy it."

Dealing with other issues, such as housing of village officers, is a legislative issue, he said.

That's where Sen. Ralph Seekins, R-Fairbanks, may come in. Head of the Senate Judiciary Committee, Seekins created a six-person legislative task force on VPSOs this year that will travel across the state listening to villagers. It's due to make a report to the Legislature in January.

Seekins owns a Ford dealership and frequently travels to Northern Alaska villages with mechanics to fix vehicles.

"The stress is terrible," he said. "There's no trauma counselor. What do you do if you have to wipe blood off the walls after a murder? How do you handle that?"

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Daily News reporter Alex deMarban can be reached at ademarban@adn.com.

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# Tough job in the Bush

## Help wanted: village police

*(Published: July 28, 2007)*

It's hard to be a cop in a small town, especially one you grew up in, said Alvin Brown, with son Wallace, 4, and daughter Alexis, 10, mid-June in Mountain Village. Brown, currently the Village Public Safety Officer, has worked in law enforcement 18 years. *( ERIK HILL / Anchorage Daily News)*

Alaska is having a rough time recruiting Village Public Safety Officers. Little wonder, when you consider the conditions:

Remote villages, family ties that can trump the law, unforgiving wilderness at the doorstep, high rates of alcohol abuse with all the violence and misery it causes, Alaskastate troopers sometimes a day or more away.

Think of Anchorage patrolled only by unarmed officers.

Think of trying to be the law in a small village where you're the outsider.

Think of how many people you know who could handle police work, diplomacy, firefighting, safety education, search and rescue, snowmachine mechanics and the right response to both perpetrator and victim of a violent crime, both of whom may be relatives.

What's amazing isn't that the state struggles to fill the ranks or the high turnover rate (40 percent, according to an Alaska Justice Center study published in 2000). What's amazing is the degree of success. Right now 48 of 51 positions are filled in Alaska villages. But as Maj. John Glick, deputy director of the Department of Public Safety, pointed out, that can change any time.

The state's 2008 capital budget includes two hopeful appropriations from federal funds. It has $2 million to train and equip VPSOs and another $2 million for VPSOs to fight bootlegging.

The key word, though, is "hopeful."

A lot has to happen before Bush residents will see more law enforcement.

In passing the state budget, Alaska lawmakers merely agreed to accept federal money that hasn't arrived yet. Ted Stevens is working on the $2 million for training and equipment. Alaska has to fill those last three state-funded VPSO slots before it can qualify for the other $2 million of federal money to fight bootlegging. With the federal money, the state could afford 80 VPSOs.

If the state could find them. That, as Maj. Glick said, is the "crux of the problem."

The problem is getting some attention.

Public Safety Commissioner Walt Monegan will go to Kotzebue next month to discuss improving the VPSO program. Among his ideas: creating uniform standards and a career advancement track for

all three types of Bush law enforcement officers. It would allow VPSOs, tribal police officers and village police officers hired by local communities a way to upgrade their skills and eventually earn full trooper or police status.

State Sen. Donnie Olson will chair a VPSO task force, which will hold fact-finding meetings in Western Alaska and Kodiak this fall.

For all the difficulties -- or maybe because of all the difficulties -- the state's VPSO program needs state, federal and community support. When the program works, it puts respected, trusted officers on the ground in Alaska villages, officers who know the people and are comfortable in the culture. They can respond to emergencies -- or, better, prevent them.

Two years ago, some rural advocates lost a lawsuit that tried to force the state to put more troopers into small Bush communities. The suit contended VPSOs were a second-class, discriminatory substitute for real police officers.

The courts said it was not their job to second-guess the type or level of public safety protection.

However, the suit did make a good case for better law enforcement in the Bush. The $4 million for VPSOs could go a long way to help.

BOTTOM LINE: VPSO program needs support and reorganization -- but, most of all, a steady stream of good recruits.

**Who's up? Who's Down?**

**EVEN** Lisa Murkowski: Gives up her sweet deal with Bob Penney for Kenai riverfront property, but still insists she paid the going price. S-u-r-e. Bob didn't get rich by cutting ordinary suckers a break like that.

**DOWN** Don Young: Prostate surgery goes well, but feds start looking into criminal charges. He may get bit by a mink that's wearing a lawman's badge.

**DOWN** Ted Stevens: Offers hair-splitting defense of Veco help on Girdwood house: We paid all the bills we got. Unanswered question: Did Bill Allen hold on to some?

**UP** Alaska seniors: The check is on its way. Gov. Sarah signs senior benefits bill, after she had to call the Legislature into a special session to pass it. Take that, John Coghill.

**DOWN** Conoco Phillips: Second-quarter profits plunge because it won't play ball with strongman Hugo Chavez in Venezuela. Alaska's tax regime looks pretty good in comparison.

**EVEN** Marc Marlow: Well-connected developer seeks Anchorage tax break for another long-shot rehab project downtown. Maybe he can hire Vic Kohring again to help him get it.

**UP** Alaska National Guard: Most popular governor in the country visits unit in Kuwait. Former Miss Wasilla delivers a real morale boost.

**EVEN** Mat-Su: Valley crackdown makes headway against meth labs, but heroin use spikes upward. Pick your poison.

**DOWN** Alaska dieters: Even one diet soda a day is bad for you. Arghhh! Pass the spring water, please.

**DOWN** Reona Kobayashi: Japanese student gets robbed three different times during summer visit to Mat-Su. Three strikes like that, and we'd be outta there.

**EVEN** Maggie: Controversial local elephant still in the headlines, still in Anchorage. Isn't her 15 minutes of fame up yet?

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# Small-town cop: Keeping the peace in Mountain Village

By JOEL GAY
Anchorage Daily News
*(Published: July 28, 2007)*

AUG. 2, 2005 -- Alvin Brown hates calls early in the morning. As the village public safety officer in one of the biggest villages in Western Alaska and an 18-year veteran of rural law enforcement, he knows that early calls typically mean bad news -- assaults, rapes, fights and accidents, often alcohol-induced and usually difficult.

He has been slugged, kicked, shot and hit in the head with an ax so hard it still hurts.

But one call stands out that ended better. No one was injured, Brown tracked down $55,000 in stolen cash and he got a public commendation from a personal hero.

It wasn't a typical experience for a village cop, but then again, Brown, who weighs 305 pounds, cuts his hair in a high flat-top and wears owlish glasses, doesn't seem like a typical cop.

Around 3 one August morning in 1999, Brown was watching a video at the home he shared with his parents and children when his VHF radio picked up a short, mysterious call.

"Store," a voice said.

Brown, a native of Mountain Village, knew the voice. It was the village police officer on duty that night, but whose radio battery was almost dead.

"There was just enough power to say one word. Then he'd turn it off, and turn it on again and say another word," Brown recalled recently while sitting in his cramped office in the Mountain Village City Hall. "Which store," Brown asked back. "Yup'ik," came the reply. Officer Brown was on it.

The other cop had found the Yup'ik Store's lock broken, its back door open and the safe missing. Together the two officers found fresh shoe prints and ATV tracks nearby. Brown quickly recognized a clue that an urban detective might not, and took photos of the tire tracks.

"These tracks were not like any other ATV," he said. "These tires were a different tread," and at first light the two Bush detectives traced the machine six miles out of town. The tracks suggested the perpetrators had gone into the brush, so Brown and his partner followed.

Stumbling around in brown bear country at 6 a.m. was spooky. "All we had was OC (pepper) spray, batons and handcuffs," Brown said. "We were just about to give up when we found the safe." Empty.

But it was enough to get a search warrant and keep looking, he said. The officers then went door to door in the village. They soon found their ATV outside a home, along with shoe prints matching those at the store.

The juvenile driver admitted his involvement, which led the officers to another suspect's home. Behind the second house, they saw a section of tundra that appeared disturbed. Suspicious, they dug and dug and dug, without success, Brown said. All the while, their suspect smiled cockily, he said.

"Then we tried one more time," and struck pay dirt -- a black plastic bag with neatly wrapped stacks of bills inside, Brown said. "The guy's face dropped," he said.

In two days, Brown and his partner found the $52,000 lost in the store robbery, plus another $3,000 they believed was stolen but weren't sure from where. The store got back its money. The state kept the three grand, Brown said.

The big payoff for Brown came later, when he received what he considered the ultimate compliment. Col. Glenn Godfrey, the first Alaska Native to command the Alaska State Troopers and who later went on to become the commissioner of public safety, asked to meet Brown at a village police graduation ceremony in Kotzebue.

"He walked right towards me," trailing a small crowd of curious officers, Brown recalled. "He shook my hand and thanked us for our investigation. And during graduation, he told everyone about it." Brown named his son Wallace Glenn Brown after his law enforcement hero, he said. Godfrey's official commendation still hangs on his office wall, along with maps, drawings by his son and daughter and a photo of his graduation from the troopers academy, which provides the required training for VPSOs.

Such are the rewards of a law enforcement career in rural Alaska. In 18 years, he worked for either the Mountain Village tribe, the city or the agency that administers the VPSO program on the lower Yukon. For several of those years, he drove a taxi during days and was an officer at night.

"I was young back then," said Brown, now 39. He isn't in law enforcement for the money. He earns $17.63 an hour, plus a bonus for acting as probation officer for Mountain Village's 17 convicted felons.

He doesn't do it to carry a gun. VPSOs aren't allowed to anywhere in the state, even though they occasionally face down people with firearms. Brown was unarmed when he got shot one New Year's Eve. A drunk who had been shooting into the air lowered his rifle, then accidentally fired a .223-caliber bullet that ricocheted off the frozen ground and hit Brown in the thigh. It's still there and sets off airport security every time, he said.

He isn't a cop because of the family prestige. He's arrested brothers, sisters, cousins and other relatives for bootlegging, domestic violence and assault. Until he got his own home, his parents cringed whenever the phone rang early.

"They worry that I may not be coming back," he said. Brown is a cop because he likes it, he's good at it and because Mountain Village needs it, he said.

"I know how these people are, and they know how I am," he said. "Even the alcohol and drug dealers respect me, because I treat everyone with respect."

It's hard to be a cop in a small town, especially one you grew up in, Brown said.

"It doesn't bother me at work. But when I go home, it hits me, 'What's Dad going to think' " when his son arrests a relative or friend? "It turns out he's thanking me for arresting the guy."

Job satisfaction comes in small doses too, he said. After troopers in Bethel acted on a tip he had

passed on, they prevented a shipment of booze from reaching Mountain Village during the school's graduation in late May.

"This was the first time in the history of high school graduation here we got no calls on alcohol," Brown said. Usually they start coming in at 3 or 4 in the morning.

He brightened up while telling about a marijuana sale gone bad. Village sources told him someone had come to Mountain Village with $500 to spend on pot. A runner took the stranger's money and said he would return in five minutes with the dope, "but he never came back," Brown said, smiling.

Another time, a Mountain Village bootlegger came back from the Last Chance liquor store near Nulato with 10 cases of booze, which he hid several miles outside of town. With a bottle selling for $120 to $150, it's easy money, Brown said.

But this bootlegger made a strategic error: he told one of his runners where he hid the liquor. By the time he checked his stash, it was gone, Brown said.

As VPSO, Brown is usually involved in fire calls, emergency medical work and search and rescue. One of his scariest days, he said, was when a snowmachine driver got stuck in the Yukon River slush one spring. Brown heaved a grappling hook with all his might and landed it perfectly on the machine's ski. He pulled the man to safety.

Brown would like to spend another 15 years in law enforcement, he said, then possibly be a magistrate.

He may not make it after an episode in May. Brown and another officer responded to an early morning domestic violence call. According to charges filed later, a man whacked Brown in the temple with the back of a single-bit ax.

Brown had fierce headaches for weeks, and when we passed through the village earlier this summer he still suffered memory loss and daily headaches, he said. His knee jumped steadily the whole time he spoke. "It's pretty tough on me," he said.

Though he returned to work, the longtime cop said he was throttling back a bit.

"I'm starting to learn more about taking time off from work," he said. "It helps a lot."

As we spoke, Brown had a steady stream of calls, including several about a dispute at someone's house. Finally he excused himself, saying he had business. He put on his brown VPSO hat, climbed on his four-wheeler and drove off to keep the peace in Mountain Village.

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# ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES

# REPORT

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# IN-DEPTH COMMUNITY RESEARCH REGARDING PUBLIC SAFETY IN RURAL ALASKA

**April 2005**

**Prepared for**

## Alaska Federation of Natives

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# I Methodology

## Overview

During the period April 8 through April 17, 2005, four hundred nine (n=409) Alaskans over the age of 18, located in 165 communities with populations less than 1000, were personally contacted via telephone by professional interviewing employees of the Dittman Research Corporation of Alaska. The views and opinions of the Alaska residents were recorded on a strictly confidential basis.

## Research Design

A random sample design was featured which provided that all households listed in the most current telephone directory for each community had essentially an equal chance of being interviewed.

## Sample Selection

Individual respondents were randomly selected from current telephone subscribers listed in the most current directory for each community. In order to accurately represent Alaska and rural residents in small as well as larger communities, a stratified sample plan with specific allocations was established as follows:

| Community Population | Sample Size | % of Sample |
|---|---|---|
| < 100 residents | n=98 | 24% |
| 100-250 residents | n=105 | 26% |
| 251-500 residents | n=103 | 25% |
| 501-1,000 residents | n=103 | 25% |
| | **n=409** | **100%** |

To provide aggregated results for Alaska's total rural community population, the findings from each of the community size categories were "weighted" to accurately represent their proportion of the total population as follows:

| Community Population | Total Population | % of Population | Sample Size | Weight | % of Weighted Sample |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| < 100 residents | 2,551 | 5% | n=98 | .209 | 5% |
| 100-250 residents | 7,730 | 15% | n=105 | .584 | 15% |
| 251-500 residents | 14,390 | 29% | n=103 | 1,152 | 29% |
| 501-1,000 residents | 25,581 | 51% | n=103 | 2.025 | 51% |
| | **50,252** | **100%** | **=409** | | **100%** |

**Sample Error**

When examining the overall results, the sample of n=409 out of a total population of 50,252 could have a sample error of +/- 4.8%.

**Processing the Data**

Dittman Research employees completed coding, editing, data entry and verification, while data processing was completed through the in-house Dittman Research Corporation computer system featuring the Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS) program. The SPSS program is one of the most sophisticated research-oriented data processing and analytical systems available, and is designed specifically for the processing and analysis of survey research data.

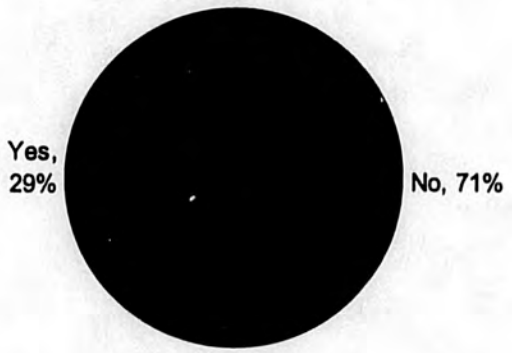
**Measurement History**

Citizen opinion measurements by the Dittman Research Corporation, utilizing the previously described methodology, analytical procedures and data processing systems, have proven to be virtually perfect predictors of political election results in Alaska for the past thirty-five years.

# II Findings

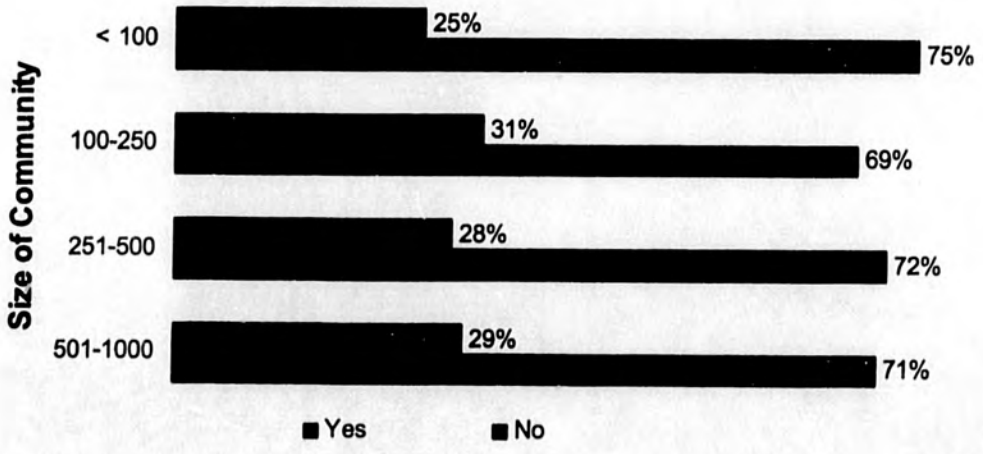
Overall, over one out of four respondents (29%) said they had been a victim of a crime in the community in which they currently live.

***Question:*** ***Have you been the victim of a crime in the community you currently live in?***




Respondents in communities of less than 100 residents were slightly less likely to report being a victim of a crime (25%), but the overall rate of reported victimization was basically similar throughout the range of community sizes.

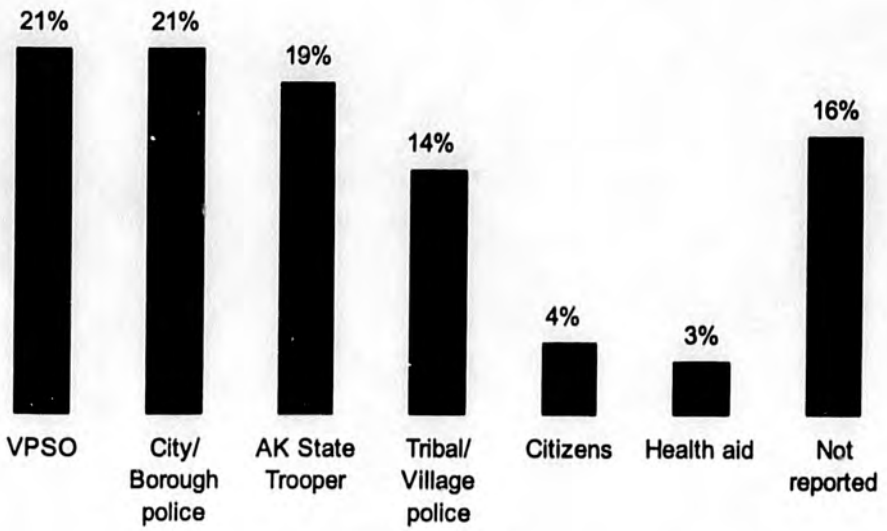
***"...victim of crime...?"***



The workload of responding to reports of criminal activity in the smaller rural communities appears to be almost equally shared by the "*VPSO*" (21%), "*City or Borough Police*" (21%) and "*Alaska State Troopers*" (19%). Significantly, approximately one out of six victims (16%) said they didn't report the crime to anyone.

*Question:* ***Who did you first report the crime to? Did you report it to...***

***(Asked of 29% who had been a victim of a crime)***




Victims in the smallest communities (<100-250) were more likely to have reported the crime to a "*VPSO*" (23-33%) or a "*Trooper*" (27-32%), while victims in larger communities (251-1000) were more likely to report to "*City/Borough police*" (32%), but the "*VPSO*" is kept relatively busy in those communities too (22%).

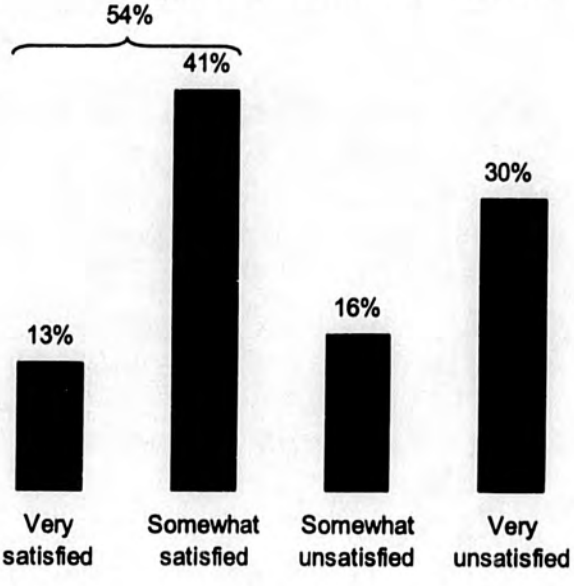
***"...who reported to...?"***

| | Size of Community | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | < 100 | 100-250 | 251-500 | 501-1000 |
| VPSO | 23% | 33% | 13% | 22% |
| City/Borough police | 7% | 0% | 16% | 32% |
| AK State Trooper | 27% | 32% | 21% | 13% |
| Tribal/Village police | 3% | 3% | 18% | 17% |
| Citizens | 17% | 9% | 8% | 0% |
| Health aid | 5% | 10% | 3% | 0% |
| Not reported | 18% | 11% | 18% | 17% |

The majority of victims (54%) were "*very*" or "*somewhat satisfied*" with the follow-up after they reported a crime; however, nearly one out of three were "*very unsatisfied*" (30%).

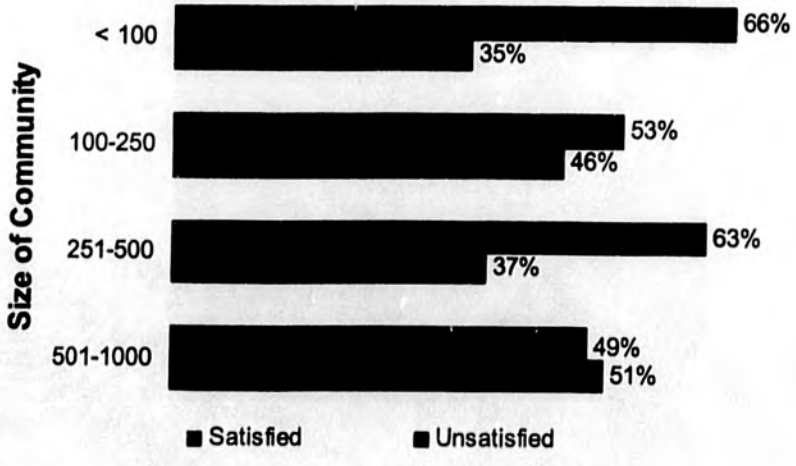
***Question:*** ***How satisfied were you with the follow-up?***

***(Asked of 29% who had been a victim of a crime)***



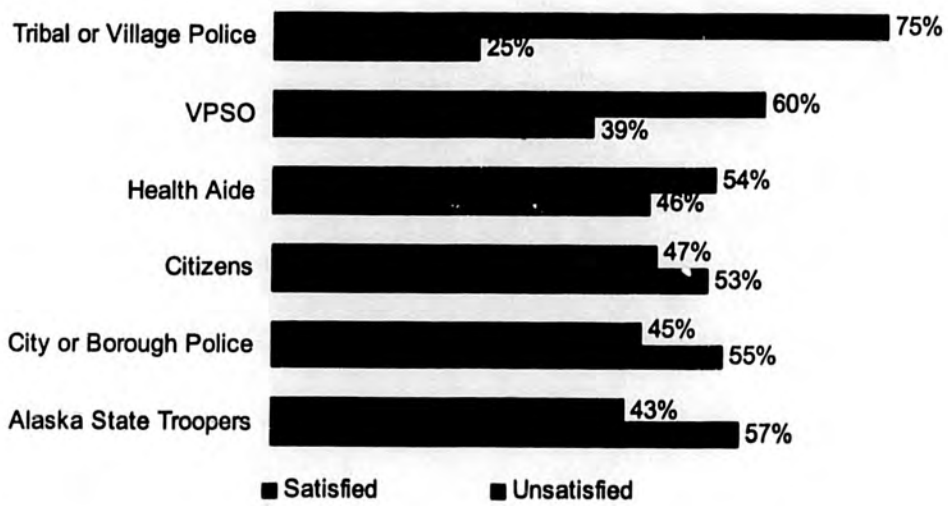

Satisfaction with follow-up was highest in communities with less than 100 people.

***"...satisfied with follow-up...?"***



Satisfaction with follow-up was also highest among victims who reported the crime to "*tribal or village police*" (75%) and "*VPSO*" (60%).

***"...satisfied with follow-up...?"***

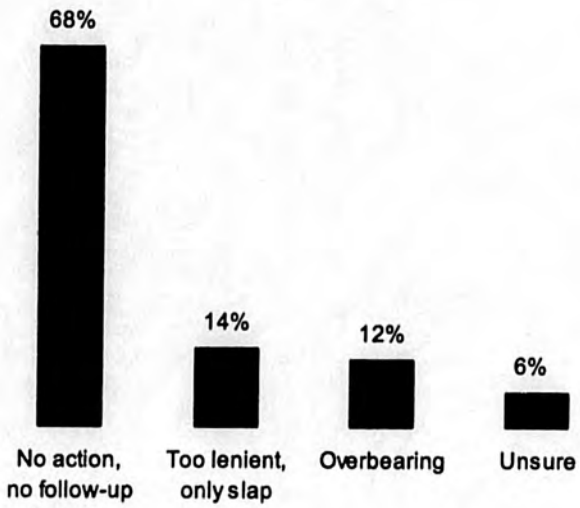


In most cases (68%), dissatisfaction with follow-up was attributed to there being "*no action, no follow-up*".

**[SEE 'VERBATIM COMMENTS' SECTION FOR MORE DETAIL]**

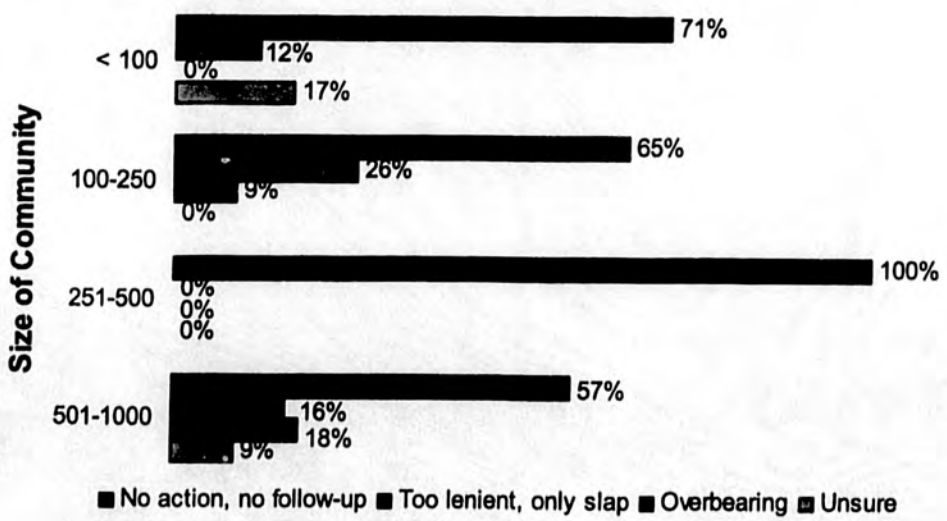
***Question:*** ***Why were you dissatisfied?***

***(Asked of victims who were dissatisfied with follow-up -- 46%)***




The lack of satisfaction based on "*no action/no follow-up*" was consistently high regardless of community size, although others also thought that the punishment for the offender was "*too lenient*".

***"...why dissatisfied...?"***

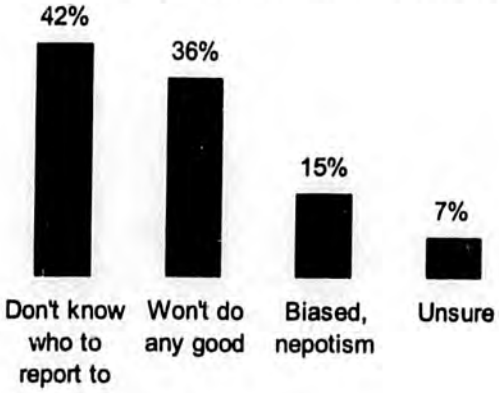


Of those who did not report their victimization, most said it was because they "*didn't know who to report it to*" (42%) or that it "*wouldn't do any good*" (36%).

**[SEE 'VERBATIM COMMENTS' SECTION FOR MORE DETAIL]**

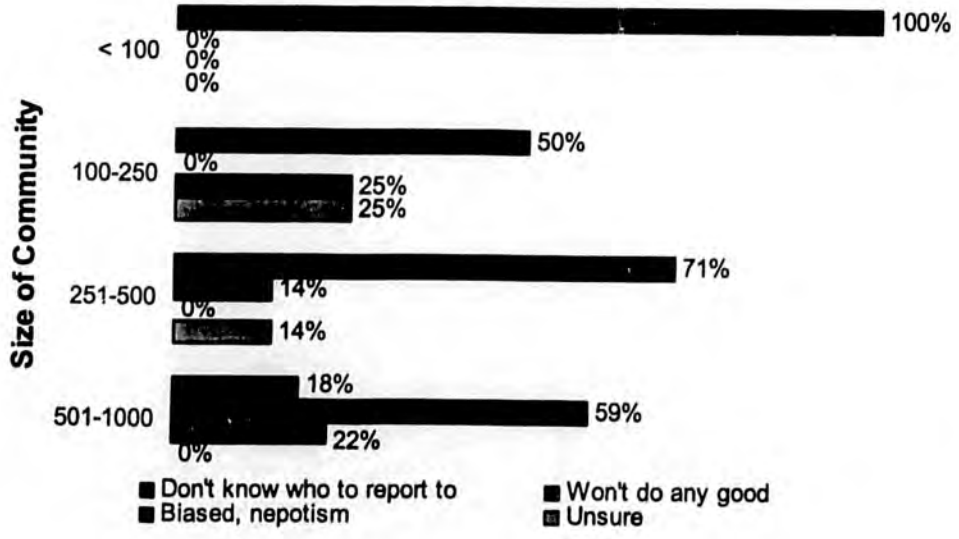
***Question:*** ***Why wasn't it reported?***

***(Asked of victims who did not report crime -- 16%)***



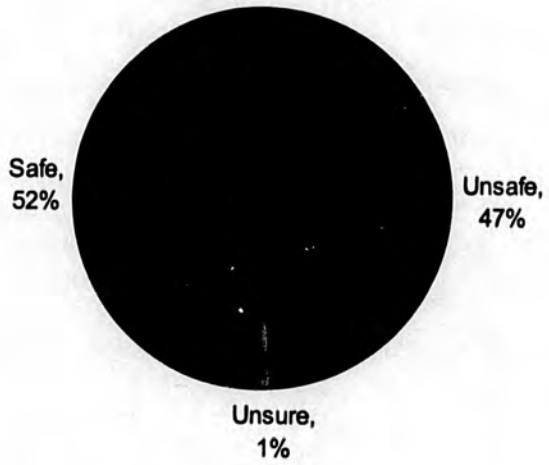

In the smaller communities, (<100-500), respondents were most likely to have not reported the crime because they "*didn't know who to report it to*" (50-100%). In the larger communities (501-1000) the decision to not report the crime was more likely to be because "*it wouldn't do any good*" (59%).

***"...why not reported...?"***



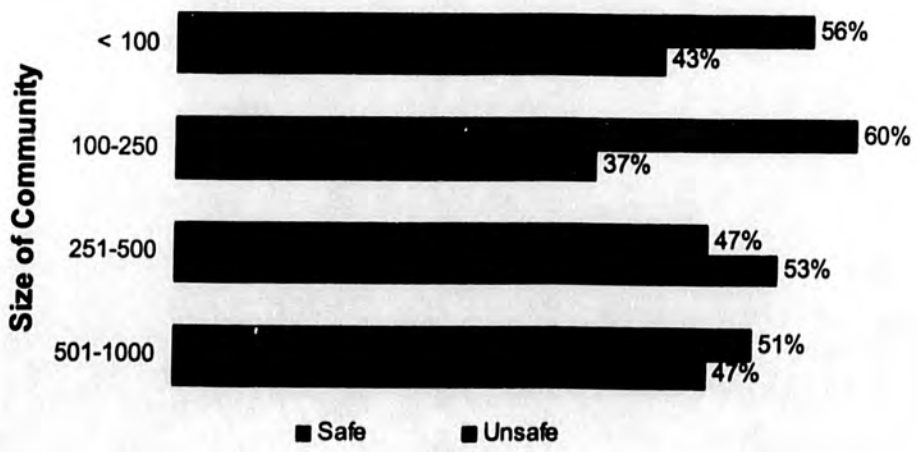
In total, rural respondents as a whole were approximately evenly split (52% "*yes*", 47% "*no*") regarding whether their community was safe and had the right amount of public safety.

***Question:*** ***Do you feel your community is safe and has the right amount of public safety?***




However, there were differences based on <u>size of community</u> -- respondents living in smaller communities (<100-250 people) were more likely to report that their community is safe (57-60%), while approximately half (49-52%) of those living in larger communities (over 251) felt that their community was unsafe.

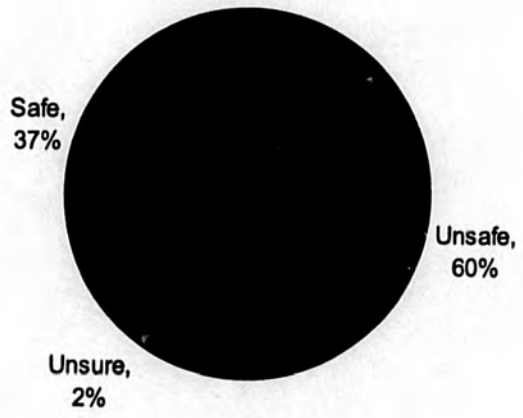
***"...community is safe...?"***



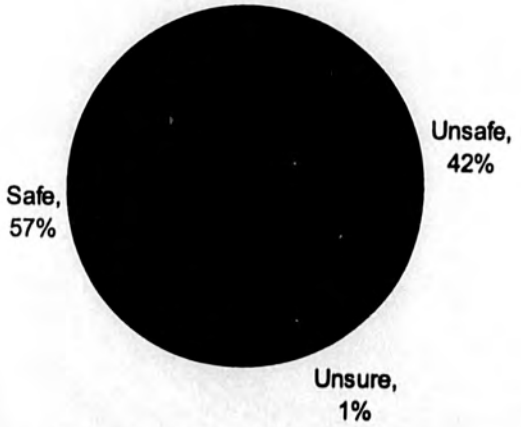
Predictably, prior victimization is also closely related to perceptions of public safety -- respondents who had been a victim of a crime in their community were much less likely to report that their community is safe (37%) compared to 57% of non-victims.

*Question:* ***Do you feel your community is safe and has the right amount of public safety?***

**Been Victim of Crime**

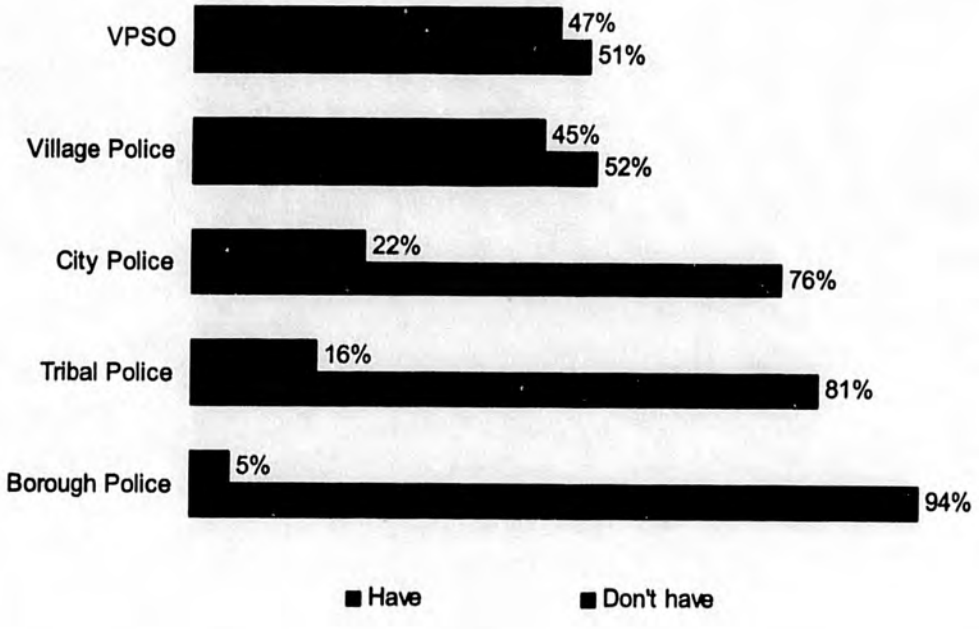



**Not been Victim of Crime**



In terms of on-site public safety, the largest number of respondents (45-47%) reported their community safety was provided by a "*VPSO*" or a "*Village Police Officer*" (VPO) located in their community.

*Question:* ***Which of the following safety positions do you have in your community?***



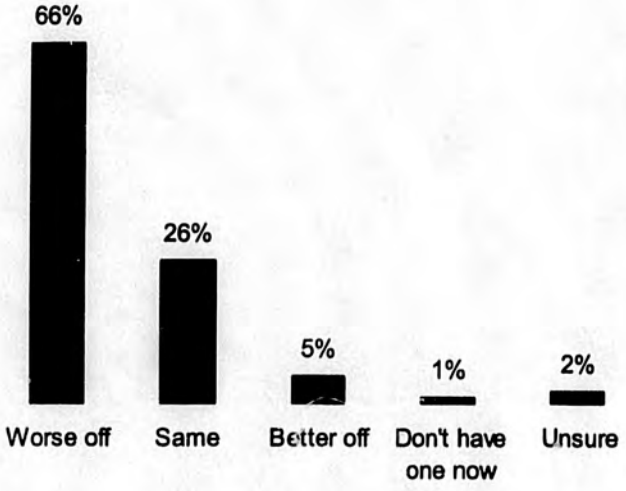

Respondents in the smallest villages (<100) were most likely to not have a staffed public safety position (69%) or just a VPSO (23%). As communities increased in population, the likelihood of having a VPSO or <u>other</u> public safety position strongly increased.

***"...safety positions do you have...?"***
(% have)

| Size of Community | VPSO | Village Police | City Police | Tribal Police | Borough Police |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| < 100 | 23% | 5% | 0% | 2% | 0% |
| 100-250 | 36% | 15% | 1% | 9% | 0% |
| 251-500 | 49% | 45% | 12% | 18% | 9% |
| 501-1000 | 51% | 57% | 35% | 18% | 4% |

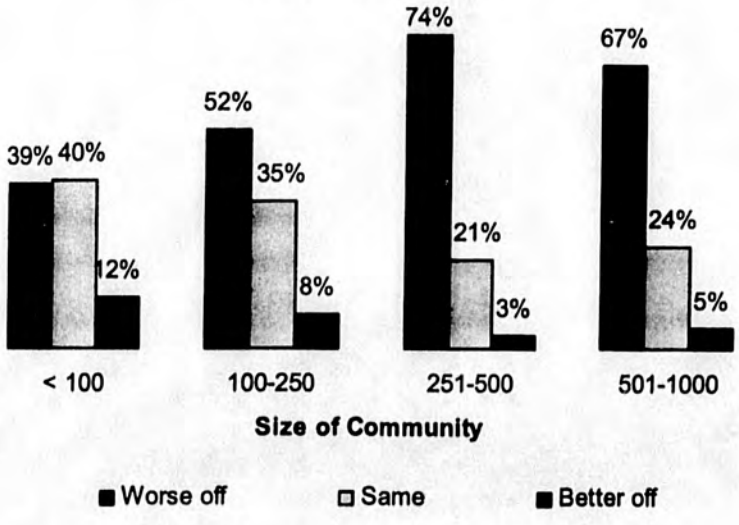
Considering the views of all respondents in the relatively small communities in Alaska (<100-1000), by far the largest number recognize the importance of having a local public safety officer. In fact, two-thirds (66%) of the respondents said they would be worse off if they did not have a local public safety officer.

***Question:*** ***If your community did not have a local public safety officer, do you feel the community would be better off, about the same or worse off?***




However, public perceptions vary depending on community size, and a slim majority (52%) in the smallest villages (<100) say they would be "the same" (40%) or "better off" (12%) if they did not have a local public safety officer.

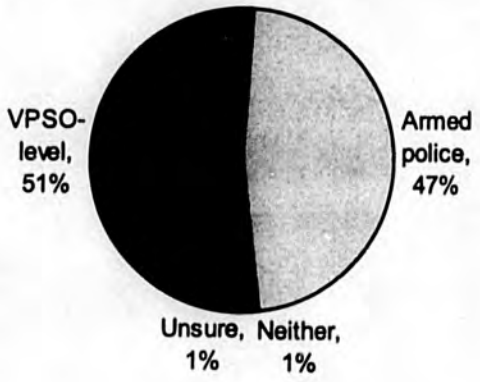
***"...if no local officer...?"***



On an overall basis, the combined respondents of all rural communities are fairly evenly split (47% to 51%) as to which type of public safety they would prefer.

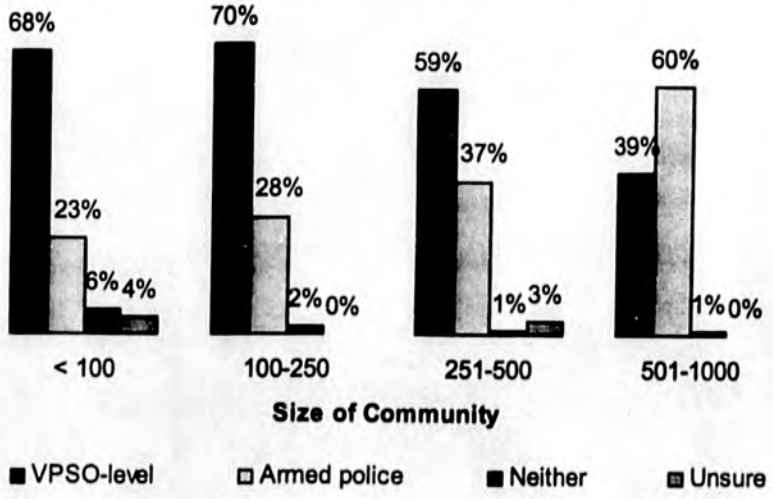
*Question:* ***In your opinion, what type of public safety would best fit your community...***

***A VPSO-level officer, who is not armed, and not certified as a police officer, serving in a variety of jobs such as fire, search & rescue, emergency services and community outreach***
***or***
***A certified and armed police officer with full law enforcement duties including, patrols traffic violations, arrests and investigations***



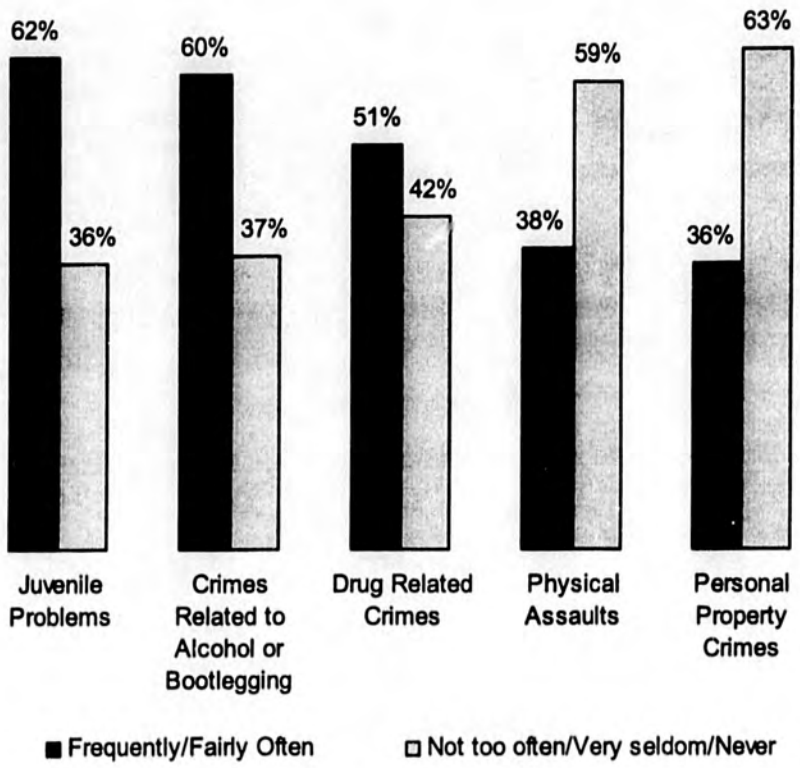

But again, there are substantial differences based on community size -- respondents in communities with a population of approximately five hundred or less prefer an unarmed VPSO-level officer, while respondents in communities over five hundred prefer a certified and armed police officer.

***"...VPSO or armed police...?"***



Looking at the type of crimes that are most prevalent in the smaller rural Alaskan communities of a thousand residents or less, there isn't much doubt that "*juvenile problems*" (62%) and "*crimes related to alcohol or bootlegging*" (60%) lead the way.

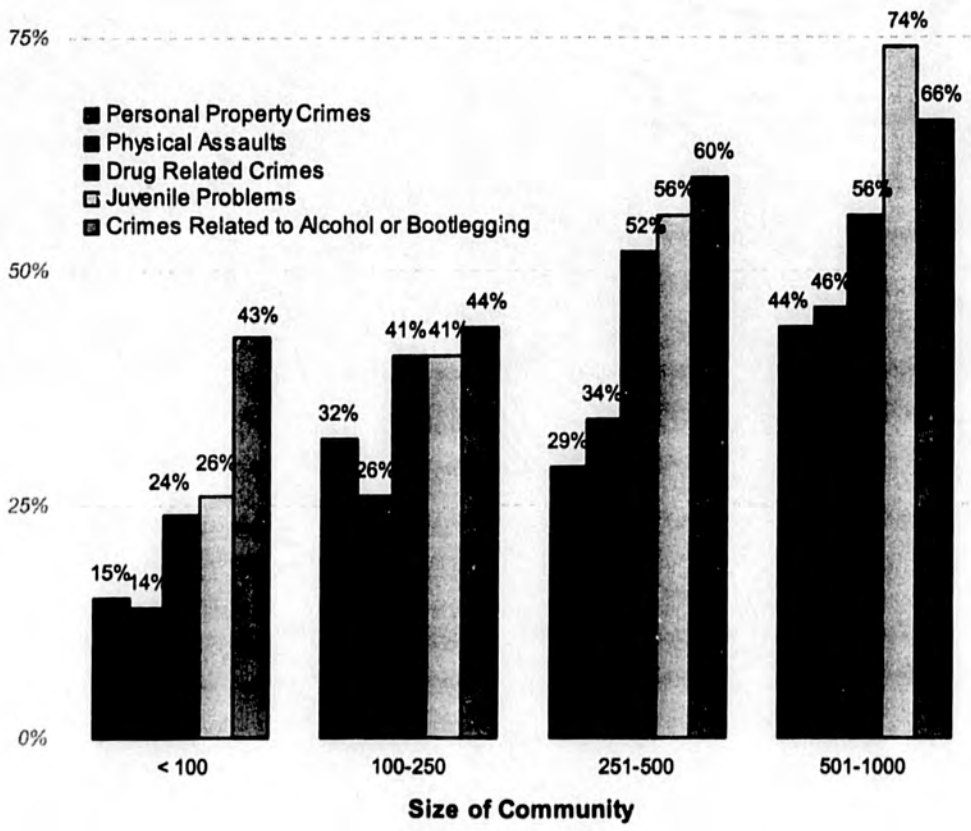
***Question:*** ***Now I'm going to read you a list of activities that may or may not happen in your community. For each activity, please tell me <u>how often</u> you feel it takes place in your community.***



It also appears clear that the relative rank-order of type of crime is basically consistent regardless of community size, and that the total incidence of all criminal activity increases with the size of community.

*"...how often...?"*

(% "frequently" or "fairly often")



As far as handling crime in rural communities is concerned, the "*VPSO*" is the single entity mentioned most often (27%); however, the combined "*local police*" (City/Borough, Village and Tribal) actually appear to lead the way.

***Question:*** ***Who currently responds to or handles the majority of crimes, such as assault, domestic violence, and or drug or alcohol related crimes, in your community?***

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| VPSO | 27% | |
| Village police | 24% | 43% |
| City/Borough police | 16% | |
| Tribal police | 3% | |
| AK State Troopers | 18% | |
| Village council | 3% | |
| Official people | 2% | |
| Community | 1% | |
| Native leaders | 1% | |
| Nobody | 1% | |
| Unsure | 4% | |

Regardless of population, approximately one out of four respondents (23-30%) consistently report that the "*VPSO*" handle the majority of crimes in their communities. However, as the population sizes increase, respondents were more likely to say that the majority of crimes are handled by "*local police*", and less likely to say they are handled by "*Alaska State Troopers*".

***"...who currently handles crimes...?"***

| | Size of Community | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | **≤ 100** | **100-250** | **251-500** | **501-1000** |
| **VPSO** | **23%** | **30%** | **30%** | **25%** |
| Village police | 0% | 8% | 22% | 31% |
| City/Borough police | 0% | 0% | 12% | 25% |
| Tribal police | 0% | 5% | 5% | 2% |
| | **0%** | **13%** | **39%** | **58%** |
| **AK State Troopers** | **46%** | **35%** | **20%** | **9%** |
| Village council | 13% | 10% | 1% | 1% |
| Official people | 2% | 4% | 3% | 1% |
| Community | 1% | 1% | 3% | 0% |
| Native leaders | 4% | 3% | 1% | 1% |
| Nobody | 8% | 3% | 1% | 0% |
| Unsure | 2% | 2% | 3% | 5% |

When asked who should handle crimes, basic responses change little from who currently handles them, but there is more preference for "*VPSO*" and "*Troopers*" handling crimes (27% to 33% and 18% to 21%), and less on "*local police*" (43% to 34%).

***Question:*** ***Who do you think should handle most of the crimes in your community?***

| | ***Currently handles*** | | **Should handle** | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **VPSO** | ***27%*** | | **33%** | |
| Village police | *24%* | **43%** | 16% | **34%** |
| City/Borough police | *16%* | | 13% | |
| Tribal police | *3%* | | 5% | |
| **AK State Troopers** | ***18%*** | | **21%** | |
| Village council | *3%* | | 3% | |
| Official people | *2%* | | 4% | |
| Community | *1%* | | 1% | |
| Native leaders | *1%* | | 1% | |
| Clinical | *0%* | | 0% | |
| Nobody | *1%* | | 0% | |
| Unsure | *4%* | | 4% | |

On a population basis, respondents from communities of 500 people or less were most likely to say that "*VPSO*" should handle the majority of crimes (42-48%). "*Troopers*" were also frequently mentioned (10-34%), and "*local police*" were steadily mentioned more often as the population of the communities increased.

***"...who should handle...?"***

| | **Size of Community** | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | **< 100** | | **100-250** | | **251-500** | | **501-1000** | |
| **VPSO** | **48%** | | **42%** | | **42%** | | **25%** | |
| Village police | 2% | **4%** | 8% | **18%** | 20% | **35%** | 17% | **40%** |
| City/Borough police | 0% | | 0% | | 7% | | 21% | |
| Tribal police | 2% | | 10% | | 8% | | 2% | |
| **AK State Troopers** | **34%** | | **22%** | | **10%** | | **25%** | |
| Village council | 7% | | 8% | | 1% | | 2% | |
| Official people | 0% | | 4% | | 5% | | 4% | |
| Community | 0% | | 2% | | 2% | | 0% | |
| Native leaders | 2% | | 2% | | 1% | | 0% | |
| Clinical | 1% | | 0% | | 0% | | 0% | |
| Nobody | 2% | | 0% | | 0% | | 0% | |
| Unsure | 3% | | 2% | | 4% | | 5% | |

Looking at other types of public safety needs, fewer respondents report a frequent need for non-criminal crisis response compared to most of the criminal activities.

***Question:*** ***How often does your community need non-criminal crisis response, such as search and rescue, emergency services, suicide response or fire response -- does your community need them...***

■ Frequently/Fairly Often □ Not too often/Very seldom/Never

And as with criminal activities, the larger the community, the more the respondents reported a more frequent need for crisis response.

***"...how often need crisis response...?"***

| | Size of Community | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | < 100 | 100-250 | 251-500 | 501-1000 |
| Frequently/Fairly Often | 13% | 25% | 36% | 48% |
| Not too often/Very seldom/Never | 86% | 75% | 62% | 52% |

When asked who <u>should</u> handle non-criminal crisis situations, respondents were much more likely to describe non-public safety officials, such as "*village council*", "*official people*" or "*the community*".

***Question:*** ***Who do you think should handle such non-criminal crisis situations?***

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| VPSO | 19% | |
| Village police | 14% | 26% |
| City/Borough police | 8% | |
| Tribal police | 4% | |
| AK State Troopers | 10% | |
| Village council | 6% | |
| Official people | 19% | |
| Community | 9% | |
| Native leaders | 1% | |
| Clinical | 2% | |
| Unsure | 7% | |

Respondents from <u>smaller</u> communities (<100-250) are more likely to look toward local community leadership (56%) rather than public safety officials for crisis situations, while respondents from <u>larger</u> communities (501-1000) are more likely to say that local police should handle non-crisis response (35%).

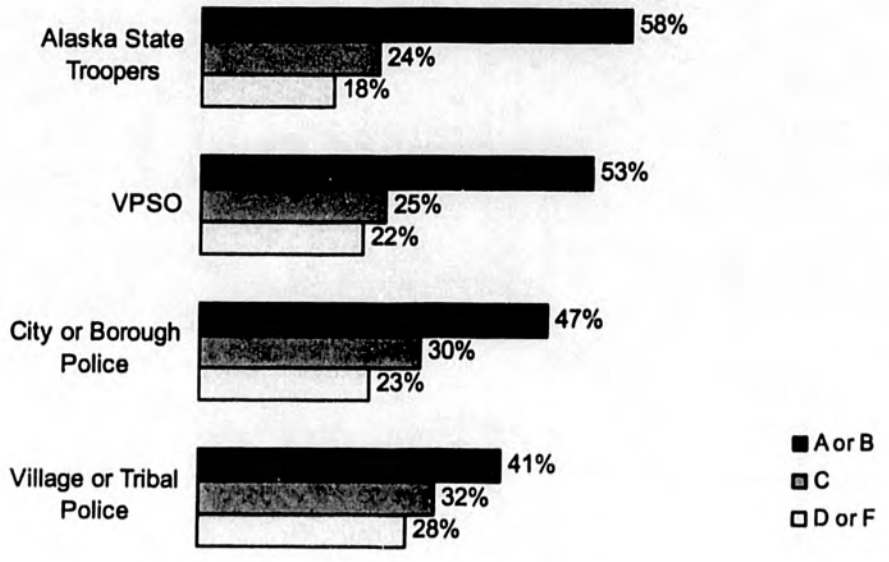
***"...handle crisis situations...?"***

| | **Size of Community** | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | **<u>< 100</u>** | **<u>100-250</u>** | **<u>251-500</u>** | **<u>501-1000</u>** |
| VPSO | 28% | 21% | 31% | 11% |
| Village police | 2% | 5% | 16% | 17% |
| City/Borough police | 0% 2% | 0% 13% | 4% 23% | 14% 35% |
| Tribal police | 0% | 8% | 3% | 4% |
| AK State Troopers | 11% | 7% | 8% | 12% |
| Village council | 16% | 19% | 5% | 2% |
| Official people | 19% | 20% | 17% | 20% |
| Community | 18% 56% | 9% 51% | 9% 32% | 9% 36% |
| Native leaders | 0% | 1% | 1% | 2% |
| Clinical | 3% | 2% | 0% | 3% |
| Unsure | 2% | 7% | 5% | 8% |

Overall, respondents graded Alaska State Troopers the highest among public safety officers (58% "*A*" or "*B*"), followed by VPSO (53%) and City or Borough Police (47%).

***Question:*** ***Considering your own experiences, and those of people you know, using a grading scale of A,B,C,D and F like a school report card, what "grade" would you give...?***

***(not asked of those who responded not applicable*)***




**Alaska State Troopers asked of 79%; VPSO asked of 63%; City/Borough Police asked of 40%; Village/Tribal Police asked of: 60%.*

And the pattern was consistent throughout all community sizes -- more than half of respondents from each population group graded Alaska State Troopers and VPSO highly, giving them an "*A*" or a "*B*" (Troopers 52-60%; VPSO 53-60%), while City/Borough and Village/Tribal police were consistently given lower grades in most community categories.

*"...what grade would you give...?"*

| **Alaska State Troopers** | A-B | C | D-F |
|---|---|---|---|
| < 100 | **52%** | 22% | 26% |
| 100-250 | **58%** | 20% | 22% |
| 251-500 | **55%** | 29% | 16% |
| 501-1000 | **60%** | 24% | 17% |

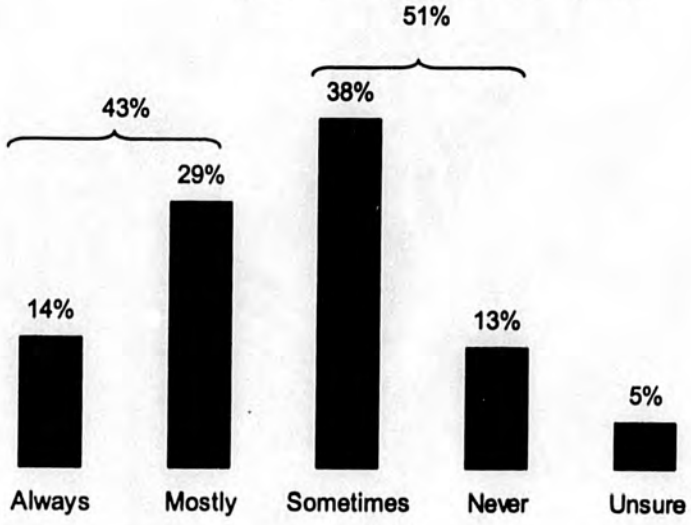
| **VPSO** | A-B | C | D-F |
|---|---|---|---|
| < 100 | **60%** | 28% | 11% |
| 100-250 | **55%** | 30% | 15% |
| 251-500 | **53%** | 24% | 24% |
| 501-1000 | **53%** | 24% | 23% |

| **City or Borough Police** | A-B | C | D-F |
|---|---|---|---|
| < 100 | 41% | 35% | 24% |
| 100-250 | 41% | 31% | 28% |
| 251-500 | **50%** | 24% | 26% |
| 501-1000 | 47% | 31% | 21% |

| **Village or Tribal Police** | A-B | C | D-F |
|---|---|---|---|
| < 100 | **55%** | 34% | 10% |
| 100-250 | 32% | 42% | 25% |
| 251-500 | 43% | 25% | 32% |
| 501-1000 | 41% | 34% | 25% |

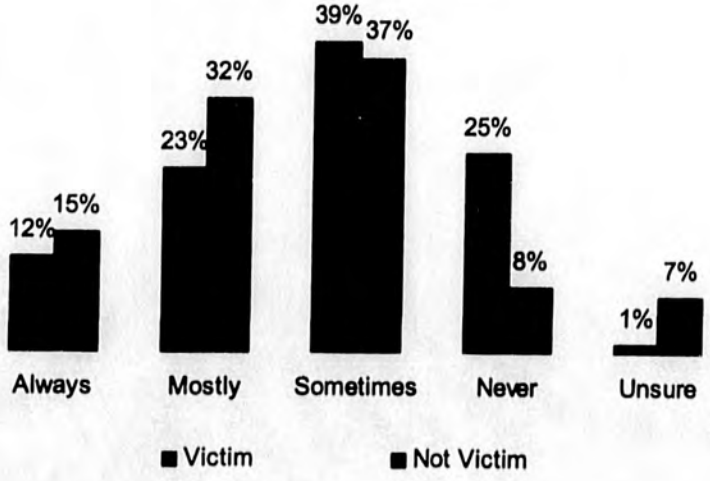
Even though the Alaska State Troopers were consistently highly rated throughout all community size categories, there's an impression that their response time could be improved. In fact, approximately half of the respondents said that Troopers only "*sometimes*" or "*never*" respond quickly enough (51%).

***Question:*** ***Do Alaska State Troopers respond fast enough to events in your community...?***



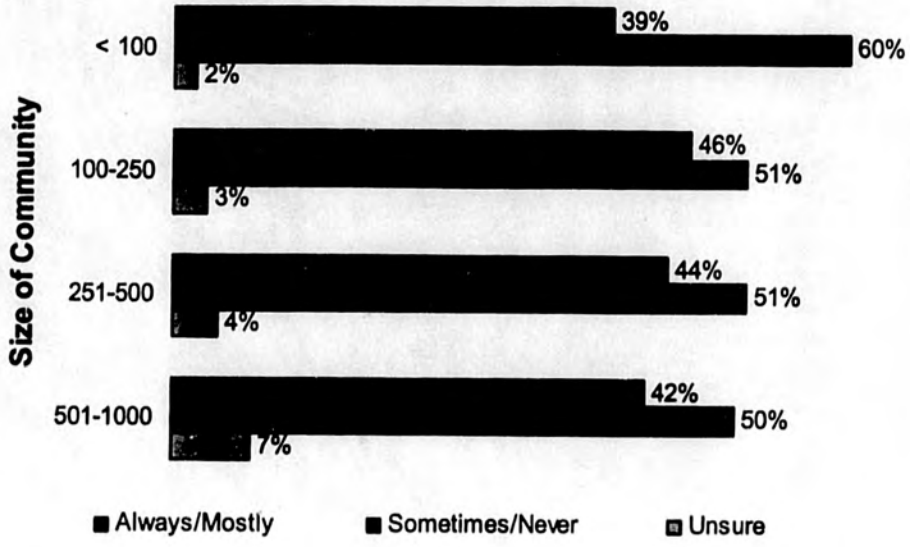

And this impression is particularly strong among reported victims of crime. Approximately two-thirds (64%) of respondents who had been victims of a crime in their community report that Troopers "*sometimes*" or "*never*" respond fast enough.

***"...Troopers respond fast enough...?"***



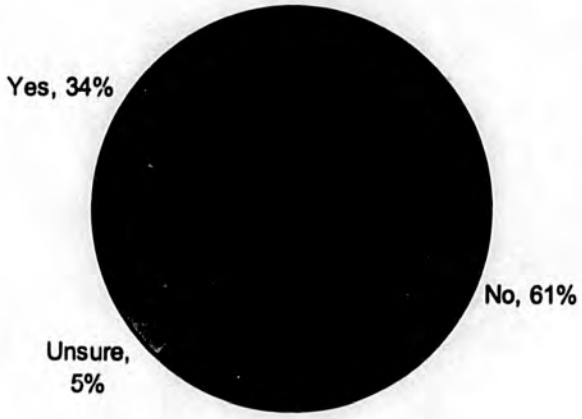
Based on population groupings, respondents who were residents of communities with populations less than 100 were most likely to say that Troopers only "*sometimes*" or "*never*" respond fast enough to events in their community (60%) compared to 50-51% in the larger communities.

***"...Troopers respond fast enough...?"***



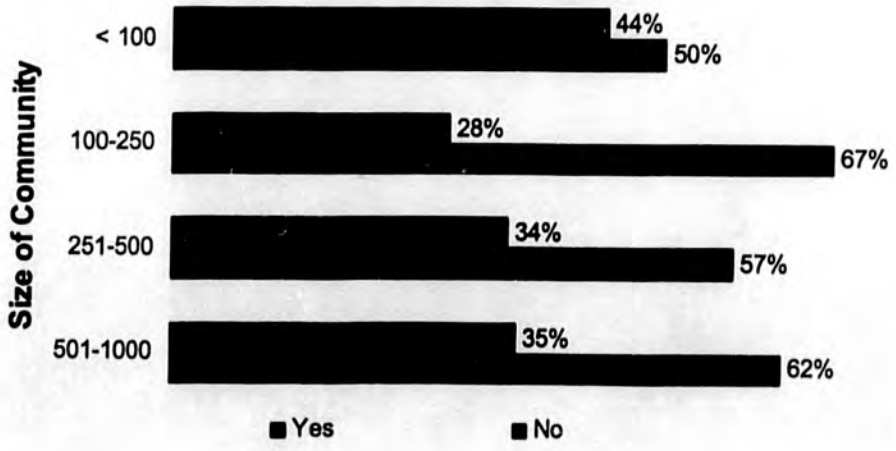
And responsiveness is clearly important -- in spite of the high overall ratings given to the Alaska State Troopers, the presence of other public safety personnel is considered to be important. Three out of five respondents (61%) said that they could not do without public safety positions in their community if there were more Troopers in their region.

*Question:* ***Do you think you could do without public safety positions in your community if there were more Alaska State Troopers in your region that could come more quickly if needed?***




Respondents from the smallest communities of fewer than 100 residents were most likely to say that they could do without local public safety if there were more Troopers (44%), but even in that case, the largest number of respondents felt they could not do without local public safety positions in their communities.

***"...do without if more Troopers...?"***



And in conclusion, by a large margin, the most common response given regarding how to improve public safety in rural communities was to have "*more permanent VPSOs*" (32%), who receive "*better training*" (11%), are "*honest and unbiased*", and would do their job, establish consequences for crime and enforce the law (7%).

**[SEE 'VERBATIM COMMENTS' SECTION FOR MORE DETAIL]**

***Question:*** ***What do you think is really needed to improve public safety in your community? What would be the most important first step?***

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 32% | | More permanent VPSO/VPOs, more money |
| 11% | | More and better training, including drugs and alcohol |
| 7% | | Honest/unbiased, free from politics and prejudice |
| 7% | | Involve community, volunteers, provide role models |
| 5% | | More equipment, supplies, housing |
| 17% | 6% | Do their job, patrol more, answer phone |
| | 4% | Communicate consequences of crime, awareness of laws, reach teens |
| | 4% | Enforce, prosecute, treat all crimes seriously |
| | 3% | Enforce traffic laws, four-wheelers, snow machines |
| 3% | | Go dry, control/eliminate alcohol and drugs |
| 1% | | More health/wellness |
| 9% | | Unsure |
| 10% | | Okay now, doing good job |

Regardless of population size, rural public safety views were basically consistent in each category of community size. However, there were two exceptions to this general rule -- the smallest villages (<100 residents) were most likely to express satisfaction with the public safety situation at the present time (16% *"okay as it is"*), and the larger communities (501-1000 residents) were most likely to suggest "*more and better training*" (15%).

***"...needed to improve...?"***

| | Size of Community | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | **< 100** | **100-250** | **251-500** | **501-1000** |
| More VPSOs | **29%** | **37%** | **33%** | **30%** |
| Training | 7% | 4% | 9% | **15%** |
| Unbiased, honest | 2% | 5% | 4% | 9% |
| Community involvement | 9% | 8% | 9% | 5% |
| More equipment | 10% | 5% | 4% | 5% |
| Do their job | 1% | 3% | 5% | 8% |
| Communicate | 5% | 7% | 5% | 3% |
| Enforce, prosecute | 13% 3% | 14% 3% | 17% 3% | 11% 5% |
| Enforce traffic | 5% | 1% | 4% | 3% |
| Go dry, control | 3% | 6% | 4% | 1% |
| Health aid | 2% | 1% | 0% | 1% |
| Unsure | 8% | 11% | 10% | 7% |
| Okay now | **16%** | 9% | 11% | 9% |

# III Summary

## OVERVIEW: SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

- As a whole, rural Alaskans in the smaller communities (<100-1000 residents) reported mixed feelings regarding whether their communities are safe or not (51% "*safe*"; 48% "*unsafe*").

- Over one out of four rural respondents (29%) reported being a victim of crime in the community where they live.

- The workload of responding to criminal activity in the smaller communities appears to be almost equally shared by the "*VPSO*" (21%), "*City or Borough police*" (21%) and "*Alaska State Troopers*" (19%).

- The majority of victims (54%) reported they were "*satisfied*" with the follow-up after the crime; however, nearly one-third (30%) were "*very unsatisfied*". Dissatisfaction was primarily related to "*no action/lack of follow-up*" after the crime was reported.

- Approximately one out of six victims (16%) said they didn't report the crime -- most often because they "*didn't know who to report it to*" (42%) or because "*it wouldn't do any good*" (36%).

- "*Juvenile problems*" (62%), "*alcohol-related crimes and bootlegging*" (60%) and "*drug-related activities*" (51%) lead the list of crimes residents say are occur most often in their communities. The frequency of criminal activities increases substantially as the size of the community increases.

- The presence of a public safety official in the community is reported to be important -- approximately two-thirds (66%) reported their community would be "*worse off*" if it did not have a local public safety officer.

- The Alaska State Troopers are reported to handle most of the crimes in the smaller communities (45% in communities of under 100 residents; 35% in communities of 100-250), while City, Borough, Village or Tribal police are believed to handle most of the crimes in the larger communities (59% in communities of 501-1000 residents).

- Regardless of population, approximately one out of four respondents (23-30%) consistently reported that the Village Public Safety Officer (VPSO) handles most of the crimes in their communities.

- The largest number of residents (60-70%) in the smaller rural communities (<100-500 people) report they would prefer an "*unarmed VPSO-level public safety officer*"; while a similar percentage (60%) of the residents in the larger rural communities (501-1000 people) would prefer a "*certified armed police officer*".

- Overall, respondents throughout rural Alaska graded the "*Alaska State Trocpers*" the highest on a grading scale of A, B, C, D and F (56% A or B); closely followed by "*Village Public Safety Officers (VPSO)*" (53% A or B). "*Village or Tribal police*" were most highly rated in the smallest communities (54% A or B).

- In conclusion, despite the high grades for the Alaska State Troopers, by far the most common recommendation to improve public safety in rural areas was related to local community officers -- "*need more, permanent VPSOs/Village Police Officers in the communities*" (32%), who receive "*better training*" (11%) and are "*honest and unbiased*" and free from politics and nepotism (7%). Other suggestions included "*stronger, more strict law enforcement with consequences*" (10%) and VPSOs need to "*answer the phone, do their job, and patrol more*" (6%).

# IV Verbatim Comments

# Verbatim Comments

Question: "Have you been the victim of a crime in the community you currently live in? Who did you first report the crime to?

"How satisfied were you with the follow-up? Why were you dissatisfied?"

## VILLAGES WITH POPULATION LESS THAN 100

QUESTION: *"Have you been the victim of a crime in the community you currently live in? Who did you first report the crime to?....*
*"How satisfied were you with the follow-up?....Why were you dissatisfied?"*

The state troopers and the VPSO didn't come quickly enough.

Because nothing was done about it. It was swept under the rug and let go.

I have no faith in the system. The court systems make examples of the wrong people.

My wife and I went to town one Christmas and $8,000 was taken from our house and all the kids' got was a slap on the hand.

"Extra"—We had a serious domestic disturbance yesterday and the state troopers have not come yet.

I was arrested for domestic violence. The other party called in the state troopers. It was a false accusation, but since I didn't have the money to fight it, I pleaded it out and paid for it with time in jail and with money. But I still say I was the victim.

Never got our things back even though they talked to the people who did it.

The troopers didn't seem like they investigated deeply enough. We did not have a VPSO at the time.

## VILLAGES WITH POPULATION 101-250

QUESTION: *"Have you been the victim of a crime in the community you currently live in? Who did you first report the crime to?....*
*"How satisfied were you with the follow-up?....Why were you dissatisfied?"*

I was charged with something I did not do. The assistant district attorney apologized but not the state troopers. It was a political thing.

Because the person who did the crime had no punishment at all. Went completely without anything. We've been pretty lawless around here.

There were not enough people to protect me in the community against the abusers.

Nothing was done about my problem. The troopers just ignored it. It was an assault.

Nothing was done. Things get really political here.

They didn't do anything. They stole from me and the state trooper said it was a civil case. VPSO is a good program but under funded.

Nothing was ever done. No follow-up by the former VPSO, not the one we have now.

Couldn't subdue the bums. No contacts. No one would talk to them. Out of touch. I dealt with it myself.

They, the village council, did not respond. And I wrote a letter to the state troopers. They did nothing either. We had to go on our own and go to court.

Because nothing happened by the school administrator, and the girl is a little thief.

They didn't come and do anything about it. They just let it slide.

The state troopers left out a lot. The village council did good, listened and called the troopers.

This was already a convicted sex offender and he tried to sexually assault me. It was something he had been punished for before. He should have gotten harsher punishment but I know why he didn't. Something to do with the judicial system in Nome. There was no court trial, he was put on probation, and he is back here.

It turned into a felony and the state troopers took care of the felony.

## VILLAGES WITH POPULATION 251-500

QUESTION: *"Have you been the victim of a crime in the community you currently live in? Who did you first report the crime to?....*
*"How satisfied were you with the follow-up?....Why were you dissatisfied?"*

Went to them, to VPO, for domestic violence against me and they took me in. The second time they just told me to handle it myself.

The response to endangerment to my life was satisfactory. It depends on who is here. Every policeman is different.

There was no response or follow-up.

He broke into my house and groped me and nothing happened to him. No investigation. He was a bothersome person.

They never found the stuff stolen or who stole it.

My home was broken into and the state troopers never came out.

## VILLAGES WITH POPULATION MORE THAN 500

QUESTION: *"Have you been the victim of a crime in the community you currently live in? Who did you first report the crime to?....*
*"How satisfied were you with the follow-up?....Why were you dissatisfied?"*

I had a strong voice with the judge about it and they said I needed to go back home. I think I went to court for nothing because I don't think the judge understood me and I don't think I understood enough of what he said. They kept us waiting two months and then didn't get an answer or nothing.

Because the kid was a minor and when he went to court they didn't notify us.

There was no response to my problem.

Under assault, called the troopers, and no answer. I called my daughter who called the Bethel troopers. Guy was at a party, got jealous with his wife and held a gun on her.

Because of the time it took for them to do anything. I got no response.

The level of training of the VPO was not adequate.

A stolen snow machine. The VPO did nothing. Then reported it to the state trooper who did some follow-up, maybe. I'm not sure if they did anything.

The police walked into my house before me and I will probably lose the case because of it. The "no-contact rule" sucks. You can't even go to church with people. If there is something that's a civil case there is no one to help. The police won't guide us where to go with civil and criminal issues.

They brandish weapons way too much. Came here and drew his gun and was going to shoot my dogs.

Because there was no follow-through whatsoever. That's it.

Our four wheelers where being taken by juveniles and when we reported it they still could not stop them from being out in the middle of the night and taking everyone's four wheelers.

# Verbatim Comments

Question Have you been the victim of a crime in the community you currently live in? Who did you first report the crime to?

Or did it go unreported? Why wasn't it reported?

## VILLAGES WITH POPULATION LESS THAN 100

QUESTION: *"Have you been the victim of a crime in the community you currently live in? Who did you first report the crime to?...."*

*"...Or did it go unreported? Why wasn't it reported?"*

Nobody was around to report it to.

I didn't know who to report it to.

There's no one to report to, not that big of a crime. Didn't think troopers would think that it was big and investigate.

Wait and wait and wait for someone to come and just forget about it.

## VILLAGES WITH POPULATION 100-250

QUESTION: *"Have you been the victim of a crime in the community you currently live in? Who did you first report the crime to?...."*

*"...Or did it go unreported? Why wasn't it reported?"*

Not enough people witnessed it to verify. You have to have two, at least two, witnesses to have the incident reported here, I would say.

I don't know. It wasn't a crime so who do I report it to?

If I report it to the state troopers and they speak to the IRA or council they would turn it on me. The state troopers would believe them. They don't go after their own, but everyone else!

## VILLAGES WITH POPULATION 251-500

QUESTION: *"Have you been the victim of a crime in the community you currently live in? Who did you first report the crime to?...."*

*"...Or did it go unreported? Why wasn't it reported?"*

Because there was no one to report it to.

Because there was not a set protocol when it happened.

No comment.

No one to report it to. If it was reported to the clinic we'd still wait here until it's too late to help.

No reason to, somebody else reported it.

Because I know the guy and he is not a bad guy.

## VILLAGES WITH POPULATION MORE THAN 500

QUESTION: *"Have you been the victim of a crime in the community you currently live in? Who did you first report the crime to?...."*

*"...Or did it go unreported? Why wasn't it reported?"*

It was vandalism and I didn't report it because I knew nothing would be done about it. I have had friends whose places had been vandalized and the VPO came out and did nothing.

It does no good. Troopers don't fill reports, parents give the kids the machines but no money for gas. They just go out and take it. Need more parental control.

Had gas siphoned from a snow machine once, but I didn't think I needed to report it because there was not much of a chance in him being caught.

There was no one to report it to at the time.

They wouldn't find the person. There are too many people here. It was vandalism, parts were taken off of my four-wheeler. They took the keys also. I haven't caught them yet, but I'm still looking.

If it is a white man they just laugh at you, and if it is a native they gather around.

# rbatim Comments

/hat do you think is really needed to improve public safety your community? What would be the most important first ep?

## VILLAGES WITH POPULATION LESS THAN 100

QUESTION: *"What do you think is really needed to improve public safety in your community? What would be the most important first step?*

Our VPSO takes care of it and drunk driving doesn't happen now. We have helmet laws now too, that are enforced.

Have a community meeting to see if it's needed, and if it is needed, find a qualified person to fill the position by asking around, and advertise the position.

Provide housing for a VPSO to live in and they should have one in every village. There are no real problems here.

Gee, I don't know, it is taken care of by people in the village. There are only 40+ people and we are like a big family.

Nothing at all, I think we are good the way we are. Got good kids here and a few elderly people and everyone gets along.

Community members are too easy on people.

A VPSO officer. We get one and they end up going on to the troopers!

We've pretty well got it covered.

Nothing now.

Get rid of the booze by searching airline bags coming from Fairbanks. J--- and J--- bring it in.

I guess to have a contact with a 911 number. Our community doesn't have that, and a quicker response when we need someone.

A leash law for animals.

Our village is small so we really don't need anyone.

We need to have a VPSO so that when the trooper gets called to another village we can still have someone here to keep everyone safe.

Maybe we should have a VPSO here.

Quicker Med Evacs. We had a man die of a heart attack because we couldn't get a Med Evac for him.

## VILLAGES WITH POPULATION LESS THAN 100

Accountability; the presence of someone who could hold them to be accountable for their actions--like a VPSO.

Maybe a trained VPSO who could walk around the community to get to know everyone and let people know there would be consequences for their actions.

Just make sure everything is going well. The VPSO should make sure everything is in order.

Getting a community action thing going--a volunteer fire department, for example.

To get our own VPSO.

Give the VPSO better training on what he feels he needs.

The VPSO handles everything, that's all I know!

Getting a VPSO.

To get a VPSO.

Parents taking interest in their children.

I'd say more local communication, by more village gatherings.

Parents need to wake up—more awareness of what's going on with the kids. They tend to turn their heads and not acknowledge the petty crimes.

We need to have the drug dealers cleaned up and then have a VPSO.

Nothing good will happen in our area. We grew up knowing that. The government will wipe out villages totally. People who are drunk respect a police officer who has a gun. Sometimes the VPSO's are dickheads. People suck in their stomachs around an armed trooper. We don't have a VPSO, a health aide, or any other kind of help. We do it like we have been taught by our elders.

We need a native VPSO, someone who understands what we go through, instead of an outsider. A native guy will shy back from a white guy who asks questions.

The state needs more money so they can send more VPSO's. We get by, but we need someone else to help with crisis situations here. If things don't get worse we can handle it.

Get rid of drugs and alcohol.

Our community is strong and tight knit, but we need communication with the outside world.

VPSO to Tribal, TPO. Streetlights.

## VILLAGES WITH POPULATION LESS THAN 100

We should have a VPSO who stays here. We need someone in this small community. If something happens there's no one to help when there is a crisis.

Here, even our drunks are trained. Mental health money allocated and spent at a local level can be prioritized and can create preventative opportunities for positive actions and progress. Don't cut the villages' mental health money. Prevention is a whole lot cheaper than prosecution.

This town needs more lights on the roads. Everybody is like family here, so we all take care of each other.

Getting somebody here! We need an officer of some sort. Please, we really need somebody here. I could go into flowery exposé about our problems, but it basically boils down to the fact that we need somebody.

Keep kids who are underage and drive four wheelers very fast from doing it. We need a VPSO in the summertime. We may not be able to trust one, after the last two, who were peeping toms.

More than anything we need native officers. We take care of our own for the most part. We try not to let things get out of hand. We can handle it. The troopers are 1.4 air miles away.

We are having a little fire safety course going for even the children, which is nice. We really don't need anything out here at all.

First, on the federal side they need money. We need to hire our own officer but he will not handle major crimes. Second, we need a tribal agreement on public safety.

Education and facing the consequences for what they do.

The community here has to want and support a VPSO. People here gang up on authority figures. A VPSO that would help with the DARE program and coordinate duties would improve things. If we could have a visiting officer that would come and help with prevention programs, a trained VPSO would help. Start with the kids, train and control them and the crime rate will drop.

It reverts back to basic family morals and values. If we still had that we would not need any law enforcers.

Better court and justice systems. Put people in jail who commit crimes, don't put them back in the villages where they cause more crime.

Raise community awareness that we want a safe community.

Getting a VPSO and actually enforce the tribal and state laws.

A well trained VPSO would be most beneficial.

## VILLAGES WITH POPULATION LESS THAN 100

We have a VPSO. We need a better fire protection infrastructure for water and foam availability, water pumps and hose access to the river.

Some form of local representation with small communities. People step up and wear multiple hats. VPSO is a better fit. It works a lot towards prevention of crime. Trooper Welch is a good man, hard for him to get here. Shorter response time saves life and property. He has to travel by land and air, whereas Seward had jurisdiction and they can come only by air. Troopers are well trained and have good hearts. Girdwood has us imposed on them. Public safety in any form should be held utmost the highest in addition to medical and education and should be budgeted accordingly.

Perhaps better or more fire equipment would be good.

Not a thing, just got new fire equipment in and several people have trained for it so we really have all we need.

We need a small fire truck to respond to fires. Flotation devices for safety on the river. Faster service for planes to leave faster in emergency. Something to reach someone fast if electric and phones go out.

We had a fire last year, not much to do about it. Need more fire equipment.

Fire safety equipment, training for the equipment.

Need to get funding for a VPSO here.

Would like to see the health aide come more often. A VPSO would be nice to have.

Nothing, we are safe here.

Get more information to the public; caution them about illegal activities and safety cautions.

Nothing. We need more volunteers, like for the fire department and the search and rescue, we could use more volunteers. It would be good if they paid people here to do that kind of stuff.

If we had a VPSO that had more training in the fire department stuff. We have lost a lot of homes due to fires here. Also, they don't have the VPSO overseen enough so that they are doing their jobs. The troopers just care regarding safety and not fire response and they are the ones that oversee them and they won't listen to nobody but the troopers. If the trooper doesn't check up on them for half a year, they get lazy and stuff goes wrong.

First is a VPSO officer.

We need better leadership and training and management.

Someone who organizes quick response to tidal waves, earthquakes, to alert and help elders to be safe. Fines, too. And bear safety—<u>big</u> problem.

## VILLAGES WITH POPULATION LESS THAN 100

More training for the VPSO.

A VPSO and updated ordinances.

Control of alcohol use and drunks.

Drug and alcohol, dealing with it. If we know a local is using alcohol the council will handle it, but then the state troopers deal with it. If nipped in the bud it would eliminate the problem.

A community watch where we are trained to handle what is needed.

Our people should get along, quit drugs and alcohol, get a VPSO. He is needed. There are three at Sleetmute. Send one to Stony River.

We need a trained someone to live in the community so we wouldn't have to call and wait, wait, wait.

Control the people in this town. People should have drivers' licenses and headlights.

We're fine the way we are.

Information on domestic violence and stuff. Let people know where to go and who to call.

More patrols when the ice goes out on the river.

A VPSO would be good.

Getting VPSO assistants, education and report to community.

Get someone not related to anyone around here.

Need the citizens to be more responsible.

Less drinking in our community would be most important.

Have a state trooper in the vicinity.

It's very peaceful here, nothing happens to need a public safety officer.

We need a VPSO, we have one. No problems here.

Control the flow of alcohol and drugs.

Mostly it's just kids speeding on their four-wheelers. The VPSO can handle that.

## VILLAGES WITH POPULATION 100 - 250

QUESTION: *"What do you think is really needed to improve public safety in your community? What would be the most important first step?*

First VPSO, and less alcohol and drugs.

We need a VPSO.

I would call a committee to come together to decide if it is needed. I see where it is needed but there is a lack of funds and of dedicated people to hold these positions. In the past we have had people who were biased. They don't want to do much because it's a relative, or if they are not related they send them straight to jail, no matter what it is.

I don't know, I don't work and I don't know anything.

Getting somebody to work with us here, VPO or others you mentioned.

We need to have someone trusting and reliable in the VPSO position.

How to take care of the bootlegging—the VPSO knowing what to do and working with the Alaska State Troopers.

We have a Tribal Council to deal with what happens and sometimes the State Troopers come out.

I would say more training for the VPSO and more frequent trips by the Alaska State Troopers.

We need a VPSO.

Someone enforcing the laws.

Consequences!! We have the procedures and know what the laws are but the criminal is taken to town, and is tried, but nothing happens to him. He's back before the paperwork is even processed, and back committing crimes.

Education and more information to the community as to what is available, like with health issues, and what other options they may have especially in emergency situations.

To respond quickly to the crime and to help each other.

Supporting the VPSO, if we get one.

I can't think what would be most important. Suicide prevention for the kids, help them understand and talk to them about what is right and what is wrong. More involvement from the community, the VPSO's and the troopers. The kids also do lots of breaking things, too. The community has lost their time in the gym and they're unhappy and angry about it.

## VILLAGES WITH POPULATION 100 - 250

I don't know.

We need a VPSO to handle situations right away instead of having to call in the Alaska State Troopers.

Get the bootleggers under control. I don't know what we could do, it just needs to stop.

I don't know but someone needs to do something about the drugs and alcohol in our village. I think half the people here use them.

Education, people in villages need to understand the officers in the community are here for their good, to regulate the rules of the state.

The laws that apply in Anchorage are applied here. It doesn't matter what color skin you have, your car should be registered with current tags, and you should be thrown in jail if you are driving drunk, etc.

Getting a VPSO here would be a good start.

We need a state trooper here.

I feel (we need) communication between citizens and officers so we know who to contact in different situations.

I don't know, they are doing fine now.

We need to get maybe another VPSO so that one person doesn't have to be on duty all of the time.

Funding to extend the hours that our VPOs operate.

To have a VPSO, someone to call if there is something going on. We have no one.

Get a teen center out here.

Troopers have an image because the only time we see them is when they are taking someone out of the village.

Awareness of verbal abuse.

A curfew for the younger people.

If they could absolutely stop all the booze coming in here it would be so good.

Training another VPSO.

I really don't know.

## VILLAGES WITH POPULATION 100 - 250

They should answer as soon as they receive a call.

Probably training, better training.

To knock the bootlegging and booze on their heads because that is what's happening a lot now with the kids.

Getting someone to come out here more often.

Too small a community, but we're so isolated and small we need a VPSO. That would be best. But no one likes to talk about problems, too much conflict. We need the troopers to respond.

There's not enough traveling roads. The VPSO is in for just the money.

The VPSO just came. Keep drunks and drug violations and sex assault information confidential. Don't ever tell wife.

State troopers need a bigger influence. Need justice and court system.

Replace the VPSO.

Distribution centers for the rural communities. Regulate and educate who comes in town. The politics of local cops equals harassment.

The VPSO should be more visible, wearing his uniform. We don't see the VPSO enough. He should come out of his house more often. We only see him going to the post office.

What's going on right now, our water system is being upgraded.

We are on a runway and are working on getting the runway moved away from the village.

Hiring someone, even a trainee. Someone who follows policies and procedures.

Housing, it's too crowded and can cause problems.

Fire safety. We have nothing up here, no fire hydrants or fire trucks. Nothing. My house would just burn to the ground.

Fire equipment.

State troopers, but there's no trust here now. The VPSO is very under funded. We provided basic living for them with housing, vehicle and utilities.

It's more money for public safety.

It would be real neat to have a VPSO to keep people from drinking and driving. It is dangerous when elders and kids are walking around.

## VILLAGES WITH POPULATION 100 - 250

We have a VPSO here. The tribal council has a lot to do with that. Who pays a VPSO?

Probably a VPSO.

It worked with a TPO, we just need funding to hire and train one. A VPSO would help, too. The TPO could go to the village council and use their court system. Our TPO hasn't been working for two months, but it's what we really need. Somebody we could call without putting all the pressure on our tribal chief.

Nothing really. The troopers make a monthly visit and things balance out.

To get a VPSO or a VPO. We need someone who is available when he is needed. We need someone who would be more accountable for their responses and not just responding to the local tribal council. We get no response from our tribal council.

We need a VPO or Tribal PO. We needed someone who would go out and patrol. The former VPSO's wouldn't go out because they were threatened. We need someone, anyone, to enforce laws out here. There's no one at all to do this. Our tribal council could get a lot of money for this, but nobody cares enough to do it.

We need funding to hire a VPSO and training for people who would work as a VPSO.

Parental awareness, be more involved with their children.

Parents taking action and disciplining their children so nothing further goes on. We have a lot of bootlegging going on involving other communities around here.

Getting a VPSO or VPO in our community who can address the violence and the curfews a lot of our kids break.

A VPSO, I guess.

Probably a quicker response is first, they have to go through Barrow first. And when we have a person detained there is no one to watch him. A second VPSO is needed.

Just communication between law enforcement and the community. It needs to be kept open and ongoing.

Nothing.

Another officer.

We need a second officer.

Need VPSO—having more, and being out on patrol.

A VPSO for crowd control.

## VILLAGES WITH POPULATION 100 - 250

It's okay now.

First, VPSO needs a different attitude at the court. They overlook a lot of incidents, minor stuff, that leads to big stuff later on.

An officer on site like a VPSO.

Stop alcohol coming into the village. It should go dry.

General awareness.

We are okay.

A better VPO.

I wouldn't know.

It's very quiet here. The VPSO's do a good job.

It's complicated. Parents are involved in alcohol. I just don't know.

We need the presence of a public service professional here.

We need to raise the wages for the VPSO. We would get a better quality person. If the VPSO would go around and look things over, especially at dances, there would be less crime.

I don't know, more information, maybe workshops on domestic violence.

Give more information, let people know what the VPSO's job is. They don't know his job description, what he should be doing.

Have two VPSO's in each village, one on and one off, so not on all the time. One person can't do it all. Each village should have a VPSO, but should come from another place, not their own village where everyone has grown up together.

Possibly, we don't really have issues, but maybe a second VPSO to do shift work.

Kick VPSO's in the rear end and light a fire underneath them. Needs to be more on the ball, talk less, work more.

Oh man, I don't know. I'd have to think about that.

I think it's okay the way it is, we don't have much crime. It's a small village.

Probably have a VPSO.

## VILLAGES WITH POPULATION 100 - 250

The city council are biased. A one-sided family, defend themselves only, go after others and fine them.

We need a TPO or a VPO, prefer a TPO.

Get some kind of officer here. A well-trained VPSO would be best.

Kids are breaking into stores, post office, and they steal snow machines and that crap. They need a VPSO here, somebody from the city they don't know. If they know them they don't listen to them!

We had a VPSO and we need one now. Then we wouldn't have drunk driving, kids that are up late, and no truancy. State troopers are 90 miles away. The response we have here is not that quick. Sometimes they don't get here for five days! We have to do our own Med Evac sometimes because one might not be available in Bethel. It's a crisis situation in the rural villages. Sometimes the troopers don't get here at all when they're called.

Well, I think the VPO in the past had been here for 15–20 years before he handled anything, or had any involvement. But in the past few years he's realized he has to be more in the community and in our activities. He's made it known if needed you could come to him with suggestions and certain types of hurts. He's available if there is a problem. VPO does a good job, he's available and state troopers available here too.

I don't know, I wouldn't have no idea on that.

## VILLAGES WITH POPULATION 251 - 500

QUESTION: *"What do you think is really needed to improve public safety in your community? What would be the most important first step?*

Probably more training for the VPO.

I don't think there is anything.

Getting the little bitty kids off of the snow machines and slowing everything down.

It's working pretty well the way it is.

More VPO's.

Take care of our kids first.

More patrolling.

Hire more police.

Education on the city and possibly the state laws and ordinances.

Take all of these snow machines and four wheelers away from all these people and let them walk.

We've got a pretty good town the way it is.

Training so it's more professional and better salaries for the tribal police officers.

Community help, their full support. Don't criticize when someone does their job but back them up for the good of everyone.

A VPSO would be the first thing we need.

Not to have politics. Don't have police interfere with what is not their business.

Patrolling the village more frequently.

I think working with the kids' activities and give good role models.

Cops that would answer the phone!

Add a VPSO.

Good the way it is.

## VILLAGES WITH POPULATION 251 - 500

The VPSO and VPO do it now—it's good.

I'd like the VPSO to patrol at night and send the kids home early and the police patrol all night.

Enforcing the search and seizure rule. When community members come back into the community they are supposed to be searched to make sure they aren't bringing in illegal drugs or alcohol, but the VPSO doesn't enforce that rule.

A back-up VPSO since they can't be here all the time.

Maybe they need more VPSO's to check any problems, to keep things safer.

The VPSO needs to stay in the village and not go fishing and someplace with his wife. He is supposed to protect our community.

We need more than one VPSO because he can't be on duty 24 hours a day.

I think we are supposed to get a TPO pretty soon to help the VPSO. I think that would be good.

We need a state trooper enforcing state laws. The VPSO is related to half of the community and nothing gets done or checked out.

I think we should have a VPSO here. I think it would help the VPO and would give a job to someone in our community.

More law enforcement. We need a new fire truck.

Hiring a good VPSO that will be strict with the community.

Drug and alcohol control for younger children.

The funding to retain these people and for the training.

I really don't know.

Having a state trooper here on site.

Funding, we need money to operate. The state needs to do something about it.

It'd be good if they searched people coming into the village. It'd help stop bootlegging.

Having a person either as a VPO or a safety officer.

## VILLAGES WITH POPULATION 251 - 500

To get a VPSO.

A good, trained police officer not from this area and not related to anyone in this area.

We need a police officer.

A law enforcement agent and a state trooper posted here in the village.

What is needed is a tribal safety officer.

Okay as is.

The laws need to be written more adequately. For example, until drug activity is reported, the VPO is not allowed to act on it. We definitely need another PSO. It is wrong to send one man into some of these situations without back-up. Everyone knows who brings drugs or alcohol into the community, but no one will turn them in. Education and activities for the kids would really slow this problem down.

A fire department. We need a tribal officer. We can take care of our own problems.

It has improved since the borough came in. Lots of kids around. They get in trouble.

I'd say an IRA should try and get a grant for a VPSO.

To have somebody around that people could see and know that they will be there forever. Someone with authority not some fly-by-night VPSO.

A drug and alcohol treatment center.

CPO violates our rights. They break into houses without warrants. Need to raise the respect of the officer. Don't bother calling them.

We need a VPSO! The troopers are in Craig, hours drive from here. They don't always respond the same day. Hydaburg is a dying town.

Some sort of police enforcement. The mayor is working on getting us something here. We need help for the alcohol and drug problem. There is no economy base here, but people always have money for booze. My brother just called and said someone was outside drunk and shooting a gun, so he told me to lock my doors. I never leave my house at night. We had a VPSO, but funding got cut and now there is no one. The troopers are an hour away, if they bother to come at all. Need someone!

We need more community involvement in the fire department and for juvenile offenders.

Awareness. More signs like "Reward: Turn these people in"-- to catch drug dealers. I would like some funds for search and rescue. We need a boat. It's getting dangerous in the spring.

## VILLAGES WITH POPULATION 251 - 500

Have a meeting of all the elders and the community of Noatak. If they do hire someone, they should have protection. Supply them their needs and equipment to do the job and transportation and housing.

We have a low crime rate. I would like to see a tribal court to see that minor things don't escalate into more serious crimes. Kaktovik is the nicest community on the North Slope to bring up a child in. We are close knit and there is great support for each other. We would rather get our services from Fairbanks than in Barrow. We need another officer, at least to give our officer a break. Sometimes it's six months before he gets a break. **(Additional remarks)** When Kaktovik became a dry village, that is when everything turned to the better. We had a reduction in crime, accidents, alcohol related injuries and reduced the need for health and emergency calls and police activities were reduced by 80-90%! We rarely have vehicle accidents anymore and the neglect of children and domestic violence incidents came way down. Attendance at school and tardiness that was due to parental neglect has changed so drastically that we have the best attendance records on the North Slope. Grade point average is the highest on the North Slope. It's all above average now. The whole community dynamics changed after alcohol became outlawed. It was like night to day.

More officers, especially at night.

A facility to put all the paperwork in, an office.

More grants for police department. Also replace the old, old building.

It's good. More time for the officers. More money because they spend their own money on needs of the community and people, and a better place for them to work.

It needs grants.

More financial support.

More safety officers doing arrests and helping the community. Safety officers being a good role model.

I don't know, I think we have enough.

When I was VPSO, you worked 24/7. We need more help. We need tools to work with, better communication equipment, vehicles, better back-up in the villages, i.e. trained VPO's. Emergency response people (EMT's), search and rescue team, trained and well-organized. We need a building for public safety. The most important thing we need is trail marks between villages for winter snow machine travel. In Bethel area it's very important because the only travel is by snow machine between Eek and Bethel and in Dillingham and Barrow areas in Yukon. More funding for the small villages!

## VILLAGES WITH POPULATION 251 - 500

Helping towards domestic violence, those who were victims. Prevention.

More training to the VPO and VPSO's so they can learn how to deal with varied situations. Better equipment would help, so the officers are better equipped to do their jobs. Our community involvement helps.

Better pay, more hours, more benefits, more personnel.

More local involvement and local decisions by the residents.

Going through and listing the importance of laws made for the village that the tribal council passes and have someone enforce those laws. They are not now enforced.

Get a VPSO who does not harass the kids for just being kids.

Communication with the community. Like addressing the road conditions, for one thing. Like talking to juveniles at school about gun safety and other things.

Have the tribal government know what the community wants and then go from there. Have open communication with the community.

Stop underage drinking.

Probably increased staffing, more VPSO's.

Don't know, there's hardly any crimes out here. Get grant funding so there's more work out here.

Need VPSO. Get rid of dope dealers importing alcohol.

Hire another VPSO.

More training for our VPO.

Need a VPSO.

Nothing.

Have a state trooper up here I guess.

First step is don't let young ones run around on snow machines and Hondas (four-wheelers) and get hurt. They should listen to parents and should not drive without a parent supervising. The VPSO should cut down on them riding without a parent.

Being sure VPSO's are trained like the troopers, to take care of any situation.

## VILLAGES WITH POPULATION 251 - 500

More road signs like stop signs.

The kids are out late asking for cigarettes while VPSO is having one.

We need the VPSO. Sometimes we need the state troopers. That's it.

If our city police officers were able to go train with the VPSO's when the state troopers call them for training, then they'd be more ready in advance.

Public safety is doing a really good job, nothing else is needed.

More communications between VPO and VPSO and the people and city council. VPSO is hard to get hold of, doesn't answer phone.

Someone to keep the alcohol out of Nulato.

## VILLAGES WITH POPULATION MORE THAN 500

**QUESTION:** *"What do you think is really needed to improve public safety in your community? What would be the most important first step?*

A VPSO officer. We get one and they end up going on to the troopers!

The young people watch a lot of bad TV and they try to copy what they see. We've got to watch out for the attitudes of the young people before something happens. We need to control the young people before it's too late.

More patrolling by VPO's. Need more VPO's to keep the community safer.

Getting more VPO's and VPSO's in the community to deal with the problems. The VPO's always complain that there aren't enough people to help deal with problems in the community.

Do something about drugs. Right now there is so much paper work and the offenders get off on technicalities.

If we are going to have a city cop I think the first step should be a better background check on them. Make sure they are a good law abiding citizen first.

Get a magistrate, a local magistrate to punish the people the VPSO arrests.

I would like to see more VPSO's instead of the city police who strong arm people and pull their guns way too often.

I think there is a real problem with domestic violence and right now it is almost ignored. I think they need a better trained VPO and maybe more of them so the issue is addressed and a punishment is handed out.

They need a better building. When the building is full they send the intoxicated people home. They need to keep them there until they are sober.

A bigger building, the building isn't large enough.

We need a few more VPSO's patrolling and helping. My daughter committed suicide a few years back and I don't know if she would have if she had someone to talk to.

Better communication. Know who to call for each situation.

We need more resources, more staff. Well, the city police officer we have right now is struggling to take care of the big problems and smaller problems such as truancy and traffic violations are almost ignored.

More officers.

## VILLAGES WITH POPULATION MORE THAN 500

Having a VPSO in the village.

The police officers who respond faster.

A lot of funding.

To have more than one officer on duty instead of rotating hours.

Try and get the VPSO certified.

More funding for police officers and more social workers.

Community awareness. For instance, drugs and bootlegging. People need to come out and say something about it.

A person who is able to investigate and arrest when needed and not wait for the troopers to fly in.

It's pretty much covered by the officers now.

For them not to be so lazy, the city police. They respond to calls well, but they're not out patrolling and if they did some things could be avoided.

During the summer we have a lot of people come here, so we need more officers.

They should make their dogs be on leashes, that should be the first thing.

The kids have taken over the school. They do what they want, no one is in control.

VPO's need more training.

If they had extra VPSO's or whatever, especially during subsistence fishing. So much is lost in fuel and equipment, especially in summer.

Get honest cops! Every child from 12 on up are in the police system. Police and troopers, they are making sure everyone has a record so they can't graduate from school or get a scholarship. They are all illegal and do illegal things to everyone. They know no one can afford an $8,000 detoxing so troopers give out fines right and left and arrest too. They just walk into a home without permission and anyone in the house with alcohol is charged.

More people on the job.

Don't see a lot of problems here.

More control over drugs and alcohol. The city police are doing good here.

They need to be more visible and patrol more often.

## VILLAGES WITH POPULATION MORE THAN 500

Every time we had police officers here, doing their jobs, they got terminated. Five former police officers have filed a suit against the city manager. Get us a good chief of police and get the city manager to keep her nose out of police department. City manager has no business telling the police department who they can and cannot ticket. Her kid is on the city council. No one enforces traffic laws. Four wheelers sometimes have five kids on them. Traffic is totally out of control.

City manager or council should not be over police matters. They are related to everybody and it always causes problems.

Getting a public safety officer not related to the entire community.

I think they need to prosecute a crime fairly and quickly, and not just slap hands. We had a run of burglary and vandalism over the summer and the troopers didn't do much so the traditional tribal council tried to do something. Only the crimes weren't being done by traditional kids, they are very non-traditional. So it only escalated as we went into the fall season.

Give our ambulance driver a permit to carry a weapon. He's right on the spot all the time.

More than a first step, police should respond to problems.

Getting patrol officers in our town.

To get a state trooper. We need one here. We don't even have a VPSO.

The VPO's need better training. Need a VPSO that is trained in recognizing what is a crime and what is not a crime, with some assistance from state trooper if called for. Non-criminal activities occur in our towns mostly. Workloads get heavy sometimes.

We need more police officers. We need more officers in the villages with training like the one we have. If something happens to our current VSO the whole community would be at the mercy of the criminal. Come to the community so you can see first-hand what we need. Over the phone you only have a "paper picture" of what we're talking about. Ask the people if you can record what I say, rather than just what you write down. As for criminal activity, I sometimes get calls to help with back-up. Not too often, but occasionally. It's scary to get a call from a police officer who says, "Can you back me up?" We need child education such as DARE, or drug, alcohol, sex education for our youth. Education is always the best prevention. We need help. Schools, or mail-outs, creating community activities would help because there is nothing to do at night in the villages from 5 pm until morning. Events would help the situation here.

Our VPO is under-funded and underpaid. They have no benefits and training and it's a risky job. Need someone, a neutral party, or a group coming to meet with city and tribal officers to see what kind of training and services this community needs. We need native Yupik trained people to deal with misdemeanor type crime. We need a set of rules so everyone knows.

## VILLAGES WITH POPULATION MORE THAN 500

More trained law enforcement personnel. Would be good to have VPSO. We have a trooper but he only works days and we can only call him at night for emergency felonies. Too much crime for very few officers. We are very busy especially at night. Most crimes happen at night.

A fulltime police officer or one we would share with Scammon and Hooper Bay.

A traditional VPO, whatever decision they make we should live with it.

To have more people trained for law enforcement.

Nothing, it's okay. Don't need one. Nothing happens here.

A building. The one we have is dilapidated and falling apart.

More funding for VPSO and VPO. And a second VPSO to help the one we have now.

If they would go to more calls and do their job right. I used to be a VPO. I went to every call.

Tribal government would handle things better. The non-native police are not fair and are prejudiced. We need a tribal court here who knows our way of life. The tribal court would work with the families and try to work problems out. How can we get 911? We need a local judge and court. A tribal court would help us. Court events are now handled through the Seward court system by phone.

More patrolling and more certified cops.

Make police less prejudice and stop harassing the people.

State funding for incorporating the community for village police.

We don't have a qualified or school-trained police force and we should have one so they can communicate with the state troopers better.

More authority given to VPSO, like VPO.

Taking care of the people's safety. Provide safety for the people in general, including taking of all-terrain vehicles. Getting them in line with the community laws. I believe the VPSO's here are doing a good job.

A new mayor, a police officer.

To tell the truth I think it's fine the way it is.

Getting the people together and all the elders to see what the plans for the future are and the priorities for our children and their future life.

We need better trained and better VPO's, better response time from the troopers.

## VILLAGES WITH POPULATION MORE THAN 500

More training and improved communications and stop people driving, particularly children, without licenses. Stop curfew violations.

It's fine the way it is, I can't think of anything.

More community involvement. But we won't have it under the current police.

I'm content, no areas need improvement. The volunteer vans need more funding though.

Patrol around, nothing else at this time.

Maybe enforce curfew violations. If curfew was enforced the crime would go down.

I don't know, watch traffic and speeding. We need a VPSO of our own. There is one, two villages over, who will come once in awhile. But we need our own.

Improve the police department, especially search and rescue. They need more equipment, even army surplus would help, like tents.

All they've got are kids in there, VPO, VPSO, etc, who don't have training. They need training.

Need somebody here who's not going to care that "So-and-So" is "So-and-So's" son. They need to be unbiased.

Have trainings to be VPSO's.

To take the drugs away from town and drinking. It's a dry town.

A trooper in our community, or at least an armed trained police officer.

Getting a lot of VPSO's in our region. State troopers are not going away.

Probably safety, probably VPSO just to keep an eye out.

Quick response to calls or problems, whatever is going on.

Getting a public safety officer who is not an immediate relative of anyone who lives here.

I think it's pretty safe.

Maybe more touring of the area.

Don't know, pretty good here.

Make curfews for kids in school. Stop underage driving.

Controlling substance abuse and alcohol. More undercover investigation.

## VILLAGES WITH POPULATION MORE THAN 500

Armed police officer, more than one is needed, minimum of three.

A wellness coordinator.

A police officer.

Geesh, we have 24/7 police officers here now. The officers are on duty 24/7 and I'm pleased with them.

# V Crosstabulations

**Have you been the victim of a crime in the community you currently live in?**

| | | YES | NO | BASE |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| TOTAL | | 29% | 71% | 100.0% |
| POPULATION | UNDER 100 | 25% | 75% | 4.5% |
| | 100-250 | 31% | 69% | 15.2% |
| | 251-500 | 28% | 72% | 28.6% |
| | 501-1000 | 29% | 71% | 51.7% |
| Time in Community | 0-4 YRS | 11% | 89% | 9.9% |
| | 5-9 YRS | 27% | 73% | 6.7% |
| | 15-20 YEARS | 68% | 32% | 5.5% |
| | 20+ YEARS | 28% | 72% | 42.9% |
| | ALL MY | 28% | 72% | 35.0% |
| Safe in Community | UNSURE | 40% | 60% | 1.5% |
| | YES | 21% | 79% | 51.5% |
| | NO | 37% | 63% | 47.0% |
| Age | 18-29 | 35% | 65% | 19.1% |
| | 30-44 | 24% | 76% | 28.2% |
| | 45-59 | 31% | 69% | 36.9% |
| | 60-75 | 21% | 79% | 13.7% |
| | 76+ YEARS | 39% | 61% | 2.0% |
| Gender | MALE | 25% | 75% | 50.4% |
| | FEMALE | 33% | 67% | 49.6% |

**(Asked of 29% who responded they had been a victim of crime)**
**Who did you first report the crime to? Did you report it to...**

| | | UNSURE | VPSO | CPO BPO | TPO VPO | AST | NOT REPORTED | CITIZENS | HEALTH AIDE | BASE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| TOTAL | | 1% | 21% | 21% | 14% | 19% | 16% | 4% | 3% | 100.0% |
| POPULATION | UNDER 100 | 0% | 23% | 7% | 3% | 27% | 18% | 17% | 5% | 4.0% |
| | 100-250 | 3% | 33% | 0% | 3% | 32% | 11% | 9% | 10% | 16.6% |
| | 251-500 | 3% | 13% | 16% | 18% | 21% | 18% | 8% | 3% | 27.6% |
| | 501-1000 | 0% | 22% | 32% | 17% | 13% | 17% | 0% | 0% | 51.7% |
| Time in Community | 0-4 YRS | 0% | 85% | 0% | 0% | 15% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 3.8% |
| | 5-9 YRS | 0% | 21% | 33% | 25% | 9% | 0% | 12% | 0% | 6.3% |
| | 15-20 YEARS | 0% | 7% | 26% | 12% | 22% | 20% | 6% | 6% | 13.0% |
| | 20+ YEARS | 3% | 17% | 19% | 19% | 17% | 22% | 3% | 1% | 42.5% |
| | ALL MY LIFE | 0% | 25% | 22% | 10% | 22% | 13% | 5% | 4% | 34.4% |
| Safe in Community | UNSURE | 0% | 100% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 2.1% |
| | YES | 1% | 12% | 42% | 10% | 14% | 10% | 7% | 2% | 37.4% |
| | NO | 1% | 24% | 9% | 17% | 22% | 20% | 3% | 3% | 60.5% |
| Victim of crime | YES | 1% | 21% | 21% | 14% | 19% | 16% | 4% | 3% | 100.0% |
| Age | 18-29 | 0% | 26% | 24% | 15% | 8% | 14% | 11% | 2% | 23.1% |
| | 30-44 | 0% | 24% | 23% | 17% | 16% | 17% | 3% | 0% | 23.8% |
| | 45-59 | 2% | 24% | 16% | 16% | 23% | 14% | 0% | 5% | 40.3% |
| | 60-75 | 0% | 0% | 19% | 7% | 32% | 31% | 11% | 0% | 10.0% |
| | 76+ YEARS | 16% | 0% | 58% | 0% | 26% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 2.8% |
| Gender | MALE | 3% | 12% | 15% | 20% | 23% | 20% | 4% | 3% | 43.6% |
| | FEMALE | 0% | 29% | 26% | 10% | 15% | 13% | 4% | 2% | 56.4% |

**(Asked of 29% responding they were a victim of crime)**
**How satisfied were you with the follow-up?**

| | | VERY SATISFIED | SOMEWHAT SATISFIED | SOMEWHAT UNSATISFIED | VERY UNSATISFIED | BASE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| TOTAL | | 13% | 41% | 16% | 30% | 100.0% |
| POPULATION | UNDER 100 | 27% | 39% | 29% | 6% | 4.0% |
| | 100-250 | 28% | 25% | 15% | 31% | 17.5% |
| | 251-500 | 10% | 53% | 7% | 30% | 26.4% |
| | 501-1000 | 8% | 41% | 20% | 31% | 52.2% |
| Time in Community | 0-4 YRS | 0% | 15% | 15% | 70% | 4 6% |
| | 5-9 YRS | 4% | 21% | 0% | 74% | 7.6% |
| | 15-20 YEARS | 20% | 18% | 38% | 24% | 12.5% |
| | 20+ YEARS | 12% | 65% | 7% | 16% | 39.0% |
| | ALL MY LIFE | 15% | 32% | 22% | 32% | 36.3% |
| Safe in Community | UNSURE | 0% | 93% | 7% | 0% | 2.5% |
| | YES | 16% | 47% | 14% | 22% | 40.1% |
| | NO | 11% | 35% | 18% | 36% | 57.4% |
| Victim of crime | YES | 13% | 41% | 16% | 30% | 100.0% |
| Reported to | VPSO | 12% | 48% | 12% | 27% | 25.9% |
| | CPO BPO | 10% | 35% | 24% | 31% | 25.5% |
| | TPO VPO | 6% | 69% | 11% | 14% | 17.5% |
| | AST | 23% | 20% | 13% | 44% | 22.9% |
| | CITIZENS | 3% | 44% | 23% | 30% | 5.2% |
| | HEALTH AIDE | 25% | 29% | 23% | 23% | 3.1% |
| Age | 18-29 | 14% | 32% | 18% | 36% | 24.0% |
| | 30-44 | 6% | 59% | 11% | 24% | 23.9% |
| | 45-59 | 16% | 43% | 16% | 25% | 41.0% |
| | 60-75 | 12% | 0% | 26% | 62% | 8.4% |
| | 76+ YEARS | 25% | 69% | 6% | 0% | 2.8% |
| Gender | MALE | 19% | 47% | 17% | 17% | 40.6% |
| | FEMALE | 9% | 38% | 15% | 38% | 59.4% |

**(Asked of 10% n=42, who were dissatisfied with the follow-up)**
**Why were you dissatisfied?**

| | | UNSURE | NO ACTION NO FOLLOW UP | TOO LENIENT ONLY SLAP | OVER BEARING | BASE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **TOTAL** | | 6% | 68% | 14% | 12% | 100.0% |
| **POPULATION** | **UNDER 100** | 17% | 71% | 12% | 0% | 3.0% |
| | **100-250** | 0% | 65% | 26% | 9% | 17.7% |
| | **251-500** | 0% | 100% | 0% | 0% | 21.2% |
| | **501-1000** | 9% | 57% | 16% | 18% | 58.1% |
| **Time in Community** | **0-4 YRS** | 0% | 82% | 0% | 18% | 8.6% |
| | **5-9 YRS** | 0% | 88% | 12% | 0% | 12.5% |
| | **15-20 YEARS** | 0% | 61% | 9% | 30% | 17.0% |
| | **20+ YEARS** | 3% | 95% | 2% | 0% | 19.3% |
| | **ALL MY LIFE** | 12% | 50% | 26% | 12% | 42.6% |
| **Safe in Community** | **UNSURE** | 0% | 100% | 0% | 0% | .4% |
| | **YES** | 0% | 34% | 29% | 37% | 31.9% |
| | **NO** | 8% | 84% | 7% | 0% | 67.7% |
| **Victim of crime** | **YES** | 6% | 68% | 14% | 12% | 100.0% |
| **Age** | **18-29** | 0% | 82% | 0% | 18% | 28.2% |
| | **30-44** | 0% | 92% | 8% | 0% | 18.2% |
| | **45-59** | 15% | 59% | 8% | 18% | 37.2% |
| | **60-75** | 0% | 42% | 58% | 0% | 16.1% |
| | **76+ YEARS** | 0% | 0% | 100% | 0% | .4% |
| **Gender** | **MALE** | 0% | 85% | 15% | 0% | 30.5% |
| | **FEMALE** | 8% | 61% | 14% | 17% | 69.5% |

**(Asked of 4% n=18 who reported they had been a victim of crime, but did not report it)**
**Why wasn't it reported?**

| | | UNSURE | DON'T KNOW WHO | WON'T DO ANY GOOD | BIASED | BASE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **TOTAL** | | 7% | 42% | 36% | 15% | 100.0% |
| **POPULATION** | **UNDER 100** | 0% | 100% | 0% | 0% | 4.4% |
| | **100-250** | 25% | 50% | 0% | 25% | 11.0% |
| | **251-500** | 14% | 71% | 14% | 0% | 31.3% |
| | **501-1000** | 0% | 18% | 59% | 22% | 53.3% |
| **Time in Community** | **15-20 YEARS** | 27% | 0% | 0% | 73% | 16.4% |
| | **20+ YEARS** | 5% | 49% | 46% | 0% | 56.5% |
| | **ALL MY LIFE** | 0% | 54% | 36% | 10% | 27.2% |
| **Safe in Community** | **YES** | 30% | 17% | 41% | 12% | 23.7% |
| | **NO** | 0% | 50% | 34% | 16% | 76.3% |
| **Victim of crime** | **YES** | 7% | 42% | 36% | 15% | 100.0% |
| **Age** | **18-29** | 36% | 6% | 59% | 0% | 20.3% |
| | **30-44** | 0% | 71% | 18% | 11% | 25.1% |
| | **45-59** | 0% | 45% | 55% | 0% | 35.5% |
| | **60-75** | 0% | 38% | 0% | 62% | 19.1% |
| **Gender** | **MALE** | 13% | 38% | 44% | 5% | 54.7% |
| | **FEMALE** | 0% | 47% | 26% | 26% | 45.3% |

**Do you feel your community is safe and has the right amount of public safety?**

| | | UNSURE | YES | NO | BASE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **TOTAL** | | 1% | 52% | 47% | 100.0% |
| **POPULATION** | **UNDER 100** | 1% | 56% | 43% | 4.5% |
| | **100-250** | 3% | 60% | 37% | 15.2% |
| | **251-500** | 0% | 47% | 53% | 28.6% |
| | **501-1000** | 2% | 51% | 47% | 51.7% |
| **Time in Community** | **0-4 YRS** | 0% | 66% | 34% | 9.9% |
| | **5-9 YRS** | 0% | 30% | 70% | 6.7% |
| | **15-20 YEARS** | 0% | 65% | 35% | 5.5% |
| | **20+ YEARS** | 0% | 48% | 52% | 42.9% |
| | **ALL MY LIFE** | 4% | 53% | 42% | 35.0% |
| **Victim of crime** | **YES** | 2% | 37% | 60% | 28.7% |
| | **NO** | 1% | 57% | 42% | 71.3% |
| **Age** | **18-29** | 2% | 49% | 49% | 19.1% |
| | **30-44** | 0% | 49% | 51% | 28.2% |
| | **45-59** | 2% | 52% | 45% | 36.9% |
| | **60-75** | 1% | 57% | 42% | 13.7% |
| | **76+ YEARS** | 0% | 58% | 42% | 2.0% |
| **Gender** | **MALE** | 1% | 57% | 42% | 50.4% |
| | **FEMALE** | 1% | 46% | 52% | 49.6% |

**Do you have Village Public Safety Officer, sometimes called a VPSO, in your community?**

| | | UNSURE | HAVE | DON'T HAVE | BASE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **TOTAL** | | 2% | 47% | 51% | 100.0% |
| **POPULATION** | **UNDER 100** | 1% | 23% | 76% | 4.5% |
| | **100-250** | 1% | 36% | 63% | 15.2% |
| | **251-500** | 1% | 49% | 50% | 28.6% |
| | **501-1000** | 3% | 51% | 47% | 51.7% |
| **Time in Community** | **0-4 YRS** | 0% | 47% | 53% | 9.9% |
| | **5-9 YRS** | 1% | 32% | 67% | 6.7% |
| | **15-20 YEARS** | 17% | 40% | 43% | 5.5% |
| | **20+ YEARS** | 2% | 49% | 48% | 42.9% |
| | **ALL MY LIFE** | 0% | 47% | 52% | 35.0% |
| **Safe in Community** | **UNSURE** | 0% | 49% | 51% | 1.5% |
| | **YES** | 3% | 47% | 50% | 51.5% |
| | **NO** | 1% | 47% | 52% | 47.0% |
| **Victim of crime** | **YES** | 4% | 45% | 51% | 28.7% |
| | **NO** | 1% | 47% | 51% | 71.3% |
| **Age** | **18-29** | 0% | 50% | 50% | 19.1% |
| | **30-44** | 2% | 41% | 57% | 28.2% |
| | **45-59** | 1% | 49% | 50% | 36.9% |
| | **60-75** | 7% | 52% | 41% | 13.7% |
| | **76+ YEARS** | 0% | 12% | 88% | 2.0% |
| **Gender** | **MALE** | 2% | 45% | 53% | 50.4% |
| | **FEMALE** | 2% | 49% | 49% | 49.6% |

## Do you have Village Police Officer, sometimes called a VPO, in your community?

| | | UNSURE | HAVE | DON'T HAVE | BASE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| TOTAL | | 3% | 45% | 52% | 100.0% |
| POPULATION | UNDER 100 | 1% | 5% | 94% | 4.5% |
| | 100-250 | 5% | 15% | 81% | 15.2% |
| | 251-500 | 2% | 45% | 53% | 28.6% |
| | 501-1000 | 3% | 57% | 39% | 51.7% |
| Time in Community | 0-4 YRS | 2% | 27% | 71% | 9.9% |
| | 5-9 YRS | 1% | 38% | 61% | 6.7% |
| | 15-20 YEARS | 0% | 40% | 60% | 5.5% |
| | 20+ YEARS | 2% | 49% | 49% | 42.9% |
| | ALL MY LIFE | 6% | 47% | 47% | 35.0% |
| Safe in Community | UNSURE | 0% | 46% | 54% | 1.5% |
| | YES | 3% | 45% | 52% | 51.5% |
| | NO | 4% | 45% | 52% | 47.0% |
| Victim of crime | YES | 3% | 42% | 55% | 28.7% |
| | NO | 3% | 46% | 51% | 71.3% |
| Age | 18-29 | 2% | 54% | 44% | 19.1% |
| | 30-44 | 1% | 46% | 53% | 28.2% |
| | 45-59 | 4% | 47% | 49% | 36.9% |
| | 60-75 | 5% | 33% | 62% | 13.7% |
| | 76+ YEARS | 6% | 2% | 92% | 2.0% |
| Gender | MALE | 1% | 45% | 54% | 50.4% |
| | FEMALE | 5% | 45% | 50% | 49.6% |

## Do you have a City Police Officer in your community?

| | | UNSURE | HAVE | DON'T HAVE | BASE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| TOTAL | | 2% | 22% | 76% | 100.0% |
| POPULATION | UNDER 100 | 0% | 0% | 100% | 4.5% |
| | 100-250 | 6% | 1% | 93% | 15.2% |
| | 251-500 | 1% | 12% | 87% | 28.6% |
| | 501-1000 | 2% | 35% | 62% | 51.7% |
| Time in Community | 0-4 YRS | 4% | 27% | 69% | 9.9% |
| | 5-9 YRS | 0% | 23% | 77% | 6.7% |
| | 15-20 YEARS | 0% | 46% | 54% | 5.5% |
| | 20+ YEARS | 0% | 23% | 77% | 42.9% |
| | ALL MY LIFE | 5% | 16% | 80% | 35.0% |
| Safe in Community | UNSURE | 0% | 0% | 100% | 1.5% |
| | YES | 2% | 30% | 68% | 51.5% |
| | NO | 3% | 14% | 83% | 47.0% |
| Victim of crime | YES | 3% | 19% | 77% | 28.7% |
| | NO | 2% | 23% | 75% | 71.3% |
| Age | 18-29 | 0% | 22% | 78% | 19.1% |
| | 30-44 | 1% | 13% | 86% | 28.2% |
| | 45-59 | 4% | 26% | 70% | 36.9% |
| | 60-75 | 1% | 30% | 69% | 13.7% |
| | 76+ YEARS | 6% | 23% | 71% | 2.0% |
| Gender | MALE | 1% | 19% | 80% | 50.4% |
| | FEMALE | 3% | 25% | 71% | 49.6% |

## Do you have a Tribal Police Officer, sometimes called a TPO, in your community?

| | | UNSURE | HAVE | DON'T HAVE | BASE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **TOTAL** | | 3% | 16% | 81% | 100.0% |
| **POPULATION** | **UNDER 100** | 2% | 2% | 96% | 4.5% |
| | **100-250** | 6% | 9% | 86% | 15.2% |
| | **251-500** | 3% | 18% | 79% | 28.6% |
| | **501-1000** | 2% | 18% | 80% | 51.7% |
| **Time in Community** | **0-4 YRS** | 1% | 11% | 87% | 9.9% |
| | **5-9 YRS** | 1% | 16% | 83% | 6.7% |
| | **15-20 YEARS** | 8% | 20% | 72% | 5.5% |
| | **20+ YEARS** | 1% | 18% | 81% | 42.9% |
| | **ALL MY LIFE** | 5% | 14% | 81% | 35.0% |
| **Safe in Community** | **UNSURE** | 0% | 0% | 100% | 1.5% |
| | **YES** | 3% | 16% | 82% | 51.5% |
| | **NO** | 3% | 17% | 80% | 47.0% |
| **Victim of crime** | **YES** | 4% | 11% | 85% | 28.7% |
| | **NO** | 2% | 18% | 80% | 71.3% |
| **Age** | **18-29** | 2% | 20% | 78% | 19.1% |
| | **30-44** | 1% | 16% | 83% | 28.2% |
| | **45-59** | 5% | 15% | 81% | 36.9% |
| | **60-75** | 1% | 16% | 82% | 13.7% |
| | **76+ YEARS** | 6% | 2% | 92% | 2.0% |
| **Gender** | **MALE** | 3% | 17% | 80% | 50.4% |
| | **FEMALE** | 3% | 15% | 82% | 49.6% |

## Do you have a Borough Police Officer in your community?

| | | UNSURE | HAVE | DON'T HAVE | BASE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **TOTAL** | | 2% | 5% | 94% | 100.0% |
| **POPULATION** | **UNDER 100** | 0% | 0% | 100% | 4.5% |
| | **100-250** | 5% | 0% | 95% | 15.2% |
| | **251-500** | 1% | 9% | 90% | 28.6% |
| | **501-1000** | 1% | 4% | 95% | 51.7% |
| **Time in Community** | **0-4 YRS** | 0% | 4% | 96% | 9.9% |
| | **5-9 YRS** | 0% | 0% | 100% | 6.7% |
| | **15-20 YEARS** | 4% | 18% | 78% | 5.5% |
| | **20+ YEARS** | 0% | 3% | 97% | 42.9% |
| | **ALL MY LIFE** | 4% | 5% | 91% | 35.0% |
| **Safe in Community** | **UNSURE** | 0% | 0% | 100% | 1.5% |
| | **YES** | 2% | 7% | 91% | 51.5% |
| | **NO** | 1% | 1% | 97% | 47.0% |
| **Victim of crime** | **YES** | 2% | 10% | 89% | 28.7% |
| | **NO** | 2% | 2% | 96% | 71.3% |
| **Age** | **18-29** | 1% | 2% | 97% | 19.1% |
| | **30-44** | 0% | 5% | 94% | 28.2% |
| | **45-59** | 1% | 4% | 95% | 36.9% |
| | **60-75** | 5% | 6% | 90% | 13.7% |
| | **76+ YEARS** | 6% | 23% | 71% | 2.0% |
| **Gender** | **MALE** | 3% | 5% | 92% | 50.4% |
| | **FEMALE** | 1% | 4% | 95% | 49.6% |

**If your community did not have a local public safety officer, do you feel the community would be better off, about the same or worse off?**

| | | UNSURE | BETTER | SAME | WORSE | NOT ONE NOW | BASE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| TOTAL | | 3% | 5% | 26% | 66% | 1% | 100.0% |
| POPULATION | UNDER 100 | 5% | 12% | 40% | 39% | 4% | 4.5% |
| | 100-250 | 3% | 8% | 35% | 52% | 2% | 15.2% |
| | 251-500 | 2% | 3% | 21% | 74% | 0% | 28.6% |
| | 501-1000 | 3% | 5% | 24% | 67% | 1% | 51.7% |
| Time in Community | 0-4 YRS | 0% | 8% | 17% | 75% | 0% | 9.9% |
| | 5-9 YRS | 0% | 18% | 6% | 76% | 0% | 6.7% |
| | 15-20 YEARS | 0% | 13% | 43% | 43% | 1% | 5.5% |
| | 20+ YEARS | 3% | 2% | 23% | 70% | 2% | 42.9% |
| | ALL MY LIFE | 4% | 4% | 33% | 59% | 0% | 35.0% |
| Safe in Community | UNSURE | 0% | 0% | 40% | 60% | 0% | 1.5% |
| | YES | 5% | 3% | 36% | 56% | 0% | 51.5% |
| | NO | 0% | 7% | 14% | 76% | 2% | 47.0% |
| Victim of crime | YES | 1% | 6% | 16% | 75% | 2% | 28.7% |
| | NO | 4% | 5% | 30% | 62% | 0% | 71.3% |
| Age | 18-29 | 3% | 5% | 27% | 63% | 2% | 19.1% |
| | 30-44 | 4% | 6% | 23% | 68% | 0% | 28.2% |
| | 45-59 | 2% | 6% | 25% | 66% | 1% | 36.9% |
| | 60-75 | 2% | 3% | 29% | 66% | 1% | 13.7% |
| | 76+ YEARS | 5% | 0% | 48% | 47% | 0% | 2.0% |
| Gender | MALE | 3% | 4% | 29% | 63% | 1% | 50.4% |
| | FEMALE | 3% | 6% | 22% | 68% | 1% | 49.6% |

## What type of public safety would best fit your community...?

| | | UNSURE | VPSO | ARMED PO | NEITHER | BASE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| TOTAL | | 1% | 51% | 47% | 1% | 100.0% |
| POPULATION | UNDER 100 | 4% | 68% | 23% | 6% | 4.5% |
| | 100-250 | 0% | 70% | 28% | 2% | 15.2% |
| | 251-500 | 3% | 59% | 37% | 1% | 28.6% |
| | 501-1000 | 0% | 39% | 60% | 1% | 51.7% |
| Time in Community | 0-4 YRS | 0% | 29% | 71% | 0% | 9.9% |
| | 5-9 YRS | 0% | 60% | 37% | 2% | 6.7% |
| | 15-20 YEARS | 0% | 40% | 51% | 8% | 5.5% |
| | 20+ YEARS | 1% | 56% | 42% | 0% | 42.9% |
| | ALL MY LIFE | 1% | 50% | 47% | 1% | 35.0% |
| Safe in Community | UNSURE | 0% | 20% | 80% | 0% | 1.5% |
| | YES | 2% | 58% | 39% | 1% | 51.5% |
| | NO | 0% | 44% | 55% | 1% | 47.0% |
| Victim of crime | YES | 0% | 39% | 60% | 1% | 28.7% |
| | NO | 1% | 56% | 42% | 1% | 71.3% |
| Age | 18-29 | 1% | 42% | 56% | 1% | 19.1% |
| | 30-44 | 1% | 60% | 38% | 0% | 28.2% |
| | 45-59 | 0% | 53% | 44% | 3% | 36.9% |
| | 60-75 | 2% | 38% | 60% | 0% | 13.7% |
| | 76+ YEARS | 4% | 45% | 48% | 3% | 2.0% |
| Gender | MALE | 1% | 55% | 42% | 2% | 50.4% |
| | FEMALE | 1% | 46% | 52% | 1% | 49.6% |

**How often do juvenile problems, such as skipping school, underage, drinking and curfew violations happen in your community?**

| | | UNSURE | FREQUENTLY | FAIRLY OFTEN | NOT TOO OFTEN | SELDOM-NEVER | BASE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| TOTAL | | 3% | 38% | 24% | 22% | 14% | 100.0% |
| POPULATION | UNDER 100 | 5% | 11% | 15% | 27% | 43% | 4.5% |
| | 100-250 | 5% | 26% | 15% | 30% | 24% | 15.2% |
| | 251-500 | 5% | 31% | 25% | 28% | 11% | 28.6% |
| | 501-1000 | 1% | 47% | 27% | 16% | 9% | 51.7% |
| Time in Community | 0-4 YRS | 3% | 60% | 11% | 17% | 8% | 9.9% |
| | 5-9 YRS | 0% | 65% | 24% | 9% | 1% | 6.7% |
| | 15-20 YEARS | 3% | 52% | 12% | 16% | 17% | 5.5% |
| | 20+ YEARS | 2% | 33% | 27% | 23% | 15% | 42.9% |
| | ALL MY LIFE | 4% | 29% | 26% | 26% | 15% | 35.0% |
| Safe in Community | UNSURE | 0% | 69% | 0% | 20% | 11% | 1.5% |
| | YES | 4% | 25% | 19% | 33% | 20% | 51.5% |
| | NO | 2% | 51% | 30% | 10% | 7% | 47.0% |
| Victim of crime | YES | 1% | 52% | 28% | 13% | 6% | 28.7% |
| | NO | 4% | 32% | 22% | 26% | 16% | 71.3% |
| Age | 18-29 | 0% | 47% | 28% | 14% | 12% | 19.1% |
| | 30-44 | 4% | 31% | 30% | 23% | 12% | 28.2% |
| | 45-59 | 3% | 42% | 16% | 25% | 14% | 36.9% |
| | 60-75 | 3% | 29% | 29% | 25% | 14% | 13.7% |
| | 76+ YEARS | 12% | 17% | 23% | 2% | 47% | 2.0% |
| Gender | MALE | 4% | 30% | 24% | 26% | 16% | 50.4% |
| | FEMALE | 2% | 46% | 24% | 18% | 11% | 49.6% |

## How often do crimes related to alcohol or bootlegging happen in your community?

| | | UNSURE | FREQUENTLY | FAIRLY OFTEN | NOT TOO OFTEN | SELDOM-NEVER | BASE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **TOTAL** | | 3% | 32% | 28% | 21% | 16% | 100.0% |
| **POPULATION** | **UNDER 100** | 2% | 27% | 16% | 17% | 38% | 4.5% |
| | **100-250** | 4% | 22% | 22% | 22% | 29% | 15.2% |
| | **251-500** | 7% | 32% | 28% | 22% | 10% | 28.6% |
| | **501-1000** | 1% | 36% | 30% | 20% | 13% | 51.7% |
| **Time in Community** | **0-4 YRS** | 2% | 38% | 36% | 16% | 9% | 9.9% |
| | **5-9 YRS** | 0% | 49% | 28% | 4% | 18% | 6.7% |
| | **15-20 YEARS** | 0% | 41% | 29% | 6% | 23% | 5.5% |
| | **20+ YEARS** | 4% | 31% | 28% | 24% | 14% | 42.9% |
| | **ALL MY LIFE** | 4% | 28% | 25% | 24% | 19% | 35.0% |
| **Safe in Community** | **UNSURE** | 0% | 69% | 3% | 20% | 9% | 1.5% |
| | **YES** | 5% | 20% | 26% | 27% | 23% | 51.5% |
| | **NO** | 2% | 45% | 31% | 14% | 8% | 47.0% |
| **Victim of crime** | **YES** | 1% | 45% | 29% | 14% | 12% | 28.7% |
| | **NO** | 4% | 28% | 27% | 23% | 18% | 71.3% |
| **Age** | **18-29** | 0% | 39% | 31% | 16% | 14% | 19.1% |
| | **30-44** | 4% | 33% | 28% | 17% | 17% | 28.2% |
| | **45-59** | 4% | 33% | 25% | 22% | 17% | 36.9% |
| | **60-75** | 5% | 20% | 32% | 28% | 15% | 13.7% |
| | **76+ YEARS** | 2% | 41% | 10% | 39% | 7% | 2.0% |
| **Gender** | **MALE** | 2% | 24% | 30% | 23% | 20% | 50.4% |
| | **FEMALE** | 4% | 41% | 25% | 18% | 11% | 49.6% |

**How often do drug related crimes, such as illegal drug use and selling drugs, happen in your community?**

| | | UNSURE | FREQUENTLY | FAIRLY OFTEN | NOT TOO OFTEN | SELDOM-NEVER | BASE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **TOTAL** | | 7% | 31% | 20% | 25% | 17% | 100.0% |
| **POPULATION** | **UNDER 100** | 10% | 19% | 5% | 20% | 46% | 4.5% |
| | **100-250** | 13% | 24% | 17% | 21% | 25% | 15.2% |
| | **251-500** | 12% | 22% | 30% | 22% | 15% | 28.6% |
| | **501-1000** | 2% | 39% | 17% | 28% | 14% | 51.7% |
| **Time in Community** | **0-4 YRS** | 12% | 29% | 22% | 28% | 9% | 9.9% |
| | **5-9 YRS** | 10% | 38% | 23% | 15% | 14% | 6.7% |
| | **15-20 YEARS** | 1% | 30% | 11% | 36% | 22% | 5.5% |
| | **20+ YEARS** | 6% | 34% | 20% | 24% | 16% | 42.9% |
| | **ALL MY LIFE** | 7% | 25% | 21% | 26% | 21% | 35.0% |
| **Safe in Community** | **UNSURE** | 0% | 69% | 3% | 20% | 9% | 1.5% |
| | **YES** | 8% | 17% | 17% | 38% | 21% | 51.5% |
| | **NO** | 6% | 44% | 25% | 11% | 13% | 47.0% |
| **Victim of crime** | **YES** | 7% | 44% | 17% | 23% | 9% | 28.7% |
| | **NO** | 7% | 25% | 22% | 25% | 21% | 71.3% |
| **Age** | **18-29** | 4% | 34% | 20% | 28% | 15% | 19.1% |
| | **30-44** | 6% | 32% | 24% | 25% | 14% | 28.2% |
| | **45-59** | 6% | 33% | 19% | 24% | 18% | 36.9% |
| | **60-75** | 15% | 16% | 16% | 27% | 26% | 13.7% |
| | **76+ YEARS** | 17% | 33% | 31% | 8% | 11% | 2.0% |
| **Gender** | **MALE** | 6% | 26% | 18% | 29% | 21% | 50.4% |
| | **FEMALE** | 7% | 36% | 22% | 20% | 14% | 49.6% |

**How often do physical assaults, such as domestic violence, child or elder abuse, or sexual assault happen in your community?**

| | | UNSURE | FREQUENTLY | FAIRLY OFTEN | NOT TOO OFTEN | SELDOM-NEVER | BASE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| TOTAL | | 3% | 16% | 22% | 34% | 25% | 100.0% |
| POPULATION | UNDER 100 | 5% | 6% | 8% | 41% | 40% | 4.5% |
| | 100-250 | 2% | 11% | 15% | 33% | 38% | 15.2% |
| | 251-500 | 4% | 13% | 21% | 35% | 27% | 28.6% |
| | 501-1000 | 2% | 20% | 26% | 32% | 20% | 51.7% |
| Time in Community | 0-4 YRS | 0% | 33% | 23% | 34% | 10% | 9.9% |
| | 5-9 YRS | 0% | 39% | 22% | 25% | 14% | 6.7% |
| | 15-20 YEARS | 11% | 32% | 14% | 20% | 24% | 5.5% |
| | 20+ YEARS | 3% | 9% | 21% | 36% | 31% | 42.9% |
| | ALL MY LIFE | 2% | 12% | 25% | 35% | 26% | 35.0% |
| Safe in Community | UNSURE | 0% | 0% | 31% | 46% | 23% | 1.5% |
| | YES | 3% | 11% | 17% | 36% | 33% | 51.5% |
| | NO | 3% | 22% | 28% | 30% | 17% | 47.0% |
| Victim of crime | YES | 3% | 20% | 33% | 31% | 14% | 28.7% |
| | NO | 3% | 14% | 18% | 35% | 30% | 71.3% |
| Age | 18-29 | 2% | 24% | 25% | 30% | 18% | 19.1% |
| | 30-44 | 3% | 13% | 24% | 33% | 26% | 28.2% |
| | 45-59 | 2% | 16% | 22% | 36% | 24% | 36.9% |
| | 60-75 | 5% | 11% | 14% | 34% | 35% | 13.7% |
| | 76+ YEARS | 0% | 0% | 29% | 24% | 47% | 2.0% |
| Gender | MALE | 1% | 9% | 18% | 40% | 31% | 50.4% |
| | FEMALE | 5% | 22% | 27% | 27% | 19% | 49.6% |

**How often do personal property crimes, such as burglary, vandalism, and vehicle theft, as well as vehicle violations, happen in your community?**

| | | UNSURE | FREQUENTLY | FAIRLY OFTEN | NOT TOO OFTEN | SELDOM-NEVER | BASE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| TOTAL | | 1% | 15% | 21% | 38% | 25% | 100.0% |
| POPULATION | UNDER 100 | 2% | 5% | 10% | 34% | 49% | 4.5% |
| | 100-250 | 0% | 11% | 21% | 33% | 35% | 15.2% |
| | 251-500 | 1% | 15% | 14% | 45% | 26% | 28.6% |
| | 501-1000 | 1% | 17% | 27% | 35% | 20% | 51.7% |
| Time in Community | 0-4 YRS | 0% | 14% | 34% | 21% | 31% | 9.9% |
| | 5-9 YRS | 0% | 19% | 36% | 32% | 12% | 6.7% |
| | 15-20 YEARS | 10% | 25% | 12% | 34% | 19% | 5.5% |
| | 20+ YEARS | 0% | 18% | 19% | 35% | 28% | 42.9% |
| | ALL MY LIFE | 1% | 8% | 20% | 47% | 24% | 35.0% |
| Safe in Community | UNSURE | 0% | 0% | 38% | 11% | 51% | 1.5% |
| | YES | 1% | 5% | 15% | 45% | 34% | 51.5% |
| | NO | 1% | 26% | 28% | 30% | 15% | 47.0% |
| Victim of crime | YES | 2% | 24% | 32% | 31% | 12% | 28.7% |
| | NO | 1% | 11% | 17% | 40% | 30% | 71.3% |
| Age | 18-29 | 0% | 11% | 29% | 36% | 24% | 19.1% |
| | 30-44 | 0% | 12% | 20% | 38% | 30% | 28.2% |
| | 45-59 | 3% | 15% | 24% | 37% | 21% | 36.9% |
| | 60-75 | 1% | 22% | 11% | 39% | 27% | 13.7% |
| | 76+ YEARS | 0% | 33% | 0% | 32% | 36% | 2.0% |
| Gender | MALE | 0% | 13% | 19% | 33% | 35% | 50.4% |
| | FEMALE | 2% | 17% | 24% | 43% | 15% | 49.6% |

**Who currently handles the majority of crimes, such as assault, domestic violence, and drug or alcohol-related crimes, in your community?**

| | | UNSURE | CPO OR BPO | VPO | VPSO | TPO | AST | VC | COMMUNITY | OFFICIAL PEOPLE | NATIVE LEADERS | NOBODY | BASE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| TOTAL | | 4% | 16% | 24% | 27% | 3% | 18% | 3% | 1% | 2% | 1% | 1% | 100.0% |
| POPULATION | UNDER 100 | 2% | 0% | 0% | 23% | 0% | 46% | 13% | 1% | 2% | 4% | 8% | 4.5% |
| | 100-250 | 2% | 0% | 8% | 30% | 5% | 35% | 10% | 1% | 4% | 3% | 3% | 15.2% |
| | 251-500 | 3% | 12% | 22% | 30% | 5% | 20% | 1% | 3% | 3% | 1% | 1% | 28.6% |
| | 501-1000 | 5% | 25% | 31% | 25% | 2% | 9% | 1% | 0% | 1% | 1% | 0% | 51.7% |
| Time in Community | 0-4 YRS | 2% | 23% | 25% | 28% | 0% | 19% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 2% | 9.9% |
| | 5-9 YRS | 0% | 23% | 19% | 21% | 9% | 24% | 3% | 0% | 1% | 1% | 0% | 6.7% |
| | 15-20 YEARS | 10% | 36% | 8% | 17% | 0% | 17% | 6% | 1% | 3% | 2% | 0% | 5.5% |
| | 20+ YEARS | 3% | 16% | 27% | 24% | 5% | 18% | 2% | 1% | 1% | 2% | 1% | 42.9% |
| | ALL MY LIFE | 5% | 10% | 23% | 33% | 1% | 17% | 4% | 1% | 4% | 1% | 1% | 35.0% |
| Safe in Community | UNSURE | 31% | 0% | 46% | 11% | 0% | 0% | 11% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 1.5% |
| | YES | 5% | 22% | 17% | 33% | 3% | 13% | 3% | 0% | 2% | 1% | 1% | 51.5% |
| | NO | 2% | 10% | 30% | 21% | 4% | 24% | 2% | 2% | 2% | 1% | 1% | 47.0% |
| Victim of crime | YES | 2% | 19% | 22% | 25% | 4% | 16% | 4% | 3% | 2% | 1% | 1% | 28.7% |
| | NO | 5% | 15% | 24% | 27% | 3% | 19% | 3% | 0% | 2% | 1% | 1% | 71.3% |
| Age | 18-29 | 7% | 10% | 32% | 22% | 6% | 13% | 4% | 1% | 2% | 2% | 1% | 19.1% |
| | 30-44 | 6% | 16% | 22% | 27% | 4% | 14% | 2% | 3% | 5% | 1% | 1% | 28.2% |
| | 45-59 | 2% | 16% | 27% | 30% | 2% | 17% | 3% | 0% | 1% | 0% | 1% | 36.9% |
| | 60-75 | 2% | 22% | 8% | 28% | 1% | 34% | 1% | 0% | 0% | 3% | 0% | 13.7% |
| | 76+ YEARS | 0% | 45% | 0% | 4% | 0% | 33% | 15% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 3% | 2.0% |
| Gender | MALE | 3% | 14% | 25% | 30% | 3% | 18% | 2% | 0% | 1% | 2% | 1% | 50.4% |
| | FEMALE | 5% | 18% | 22% | 24% | 3% | 18% | 3% | 2% | 3% | 1% | 1% | 49.6% |

**Who do you think should handle most of the crimes in your community?**

| | | UNSURE | CPO OR BPO | VPO | VPSO | TPO | AST | VC | COMMUNITY | OFFICIAL PEOPLE | NATIVE LEADERS | CLINICAL | NOBODY | BASE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| TOTAL | | 4% | 13% | 16% | 33% | 5% | 21% | 3% | 1% | 4% | 1% | 0% | 0% | 100.0% |
| POPULATION | UNDER 100 | 3% | 0% | 2% | 48% | 2% | 34% | 7% | 0% | 0% | 2% | 1% | 2% | 4.5% |
| | 100-250 | 2% | 0% | 8% | 42% | 10% | 22% | 8% | 2% | 4% | 2% | 0% | 0% | 15.2% |
| | 251-500 | 4% | 7% | 20% | 42% | 8% | 10% | 1% | 2% | 5% | 1% | 0% | 0% | 28.6% |
| | 501-1000 | 5% | 21% | 17% | 25% | 2% | 25% | 2% | 0% | 4% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 51.7% |
| Time in Community | 0-4 YRS | 9% | 25% | 16% | 27% | 2% | 20% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 9.9% |
| | 5-9 YRS | 8% | 8% | 6% | 34% | 4% | 26% | 1% | 0% | 7% | 5% | 0% | 0% | 6.7% |
| | 15-20 YEARS | 10% | 22% | 11% | 13% | 4% | 34% | 5% | 0% | 0% | 1% | 0% | 0% | 5.5% |
| | 20+ YEARS | 4% | 14% | 20% | 32% | 6% | 17% | 3% | 1% | 3% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 42.9% |
| | ALL MY LIFE | 2% | 7% | 13% | 39% | 4% | 23% | 4% | 2% | 7% | 1% | 0% | 0% | 35.0% |
| Safe in Community | UNSURE | 0% | 0% | 9% | 9% | 0% | 80% | 3% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 1.5% |
| | YES | 5% | 19% | 15% | 29% | 6% | 19% | 3% | 1% | 4% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 51.5% |
| | NO | 4% | 6% | 18% | 38% | 4% | 21% | 3% | 1% | 5% | 1% | 0% | 0% | 47.0% |
| Victim of crime | YES | 5% | 12% | 15% | 32% | 6% | 19% | 4% | 0% | 4% | 1% | 0% | 0% | 28.7% |
| | NO | 4% | 13% | 16% | 34% | 4% | 21% | 2% | 1% | 4% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 71.3% |
| Age | 18-29 | 5% | 3% | 18% | 32% | 6% | 26% | 3% | 2% | 4% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 19.1% |
| | 30-44 | 4% | 14% | 24% | 30% | 6% | 15% | 1% | 0% | 7% | 1% | 0% | 0% | 28.2% |
| | 45-59 | 5% | 12% | 13% | 39% | 5% | 17% | 3% | 2% | 4% | 1% | 0% | 0% | 36.9% |
| | 60-75 | 3% | 18% | 7% | 29% | 2% | 37% | 3% | 0% | 0% | 2% | 0% | 0% | 13.7% |
| | 76+ YEARS | 0% | 45% | 0% | 22% | 0% | 13% | 16% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 3% | 2.0% |
| Gender | MALE | 3% | 12% | 17% | 35% | 7% | 18% | 4% | 1% | 4% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 50.4% |
| | FEMALE | 6% | 13% | 15% | 31% | 3% | 24% | 2% | 1% | 4% | 1% | 0% | 0% | 49.6% |

**How often does your community need non-criminal crisis responses, such as search and rescue, emergency services, suicide response or fire response?**

| | | UNSURE | FREQUENTLY | FAIRLY OFTEN | NOT TOO OFTEN | SELDOM OR NEVER | BASE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| TOTAL | | 1% | 15% | 25% | 41% | 19% | 100.0% |
| POPULATION | UNDER 100 | 1% | 6% | 7% | 42% | 44% | 4.5% |
| | 100-250 | 0% | 10% | 15% | 49% | 26% | 15.2% |
| | 251-500 | 2% | 10% | 26% | 45% | 17% | 28.6% |
| | 501-1000 | 0% | 20% | 28% | 36% | 16% | 51.7% |
| Time in Community | 0-4 YRS | 0% | 27% | 16% | 39% | 19% | 9.9% |
| | 5-9 YRS | 3% | 17% | 24% | 41% | 15% | 6.7% |
| | 15-20 YEARS | 1% | 20% | 32% | 22% | 25% | 5.5% |
| | 20+ YEARS | 0% | 13% | 30% | 37% | 19% | 42.9% |
| | ALL MY LIFE | 1% | 13% | 19% | 48% | 18% | 35.0% |
| Safe in Community | UNSURE | 0% | 0% | 0% | 49% | 51% | 1.5% |
| | YES | 1% | 15% | 16% | 45% | 23% | 51.5% |
| | NO | 1% | 15% | 34% | 36% | 14% | 47.0% |
| Victim of crime | YES | 1% | 15% | 30% | 39% | 14% | 28.7% |
| | NO | 0% | 15% | 22% | 41% | 21% | 71.3% |
| Age | 18-29 | 2% | 7% | 27% | 45% | 19% | 19.1% |
| | 30-44 | 0% | 19% | 29% | 37% | 15% | 28.2% |
| | 45-59 | 1% | 16% | 27% | 38% | 17% | 36.9% |
| | 60-75 | 0% | 18% | 3% | 48% | 30% | 13.7% |
| | 76+ YEARS | 0% | 2% | 33% | 29% | 37% | 2.0% |
| Gender | MALE | 0% | 13% | 24% | 43% | 20% | 50.4% |
| | FEMALE | 1% | 17% | 25% | 38% | 18% | 49.6% |

... and who do you think should handle such non-criminal crisis situations?

| | | UNSURE | CPO OR BPO | VPO | VPSO | TPO | AST | VC | COMMUNITY | OFFICIAL PEOPLE | NATIVE LEADERS | CLINICAL | BASE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| TOTAL | | 7% | 8% | 14% | 19% | 4% | 10% | 6% | 9% | 19% | 1% | 2% | 100.0% |
| POPULATION | UNDER 100 | 2% | 0% | 2% | 28% | 0% | 11% | 16% | 18% | 19% | 0% | 3% | 4.5% |
| | 100-250 | 7% | 0% | 5% | 21% | 8% | 7% | 19% | 9% | 20% | 1% | 2% | 15.2% |
| | 251-500 | 5% | 4% | 16% | 31% | 3% | 8% | 5% | 9% | 17% | 1% | 0% | 28.6% |
| | 501-1000 | 8% | 14% | 17% | 11% | 4% | 12% | 2% | 9% | 20% | 2% | 3% | 51.7% |
| Time in Community | 0-4 YRS | 1% | 10% | 16% | 13% | 0% | 11% | 7% | 5% | 29% | 0% | 6% | 9.9% |
| | 5-9 YRS | 4% | 17% | 18% | 9% | 2% | 8% | 1% | 7% | 33% | 0% | 1% | 6.7% |
| | 15-20 YEARS | 10% | 10% | 14% | 4% | 4% | 1% | 22% | 14% | 20% | 0% | 1% | 5.5% |
| | 20+ YEARS | 6% | 7% | 15% | 19% | 7% | 8% | 4% | 10% | 21% | 1% | 1% | 42.9% |
| | ALL MY LIFE | 9% | 8% | 11% | 25% | 2% | 13% | 8% | 9% | 10% | 3% | 2% | 35.0% |
| Safe in Community | UNSURE | 0% | 0% | 0% | 11% | 0% | 0% | 11% | 0% | 31% | 9% | 38% | 1.5% |
| | YES | 6% | 11% | 12% | 20% | 4% | 13% | 6% | 8% | 16% | 1% | 1% | 51.5% |
| | NO | 7% | 6% | 17% | 18% | 4% | 7% | 6% | 11% | 22% | 1% | 2% | 47.0% |
| Victim of crime | YES | 7% | 10% | 12% | 19% | 2% | 7% | 9% | 10% | 16% | 4% | 4% | 28.7% |
| | NO | 7% | 8% | 15% | 19% | 5% | 11% | 5% | 9% | 20% | 0% | 1% | 71.3% |
| Age | 18-29 | 15% | 5% | 10% | 19% | 7% | 5% | 4% | 12% | 20% | 3% | 1% | 19.1% |
| | 30-44 | 5% | 9% | 22% | 16% | 7% | 7% | 6% | 11% | 17% | 0% | 0% | 28.2% |
| | 45-59 | 4% | 9% | 14% | 22% | 1% | 9% | 7% | 10% | 19% | 1% | 5% | 36.9% |
| | 60-75 | 5% | 13% | 6% | 16% | 1% | 23% | 9% | 1% | 23% | 2% | 0% | 13.7% |
| | 76+ YEARS | 0% | 0% | 0% | 22% | 0% | 29% | 19% | 23% | 5% | 0% | 2% | 2.0% |
| Gender | MALE | 7% | 7% | 14% | 21% | 5% | 11% | 5% | 8% | 19% | 2% | 1% | 50.4% |
| | FEMALE | 7% | 10% | 15% | 17% | 2% | 9% | 7% | 11% | 19% | 1% | 2% | 49.6% |

**(Not asked of 20% who responded not applicable.)**
**...What grade would you give the Alaska State Troopers?**

| | | A | B | C | D | F | BASE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **TOTAL** | | 31% | 27% | 24% | 11% | 7% | 100.0% |
| **POPULATION** | **UNDER 100** | 28% | 24% | 22% | 22% | 4% | 4.6% |
| | **100-250** | 28% | 30% | 20% | 14% | 8% | 16.4% |
| | **251-500** | 35% | 20% | 29% | 11% | 5% | 27.1% |
| | **501-1000** | 30% | 30% | 24% | 9% | 8% | 51.9% |
| **Time in Community** | **0-4 YRS** | 48% | 13% | 26% | 13% | 0% | 8.7% |
| | **5-9 YRS** | 15% | 41% | 4% | 28% | 11% | 7.7% |
| | **15-20 YEARS** | 32% | 27% | 23% | 7% | 11% | 6.4% |
| | **20+ YEARS** | 32% | 27% | 28% | 9% | 4% | 45.8% |
| | **ALL MY LIFE** | 28% | 27% | 25% | 9% | 11% | 31.4% |
| **Safe in Community** | **UNSURE** | 0% | 31% | 55% | 14% | 0% | 1.9% |
| | **YES** | 45% | 26% | 18% | 6% | 4% | 49.2% |
| | **NO** | 18% | 27% | 30% | 15% | 10% | 48.9% |
| **Victim of crime** | **YES** | 13% | 33% | 26% | 13% | 16% | 30.2% |
| | **NO** | 39% | 25% | 24% | 10% | 3% | 69.8% |
| **Age** | **18-29** | 31% | 28% | 22% | 11% | 7% | 18.0% |
| | **30-44** | 28% | 28% | 27% | 12% | 4% | 29.8% |
| | **45-59** | 27% | 28% | 25% | 11% | 8% | 38.5% |
| | **60-75** | 48% | 20% | 17% | 5% | 9% | 12.0% |
| | **76+ YEARS** | 50% | 19% | 25% | 6% | 0% | 1.7% |
| **Gender** | **MALE** | 30% | 26% | 28% | 10% | 6% | 50.3% |
| | **FEMALE** | 32% | 28% | 21% | 11% | 8% | 49.7% |

**(Not asked of 41% who responded not applicable.)**
**...What grade would you give Village Public Safety Officers?**

| | | A | B | C | D | F | BASE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **TOTAL** | | 18% | 35% | 25% | 12% | 10% | 100.0% |
| **POPULATION** | **UNDER 100** | 22% | 38% | 28% | 6% | 5% | 3.4% |
| | **100-250** | 28% | 27% | 30% | 5% | 10% | 14.1% |
| | **251-500** | 20% | 33% | 24% | 11% | 13% | 30.2% |
| | **501-1000** | 14% | 39% | 24% | 15% | 8% | 52.3% |
| **Time in Community** | **0-4 YRS** | 15% | 22% | 21% | 38% | 4% | 8.8% |
| | **5-9 YRS** | 9% | 15% | 62% | 0% | 14% | 6.0% |
| | **15-20 YEARS** | 9% | 25% | 18% | 19% | 29% | 5.1% |
| | **20+ YEARS** | 21% | 36% | 24% | 11% | 8% | 45.0% |
| | **ALL MY LIFE** | 17% | 42% | 23% | 8% | 10% | 35.2% |
| **Safe in Community** | **UNSURE** | 0% | 11% | 89% | 0% | 0% | 2.3% |
| | **YES** | 27% | 40% | 28% | 5% | 1% | 49.0% |
| | **NO** | 9% | 32% | 19% | 20% | 19% | 48.6% |
| **Victim of crime** | **YES** | 8% | 26% | 34% | 17% | 15% | 26.5% |
| | **NO** | 21% | 39% | 22% | 10% | 8% | 73.5% |
| **Age** | **18-29** | 17% | 33% | 26% | 18% | 6% | 17.5% |
| | **30-44** | 10% | 45% | 20% | 12% | 12% | 28.1% |
| | **45-59** | 18% | 31% | 31% | 10% | 10% | 37.7% |
| | **60-75** | 29% | 32% | 18% | 11% | 9% | 15.2% |
| | **76+ YEARS** | 51% | 21% | 6% | 0% | 22% | 1.5% |
| **Gender** | **MALE** | 17% | 37% | 27% | 12% | 7% | 49.9% |
| | **FEMALE** | 19% | 34% | 23% | 12% | 12% | 50.1% |

**(Not asked of 70% who responded not applicable.)**
**...What grade would you give City or Borough Police Officers?**

| | | A | B | C | D | F | BASE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **TOTAL** | | 21% | 26% | 30% | 11% | 12% | 100.0% |
| **POPULATION** | **UNDER 100** | 21% | 20% | 35% | 6% | 18% | 2.3% |
| | **100-250** | 14% | 27% | 31% | 18% | 10% | 7.7% |
| | **251-500** | 17% | 33% | 24% | 7% | 19% | 22.3% |
| | **501-1000** | 23% | 24% | 31% | 11% | 10% | 67.8% |
| **Time in Community** | **0-4 YRS** | 22% | 51% | 15% | 12% | 0% | 9.4% |
| | **5-9 YRS** | 0% | 2% | 34% | 32% | 32% | 4.4% |
| | **15-20 YEARS** | 35% | 13% | 0% | 12% | 40% | 8.3% |
| | **20+ YEARS** | 23% | 28% | 36% | 6% | 7% | 46.9% |
| | **ALL MY LIFE** | 16% | 24% | 32% | 14% | 14% | 31.0% |
| **Safe in Community** | **UNSURE** | 0% | 0% | 0% | 100% | 0% | 1.2% |
| | **YES** | 26% | 37% | 27% | 4% | 6% | 57.9% |
| | **NO** | 14% | 13% | 34% | 17% | 22% | 40.9% |
| **Victim of crime** | **YES** | 26% | 11% | 38% | 8% | 18% | 27.5% |
| | **NO** | 19% | 32% | 27% | 12% | 10% | 72.5% |
| **Age** | **18-29** | 29% | 27% | 21% | 24% | 0% | 13.1% |
| | **30-44** | 7% | 43% | 30% | 10% | 10% | 34.3% |
| | **45-59** | 27% | 14% | 32% | 8% | 20% | 35.9% |
| | **60-75** | 26% | 23% | 32% | 8% | 10% | 13.8% |
| | **76+ YEARS** | 39% | 3% | 39% | 0% | 18% | 3.0% |
| **Gender** | **MALE** | 18% | 30% | 31% | 14% | 7% | 52.5% |
| | **FEMALE** | 24% | 23% | 28% | 7% | 18% | 47.5% |

**(Not asked of 51% who responded not applicable.)**
**...What grade would you give Village or Tribal Police Officers?**

| | | A | B | C | D | F | BASE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **TOTAL** | | 12% | 29% | 32% | 17% | 11% | 100.0% |
| **POPULATION** | **UNDER 100** | 30% | 25% | 34% | 3% | 7% | 1.9% |
| | **100-250** | 10% | 22% | 42% | 15% | 10% | 9.6% |
| | **251-500** | 16% | 27% | 25% | 21% | 11% | 30.9% |
| | **501-1000** | 10% | 31% | 34% | 15% | 10% | 57.6% |
| **Time in Community** | **0-4 YRS** | 5% | 28% | 35% | 32% | 0% | 6.9% |
| | **5-9 YRS** | 1% | 15% | 33% | 33% | 19% | 6.7% |
| | **15-20 YEARS** | 24% | 31% | 23% | 0% | 23% | 5.6% |
| | **20+ YEARS** | 13% | 32% | 35% | 12% | 8% | 47.1% |
| | **ALL MY LIFE** | 13% | 26% | 28% | 19% | 13% | 33.7% |
| **Safe in Community** | **UNSURE** | 0% | 48% | 52% | 0% | 0% | 2.4% |
| | **YES** | 22% | 33% | 34% | 8% | 4% | 48.2% |
| | **NO** | 4% | 24% | 29% | 26% | 18% | 49.4% |
| **Victim of crime** | **YES** | 8% | 24% | 43% | 16% | 9% | 27.0% |
| | **NO** | 14% | 31% | 28% | 17% | 11% | 73.0% |
| **Age** | **18-29** | 15% | 21% | 45% | 9% | 11% | 19.2% |
| | **30-44** | 6% | 36% | 31% | 21% | 7% | 28.4% |
| | **45-59** | 12% | 34% | 29% | 14% | 11% | 40.2% |
| | **60-75** | 20% | 11% | 24% | 27% | 18% | 11.1% |
| | **76+ YEARS** | 69% | 0% | 0% | 31% | 0% | 1.1% |
| **Gender** | **MALE** | 12% | 23% | 42% | 13% | 10% | 51.8% |
| | **FEMALE** | 12% | 35% | 21% | 20% | 12% | 48.2% |

## Do Alaska State Troopers respond fast enough to events in your community?

| | | UNSURE | ALWAYS | MOSTLY | SOMETIMES | NEVER | BASE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| TOTAL | | 5% | 14% | 29% | 38% | 13% | 100.0% |
| POPULATION | UNDER 100 | 2% | 16% | 23% | 45% | 15% | 4.5% |
| | 100-250 | 3% | 12% | 34% | 37% | 14% | 15.2% |
| | 251-500 | 4% | 15% | 29% | 38% | 13% | 28.6% |
| | 501-1000 | 7% | 14% | 28% | 37% | 13% | 51.7% |
| Time in Community | 0-4 YRS | 12% | 11% | 27% | 30% | 20% | 9.9% |
| | 5-9 YRS | 13% | 1% | 39% | 35% | 12% | 6.7% |
| | 15-20 YEARS | 0% | 24% | 26% | 40% | 10% | 5.5% |
| | 20+ YEARS | 2% | 15% | 33% | 39% | 11% | 42.9% |
| | ALL MY LIFE | 6% | 15% | 24% | 39% | 15% | 35.0% |
| Safe in Community | UNSURE | 0% | 31% | 9% | 9% | 52% | 1.5% |
| | YES | 6% | 21% | 31% | 34% | 8% | 51.5% |
| | NO | 4% | 7% | 28% | 43% | 18% | 47.0% |
| Victim of crime | YES | 1% | 12% | 23% | 39% | 25% | 28.7% |
| | NO | 7% | 15% | 32% | 37% | 8% | 71.3% |
| Age | 18-29 | 2% | 22% | 28% | 32% | 16% | 19.1% |
| | 30-44 | 7% | 8% | 24% | 49% | 11% | 28.2% |
| | 45-59 | 7% | 13% | 32% | 34% | 14% | 36.9% |
| | 60-75 | 3% | 15% | 36% | 35% | 10% | 13.7% |
| | 76+ YEARS | 0% | 43% | 11% | 23% | 23% | 2.0% |
| Gender | MALE | 5% | 13% | 31% | 39% | 12% | 50.4% |
| | FEMALE | 5% | 15% | 28% | 37% | 15% | 49.6% |

**Do you think you could do without public safety positions in your community if there were more AST in that could come more quickly if needed?**

| | | UNSURE | YES | NO | BASE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **TOTAL** | | 5% | 34% | 61% | 100.0% |
| **POPULATION** | **UNDER 100** | 6% | 44% | 50% | 4.5% |
| | **100-250** | 5% | 28% | 67% | 15.2% |
| | **251-500** | 9% | 34% | 57% | 28.6% |
| | **501-1000** | 3% | 35% | 62% | 51.7% |
| **Time in Community** | **0-4 YRS** | 11% | 34% | 56% | 9.9% |
| | **5-9 YRS** | 3% | 29% | 68% | 6.7% |
| | **15-20 YEARS** | 0% | 44% | 56% | 5.5% |
| | **20+ YEARS** | 5% | 34% | 61% | 42.9% |
| | **ALL MY LIFE** | 4% | 34% | 61% | 35.0% |
| **Safe in Community** | **UNSURE** | 0% | 31% | 69% | 1.5% |
| | **YES** | 6% | 30% | 63% | 51.5% |
| | **NO** | 3% | 39% | 58% | 47.0% |
| **Victim of crime** | **YES** | 4% | 32% | 64% | 28.7% |
| | **NO** | 5% | 35% | 60% | 71.3% |
| **Age** | **18-29** | 1% | 42% | 56% | 19.1% |
| | **30-44** | 7% | 35% | 58% | 28.2% |
| | **45-59** | 4% | 25% | 71% | 36.9% |
| | **60-75** | 8% | 47% | 45% | 13.7% |
| | **76+ YEARS** | 3% | 37% | 60% | 2.0% |
| **Gender** | **MALE** | 6% | 33% | 61% | 50.4% |
| | **FEMALE** | 4% | 35% | 61% | 49.6% |

**What do you think is really needed to improve public safety in your community?**

| | | UNSURE | OKAY NOW | TRAINING | ENFORCE-PROSECUTE | DO THEIR JOB | ENFORCE TRAFFIC | UN-BIASED HONEST | GO DRY-CONTROL | COMMU NICATE | COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT | HEALTH AIDE | MORE EQUIPMENT | MORE VPSOs | BASE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| TOTAL | | 9% | 10% | 11% | 4% | 6% | 3% | 7% | 3% | 4% | 7% | 1% | 5% | 32% | 100.0% |
| POPULATION | UNDER 100 | 8% | 16% | 7% | 3% | 1% | 5% | 2% | 3% | 5% | 9% | 2% | 10% | 29% | 4.5% |
| | 100-250 | 11% | 9% | 4% | 3% | 3% | 1% | 5% | 6% | 7% | 8% | 1% | 5% | 37% | 15.2% |
| | 251-500 | 10% | 11% | 9% | 3% | 5% | 4% | 4% | 4% | 5% | 9% | 0% | 4% | 33% | 28.6% |
| | 501-1000 | 7% | 9% | 15% | 5% | 8% | 3% | 9% | 1% | 3% | 5% | 1% | 5% | 30% | 51.7% |
| Time in Community | 0-4 YRS | 4% | 14% | 14% | 5% | 11% | 7% | 17% | 0% | 2% | 3% | 0% | 0% | 23% | 9.9% |
| | 5-9 YRS | 12% | 9% | 0% | 17% | 0% | 3% | 15% | 2% | 2% | 3% | 2% | 0% | 34% | 6.7% |
| | 15-20 YEARS | 1% | 14% | 8% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 21% | 13% | 0% | 13% | 1% | 6% | 23% | 5.5% |
| | 20+ YEARS | 7% | 10% | 12% | 2% | 9% | 2% | 4% | 2% | 6% | 8% | 1% | 8% | 27% | 42.9% |
| | ALL MY LIFE | 13% | 7% | 12% | 4% | 3% | 3% | 3% | 3% | 4% | 6% | 0% | 2% | 40% | 35.0% |
| Safe in Community | UNSURE | 0% | 17% | 40% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 11% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 31% | 1.5% |
| | YES | 13% | 16% | 11% | 3% | 8% | 4% | 6% | 3% | 6% | 6% | 0% | 3% | 21% | 51.5% |
| | NO | 5% | 2% | 11% | 5% | 5% | 1% | 7% | 3% | 2% | 8% | 1% | 6% | 44% | 47.0% |
| Victim of crime | YES | 4% | 2% | 13% | 3% | 6% | 6% | 11% | 3% | 6% | 8% | 0% | 7% | 31% | 28.7% |
| | NO | 11% | 13% | 10% | 4% | 6% | 2% | 5% | 3% | 4% | 6% | 1% | 4% | 32% | 71.3% |
| Age | 18-29 | 15% | 11% | 10% | 0% | 8% | 1% | 7% | 5% | 5% | 7% | 3% | 3% | 25% | 19.1% |
| | 30-44 | 8% | 9% | 5% | 7% | 7% | 2% | 6% | 1% | 5% | 12% | 0% | 7% | 29% | 28.2% |
| | 45-59 | 6% | 9% | 19% | 4% | 7% | 3% | 5% | 3% | 3% | 4% | 0% | 5% | 32% | 36.9% |
| | 60-75 | 9% | 12% | 5% | 1% | 0% | 8% | 13% | 3% | 4% | 3% | 0% | 1% | 41% | 13.7% |
| | 76+ YEARS | 13% | 7% | 2% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 2% | 0% | 5% | 0% | 10% | 62% | 2.0% |
| Gender | MALE | 10% | 10% | 15% | 5% | 4% | 4% | 4% | 0% | 6% | 6% | 1% | 5% | 29% | 50.4% |
| | FEMALE | 8% | 9% | 7% | 3% | 9% | 2% | 9% | 5% | 2% | 7% | 0% | 4% | 34% | 49.6% |

# Appendix VI

## Communities included in Alaska Federation of Natives "Public Safety" Research

| Less than 100 residents | 100-250 residents | 251-500 residents | 500-1000 residents |
|---|---|---|---|
| Akhiok | Alegnagik | Akiak | Akiachak |
| Alatna | Allakaket | Ambler | Akutan |
| Atka | Anvik | Anaktuvuk Pass | Alakanuk |
| Beaver | Arctic Village | Atmautluak | Angoon |
| Birch Creek | Atqasuk | Brevig Mission | Aniak |
| Chalkyitsik | Chignik Lake | Buckland | Chevak |
| Chenega Bay | Chuathbaluk | Chefornak | Emmonak |
| Chignik | Crooked Creek | Eek | Fort Yukon |
| Chignik Lagoon | Deering | Elim | Galena |
| Circle | Diomede | Huslia | Gambell |
| Clark's Point | Ekwok | Hydaburg | Hoonah |
| Eagle Village | Golovin | Kaktovik | Hooper Bay |
| Egegik | Goodnews Bay | Kalskag (upper & lower) | Kake |
| Evansville | Grayling | Kiana | Kasigluk |
| Healy Lake | Holy Cross | King Salmon | King Cove |
| Hughes | Iliamna | Kivalina | Kipnuk |
| Igiugig | Kaltag | Kongiganak | Klawock |
| Ivanof Bay | Klukwan | Koyuk | Kotlik |
| Karluk | Kobuk | Kwigillingok | Kwethluk |
| Kasaan | Kokhanok | Manokotak | Mountain Village |
| Larsen Bay | Koliganek | Marshall | Naknek |
| Levelock | Koyukuk | McGrath | Noorvik |
| Lime Village | Mekoryuk | Napakiak | Pilot Station |
| Manley Hot Springs | Minto | Napaskiak | Point Hope |
| Nelson Lagoon | Nanwalek | New Stuyahok | Quinhagak |
| New Allakaket | Nightmute | Newtok | Saint Mary's |
| Newhalen | Nikolai | Noatak | Saint Paul |
| Oscarville | Nondalton | Nuiqsut | Sand Point |
| Pedro Bay | Old Harbor | Nulato | Savoonga |
| Pilot Point | Ouzinkie | Nunapitchuk | Selawik |
| Platinum | Perryville | Port Lions | Shishmaref |
| Port Alexander | Pitka's Point | Russian Mission | Stebbins |
| Port Heiden | Point Lay | Saint Michael | Togiak |
| Rampart | Port Alsworth | Scammon Bay | Toksook Bay |
| Red Devil | Port Graham | Shungnak | Unalakleet |
| Sleetmute | Ruby | Stuyahok | Wainwright |
| Stevens Village | Saint George | Tanana | Yakutat |
| Stony River | Shageluk | Tuntutuliak | |
| Takotna | Shaktoolik | Tununak | |
| Tolsona | Sheldon Point | | |
| Twin Hills | Tatitlek | | |
| Ugashik | Teller | | |
| Wiseman | Tetlin | | |
| | Venetie | | |
| | Wales | | |
| | White Mountain | | |
| n=98 | n=105 | n=103 | n=103 |

# VPSO

# PROGRAM

# INFORMATION

**STATE OF ALASKA**
**Department of Public Safety**
**Active VPSO by Last Name**
**August 2006 (01/01/06 - 08/30/06)**

| Corp | Village | Last Name | First Name | Logs | Assault | DUI | SAR | Prop.Crimes | Alc/Drugs | Other | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| APIA | AKUTAN | LEVAN | JAY | 37 | 2 | 1 | | | 1 | 1 | 42 |
| APIA | ATKA | ANELON JR | HENRY | | | | | 3 | | 1 | 4 |
| APIA | ST GEORGE | NEMETH | MICHAEL | 33 | 2 | | | | 1 | 3 | 39 |
| AVCP | KIPNUK | ALEXIE | CHRISTOPHER | 1 | 2 | | | 2 | 4 | | 9 |
| AVCP | MT VILLAGE | BROWN | ALVIN | 1 | 3 | | | | | 7 | 11 |
| AVCP | AKIACHAK | CHARLES | DAVID | 2 | | 1 | | 1 | | 2 | 6 |
| AVCP | KWIGILLINGOK | JIMMIE | ALVIN | | 1 | 1 | 2 | | 1 | 2 | 7 |
| AVCP | EEK | JOSHUA | JAMES | 3 | | | | | | 1 | 4 |
| AVCP | NAPASKIAK | LARSON | GREGORY | 68 | 5 | 2 | | 1 | | 7 | 83 |
| AVCP | NAPAKIAK | OLICK | WILLIAM | 7 | 4 | 2 | | 2 | 3 | 2 | 20 |
| AVCP | KWETHLUK | OLICK | MAX | | 2 | 1 | | 1 | | 5 | 9 |
| AVCP | KONGIGANAK | OTTO | JONATHAN | 58 | 2 | | | | 1 | 1 | 62 |
| AVCP | TUNTUTULIAK | PLEASANT | JOHN | 8 | 7 | | | | 1 | 9 | 25 |
| AVCP | NUNAPITCHUK | TOBELUK JR | JACOB | 69 | 5 | | | | 3 | 6 | 83 |
| AVCP | SCAMMON BAY | YUNAK | PAULA | | 8 | | | | | 1 | 9 |
| BBNA | TWIN HILLS | ACTIVE | STANLEY | 7 | 6 | 1 | | | | 1 | 15 |
| BBNA | MANOKOTAK | ANDREW | MELVIN | 7 | 2 | 2 | | | 1 | 2 | 14 |
| BBNA | CHIGNIK LAKE | ASHBY | GUY | 1 | 2 | | | | | 3 | 6 |
| BBNA | ALEKNAGIK | CREASEY | JASON | 70 | 1 | | 1 | 3 | | 1 | 76 |
| BBNA | EKWOK | DECKER | DANIEL | 17 | 5 | 1 | | | 1 | 1 | 25 |
| BBNA | ILIAMNA/NEWHALEN | DONKERSLOOT | JOHN | 34 | 7 | 1 | | | | 3 | 45 |
| AVCP | AKIAK | GILILA SR | WASSILLIE | 13 | | 2 | | 1 | | 11 | 27 |
| BBNA | KOKHANOK | MIKE | WILLIAM | 3 | 2 | | | | | | 5 |
| BBNA | KOLIGANEK | TUNGUING | GUSTY | 39 | 1 | | | 1 | | 1 | 42 |
| BBNA | PILOT POINT | WISE | BYRON | 2 | | | | | | | 2 |
| BBNA | NEW STUYAHOK | WONHOLA | EVAN | 2 | 2 | | | | | | 4 |
| KANA | PORT LIONS | AMES | BRADLEY | 123 | 2 | 1 | | | | 2 | 128 |
| KANA | KARLUK | BROWN | ROBERT | 1 | | | | | | | 1 |
| KANA | OLD HARBOR | DAHLEN | GLENN | 16 | | 1 | | | | | 17 |
| KANA | LARSEN BAY | JONES JR | ROY | 5 | 3 | 1 | | | | 1 | 10 |
| KANA | SELAWIK | MASHBURN | RICHARD | 79 | 6 | 2 | | | | 3 | 90 |
| KANA | FALSE PASS | MCCOMACK | MICHAEL | 3 | | | | | | 2 | 5 |
| KANA | THORNE BAY | OMALLEY | CLINTON | 97 | | | | | 1 | 1 | 99 |
| KANA | KOBUK | ROLLS | LESLIE | 130 | 2 | | | 1 | | 11 | 144 |
| KANA | AMBLER | WILSON | JAMES | 16 | 5 | | | | | 1 | 22 |
| KAWE | ELIM | DOCKEN | ALLISON | 19 | 5 | | | 1 | | 8 | 33 |

STATE OF ALASKA
Department of Public Safety
Active VPSO by Last Name
August 2006 (01/01/06 - 08/30/06)

| Corp | Village | Last Name | First Name | Logs | Assault | DUI | SAR | Prop.Crimes | Alc/Drugs | Other | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| KAWE | WHITE MOUNTAIN | HARRELSON | DAN | 9 | 2 | 2 | | | | 1 | 14 |
| KAWE | STEBBINS | MERCULIEF | JOHN | 26 | 10 | 3 | | 1 | 3 | 18 | 61 |
| KAWE | SAVOONGA | PERATROVICH | JOHN | 23 | 6 | | 1 | 1 | 6 | | 37 |
| KAWE | SHAKTOOLIK | SAGOONICK | TONIA | 4 | 4 | | | | | | 8 |
| KAWE | SHISHMAREF | WEBB | DONALD | 9 | | | 2 | | | 11 | 22 |
| [redacted] | EAGLE | BEAUCAGE | TIMOTHY | 9 | | | | | | | 9 |
| [redacted] | ANVIK | EKADA | JOHN | | 1 | 1 | | | | | 2 |
| [redacted] | MINTO | FRANK | DARRELL | | 1 | | | | | | 1 |
| [redacted] | RUBY | HAGLIN | MARK | 68 | 4 | | | | 1 | 7 | 80 |
| [redacted] | MCGRATH | PARKER | KENNETH | 77 | | | | 2 | 4 | 7 | 90 |
| [redacted] | HUSLIA | PAVLICK | TIMOTHY | 31 | 1 | 2 | | | 1 | 3 | 38 |

Logs: Request for service where case number is assigned but no report is written (i.e. welfare check, loud party, etc...)

# FY'07 Total Cost of Each Filled VPSO Position

**Aleutian Pribilof Islands Association (37.5 Hrs/Wk - 1950 Hrs/Yr)**

| | VPSO Name | Village | Time in Service | Hourly Wage | Annual Salary | Benefits @ 61% | Probation & Parole | Retention Bonus | TOTAL |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Anelon Jr., Henry | Atka | 3 Yrs | 21.12 | 41,184.00 | 25,122.24 | 8,628.00 | 1,000.00 | **75,934.24** |
| 2 | Levan, Jay | Akutan | 3 Mos | 16.55 | 32,272.50 | 19,686.23 | 8,628.00 | 500.00 | **61,086.73** |
| 3 | McComack, Michael | False Pass | 2 Yrs | 18.25 | 35,587.50 | 21,708.38 | 8,628.00 | 500.00 | **66,423.88** |
| 4 | Nemeth, Michael | St. George | 1 Yr | 19.16 | 37,362.00 | 22,790.82 | 8,628.00 | 500.00 | **69,280.82** |

**Association of Village Council Presidents (37.5 Hrs/Wk - 1950 Hrs/Yr)**

| | VPSO Name | Village | Time in Service | Hourly Wage | Annual Salary | Benefits @ 38% | Probation & Parole | Retention Bonus | TOTAL |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Alexie, Christopher | Kipnuk | 5 Yrs | 21.12 | 41,184.00 | 15,649.92 | 8,628.00 | 1,000.00 | **66,461.92** |
| 2 | Brown, Alvin | Mountain Village | 5 Yrs | 21.12 | 41,184.00 | 15,649.92 | 8,628.00 | 3,000.00 | **68,461.92** |
| 3 | Charles, David | Akiachak | 10 Yrs | 27.75 | 54,112.50 | 20,562.75 | 8,628.00 | 2,400.00 | **85,703.25** |
| 4 | Jimmie, Alvin | Kwigillingok | 16 Yrs | 27.75 | 54,112.50 | 20,562.75 | 8,628.00 | 3,000.00 | **86,303.25** |
| 5 | Joshua, James | Eek | 2 Yrs | 17.38 | 33,891.00 | 12,878.58 | 8,628.00 | 500.00 | **55,897.58** |
| 6 | Larson, Gregory | Napaskiak | 1 Yr | 17.38 | 33,891.00 | 12,878.58 | 8,628.00 | 500.00 | **55,897.58** |
| 7 | Lewis, Brendan | Tuluksak | 3 Mos | 16.55 | 32,272.50 | 12,263.55 | 8,628.00 | 500.00 | **53,664.05** |
| 8 | Olick, Max | Kwethluk | 26 Yrs | 27.75 | 54,112.50 | 20,562.75 | 8,628.00 | 3,000.00 | **86,303.25** |
| 9 | Olick, William | Napakiak | 1 Yr | 17.38 | 33,891.00 | 12,878.58 | 8,628.00 | 500.00 | **55,897.58** |
| 10 | Otto, Johnathan | Kongiganak | 12 Yrs | 27.75 | 54,112.50 | 20,562.75 | 8,628.00 | 3,000.00 | **86,303.25** |
| 11 | Pleasant, John | Tuntutuliak | 3 Yrs | 19.16 | 37,362.00 | 14,197.56 | 8,628.00 | 500.00 | **60,687.56** |
| 12 | Tobeluk Jr., Jacob | Nunapitchuk | 1 Yr | 17.38 | 33,891.00 | 12,878.58 | 8,628.00 | 500.00 | **55,897.58** |
| 13 | Yunak, Paula | Scammon Bay | 1 Yr | 17.38 | 33,891.00 | 12,878.58 | 8,628.00 | 500.00 | **55,897.58** |

Source: Nonprofit Regional Native Corporation Payroll Reports

# FY'07 Total Cost of Each Filled VPSO Position

**Bristol Bay Native Association (37.5 Hrs/Wk - 1950 Hrs/Yr)**

| | VPSO Name | Village | Time in Service | Hourly Wage | Annual Salary | Benefits @ 57% | Probation & Parole | Retention Bonus | TOTAL |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Active, Stanley | Twin Hills | 2 Yrs | 27.75 | 54,112.50 | 30,844.13 | 8,628.00 | 3,000.00 | **96,584.63** |
| 2 | Andrew, Melvin | Manokotak | 7 Yrs | 23.97 | 46,741.50 | 26,642.66 | 8,628.00 | 1,800.00 | **83,812.16** |
| 3 | Ashby Jr., Guy | Chignik Lake | 1 Yr | 17.38 | 33,891.00 | 19,317.87 | 8,628.00 | 500.00 | **62,336.87** |
| 4 | Creasey, Jason | Aleknagik | 7 Yrs | 25.17 | 49,081.50 | 27,976.46 | 8,628.00 | 1,800.00 | **87,485.96** |
| 5 | Decker Sr., Daniel | Ekwok | 18 Mos | 17.38 | 33,891.00 | 19,317.87 | 8,628.00 | 500.00 | **62,336.87** |
| 6 | Donkersloot, John | Iliamna | 1 Yr | 17.38 | 33,891.00 | 19,317.87 | 8,628.00 | 500.00 | **62,336.87** |
| 7 | Gilila, Wassillie | Levelock | 4 Mos | 19.16 | 37,362.00 | 21,296.34 | 8,628.00 | 500.00 | **67,786.34** |
| 8 | Mike, William | Kokhanok | 6 Mos | 16.55 | 32,272.50 | 18,395.33 | 8,628.00 | 500.00 | **59,795.83** |
| 9 | Tunguing Jr., Gusty | Kolihanek | 12 Yrs | 27.75 | 54,112.50 | 30,844.13 | 8,628.00 | 2,400.00 | **95,984.63** |
| 10 | Wise, Byron | Pilot Point | 5 Yrs | 20.12 | 39,234.00 | 22,363.38 | 8,628.00 | 1,000.00 | **71,225.38** |
| 11 | Wonhola, Evan | New Stuyahok | 9 Yrs | 27.75 | 54,112.50 | 30,844.13 | 8,628.00 | 1,800.00 | **95,384.63** |

**Kodiak Area Native Association (40 Hrs/Wk - 2080 Hrs/Yr)**

| | VPSO Name | Village | Time in Service | Hourly Wage | Annual Salary | Benefits @ 47% | Probation & Parole | Retention Bonus | TOTAL |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Ames, Bradley | Port Lions | 9 Yrs | 26.43 | 54,974.40 | 25,837.97 | 8,628.00 | 1,800.00 | **91,240.37** |
| 2 | Brown, Robert | Karluk | 2 Mos | 16.55 | 34,424.00 | 16,179.28 | 8,628.00 | 500.00 | **59,731.28** |
| 3 | Dehlan, Glenn | Old Harbor | 4 Mos | 16.55 | 34,424.00 | 16,179.28 | 8,628.00 | 500.00 | **59,731.28** |
| 4 | Docken, Allison | Ouzinkie | 5 Mos | 20.12 | 41,849.60 | 19,669.31 | 8,628.00 | 500.00 | **70,646.91** |
| 5 | Mashburn, Richard | Selawik | 21 Yrs. | 25.67 | 53,393.60 | 25,094.99 | 8,628.00 | 3,000.00 | **90,116.59** |
| 6 | O'Malley, Clinton | Thorne Bay | 9 Yrs | 25.17 | 52,353.60 | 24,606.19 | 8,628.00 | 1,800.00 | **87,387.79** |
| 7 | Rolls, Leslie | Kobuk | 8 Yrs | 25.17 | 52,353.60 | 24,606.19 | 8,628.00 | 1,800.00 | **87,387.79** |
| 8 | Wilson, James | Ambler | 4 Yrs | 21.12 | 43,929.60 | 20,646.91 | 8,628.00 | 1,000.00 | **74,204.51** |

Source: Nonprofit Regional Native Corporation Payroll Reports

# FY'07 Total Cost of Each Filled VPSO Position

**Kawerak, Inc. (40 Hrs/Wk - 2080 Hrs/Yr)**

| | VPSO Name | Village | Time in Service | Hourly Wage | Annual Salary | Benefits @ 33% | Probation & Parole | Retention Bonus | TOTAL |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Harrelson, Daniel | White Mountain | 24 Yrs | 27.75 | 57,720.00 | 19,047.60 | 8,628.00 | 3,000.00 | **88,395.60** |
| 2 | Merculief Sr., John | Stebbins | 8 Yrs | 23.29 | 48,443.20 | 15,986.26 | 8,628.00 | 1,800.00 | **74,857.46** |
| 3 | Peratrovich, John | Savoonga | 1 Yr | 22.18 | 46,134.40 | 15,224.35 | 8,628.00 | 500.00 | **70,486.75** |
| 4 | Sagoonick, Tonia | Shaktoolik | 1 Yr | 17.38 | 36,150.40 | 11,929.63 | 8,628.00 | 500.00 | **57,208.03** |
| 5 | Webb, Donald | Shishmaref | 1 Yr | 24.45 | 50,856.00 | 16,782.48 | 8,628.00 | 500.00 | **76,766.48** |

**Tanana Chiefs Conference (40 Hrs/Wk - 2080 Hrs/Yr)**

| | VPSO Name | Village | Time in Service | Hourly Wage | Annual Salary | Benefits @ 75% | Probation & Parole | Retention Bonus | TOTAL |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Beaucage, Tim | Eagle | 3 Mos | 16.55 | 34,424.00 | 25,818.00 | 8,628.00 | 500.00 | **69,370.00** |
| 2 | Ekada, John | Anvik | 1 Yr | 17.38 | 36,150.40 | 27,112.80 | 8,628.00 | 500.00 | **72,391.20** |
| 3 | Frank, Darrell | Minto | 10 Mos | 16.55 | 34,424.00 | 25,818.00 | 8,628.00 | 500.00 | **69,370.00** |
| 4 | Haglin, Mark | Nulato | * 3 Yrs | 23.97 | 49,857.60 | 37,393.20 | 8,628.00 | 1,000.00 | **96,878.80** |
| 5 | Parker, Kenneth | McGrath | 1 Yr | 19.16 | 39,852.80 | 29,889.60 | 8,628.00 | 500.00 | **78,870.40** |
| 6 | Pavlick, Timothy | Huslia | * 5 Yrs | 21.12 | 43,929.60 | 32,947.20 | 8,628.00 | 1,000.00 | **86,504.80** |

* Rehire

Source: Nonprofit Regional Native Corporation Payroll Reports

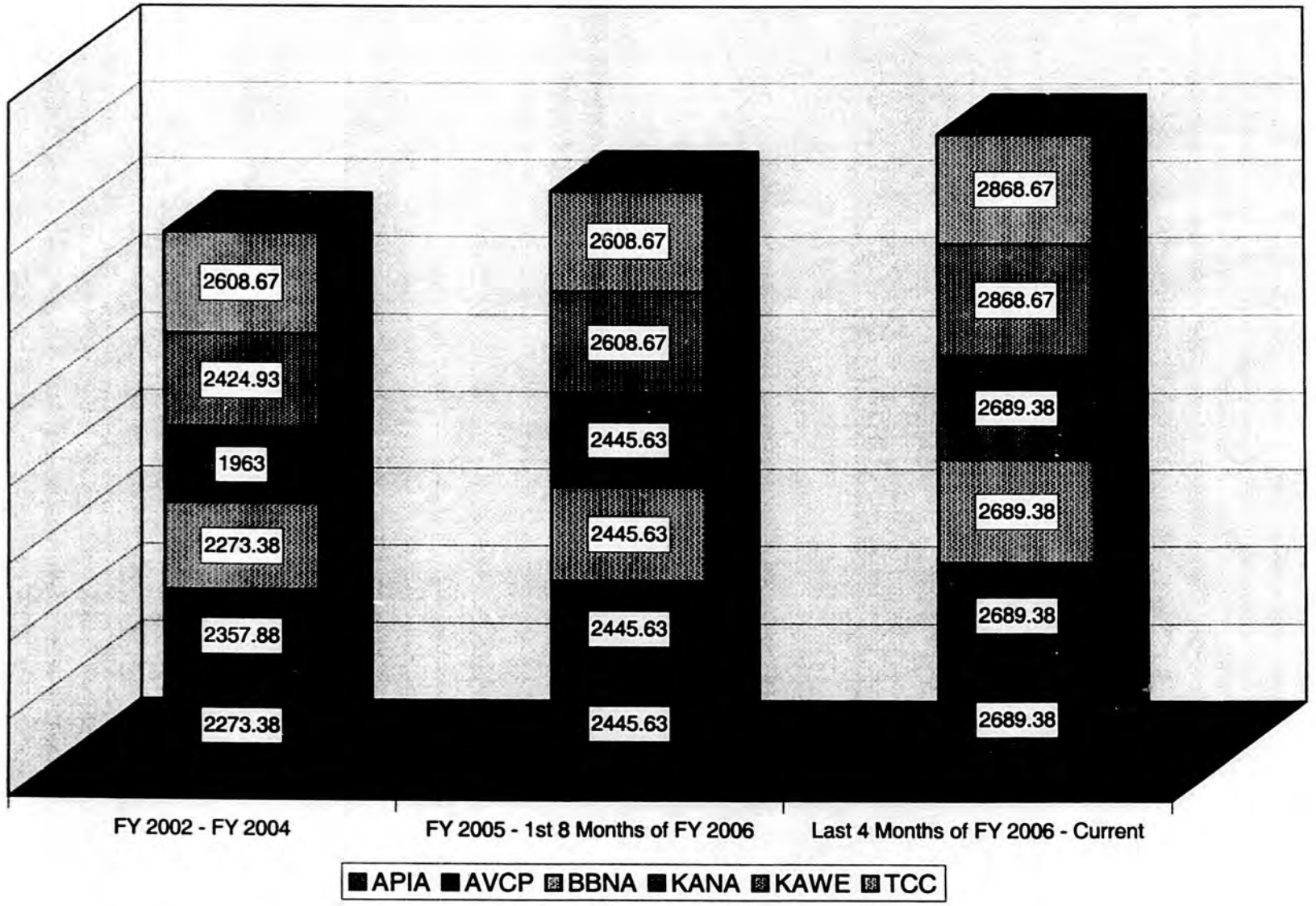
## FY'07 Total Cost of Each VPSO Coordinator

| | Coordinator's Name | Non-Profit | Time | Time in Position | Annual Salary | Benefits | TOTAL |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Richard Krause | APIA | PT | 17 Yrs | 30,000.00 | 18,300.00 | **48,300.00** |
| 2 | George Nicholai | AVCP | FT | 1 Yr | 56,924.00 | 21,631.12 | **78,555.12** |
| 3 | Carla Akelkok | BBNA | FT | 1 Yr | 42,000.00 | 18,900.00 | **60,900.00** |
| 4 | Val Maxwell | KANA | FT | 1 Yr | 45,000.00 | 21,150.00 | **66,150.00** |
| 5 | Gina Appolloni | KAWE | FT | 2 Yrs | 55,000.00 | 18,150.00 | **73,150.00** |
| 6 | Jim Knopke | TCC | FT | 7 Yrs | 44,120.00 | 33,090.00 | **77,210.00** |

**404,265.12 TOTAL**

Source: Nonprofit Regional Native Corporation Payroll Reports

## VPSO Starting Monthly Salary




APIA, AVCP, BBNA, and KANA VPSO's work 37.5 hrs/wk. KAWE and TCC VPSO's work 40 hrs/wk.

## SFY'07 VPSO Salary Schedules

### VPSO Salary Schedule
### 37.5 Hrs/Wk - 1950 Hrs/Yr

| | Starting Step A | 6 mos Step B 6 mos | 1.5 yrs Step C 18 mos | 2.5 yrs Step D 30 mos | 3.5 yrs Step E 42 mos | 4.5 yrs Step F 54 mos | 5.5 yrs Step J 66 mos | 6.5 yrs Step K 78 mos | 7.5 yrs Step L 90 mos | 8.5 yrs Step M 102 mos |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Monthly | 2,689.38 | 2,824.25 | 2,965.63 | 3,113.50 | 3,269.50 | 3,432.00 | 3,604.25 | 3,784.63 | 3,973.13 | 4,171.38 |
| Yearly | 32,272.50 | 33,891.00 | 35,587.50 | 37,362.00 | 39,234.00 | 41,184.00 | 43,251.00 | 45,415.50 | 47,677.50 | 50,056.50 |
| Hourly | 16.55 | 17.38 | 18.25 | 19.16 | 20.12 | 21.12 | 22.18 | 23.29 | 24.45 | 25.67 |
| Sgt Monthly | | | | 3,365.38 | 3,534.38 | 3,709.88 | 3,895.13 | 4,090.13 | 4,294.88 | 4,509.38 |
| Sgt Yearly | | | | 40,384.50 | 42,412.50 | 44,518.50 | 46,741.50 | 49,081.50 | 51,538.50 | 54,112.50 |
| Sgt Hourly | | | | 20.71 | 21.75 | 22.83 | 23.97 | 25.17 | 26.43 | 27.75 |

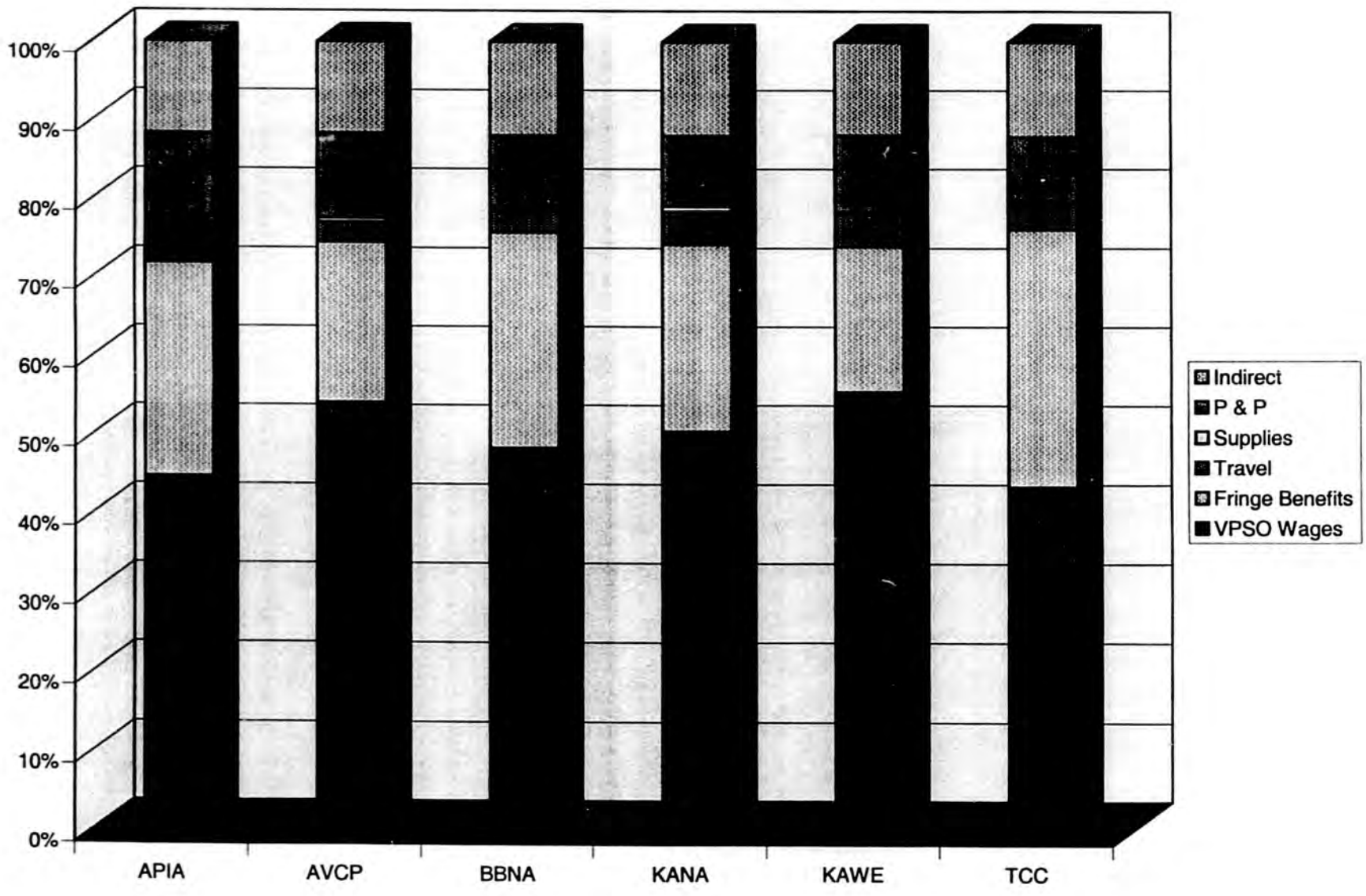
### VPSO Salary Schedule
### 40 Hrs/Wk - 2080 Hrs/Yr

| | Starting Step A | 6 mos Step B 6 mos | 1.5 yrs Step C 18 mos | 2.5 yrs Step D 30 mos | 3.5 yrs Step E 42 mos | 4.5 yrs Step F 54 mos | 5.5 yrs Step J 66 mos | 6.5 yrs Step K 78 mos | 7.5 yrs Step L 90 mos | 8.5 yrs Step M 102 mos |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Monthly | 2,868.67 | 3,012.53 | 3,163.33 | 3,321.07 | 3,487.47 | 3,660.80 | 3,844.53 | 4,036.93 | 4,238.00 | 4,449.47 |
| Yearly | 34,424.00 | 36,150.40 | 37,960.00 | 39,852.80 | 41,849.60 | 43,929.60 | 46,134.40 | 48,443.20 | 50,856.00 | 53,393.60 |
| Hourly | 16.55 | 17.38 | 18.25 | 19.16 | 20.12 | 21.12 | 22.18 | 23.29 | 24.45 | 25.67 |
| Sgt Monthly | | | | 3,589.73 | 3,770.00 | 3,957.20 | 4,154.80 | 4,362.80 | 4,581.20 | 4,810.00 |
| Sgt Yearly | | | | 43,076.80 | 45,240.00 | 47,486.40 | 49,857.60 | 52,353.60 | 54,974.40 | 57,720.00 |
| Sgt Hourly | | | | 20.71 | 21.75 | 22.83 | 23.97 | 25.17 | 26.43 | 27.75 |

### Retention Incentive Bonuses

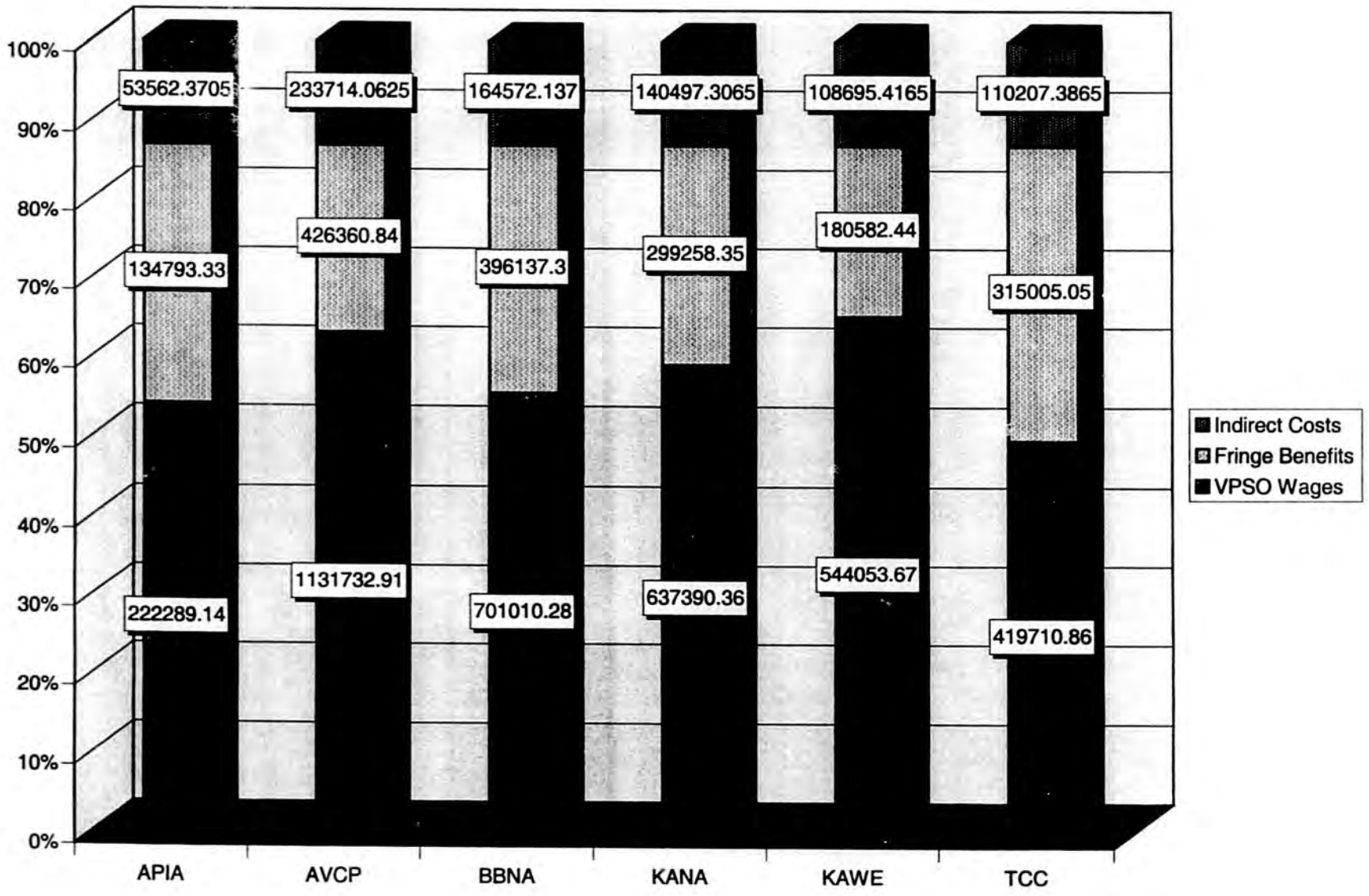
| | 1 - 3 Years | 3 - 5 Years | 6 - 10 Years | 10 - 16 Years | 16+ Years |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Yearly | $500 | $1,000 | $1,800 | $2,400 | $3,000 |

## FY'07 Grant Award Breakdown by Budget Category



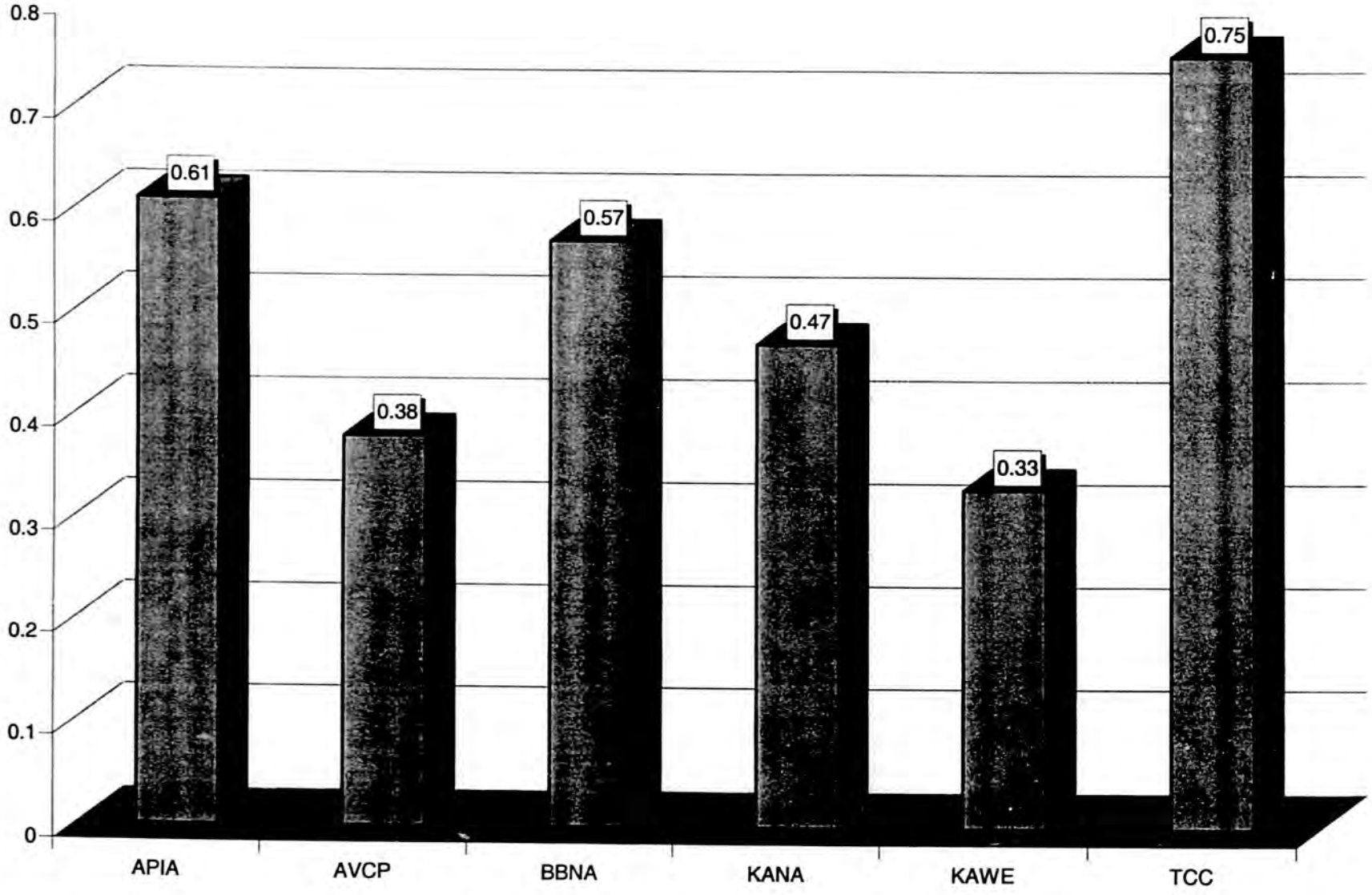

Source: FY'07 VPSO Grant Awards by Nonprofit

## Probation and Parole by Non-Profit




Source: FY'07 VPSO Grant Awards by Nonprofit

## Nonprofit Regional Native Corporation Fringe Benefit Rates




Source: FY'07 VPSO Grant Award Amounts

## VPSO Wage History

### FY 2002 - FY 2004

| | | Starting Step A | 6 mos Step B 6 mos | 1.5 yrs Step C 18 mos | 2.5 yrs Step D 30 mos | 3.5 yrs Step E 42 mos | 4.5 yrs Step F 54 mos | 5.5 yrs Step J 66 mos | 6.5 yrs Step K 78 mos | 7.5 yrs Step L 90 mos | 8.5 yrs Step M 102 mos |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **APIA BBNA (37.5)** | Monthly | 2,273.38 | 2,387.13 | 2,507.38 | 2,632.50 | 2,764.13 | 2,902.25 | 3,046.88 | 3,199.63 | 3,358.88 | 3,527.88 |
| | Yearly | 27,280.50 | 28,645.50 | 30,088.50 | 31,590.00 | 33,169.50 | 34,827.00 | 36,562.50 | 38,395.50 | 40,306.50 | 42,334.50 |
| | Hourly | 13.99 | 14.69 | 15.43 | 16.20 | 17.01 | 17.86 | 18.75 | 19.69 | 20.67 | 21.71 |
| **AVCP (37.5)** | Monthly | 2,357.88 | 2,474.88 | 2,600.00 | 2,730.00 | 2,864.88 | 3,009.50 | 3,159.00 | 3,316.63 | 3,482.38 | 3,657.88 |
| | Yearly | 28,294.50 | 29,698.50 | 31,200.00 | 32,760.00 | 34,378.50 | 36,114.00 | 37,908.00 | 39,799.50 | 41,788.50 | 43,894.50 |
| | Hourly | 14.51 | 15.23 | 16.00 | 16.80 | 17.63 | 18.52 | 19.44 | 20.41 | 21.43 | 22.51 |
| **KANA (37.5)** | Monthly | 1,963.00 | 2,645.50 | 2,162.88 | 2,271.75 | 2,385.50 | 2,504.13 | 2,678.00 | 2,760.88 | 2,899.00 | 3,043.63 |
| | Yearly | 23,556.00 | 31,746.00 | 25,954.50 | 27,261.00 | 28,626.00 | 30,049.50 | 32,136.00 | 33,130.50 | 34,788.00 | 36,523.50 |
| | Hourly | 12.08 | 16.28 | 13.31 | 13.98 | 14.68 | 15.41 | 16.48 | 16.99 | 17.84 | 18.73 |
| **KAWE (40.0)** | Monthly | 2,424.93 | 2,546.27 | 2,672.80 | 2,806.27 | 2,946.67 | 3,094.00 | 3,250.00 | 3,411.20 | 3,582.80 | 3,761.33 |
| | Yearly | 29,099.20 | 30,555.20 | 32,073.60 | 33,675.20 | 35,360.00 | 37,128.00 | 39,000.00 | 40,934.40 | 42,993.60 | 45,136.00 |
| | Hourly | 13.99 | 14.69 | 15.42 | 16.19 | 17.00 | 17.85 | 18.75 | 19.68 | 20.67 | 21.70 |
| **TCC (40.0)** | Monthly | 2,608.67 | 2,740.40 | 2,877.33 | 3,021.20 | 3,172.00 | 3,329.73 | 3,496.13 | 3,671.20 | 3,854.93 | 4,047.33 |
| | Yearly | 31,304.00 | 32,884.80 | 34,528.00 | 36,254.40 | 38,064.00 | 39,956.80 | 41,953.60 | 44,054.40 | 46,259.20 | 48,568.00 |
| | Hourly | 15.05 | 15.81 | 16.60 | 17.43 | 18.30 | 19.21 | 20.17 | 21.18 | 22.24 | 23.35 |

## VPSO Wage History

### FY 2005 - First 8 Months of FY 2006

VPSO Salary Schedule

37.5 Hrs/Wk - 1950 Hrs/Yr

| | Starting Step A | 6 mos Step B 6 mos | 1.5 yrs Step C 18 mos | 2.5 yrs Step D 30 mos | 3.5 yrs Step E 42 mos | 4.5 yrs Step F 54 mos | 5.5 yrs Step J 66 mos | 6.5 yrs Step K 78 mos | 7.5 yrs Step L 90 mos | 8.5 yrs Step M 102 mos |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Monthly | 2,445.63 | 2,569.13 | 2,697.50 | 2,832.38 | 2,973.75 | 3,121.63 | 3,277.63 | 3,441.75 | 3,614.00 | 3,794.38 |
| Yearly | 29,347.50 | 30,829.50 | 32,370.00 | 33,988.50 | 35,685.00 | 37,459.50 | 39,331.50 | 41,301.00 | 43,368.00 | 45,532.50 |
| Hourly | 15.05 | 15.81 | 16.60 | 17.43 | 18.30 | 19.21 | 20.17 | 21.18 | 22.24 | 23.35 |
| Sgt Monthly | | | | 3,121.63 | 3,277.63 | 3,441.75 | 3,614.00 | 3,794.38 | 3,984.50 | 4,184.38 |
| Sgt Yearly | | | | 37,459.50 | 39,331.50 | 41,301.00 | 43,368.00 | 45,532.50 | 47,814.00 | 50,212.50 |
| Sgt Hourly | | | | 19.21 | 20.17 | 21.18 | 22.24 | 23.35 | 24.52 | 25.75 |

VPSO Salary Schedule

40 Hrs/Wk - 2080 Hrs/Yr

| | Starting Step A | 6 mos Step B 6 mos | 1.5 yrs Step C 18 mos | 2.5 yrs Step D 30 mos | 3.5 yrs Step E 42 mos | 4.5 yrs Step F 54 mos | 5.5 yrs Step J 66 mos | 6.5 yrs Step K 78 mos | 7.5 yrs Step L 90 mos | 8.5 yrs Step M 102 mos |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Monthly | 2,608.67 | 2,740.40 | 2,877.33 | 3,021.20 | 3,172.00 | 3,329.73 | 3,496.13 | 3,671.20 | 3,854.93 | 4,047.33 |
| Yearly | 31,304.00 | 32,884.80 | 34,528.00 | 36,254.40 | 38,064.00 | 39,956.80 | 41,953.60 | 44,054.40 | 46,259.20 | 48,568.00 |
| Hourly | 15.05 | 15.81 | 16.60 | 17.43 | 18.30 | 19.21 | 20.17 | 21.18 | 22.24 | 23.35 |
| Sgt Monthly | | | | 3,329.73 | 3,496.13 | 3,671.20 | 3,854.93 | 4,047.33 | 4,250.13 | 4,463.33 |
| Sgt Yearly | | | | 39,956.80 | 41,953.60 | 44,054.40 | 46,259.20 | 48,568.00 | 51,001.60 | 53,560.00 |
| Sgt Hourly | | | | 19.21 | 20.17 | 21.18 | 22.24 | 23.35 | 24.52 | 25.75 |

## VPSO Wage History

### Last 4 Months FY 2006 - Current

VPSO Salary Schedule

37.5 Hrs/Wk - 1950 Hrs/Yr

| | Starting Step A | 6 mos Step B 6 mos | 1.5 yrs Step C 18 mos | 2.5 yrs Step D 30 mos | 3.5 yrs Step E 42 mos | 4.5 yrs Step F 54 mos | 5.5 yrs Step J 66 mos | 6.5 yrs Step K 78 mos | 7.5 yrs Step L 90 mos | 8.5 yrs Step M 102 mos |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Monthly | 2,689.38 | 2,824.25 | 2,965.63 | 3,113.50 | 3,269.50 | 3,432.00 | 3,604.25 | 3,784.63 | 3,973.13 | 4,171.38 |
| Yearly | 32,272.50 | 33,891.00 | 35,587.50 | 37,362.00 | 39,234.00 | 41,184.00 | 43,251.00 | 45,415.50 | 47,677.50 | 50,056.50 |
| Hourly | 16.55 | 17.38 | 18.25 | 19.16 | 20.12 | 21.12 | 22.18 | 23.29 | 24.45 | 25.67 |
| Sgt Monthly | | | | 3,365.38 | 3,534.38 | 3,709.88 | 3,895.13 | 4,090.13 | 4,294.88 | 4,509.38 |
| Sgt Yearly | | | | 40,384.50 | 42,412.50 | 44,518.50 | 46,741.50 | 49,081.50 | 51,538.50 | 54,112.50 |
| Sgt Hourly | | | | 20.71 | 21.75 | 22.83 | 23.97 | 25.17 | 26.43 | 27.75 |

VPSO Salary Schedule

40 Hrs/Wk - 2080 Hrs/Yr

| | Starting Step A | 6 mos Step B 6 mos | 1.5 yrs Step C 18 mos | 2.5 yrs Step D 30 mos | 3.5 yrs Step E 42 mos | 4.5 yrs Step F 54 mos | 5.5 yrs Step J 66 mos | 6.5 yrs Step K 78 mos | 7.5 yrs Step L 90 mos | 8.5 yrs Step M 102 mos |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Monthly | 2,868.67 | 3,012.53 | 3,163.33 | 3,321.07 | 3,487.47 | 3,660.80 | 3,844.53 | 4,036.93 | 4,238.00 | 4,449.47 |
| Yearly | 34,424.00 | 36,150.40 | 37,960.00 | 39,852.80 | 41,849.60 | 43,929.60 | 46,134.40 | 48,443.20 | 50,856.00 | 53,393.60 |
| Hourly | 16.55 | 17.38 | 18.25 | 19.16 | 20.12 | 21.12 | 22.18 | 23.29 | 24.45 | 25.67 |
| Sgt Monthly | | | | 3,496.13 | 3,770.00 | 3,957.20 | 4,154.80 | 4,362.80 | 4,581.20 | 4,810.00 |
| Sgt Yearly | | | | 41,953.60 | 45,240.00 | 47,486.40 | 49,857.60 | 52,353.60 | 54,974.40 | 57,720.00 |
| Sgt Hourly | | | | 20.17 | 21.75 | 22.83 | 23.97 | 25.17 | 26.43 | 27.75 |

## VPSO Turnover History

| State Fiscal Year | Funded Positions | Avg. # of Filled Positions | % Filled | Turnover | Turnover Rate |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2001 | 84.5 | 80 | 95% | 31 | 39% |
| 2002 | 84.5 | 79 | 93% | 21 | 27% |
| 2003 | 84.5 | 77.5 | 92% | 30 | 39% |
| * 2004 | 65 | 53.5 | 82% | 24 | 45% |
| 2005 | 59 | 54 | 92% | 26 | 48% |
| 2006 | 59 | 50 | 85% | 15 | 30% |
| * * 2007 | 80 | | | | |

The turnover rate is determined by dividing the total number of VPSO's who vacated their position during the fiscal year by the average number of filled VPSO positions for the fiscal year.

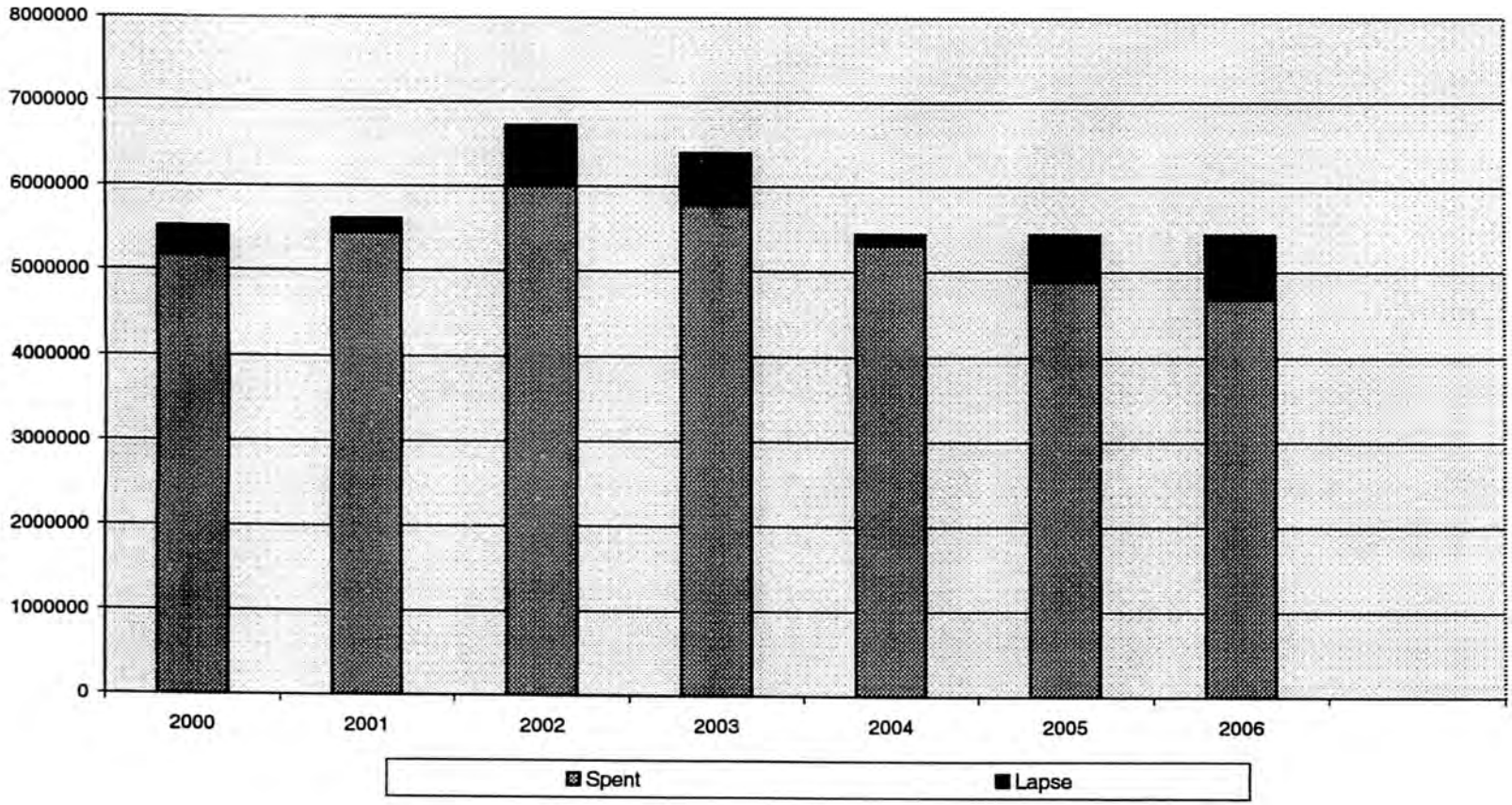
* FY'04 962.0 General Fund Reduction

FY'04 Elimination of vacancy factor (truth in budgeting)

** FY'07 20 New VPSO positions created using federal IHS funding.

Source: AST Records

## VPSO State Funding Lapse History



## VPSO State Funding Lapse History

| SFY (Jul-Jun) | Authorized | Spent | Lapse |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2000 | $5,523,500 | $5,163,500 | $360,000 |
| 2001 | $5,618,500 | $5,446,500 | $172,000 |
| 2002 [1] | $6,725,600 | $6,006,400 | $719,200 |
| 2003 | $6,398,400 | $5,784,900 | $613,500 |
| 2004 [2] | $5,436,400 | $5,315,900 | $120,500 |
| 2005 | $5,436,400 | $4,889,800 | $546,600 |
| 2006 | $5,436,400 | $4,684,700 | $751,700 |
| 2007 [3] | $4,883,000 | | $4,883,000 |

[1] Funding for probation and parole monitoring appropriated to DPS. Previously appropriated to DOC.

[2] Included veto of $962,000 GF

[3] Does not include lapse from 2006

Source: Legislative Short Form Books

## Federal Funding History

| FFY | Grant Description | Awarding Agency | Award Amount | Start | End |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2006* | Rural Bootlegging Prevention & Enforcement | Indian Health Service | $1,967,876 | 09/30/06 | 09/29/07 |
| 2006* | Rural Law Enforcement Training & Equipment | COPS Office | $1,184,674 | 11/22/05 | 11/21/08 |
| 2005 | Rural Bootlegging Prevention & Enforcement | Indian Health Service | $1,967,876 | 09/30/05 | 09/29/06 |
| 2005 | Rural Law Enforcement Training & Equipment | COPS Office | $1,973,286 | 12/08/04 | 12/07/07 |
| 2004 | Rural Bootlegging Prevention & Enforcement | Indian Health Service | $1,995,600 | 09/30/04 | 09/29/06 |
| 2004 | Rural Law Enforcement Training & Equipment | COPS Office | $1,978,955 | 01/23/04 | 01/22/07 |
| 2003 | Rural Law Enforcement Training & Equipment | COPS Office | $1,490,250 | 02/20/03 | 12/31/06 |
| 2002 | Rural Law Enforcement Support | COPS Office | $600,000 | 10/01/01 | 12/31/06 |
| 2001 | Rural Law Enforcement Support | COPS Office | $1,796,040 | 01/01/01 | 12/31/06 |

* Awards are pending

# Rural Alaska Villages
## Law Enforcement
## 9/11/06

| Community | Population | Nonprofit | VPSO | VPSO ONLY | VPO/TPO | VPO/TPO ONLY | NO LE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Adak | 149 | APIA | | | 1 | X | |
| Akhiok | 48 | KANA | | | | | |
| Akiachak | 622 | AVCP | 1.0 | | 3 | | |
| Akiak | 346 | AVCP | | | 2 | | |
| Akutan | 748 | APIA | 1.0 | X | | | |
| Alakanuk | 659 | AVCP | | | 3 | X | |
| Aleknagik | 213 | BBNA | 1.0 | X | | | |
| Allakaket | 97 | TCC | | | | | |
| Ambler | 295 | KANA | 1.0 | | | | |
| Angoon | 542 | KANA | | X | | | X |
| Aniak | 539 | | | | | | |
| Anvik | 109 | TCC | 1.0 | | 1 | | |
| Arctic Village | 172 | TCC | | | | | X |
| Atka | 102 | APIA | 1.0 | X | | | |
| Atmautluak | 291 | AVCP | | | 5 | | |
| Barrow | 4,434 | | | | | | |
| Beaver | 76 | TCC | | | | | X |
| Bethel | 5,736 | | | | | | |
| Brevig Mission | 307 | KAWE | | | 1 | | |
| Buckland | 426 | KANA | | | 1 | X | |
| Cantwell | 225 | | | | | | |
| Central | 120 | TCC | | | | | X |
| Chalkyitsik | 87 | TCC | | | | | X |
| Chase | 36 | | | | | | X |
| Chefornak | 419 | AVCP | | | 1 | X | |
| Chenega Bay | 90 | KANA | | | | | |
| Chevak | 854 | AVCP | | | 5 | | |
| Chignik | 77 | BBNA | | X | | | |
| Chignik Lagoon | 89 | BBNA | | | | | X |
| Chignik Lake | 115 | BBNA | 1.0 | | | | X |
| Chiniak | 56 | KANA | | | | | X |
| Chuathbaluk | 98 | AVCP | | | | 1.0 | |
| Circle | 84 | TCC | | | | | X |

## Rural Alaska Villages
## Law Enforcement
## 9/11/06

| Community | Population | Nonprofit | VPSO | VPSO ONLY | VPO/TPO | VPO/TPO ONLY | NO LE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Clark's Point | 65 | BBNA | | X | | | |
| Coffman Cove | 161 | KANA | | | | | X |
| Cold Bay | 116 | APIA | | | | | X |
| Crooked Creek | 146 | AVCP | | | | | X |
| Cube Cove | 30 | KANA | | | | | X |
| Deering | 129 | KANA | | | | | X |
| Dillingham | 2,475 | | | | | | |
| Diomede | 128 | KAWE | | | | | |
| Eagle | 150 | TCC | 1.0 | | | | |
| Edna Bay | 40 | KANA | | | | | X |
| Eek | 291 | AVCP | 1.0 | | 1 | | |
| Egegik | 88 | BBNA | | | | | X |
| Ekwok | 114 | BBNA | 1.0 | X | | | |
| Elfin Cove | 32 | APIA | | | | | X |
| Elim | 339 | KAWE | | | | | |
| Emmonak | 745 | AVCP | | | 5 | | |
| False Pass | 79 | APIA | | | | | |
| Ferry | 30 | KANA | | | | | X |
| Galena | 713 | | | | | | |
| Gambell | 639 | KAWE | | | 3 | | |
| Game Creek | 35 | KANA | | | | | X |
| Glennallen | 517 | | | | | | |
| Golovin | 148 | KAWE | | | 1 | | |
| Goodnews Bay | 234 | AVCP | | | | | |
| Grayling | 192 | TCC | | | | | X |
| Gustavus | 421 | KANA | | | | | X |
| Haines | 1,714 | | | | | | |
| Hollis | 150 | KANA | | | | | X |
| Holy Cross | 232 | TCC | | | 1 | X | |
| Hooper Bay | 1,075 | AVCP | | | 7 | | |
| Hughes | 69 | TCC | | | | | X |
| Huslia | 285 | TCC | 1.0 | X | | | |
| Hydaburg | 364 | KANA | | X | | | |

## Rural Alaska Villages
## Law Enforcement
## 9/11/06

| Community | Population | Nonprofit | VPSO | VPSO ONLY | VPO/TPO | VPO/TPO ONLY | NO LE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Hyder | 89 | KANA | 1.0 | | | | X |
| Igiugig | 41 | BBNA | | | | | X |
| Iliamna ** | 104 | BBNA | 1.0 | ** | | | X |
| Jakolof Bay | 40 | BBNA | | | | | X |
| Juneau | 30,981 | | | | | | |
| Kake | 700 | KANA | | | | | |
| Kaltag | 223 | TCC | | | | | X |
| Karluk | 23 | KANA | 1.0 | | | | |
| Kasaan | 55 | KANA | | | | | X |
| Kasigluk | 527 | AVCP | | | 3 | X | |
| Ketchikan | 7,845 | | | | | | |
| Kiana | 399 | KANA | | | 1 | X | |
| King Cove | 794 | APIA | | | | | |
| King Salmon | 392 | | | | | | |
| Kipnuk | 644 | AVCP | 1.0 | | 2 | | |
| Kivalina | 383 | KANA | | | 1 | | X |
| Klawock | 848 | | | | | | |
| Klukwan | 111 | KANA | | | | | X |
| Kobuk | 106 | KANA | 1.0 | X | | | |
| Kodiak | 6,544 | | | | | | |
| Kokhanok | 174 | BBNA | 1.0 | | 1 | | |
| Koliganek | 186 | BBNA | 1.0 | X | | | |
| Kongiganak | 368 | AVCP | 1.0 | | 1 | | |
| Kotlik | 633 | AVCP | | | 2 | X | |
| Kotzebue | 3,107 | | | | | | |
| Koyuk | 329 | KAWE | | | 2 | | |
| Koyukuk | 101 | TCC | | | | | X |
| Kwethluk | 693 | AVCP | 1.0 | | 5 | | |
| Kwigillingok | 337 | AVCP | 1.0 | | 1 | | |
| Larsen Bay | 107 | KANA | 1.0 | X | | | |
| Levelock | 84 | BBNA | 1.0 | | | | |
| Lime Village | 41 | AVCP | | | | | X |
| Lower Kalskag | 260 | AVCP | | | | | |

# Rural Alaska Villages
## Law Enforcement
## 9/11/06

| Community | Population | Nonprofit | VPSO | VPSO ONLY | VPO/TPO | VPO/TPO ONLY | NO LE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Manley Hot Springs | 73 | TCC | | | | | X |
| Manokotak | 404 | BBNA | 1.0 | | 3 | | |
| Marshall | 364 | KAWE | | | | | |
| McGrath | 407 | TCC | 1.0 | | | | |
| Mekoryuk | 204 | AVCP | 1.0 | | 1 | | |
| Mentasta Lake | 139 | TCC | | | | | X |
| Minto | 229 | TCC | 1.0 | | 1 | | X |
| Mosquito Lake | 226 | KANA | | | | | X |
| Mountain Village | 757 | AVCP | 1.0 | | 3 | | |
| Naknek | 642 | BBNA | | | | | X |
| Nanwalek | 221 | KANA | 1.0 | X | | | X |
| Napakiak | 351 | AVCP | 1.0 | | 1 | | |
| Napaskiak | 408 | AVCP | 1.0 | | 3 | | |
| Naukati Bay | 110 | TCC | | | | | X |
| Nelson Lagoon | 70 | APIA | 1.0 | X | | | |
| Nenana | 444 | | | | | | |
| New Stuyahok | 479 | BBNA | 1.0 | | 1 | | |
| Newhalen ** | 156 | BBNA | 1.0 | | | | X |
| Newtok | 326 | AVCP | | | 3 | X | |
| Nightmute | 224 | AVCP | | | 1 | X | |
| Nikolai | 120 | TCC | | | | | X |
| Ninilchik | 779 | | | | | | |
| Noatak | 455 | KANA | | | | | X |
| Nome | 3,493 | | | | | | |
| Nondalton | 207 | BBNA | | | | | X |
| Noorvik | 677 | KANA | | | 3 | | |
| Northway | 80 | | | | | | |
| Nulato | 345 | TCC | | | | | |
| Nunam Iqua (Sheldon Pt) | 164 | AVCP | | | 1 | X | |
| Nunapitchuk | 512 | AVCP | 1.0 | | 4 | | |
| Old Harbor | 229 | KANA | 1.0 | X | | | |
| Oscarville | 62 | AVCP | | | | | X |
| Pedro Bay | 46 | BBNA | | | | | X |

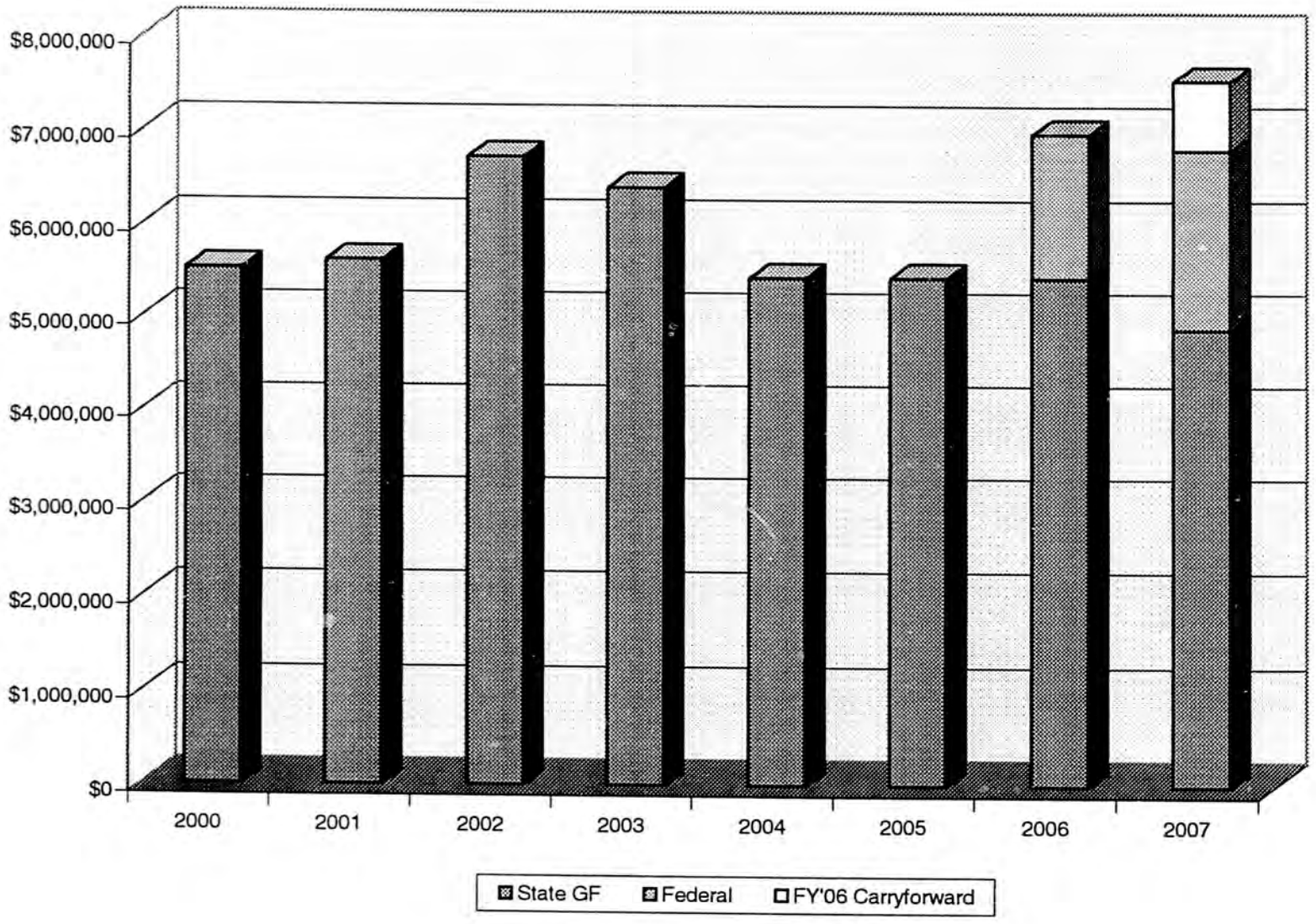
## Rural Alaska Villages
## Law Enforcement
## 9/11/06

| Community | Population | Nonprofit | VPSO | VPSO ONLY | VPO/TPO | VPO/TPO ONLY | NO LE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Pelican | 115 | KANA | | | | | |
| Perryville | 111 | BBNA | | | | | X |
| Pilot Point | 76 | BBNA | 1.0 | X | | | |
| Pilot Station | 546 | AVCP | | | 2 | | |
| Pitka's Point | 94 | AVCP | | | | | X |
| Point Baker | 35 | KANA | | | | | X |
| Port Alexander | 72 | KANA | | | | | X |
| Port Alsworth | 110 | BBNA | | | | | X |
| Port Graham | 176 | TCC | | | | | X |
| Port Heiden | 108 | BBNA | | | | | |
| Port Lions | 229 | KANA | 1.0 | X | | | |
| Port Protection | 53 | KANA | | | | | X |
| Quinhagak | 572 | AVCP | | | 8 | | |
| Quzinkie | 189 | KANA | 1.0 | | | | |
| Rampart | 21 | TCC | | | | | X |
| Red Devil | 35 | AVCP | | | | | X |
| Ruby | 195 | TCC | 1.0 | X | | | |
| Russian Mission | 328 | AVCP | | | 1 | | |
| Saint George | 147 | APIA | | | | | |
| Saint Mary's | 549 | | | | 3 | X | |
| Saint Michael | 390 | KAWE | 1.0 | | 2 | | |
| Savoonga | 686 | KAWE | 1.0 | | 1 | X | |
| Scammon Bay | 491 | AVCP | 1.0 | | 1 | | |
| Selawik | 778 | KANA | 1.0 | | | | |
| Shageluk | 145 | TCC | | | | | X |
| Shaktoolik | 218 | KAWE | 1.0 | | 1 | | |
| Shishmaref | 589 | KAWE | | | 3 | | |
| Shungnak | 249 | KANA | | | | | X |
| Sitka | 8,894 | | | | | | |
| Skwentna | 107 | | | | | | X |
| Sleetmute | 93 | TCC | 1.0 | | 1 | | |
| Stebbins | 586 | KAWE | 1.0 | | 3 | | |
| Stevens Village | 85 | TCC | | | 1 | X | |

| Community | Population | Nonprofit | VPSO | VPSO ONLY | VPO/TPO | VPO/TPO ONLY | NO LE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Stony River | 57 | AVCP | | | | | X |
| Takotna | 49 | TCC | | | | | X |
| Talkeetna | 868 | | | | | | |
| Tatitlek | 109 | KANA | | | | | X |
| Teller | 247 | KAWE | | | | | X |
| Tenakee Springs | 98 | KANA | | | | | X |
| Tetlin | 132 | TCC | | | | | |
| Thorne Bay | 503 | KANA | 1.0 | X | | | |
| Togiak | 804 | BBNA | | | 2 | X | |
| Toksook Bay | 549 | AVCP | | | 3 | | |
| Tuluksak | 461 | AVCP | | | 3 | | |
| Tuntutuliak | 377 | AVCP | 1.0 | | 2 | | |
| Tununak | 323 | AVCP | | | 2 | | |
| Twin Hills | 76 | BBNA | 1.0 | X | | | |
| Tyonek | 185 | KANA | | | | | X |
| Unalakleet | 725 | KAWE | | | 2 | | |
| Upper Kalskag | 248 | AVCP | | | | | |
| Venetie | 199 | TCC | | | | | X |
| Wales | 159 | KAWE | | | | | X |
| Whale Pass | 62 | KANA | | | | | X |
| White Mountain | 210 | KAWE | 1.0 | | 1 | | |
| **186** | **124,392** | | **51.0** | **21.0** | **127** | **16.0** | **68.0** |
| | | | | Total VPO Communities | | 58 | |
| ** John Donkersloot has two villages accounted for. | serves both Illiamna and Newhalen | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | |
| Kake has a certified police department | | | | | | | |

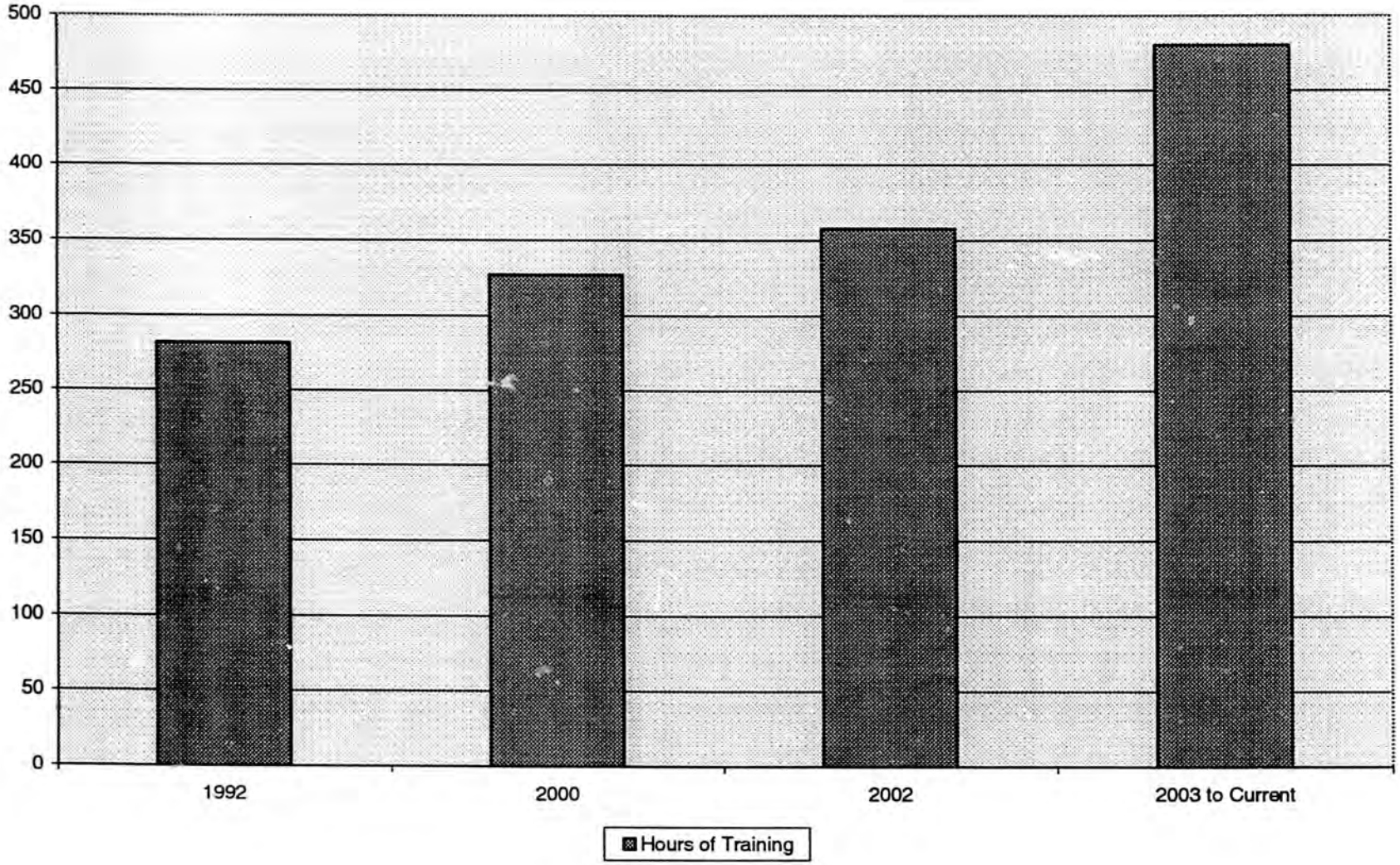
33
x4
132
21
153

## VPSO Program Funding History

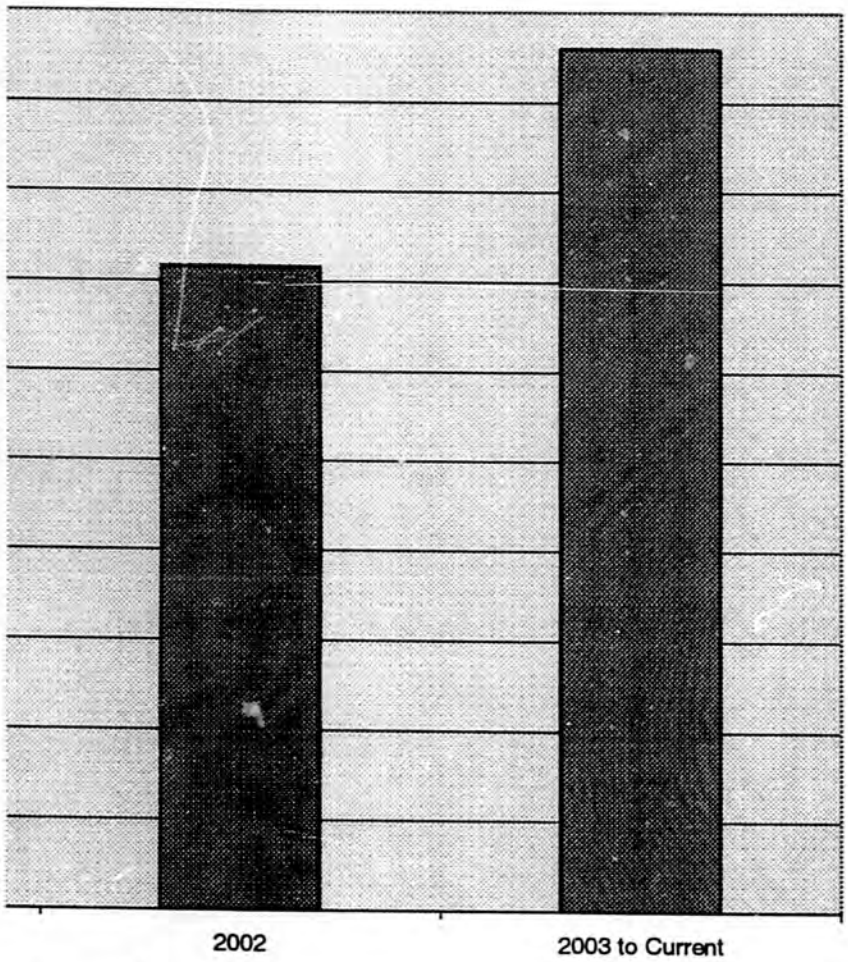



Funding appropriated for each fiscal year.

## VPSO Training Academy



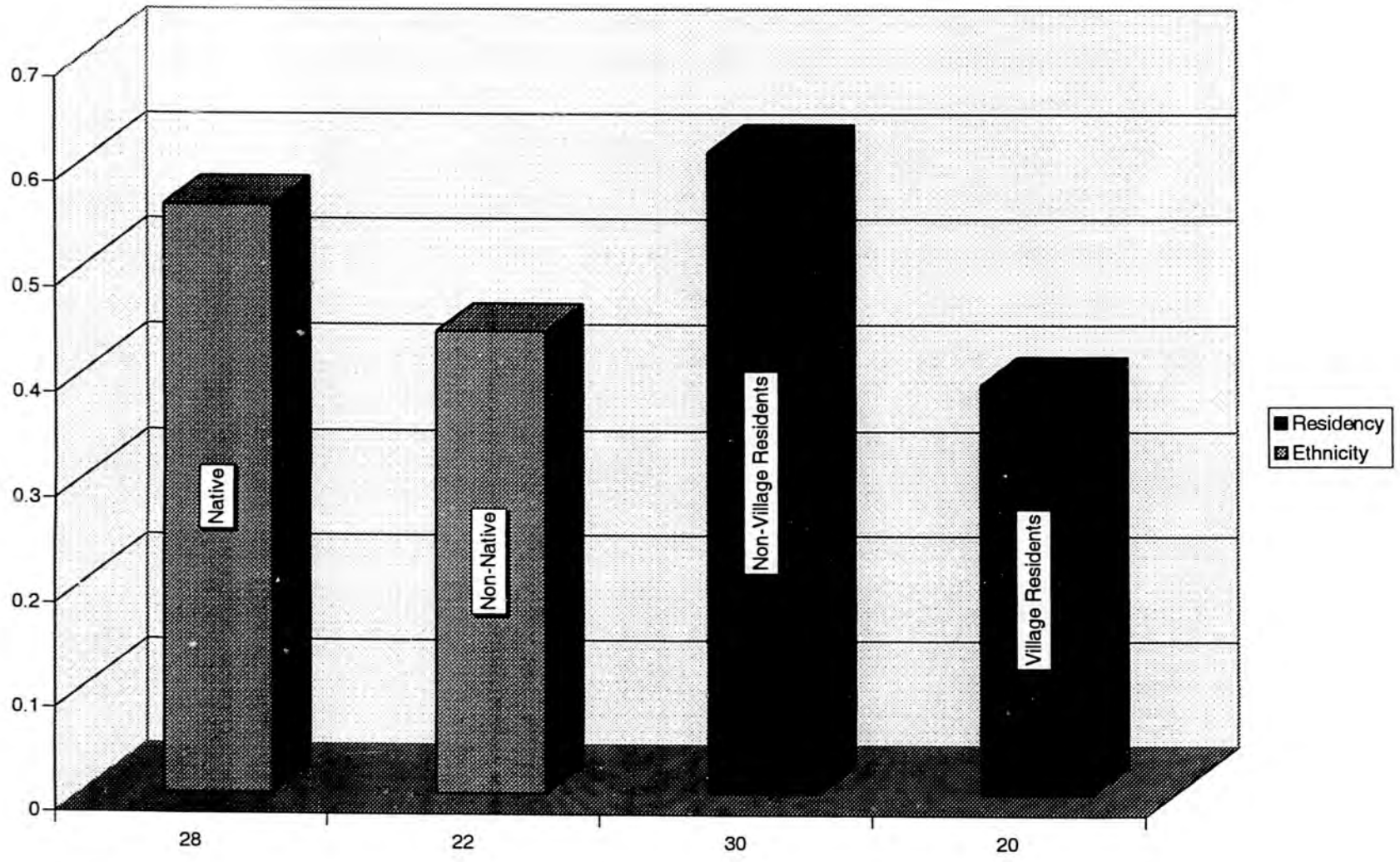

1) Minimum required er 13 AAC 96.100 is 240 hours.
2) 80 hours annually Regional Training.




of Training

1) Minimum required er 13 AAC 96.100 is 240 hours.
2) 80 hours annually Regional Training.

**VPSO Personnel Demographics**
**As of 09/30/06**



VPSO Personnel Demographics
As of 09/30/06

y

| Data for Overall Funding History Graph | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 |
| State GF | $5,523,500.00 | $6,123,500.00 | $6,725,600.00 | $6,398,400.00 | $5,436,400.00 | $5,436,400.00 | $5,436,400.00 | $4,883,000.00 |
| Federal | $0.00 | $0.00 | $0.00 | $0.00 | $0.00 | $1,542,659.00 | $1,928,323.75 | $1,970,450.00 |
| FY'06 Carryforward | $0.00 | $0.00 | $0.00 | $0.00 | $0.00 | $0.00 | $0.00 | $735,016.78 |

| Data for VPSO Academy Hrs Graph | | |
|---|---|---|
| | 2002 | 2003 to Current |
| Hours of Training | 358 | 480 |

| Data for Demographics Graph | | |
|---|---|---|
| | Ethnicity | Residency |
| 28 | 56% | |
| 22 | 44% | |
| 30 | | 61% |
| 20 | | 39% |

**FUNDS AWARDED IN SFY 2007**

| Funding Source | APIA | AVCP | BBNA | KANA | KAWE | TCC | TOTAL |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| SFY 2007 | $186,495.54 | $1,131,086.56 | $764,649.77 | $795,257.57 | $480,534.30 | $402,687.35 | $3,760,711.09 |
| SFY 2006* | $0.00 | $0.00 | $0.00 | $57,500.00 | $144,413.86 | $0.00 | $201,913.86 |
| FFY 2005 | $172,095.00 | $532,276.25 | $378,698.75 | $257,706.25 | $276,256.25 | $311,291.25 | $1,928,323.75 |
| FFY 2004 | $137,676.00 | $425,821.00 | $302,959.00 | $206,165.00 | $221,005.00 | $249,033.00 | $1,542,659.00 |
| **TOTAL** | **$496,266.54** | **$2,089,183.81** | **$1,446,307.52** | **$1,316,628.82** | **$1,122,209.41** | **$963,011.60** | **$7,433,607.70** |

* Lapsed funds from SFY 2006 that were reappropriated in SFY 2007.

**FUNDS EXPENDED IN SFY 2007 (PROJECTED)**

| Funding Source | APIA | AVCP | BBNA | KANA | KAWE | TCC | TOTAL |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| SFY 2007 | $186,495.54 | $1,131,086.56 | $764,649.77 | $795,257.57 | $480,534.30 | $402,687.35 | $3,760,711.09 |
| SFY 2006* | $0.00 | $0.00 | $0.00 | $57,500.00 | $107,006.35 | $0.00 | $164,506.35 |
| FFY 2005 | $136,527.81 | $128,994.89 | $164,024.62 | $160,903.22 | $42,244.27 | $140,271.40 | $772,966.21 |
| FFY 2004 | $0.00 | $0.00 | $0.00 | $0.00 | $0.00 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| **TOTAL** | **$323,023.35** | **$1,260,081.45** | **$928,674.39** | **$1,013,660.79** | **$629,784.92** | **$542,958.75** | **$4,698,183.65** |

**DIFFERENCE BETWEEN SFY 2007 AWARDED VS EXPENDED**

| Funding Source | APIA | AVCP | BBNA | KANA | KAWE | TCC | TOTAL |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| SFY 2007 | $0.00 | $0.00 | $0.00 | $0.00 | $0.00 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| SFY 2006* | $0.00 | $0.00 | $0.00 | $0.00 | $37,407.51 | $0.00 | $37,407.51 |
| FFY 2005 | $35,567.19 | $403,281.36 | $214,674.13 | $96,803.03 | $234,011.98 | $171,019.85 | $1,155,357.54 |
| FFY 2004 | $137,676.00 | $425,821.00 | $302,959.00 | $206,165.00 | $221,005.00 | $249,033.00 | $1,542,659.00 |
| **TOTAL** | **$173,243.19** | **$829,102.36** | **$517,633.13** | **$302,968.03** | **$492,424.49** | **$420,052.85** | **$2,735,424.05** |

**FUNDS AWARDED IN SFY 2008**

| Funding Source | APIA | AVCP | BBNA | KANA | KAWE | TCC | TOTAL |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| SFY 2008 | $400,382.00 | $1,444,131.00 | $1,142,777.00 | $1,013,113.00 | $672,255.00 | $479,128.00 | $5,151,786.00 |
| **TOTAL** | **$400,382.00** | **$1,444,131.00** | **$1,142,777.00** | **$1,013,113.00** | **$672,255.00** | **$479,128.00** | **$5,151,786.00** |

**DIFFERENCE BETWEEN FUNDS AWARDED IN SFY 2007 VS FUNDS**

| | APIA | AVCP | BBNA | KANA | KAWE | TCC | TOTAL |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | $77,358.65 | $184,049.55 | $214,102.61 | -$547.79 | $42,470.08 | -$63,830.75 | $453,602.35 |

**VPSO Positions**

| | SFY 2007 | | | | SFY 2008 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | # of Auth VPSO Positions | | | Average Filled | # of Auth VPSO Positions |
| | State | Federal | **TOTAL** | | |
| APIA | 4 | 2 | **6** | 3 | 4 |
| AVCP | 20 | 6 | **26** | 14 | 17 |
| BBNA | 11 | 4 | **15** | 10 | 10 |
| KANA | 10 | 3 | **13** | 9 | 9 |
| KAWE | 8 | 3 | **11** | 6 | 6 |
| TCC | 6 | 3 | **9** | 5 | 5 |
| **TOTAL** | **59** | **21** | **80** | **47** | **51** |

# TESTIMONY CONCERNS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FROM HEARINGS

by the law enforcement agency that relate to a person who is not located within 48 hours after the first report concerning that person was filed. (§ 1 ch 72 SLA 1988)

**Sec. 18.65.630. Medical and dental records of missing persons.** (a) When a person files a report of a missing person with a law enforcement agency or with the clearinghouse, a form authorizing the release of medical and dental records to the law enforcement agency and to the clearinghouse shall be supplied to the family, next of kin, or legal guardian of the missing person. The family, next of kin, or legal guardian of the missing person may complete the release form and deliver the release form to the physician or dentist of the missing person. The physician or dentist who receives a release form signed by the family, next of kin, or legal guardian of the missing person shall release to the law enforcement agency and the clearinghouse only that information that is necessary to identify the missing person.

(b) When the family, next of kin, or legal guardian of a missing person cannot be located or does not exist, a law enforcement agency may execute a written declaration stating that an active investigation is being conducted and that medical and dental records are required for the exclusive purpose of furthering the investigation. Notwithstanding AS 40.25.120 and AS 17.30.155, the declaration signed by a peace officer under this subsection is sufficient authority for the physician or dentist to release information necessary to aid in the identification of the missing person. The physician or dentist may only release that information that is necessary to identify the missing person.

(c) Medical and dental records obtained under this section shall be provided to the clearinghouse.

(d) When a missing person is found, the law enforcement agency and the clearinghouse shall destroy all records in their files obtained under this section. (§ 1 ch 72 SLA 1988)

**Revisor's notes.** — In 2000, "AS 40.25.120" was substituted for "AS 09.25.120" to reflect the 2000 renumbering of AS 09.25.120.

**Sec. 18.65.640. Reports upon finding a missing person.** A person who has filed a missing person report with the clearinghouse or a law enforcement agency shall immediately notify the clearinghouse or the law enforcement agency when the location of the missing person is determined. (§ 1 ch 72 SLA 1988)

**Sec. 18.65.650. Civil penalty.** The commissioner of public safety, or a person designated by the commissioner of public safety, may file a civil complaint in the district court to enforce AS 18.65.640. A person who fails to comply with AS 18.65.640 is subject to a civil fine of not more than $1,000. (§ 1 ch 72 SLA 1988)

**Sec. 18.65.660. Definition.** In AS 18.65.600 — 18.65.660, "clearinghouse" means the missing persons information clearinghouse established in AS 18.65.600. (§ 1 ch 72 SLA 1988)

## Article 9. Village and Regional Public Safety Officers.

**Section**
670. Village public safety officers program
680. Regional public safety officers

**Sec. 18.65.670. Village public safety officers program.** (a) There is created in the Department of Public Safety a village public safety officer program to assist local governments and villages through nonprofit regional corporations to appoint, train, supervise, and retain persons to serve as village public safety officers to administer functions relative to



(1) the protection of life and property in rural areas of the state; and

(2) providing probation and parole supervision to persons under supervision by communicating with and monitoring the activities and progress of these persons at the direction of probation and parole officers.

(b) With funds appropriated for that purpose, the commissioner of public safety shall provide grants to nonprofit regional corporations for village public safety officers. The commissioner of public safety shall coordinate with the commissioner of corrections when providing grants under this section, and the commissioners shall jointly execute an agreement with the nonprofit regional corporations.

(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. The commissioner of corrections may adopt regulations related to the functions of village public safety officers providing probation and parole supervision.

(d) *[Repealed, § 30 ch 92 SLA 2004.]* (§ 1 ch 48 SLA 1993; am §§ 4, 5 ch 97 SLA 2001; am § 30 ch 92 SLA 2004)

**Cross references.** — For the intent of the legislature related to the 2001 amendments, see § 1, ch. 97, SLA 2001 in the 2001 Temporary and Special Acts.

**Effect of amendments.** — The 2001 amendment, effective October 8, 2001, in subsection (a), added paragraph (2) and the paragraph (1) designation; added the second sentences in paragraphs (b) and (c); and, effective March 1, 2002, added subsection (d).

The 2004 amendment, effective June 26, 2004, repealed subsection (d).

**Editor's notes.** — Section 13, ch. 97, SLA 2001 provides that the amendments to this section made by ch. 97, SLA 2001 do "not modify the terms of a contract between the state and a nonprofit regional corporation in existence on the effective date of this Act." The effective date of § 4, ch. 97, SLA 2001 was October 8, 2001. The effective date of § 5, ch. 97, SLA 2001, which enacted subsection (d), was March 1, 2002.

### NOTES TO DECISIONS

**Allocation of law enforcement services.** — State of Alaska does not violate the equal protection rights of residents of "off-road" Native communities through its allocation of law enforcement services. While off-road communities receive fewer certified police officers, they are not situated similarly to the on-road communities; trooper allocation statutes and regulations are facially race-neutral and there is no intent to discriminate. Alaska Inter-Tribal Council v. State, 110 P.3d 947 (Alaska 2005).

**Purpose.** — Establishment of the Village Public Safety Officers program is based on the advice of knowledgeable people in the field of law enforcement and is not an effort by the State of Alaska to resurrect an old model of providing law enforcement services to Alaska Natives that was in place from the late 1800s to early 1900. Alaska Inter-Tribal Council v. State, 110 P.3d 947 (Alaska 2005).

**Sec. 18.65.680. Regional public safety officers.** The commissioner of public safety may appoint regional public safety officers to

(1) provide an expanded public safety and law enforcement presence in rural areas of the state;

(2) provide oversight and training for the village public safety officer program;

(3) administer functions relating to

(A) protecting life and property in the rural areas of the state;

(B) conducting investigations;

(C) conducting search and rescue missions;

(D) conducting local training programs in drug and alcohol awareness and prevention, water safety, and gun safety;

(4) perform other duties relating to public safety as directed by the commissioner. (§ 6 ch 97 SLA 2001)

**Cross references.** — For the intent of the legislature in enacting this section, see § 1, ch. 97, SLA 2001 in the 2001 Temporary and Special Acts.

Part 8
Village Public Safety Officer Program

Chapter

96. Village Public Safety Officer Program. (13 AAC 96.010 - 13 AAC 96.900)

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Chapter 96
Village Public Safety Officer Program

Article

1. Powers and Duties of the Department. (13 AAC 96.010)

2. Corporation and Village Participation. (13 AAC 96.020 - 13 AAC 96.060)

3. Minimum Standards, Training, and Certification. (13 AAC 96.080 - 13 AAC 96.120)

4. Definitions. (13 AAC 96.900)

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## Article 1
## Powers and Duties of the Department

Section

10. Powers and duties of the department.

**13 AAC 96.010. Powers and duties of the department**

(a) The provisions of 13 AAC 96.010 - 13 AAC 96.900 apply to the award of grants to nonprofit regional corporations to provide villages with village public safety officers.

(b) The department

(1) will review proposals for grants to provide village public safety officers;

(2) will monitor compliance with the terms of the grants and agreements of the village public safety officer program and with the regulations in this chapter;

(3) will consult with nonprofit regional corporations and villages regarding their village public safety officer programs and mediate disputes between corporations and villages, if mediation is feasible;

(4) will consult with village public safety officers and provide technical assistance and advice on matters relating to public safety and law enforcement;

(5) will, in its discretion, conduct background investigations into the qualifications and personal history of applicants for village public safety officer positions; and

(6) will, in its discretion, provide training and equipment to village public safety officers.

**History: Eff. 8/18/95, Register 135**

**Authority:** AS 18.65.670

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**Article 2**
**Corporation and Village Participation**

Section

20. Grant applications.

30. Department agreements with corporations.

40. Administration by corporations and villages.

50. Corporation agreements with villages.

60. Termination of grants.

**13 AAC 96.020. Grant applications**

A nonprofit regional corporation may apply to participate in the village public safety officer program by submitting to the department a written application to provide village public safety officers to participating villages that are located within the region that the corporation serves. The corporation shall submit a grant application annually and shall

(1) include a projected budget, including costs of administration;

(2) include, a list of the villages to which a village public safety officer may be assigned; and

(3) at the request of the department, other information related to the village public safety officer program.

**History: Eff. 8/18/95, Register 135**

**Authority:** AS 18.65.670

**13 AAC 96.030. Department agreements with corporations**

The department will not provide grant money to a nonprofit regional corporation until the corporation makes a written agreement with the department. The agreement must include the following terms:

(1) a requirement that the corporation comply with this chapter and with state and federal law;

(2) a salary-and-benefit schedule for village public safety officers, with a provision that the corporation may provide salaries and benefits no greater than those established under that schedule;

(3) a provision that names the corporation as the employer, for all purposes, of a village public safety officer;

(4) a provision by which the corporation agrees to indemnify and hold harmless the State of Alaska, and officers, employees, and agents of the State of Alaska, for an act or omission in the administration of the village public safety officer program or in the monitoring, assisting, or training of a village public safety officer;

(5) a requirement that the corporation maintain insurance as follows, without reimbursement from the department for a deductible amount that the corporation might owe:

(A) worker's compensation insurance as required under AS 23.30;

(B) comprehensive general liability insurance, including police professional practices, with

(i) limits of no less than $1,000,000; and

(ii) the State of Alaska, and officers, employees, and agents of the State of Alaska, named as additional named insureds;

(6) a requirement that the corporation comply with AS 18.80.220 .

**History: Eff. 8/18/95, Register 135**

**Authority:** AS 18.65.670

**13 AAC 96.040. Administration by corporations and villages**

(a) A nonprofit regional corporation that receives a grant under this chapter shall provide

(1) a village public safety officer to a village only if the village provides the officer

(A) office space;

(B) a telephone with long distance service; and

(C) a place to temporarily hold individuals under arrest; and

(2) no more than one village public safety officer to a village, unless an

(A) additional position is provided for a period of 30 days or less for training, orientation, or a special circumstance as authorized by the department; or

(B) application as set out in 13 AAC 96.020 for a full-time second position has been submitted to and approved by the department.

(b) A nonprofit regional corporation that receives a grant under this chapter, or a village participating in the village public safety officer program,

(1) shall keep financial, personnel, and other records relating to village public safety officers and, upon request, shall provide that information to the department;

(2) shall provide, for the department's review, annual financial audits that satisfy the requirements of 2 AAC 45.010, regardless of whether the amount of the grant is below the minimum for which 2 AAC 45.010 requires an audit;

(3) shall help the department conduct periodic and unannounced site visits to monitor

(A) the performance of a village public safety officer; and

(B) compliance with this chapter or with an agreement made under this chapter;

(4) shall promptly notify the department if the corporation or village fails to comply with

(A) this chapter or with state or federal law; or

(B) an agreement relating to the village public safety officer program between the

(i) department and the corporation; or

(ii) corporation and a village;

(5) shall promptly notify the department if a village public safety officer resigns or vacates a position;

(6) shall promptly notify the department and submit a written report about an incident in which a village public safety officer carries a handgun or fires any firearm while on duty;

(7) may not, directly or indirectly, allocate grant money to

(A) the purchase or lease of firearms equipment; or

(B) lobbying activity before a federal, state, or local government body; and

(8) may not, except in an emergency, permit a village public safety officer to

(A) carry a handgun in the performance of the officer's duties; or

(B) supervise or direct an individual who carries a handgun.

**History: Eff. 8/18/95, Register 135**

**Authority:** AS 18.65.670

*City of Mountain Village*
P.O. Box 32085
Mountain Village, Alaska 99632
(907) 591-2715 or 2929
Fax (907) 591-2920

Friday, October 05, 2007

Senator Donny Olson
State Capital Rom 514
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Honorable Senator Olson:

As City Manager of Mountain Village I am writing on behalf of City of Mountain Village regarding the specific problems that involve law enforcement for the community of Mountain Village.

First of all the Village Public Safety Officer and Village Police Officers are the first responders to all crisis calls ranging from domestic violence, rape cases, theft, many break-ins, assaults, driving under the influence, search & rescue, fire, and many death cases, most cases inspired by alcohol and drugs. With the size of our community it will never stop, it has been going on even before Mountain Village first got incorporated. Depending on the urgency of a call, in which most cases the strength level of call varies and where the limit of contacting the State Trooper takes over is always on a depended level, meaning troopers don't handle misdemeanor cases just the felony cases.

Secondly, it is very important to preserve and adequately fund the law enforcement to keep the crime rate down and ensure the welfare of our large community. Most crime cases are inspired by alcohol or illegal drugs which affect the most vulnerable-the welfare of babies, minors and elders. Without adequate funding it would be impossible to protect, serve, and control hostile environments. Remember, in all cases, Village Public Safety Officers and Village Police Officers are the first responders, which is why it is very important to preserve the funding at an adequate level.

Thirdly, all available resources to curtail the crime rate down in rural Alaska are critical such as drug/alcohol sniffing dogs that other communities are lucky to have, continued screening of airfreight, mail, suspects, and providing rewards for reporting importation would help tremendously. One life saved is worth everything to families. Lobbying the legislature on the state and federal level is critical also.

In conclusion I hope this information is most helpful in your task force meetings. Good luck in your decision-making and I hope the best decision turns out in what works best for the State of Alaska and our communities. Thank you very much for taking our testimony and attempting to see how we live and personally see what happens in our communities. It means very much to us. God Bless.

Sincerely,
Joyce A. Brown-Rivers
Joyce A. Brown-Rivers
City Manager

Testimony By Merlin Koonooka, Gambell Elder

The effectiveness of the local option law is now in question. And has been from the beginning. The purpose of this law was to keep the dry community dry. Not only by prohibiting importation of alcohol. We know the real purpose is to legally ban the use of alcohol in the village. So that young people, children, families are safe, to educate especially the young people about the law and to assure the elders that the law is there to protect all our families. The VPSO program was created so that we can effectively police ourselves by hiring and training our own people. After all these years since its inception we know by now the VPSO program is not working in most of our villages. The police protection simply is just not there when we need it and call for it. There is a feeling of discouragement and desperation to know there are no VPO's, VPSO's or troopers when you need them.

For a couple of years or so, we had a VPSO from outside in our village. He was provided housing for free by our village corporation. He provided professional leadership for our VPO's. He provided respect for the law by demonstrating a uniform presence in our midst. Since he left, no replacement no replacement has been found. We were promised the possibility of a State Trooper to be stationed on the island. This has not happened. We have been told that are not enough troopers in the state to go around. It takes time now for troopers to respond, if at all. It seems they now have a policy of mainly reaction to situations. Perhaps it would be advantages to all if they practiced a more proactive policy. Local manufacturer and sale of alcohol is becoming rampant. The results are suicides, loss of life and property, underage drinking, school attendance and performance etc., etc. We see more ~~a more~~ importation citations and drug busts now happening but to see alcoholism on a rampant rise is a challenge we need to address once and for all.

We are a new state with the best laws our country can offer. We are an oil rich state with resources that we can use for the benefit of our people.

Savoonga (3)

Janette

9-26-07

1. Higher salary for VPSO as well as VPO
2. Education to local resident's & basic law
3. VPSO under State umbrella with administering with local agencies ie like a branch
4. 2 people working together as a support team for villages that are over 500 residents
5. Funding for Public Safety Building to include heating and electrical costs included
6. Having 3 tiers as an Alaska Police Standards in an excellent policy VPSO's
7. in-service for outside or orientation & cultural values to be done on a local level

VPSO TASK FORCE HEARING TESTIMONY
SEPTEMBER 26,2007
GAMBELL, ALASKA

MY NAME IS BRANSON TUNGIYAN, GENERAL MANAGER FOR THE NATIVE VILLAGE OF GAMBELL.TODAY. I WOULD LIKE TO TESTIFY ON THE NEED OF PROPER LAW ENFORCEMENT IN GAMBELL. ALTHOUGH THE CITY OF GAMBELL ADMINISTERS THE LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT, THERE IS A LACK OF LEADERSHIP BECAUSE THERE IS NO POLICE CHIEF, NOR IS THERE A VILLAGE PUBLIC SAFETY OFFICER. THE LEADERSHIP, A VPSO, SHOULD HAVE PLANS LAID OUT, SCHEDULES TO FOLLOW, INSTRUCT THE VPOs ON DAILY SCHEDULES.

GAMBELL DOES NOT HAVE A VPSO. IT MADE A "BIG DIFFERENCE" WHEN THE VILLAGE HAD ONE. THE VPSO MADE A DIFFERENCE IN CONTACTING THE ALASKA STATE TROOPERS. A VPSO MAKES RECOMMENDATIONS THAT HAVE POSITIVE IMPACT WHEN THE CITY GOVERNMENTS MAKE PUBLIC SAFETY REQUESTS TO THE STATE OF ALASKA. IN A VILLAGE WHEN THE LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT COMPRISE JUST THE VILLAGE POLICE OFFICERS, THERE IS NO DIRECT LEADERSHIP WHEN AN EMERGENCY OCCURS THAT INVOLVES THE SAFETY OF A LIFE, OR LIVES.

WITH THE LACK OF THIS MUCH-NEEDED LEADERSHIP, CRIMES ARE COMMITTED, VIOLENCE OCCURRING DUE TO THE INFLUENCE OF HOME BREW, VANDALISM.

WHAT HAPPENED TO THE STATE'S LOCAL OPTION LAW? THIS LAW WOULD HAVE PROVIDED US WITH PUBLIC SAFETY AND THE "CURE" TO ALCOHOL

RELATED PROBLEMS. THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY OR THE OFFICE OF JUSTICE, OR THE STATE OF ALASKA FOR THAT MATTER, SHOULD FOCUS THE EFFORTS IN CREATING AN EFFECTIVE VPSO PROGRAM THAT CAN HAVE A GREATER IMPACT TOWARDS THESE PROBLEMS. IN ORDER FOR THE LOCAL OPTION LAW TO BE EFFECTIVE, WE NEED TO HAVE BETTER LAW ENFORCEMENT, WITH A VPSO POSITION IN PLACE. THE STATE OF ALASKA NEEDS TO STEP UP THE EFFORTS IN PROVIDING FUNDS FOR PUBLIC SAFETY. WHY CAN'T THE STATE OF ALASKA PROVIDE A VPSO FOR EVERY VILLAGE IN ALASKA? WHY ISN'T THERE ANY PUBLIC SAFETY BUILDINGS WITH UP TO DATE EQUIPMENT? WHY DOES COMMUNITY MEMBERS CRY FOR HELP WHEN WE HAVE THE STATE GOVERNMENT THAT IS SUPPOSED TO PROVIDE IT THROUGH THE CITY GOVERNMENTS?

THESE ARE "CRUNCH TIMES". WHEN WE HAVE PROVIDED YOU WITH THE BEST OF CONCERNS, ISSUES, AND COMPLAINTS, I FEEL THAT NOW IS THE TIME TO SHOW IF YOU HAVE ANY GUTS TO FULLY SUPPORT THE VPSO PROGRAM AND TO FUND THE PROGRAM WHOLEHEARTEDLY. WE NEED THAT LEADERSHIP IN GAMBELL BECAUSE WE HAVE SEEN WITH OUR OWN EYES THE NEED FOR THE VPSO WHEN A SUICIDE HAPPENS, WHEN A LIFE IS LOST, WHEN BOATS/HUNTERS ARE LATE TO RETURN, OR WHEN PUBLIC DRUNKENESS BECOMES RAMPANT. THAT IS WHY I SAY THAT THESE ARE CRUNCH TIMES. WE NEED THAT LEADERSHIP NOW!

THANK YOU.

My name is Leonard Apangalook,Sr. I am a lifelong resident of Gambell.

I welcome you to our isolated village and the outer extremity of our state. I am glad you are here to see for yourselves what our village is like; we are treeless, there is not a single road in the village, and we have no law and order. Admittedly there are some government programs that come through with excellent services but judicial services is not one of those. Having said that, I can venture to say that our villagers don't enjoy the same rights as you do in the metropolis of our state. Despite our efforts locally to remedy our social ills we have not succeeded; thus we have over the past few years sought the help of the nest higher authority and that is the state of Alaska, but this too has failed. It is hard to believe big brother is not coming through in time need and it makes you wonder if the judicial system is capable of dispensing proper authority.

As an elder in our community I care a lot about my village, especially our young people. Right in front of our eyes we are watching a lot of of our young people getting infected with the disease of alcoholism. Supposedly we are a dry town under state law but it is not working. The state of Alaska passed a local option law with nothing to back it up with.

I would like to relate with you a personal experience last spring when our under age child was given alcohol by an adult. My wife and I was able to get a statement from our child who provided the alcohol. Armed with evidence ,we called the state trooper at Nome with the intent of filing a complaint and we were told by the trooper that he would be here in two days. The trooper came three months later on a different case and we confronted him for not showing up as promised. We mentioned that two years ago the village was told we would get a state trooper stationed on the island. His response was: "I guarantee you Gambell will never get a state trooper stationed out here." This was very disheartening.

Here again we are demanding equal rights as those people living in urban areas of our state. Is this forum capable of implementing our need for basic human rights? Thank you, that's all I have.

fm May
Bethel (5)

# VPSO Task force

Oct **4, 2007**

**Not necessarily in order**

**<u>Introduction</u>: Name, yrs in program**

1. **Adequate clothing for summer & winter for VPSOs**
2. **Transportation ATVs, Snow machines**
3. **Communication system. Very vital for responding to emergencies and SAR.**
4. **Chaplin…**
5. **VPSO / Oversight working relationship.**
6. **State employee….AVCP VPSOs deliberated and come to conclusion that they don't want to be State Employee.**

OUR Region greatly need More Funding for the Program.

**Max Olick**

**History**

**VPSO Program don't need to be fixed. Why try to fix something that is not broken but theres' lot of room for improvement.**

**7. Need more funding for the VPSO Program. We have 56 villages and only 17 positions for our region. We need more VPSO's.** For villages that are Dire Need of trained officers

State Employee / → School ... way of life, what we enjoy. Some we will lose

VPSO Jack/Ben Beaver/Derek Charles

VPSO Program

Started in late 1970s early 1980s

* Started in Kusk, Yuk, Region by group of YUPIK People Under Yupiitaq Pista, John Agaraguk Glen Godney (forefathers) They realize 56 villages were Dire Need of trained officers.

* Under state?? Benefits, State Employees * ~~why not include them now or are we segregated??~~ Why try to fix Thats not Broken, (IMPROVE the Program) VPSOs were designed for 56 village under Yupiitaq Pista later under AVCP..

2007 10. 4

Dillingham Borough Assembly

* adequate Clothing for Inclement Season.

* * Cost of living Increase

* Chaplin

* * * Oversight/working Relationship

* * UPS Equipment
ATV, Boats, Vehicles
Villages with Fire Rds.

* ~~Police Dept.~~

* YK Delta Band Meeting
Suicides, Alcohol, Drugs

* ~~AVCP~~ be able to
AVCP Region UPSO's Attend
Drug, Alcohol, Suicide, Violence
Partnership w/ LKSD, YKHC
- NXT Page -

Long as VPSO is working he could be teaching classes
No Expiration on teaching

* VPSO State Employee?
VPSO don't need to be fix / why try to fix something that is not Broken,, Improvement a lot of room

Bethel (11)

How Village Public Officer Program (VPO & VPSO) Began

By John Angaiak

Foundation:
Under the Nixon-Ford Administration era at the Department of Labor, 1969 – 1977, the Comprehensive Employment and Training Act of 1973 (known as CETA) became law. That law created "Prime Sponsors" across the country. Yupiktak Bista Manpower was solely created to be the prime sponsor of CETA programs within AVCP/Calista region shortly after 1973. Yupiktak Bista Manpower was made responsible for planning and providing a wide range of employment and training service tailored to local needs. At one time, it had plus or minus one thousand employees all throughout the fifty-six villages.

Most of its employees were youths of between 16 – 22 years of age, in response to the call by the Nixon-Ford Administration. The administration's major goal was to develop a new working partnership between the Federal Government and the States and localities—a partnership termed New Federalism. The distinctive feature of this approach was to remove the Federal presence as much as possible, and to substitute in its place local decision-making, flexibility, and accountability. The principal method chosen was block grants and revenue sharing, rather then categorical programs. CETA's purpose was to reduce structural and frictional unemployment resulting from labor market inefficiency and imbalance between supply and demand for particular skills; in other words, in a period of high unemployment and lack of skills particularly among youths.

VPO & VPSO.
The Yupiktak Bista Manpower was already underway and well established within the AVCP/ Calista region. Early on, the staff, including this author, recognized the fact that it had to establish a permanent program that will outlast all other programs under its management. The region, like the rest of the rural Alaska, was null and void of the police protection. Early on it was heavily involved in research of the law and enforcement in the region by Criminal Justice Center at the University of Alaska Anchorage prior to 1979. This study was the foundation that helped to kick-start the Village Public Officer program in the summer of 1979. It had embarked on a program that would unite a native entity with State Department of Public Safety under the administration of Governor Hammond exclusively for AVCP/Calista region to create VPO program.

At first, John Angaiak, then the director of YBM had frequent informal meetings with local state troopers personnel here in Bethel, dreaming as to how we should start VPO program. It had to be kept under the lid for a while before plans were firm.

As it firmed up, it took on a life of its own. There was a strong unity between Yupiktak Bista Manpower and Alaska State Department of Public Safety. Within partnership, the strong players although I cannot name all, were Yupiktak Bista Manpower staff, then Trooper Glen Godfrey, Commissioner Nix and his deputy under Governor Hammond, the staff of Alaska State Troopers Academy in Sitka, and most important of all the villages that agreed to sent the original VPO trainees to Sitka in the summer of 1979. The Alaska State Troopers Academy in Sitka made a special provision to train the very first VPOs trainees in the summer of 1979. . all this for AVCP/Calista region.

Another key feature of the VPO program was the selection of distinctive uniform color that contrasted with Alaska State Trooper's uniform. To establish uniform color, several VPOs were invited to come to Bethel and select the colors as they are now today.

Shortly after the VPO program was established, Yupiktak Bista Manpower Director, John Angaiak signed a first VPO contract with the State of Alaska in the presence of Governor Hammond and his staff.

Other prime sponsors in rural Alaska wanted to create their own similar public safety programs, but instead were encouraged to join our newly established VPO program. It quickly became a statewide program. Yupiktak Bista Manpower Program witnessed its pioneering work becoming a statewide program.

Finally, on behalf of the region's police protection, I was privileged to have served the people of the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta region and create VPO program.

proper reporting - evidence lost

VPSO — reporting / Training / Front line work / Clean up — some second
limited training — underpaid (salary) — over worked — no debrief — Investigation — improper equip — no debrief — after a suicide - high rate scene
evenings - Village no VPO - no debrief — some section have — inadequate — no vehicles - run — work only evening

(2) Troopers
Jan - reported arrested SA Minor arrested
March - * answering machines

Elders/Youth Program
Traditional

Establish Tribal Courts
State doesn't agree w/ — recognize Tribal Courts
recognize — How do we make
Victims to no Tribal Codes — the State recognize
go Elders for safety - help existing Tribal
We'll help them not send them away — Courts - example
Public Awareness — no community policing evidence -
Community Education

~~lack of~~ adequate homes
* high cost of living
* depression - Suicide DV
* Off road communities

Shelter - open P/T since 2005
Protective orders done over phones from villages
Referral are made to TWC - women from villages
Don't want to go to Bethel - scared when
Education System — shelter niter
500 women/children
2005 - 350 ~~450~~
2006 Crisis Calls 9-5
2000 Suicide/DV/SA/Elders
2006 - 2007 / 400 women/children
referrals to Bethel TWC (1)
no outreach (51 villages)
no after care programs in villages

Safe homes . when funded fully.

* Lynn Hootch
Organized in 1979 from Grass roots.
Shelter since 1983
Funded by State from 1983 to 2005

* Rural Program Cut -

funding / grants - Federal funds - cuts -

When shelter closed Women stand out side Shelter back porch - Steam house Smoke house trash bin.

(10) Emmonak
Lenora Hootch
Emmonak Shelter
(907) 949-1434

(VPO Armed w/ book / bullet proof vest) only

STATE NEEDS TO INC FUND @ VILLAGE LEVEL

SUGGESTIONS FOR VPO; VPSO IMPROVEMENT

SCH = NATURAL HELPERS/SUICIDE

SCH @ EARLY AGE FOR # STAAT. USING CURRICULUM FOR INPUT, START THE AWARENESS

(INC FUNDG. @ THE VILLAGE LEVEL) STATE OF AK CAN REIMBURSE EMMONAK & ALL VILLAGES

" " FROM GOV.

LOOK @ NCLB FOR POSSIBLE KARING & SHARING CIRCLES.

FOR CAREERS SAKE, MAYBE PARDONS ON FELONS

HEALTH, RETIREMENT PAY 45K 55K

MUNICIPAL ASSISTANCE REVENUE SHARING

MAJOR CLICK 949-1138 by MIKE PRINCE EMMONAK AK

(12)

Mtn Vlg (4)

Thank you for coming to Mtn. Village. It's not very often we have any of our 2 State representatives come to Mtn. to hear testimony on any subject or issue affecting our people.
We understand that you just came from Bethel to hear testimony on the same subject VPSO, I'm sure you heard pretty good testimony from the Bethel area.

Where does the funding of VPSO come from? I heard it may be coming from the feds.

We heard the funding for VPSO is dwindling, if its becoming less than the hiring of VPSO will also decrease. Our community cannot pick up the pieces when the state begans to cut off funding such as the VPSO program. The rural communities, especially the Wade Hampton Census District communities, have the highest unemployment rate, therefore the most poverty stricken circumstances you can see. The cost of gas and fuel oil is continually going up making it harder for government organizations to even try and pick up the pieces. Therefore, you should make every effort to stop the funding to VPSO to go down.
The Alaska tribes cannot even receive tribal police funding from the Dept. of Interior either through from BIA or compact funding because there is no reservations in Alaska except for one. So the small rural roadless communities really need your assistance to increase the funding for VPSO or expand the State Troopers such as St. Mary's.

We also heard that the Tribal cops grant from the U.S. Dept. of Justice that the tribes can apply for will now pass through the State, and this makes is more likely that the rural communities (tribes) will lose the funding. If the tribal cops grant becomes a pass through funding than the State and Tribes will have to work together when it is applied for by the Tribes. This does not mean that the Tribes will become subordinates to the State, we will become a government-to-government relationship. When our tribe apply for funding from the state for programs or projects, we have to sign a waiver of sovereignty immunity.
We know that Alaska is PL 280 state along with California, Minnesota, Nebraska, Oregon and Wisconsin, this means the tribes and state have concurrent jurisdiction. If the tribal cops is a pass through funding on behalf of tribes than we will have to have a government-to-government relationship. So the state legislatures have a lot of work to do. We know that couple of state legislatures have challenged the sovereignty of tribes in Alaska to Dept. of Interior and they wrote back there is Tribes in the state of Alaska. Our tribal government here at Mtn. have applied for and received funding for tribal cops. The tribes in Minnesota applied for a pass thru-funding from their state and was suppose to sign a waiver of sovereignty immunity inorder to receive that funding, the tribes refused to sign. Negotiations, debates began between the tribes and state, the state eventually passed a legislation stating the tribes would not have to sign a waiver. I think the state legislatures should work to pass a legislation such as Minnesota's and you should began to work on a similar bill.

Tillie E. Landlord
1st draft

ASA'CARSARMIUT TRIBAL COUNCIL

Mtn Vlg (9)

October 5, 2007

Senator Donald C. Olson, Chair
Alaska State Senate VPSO Task Force
Alaska State Capitol, Room 514
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

RE: Improving Public Safety

Senator Olson:

Please accept this letter as a written testimony regarding the Village Public Safety Officer (VPSO) program on finding ways to strengthen and improve public safety in Alaska, by identifying problems with the VPSO program and ways to address those problems.

At a joint meeting held by the City of Mountain Village, Azachorok Inc., and Asa'carsarmiut Tribal Council on August 28, 2007, the managers of each respected entities were directed to write letters to the Alaska State Senate VPSO Task Force addressing the VPSO program, on how they utilize the program and propose solutions to address problems each entity is experiencing with the current VPSO program.

Asa'carsarmiut Tribal Council utilizes the VPSO program in a couple of areas:

1. Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) program – requests VPSO back up when conducting child abuse and domestic violence investigations, and depending on the home environment, assist in child removal/placement.
2. Tribal Courts – now that ATC tribal courts can hear cases, an MOA between ATC and City of Mountain Village is being drafted, to have the VPSO refer misdemeanor cases, and child/elder abuse and/or neglect cases, and to deliver Notice of Hearings to all who are requested to take part in the court hearings, among other things.

Areas for improvement are:

1. A couple of job duties should be added to the VPSO job description; assist all ICWA and Tribal Court programs in the communities that the VPSO program serves. The job duties should read; assist ICWA staff when home visits are required ***and*** serve Tribal Court Subpoena's or Notice of Hearings.
2. Schools, Tribes, local City Governments and Native Corporations in the communities where the VPSO program serves should take part in the evaluation of the VPSO, because the VPSO serves the whole community and not just the entity the MOA is placed with.
3. If all the entities in the communities cannot participate in the VPSO evaluation, then the Tribal/Traditional Councils where the VPSO program serves should at least be one of the parties included in the MOA, because of ICWA/Tribal Court issues. This way the Tribal/Traditional Councils could at least evaluate the VPSO on said issues.

4. Increase funding for the VPSO program to place one more VPSO in the larger communities like Mountain Village and Hooper Bay.

I'd like to thank you and your task force for taking the time out of your busy schedules to visit Mountain Village to hear our solutions for improvements in the VPSO program.

Sincerely,

Tammy T. Aguchak

Tammy T. Aguchak
Tribal Administrator

CC: City of Mountain Village
AVCP - VPSO Program
File

PO BOX 32249 • MOUNTAIN VILLAGE, AK • 99632
PHONE: (907) 591-2814 • FAX: (907) 591-2811

VPSO
mayor
Patrolmen City of Nome

Excellent Suggestions

Prevention tips to Troopers
Emergency Responders

Glen part 6 months
incidents at Elim
Breakins High school / Clinic
Native Corp Post Office

One incident last ~~March~~ March or April
8 young people

What are you doing for ~~the~~ that lapse

Excuses Kawerak is Responsible

Attend City Council meeting

Drug Dealer Thats who I
want to be like he's got
2 trucks 2 snowmobiles 2 pure breed
dogs 2 boats a

Search & Rescue  Everyone is
Ready to go

THE ALASKA GUARD – HOPE AND HELP FOR RURAL ALASKA

The presence of an effective, well trained and equipped Alaska Guard detachment in each Alaska community could be a huge benefit in at least the following reasons:

-VPSO officers concurrently being members of the ALASKA GUARD could mean increased benefits, shared equipment and facilities, training, and mutual aide support.

-Military training, both basic training and specialist training should be very helpful to most of Alaska's rural teenagers. The discipline, physical fitness, team building, patriotism, and skills accumulated have been very helpful to Americans for generations and should continue to be helpful for rural Alaska youth.

-Rural Guardsman can and should form the trained and equipped core of local search and rescue (SAR) and fire fighting efforts as well as flood control and back up for the VPSO and Trooper personnel.

-Being a Guardsman should increase health benefits for the rural participants and reduce the welfare type payments flowing into the communities.

Drug Dealing: Confiscate house to turn into housing or office space

Senator F Dyson

ACTION ITEMS FOR THE VPSO TASK FORCE

VPSO use of Guard facilities- In the 50 villages with Guard Armories, decide which have inadequate VPSO offices, storage, and holding cells that could utilize the unused portion of the Armory. Get a copy of the Kotzebue agreement and recommend joint occupancy of the Armory where that concept is justified. Ask local leaders for agreement to proceed.
Walt and Craig

VPSO & National Guard joint recruitment and/or personnel being members of both with benefits and training from both.
Walt and Craig

Funds from seized equipment and goods- Find out what needs to change to be able to use the sale of seized good to fund VPSO equipment or training or....
Walt and Talus

Expanded training and responsibilities for VPSOs
Decide how we can train VPSOs to; do some probation work, investigate some crimes, teach Dare/first aid/fire fighting/search and rescue/drug interdiction etc/obtain higher level of police certification and then get higher salaries based upon higher qualifications and utilization.
Walt

Standadized duty and reporting responsibilities- Decide how proactive and how much the VPSO needs to be actively on the job each day/week. Decide the standard reporting responsibilities ie; daily reports, check in by radio or phone twice a day or....
Walt

Solve liability issues –Talus

Prepare for the State Wide Conference on Public Safety in reference to the VPSO issues
Walt.

History of the VPSO Program

The VPSO program was a response to problems with the training, turnover, and performance of the village police officer program in the 1970s.[1] It was based largely on the idea that law enforcement ought to be "home-grown" rather than imposed, should encourage local initiative and participation, should incorporate local traditions, and should include elements of social work and public safety.[2] It combined responsibility for law enforcement, firefighting, search and rescue, water safety, and emergency medical into one position.[3] And, as local employees under the direct control of village councils, it intended for VPSOs to be "responsive to community needs and priorities."[4]

James Messick and William Nix, two of the principal designers of the VPSO program, wanted villages to have control over the program. They believed that the imposed Western legal system was ineffective and was not supported by local people. However, they thought that villages lacked the organizational capacity to run the program. Therefore, they gave control of the management of the program to the regional native nonprofits.[5] The State Troopers were to serve as technical providers but not tell the VPSOs what to do. And "the day to day control of the VPSOs ought to come from the city" or the village, increasing "local control and self-determination at the village level."[6]

Training was designed to be more extensive and relevant to rural needs and included follow-up training and supervision in the field by oversight Troopers specifically assigned to the program. A steady and sufficient income was intended to help reduce turn-over. In addition, the program represented "a long term career ladder for the rural, often Native individual to enter into the public safety field."[7]

*Funding level and numbers of officers*:
In 1979, a small pilot program was launched with an original request for $500,000.[8] However, when the legislature received the request, it increased the project's funding to over $2.9 million, supporting 52 VPSO positions.[9] And by FY 1982, the program had grown to 108 VPSO positions and 7 oversight officers, costing $6,729,700 per year.[10]

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[1] "The Village Public Safety Officer Program: A Conceptual Design to Improve Law Enforcement and Public Safety in the Rural Areas of Alaska," Department of Public Safety, Commissioner William R. Nix, 1980; "Innovation in Policing: Bureaucratic Entrepreneurship in the Development of the Village Public Safety Officer Program in Alaska," Otwin Marenin, 1989, p. 11-12.
[2] "Innovation in Policing" at p. 13.
[3] Id.
[4] "The Village Public Safety Officer (VPSO) Program in Rural Alaska: Trends and Prospects," Otwin Marenin, 1989, p. 25.
[5] "Innovation in Policing," at 17.
[6] "The Village Public Safety Officer Program: A Conceptual Design to Improve Law Enforcement and Public Safety in the Rural Areas of Alaska," Department of Public Safety, Commissioner William R. Nix, 1980, p. 4, 11; "Innovation in Policing," at 17.
[7] "Innovation in Policing," at 13.
[8] "The VPSO Program, Concept, History and Operation," State of Alaska, undated, p. 5.
[9] Id.
[10] Id.

The program grew through the 1980s and 1990s. In FY 1990, the VPSO program supported 125 positions in 123 villages with a budget of $6.5 million.[11] And by FY 2002, the program had a budget of $9.1 million.[12] However, the program was cut in FY 2004 to $5.8 million.[13]

*Initial Response from the Troopers*:
When the VPSO program was first created, the Troopers resisted the program "as it seemed to take away some of their authority and (possibly) cut into their budget and offended their sense of professional law enforcement."[14] Commissioner Nix had to "read them the riot act," and threatened to move the program into another division and take away their control over the program.[15]

*Qualifications*:
The Alaska Police Standards Council was advised by the Attorney General's office in 1982 that VPSOs were not considered police officers unless they worked in a "second class" city for a municipal police department.[16] The certification process then shifted to being part of the contractual arrangement with the regional nonprofits.[17]

One of the biggest problems with qualifications was the prohibition on hiring officers with arrest records. For example, in 1981 eighteen of the twenty six applicants for the VPSO program had arrest records.[18] Commissioner Nix thought it was inappropriate to view arrest records as a barometer of moral character in rural communities. Instead, he thought the decision should rest with the residents of the villages themselves.[19]

*Program operation*:
In 1989, the program operated similarly to the way it operates today. The native nonprofit in each region contracted with the State to manage the VPSO program. The villages in each region appealed to their nonprofit for a VPSO, and the nonprofit allocated VPSOs based on available funding.[20] VPSOs were hired and fired by the nonprofit in close consultation with the village councils and the Troopers.[21]

*Supervision by the Troopers*:
Supervision for VPSOs in the 1980s was managed by oversight troopers in the regional hubs. In 1987, there were 5 oversight officers for 116 VPSOs.[22] It was their

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[11] Id; "The Village Public Safety Officer Program: Providing Public Safety Services to Rural Alaska," Patrick Jolley, 1990, p. 48; "The VPSO Program," Marenin, p. 25.
[12] "VPSO Comparison Gov Request to Authorized FY83 to FY05," State of Alaska, Department of Public Safety, 2004.
[13] Id.
[14] "The VPSO Program," Marenin, at 18.
[15] Id.
[16] "Innovation in Policing, Marenin, p. 18
[17] Id.
[18] Id.
[19] Id. at 19.
[20] "The VPSO Program," Marenin, p. 26
[21] Id. at 26.
[22] Id. at 27.

responsibility to check the work of the VPSOs, contact them by phone at least once a week, visit them in the field at least every two months, conduct in-field training, follow up on actions taken by the VPSOs, check their notebooks and records, ensure that VPSOs submit their bi-weekly reports on time, arrange for external training and travel, maintain contact with village council members, approve the hiring by VPSOs of emergency guards to hold detained or arrested suspects, and submit personnel evaluation forms on their VPSOs and a monthly recap record of their own activities.[23]

*VPSO training*:
In the 1980s, new VPSO recruits attended a six week course at the Trooper Academy in Sitka. They received 60 hours of EMT training, 90 hours of firefighting training, and instructions on water safety, search and rescue, and how to organize a volunteer fire department.[24] They received no training in firearms. And every year, they were required to return for a one-week training course at the Academy.[25]

*Snapshot – TCC 1989*:
In 1989, salaries for VPSOs in the Tanana Chiefs Conference region ranged from $21,612 to $28,080 per year.[26] There were 18 VPSOs and 6 VPSOs in the 42 villages in the region along with 6 State Troopers stationed permanently in the region.[27]

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[23] Id. at 27.
[24] Id. at 27.
[25] Id. at 27.
[26] Id. at 26.
[27] Id. at 26.

VPSO Task Force List of Concerns and Recommendations, as Expressed at Hearings

Several concerns were consistently voiced by many:

- There is a ***feeling of inequity*** whether perceived or real. Public safety is a State responsibility and they want to be treated fairly. Rural Alaskans deserve protection and are as entitled to peace and dignity as the residents of this state who happen to live in an urban area.

- There is also a ***disparity when you look at the area/number of miles covered*** by VPSOs compared to what is asked of a Trooper; it is not just about the population, other factors need to be considered.

- VPSOs really need the ***support and respect of their community***. And they need to ***understand the culture and village***. Which is a lot of why they ***need to come from the rural parts of the State***, not an urban community, no matter who hires them and how they are hired.

- There ***needs to be regional control and input***, including hiring, into their safety issues. Perhaps ***recruiting several VPSOs from larger villages*** to go to other villages; with those from smaller villages going to other villages rather than their own village. ***No one wants to arrest their family or friends***, so this would be one way around that, while still having someone who could adjust and fit in to the culture of the village in which they will reside.

- The issue of ***whether or not VPSOs should become state employees*** was argued from both sides, for and against, and is still an issue. Those in favor seem to be in favor of more equitable treatment on a par with troopers; while those against seem to be concerned with the possibility of losing control of hiring as well as the program itself to the urban areas.

- There needs to be ***better communication with and better response from the Troopers.***

- There is support for ***some type of elders' program***, in particular when dealing with youth. It could be an effective way of turning youth around and putting them on track, as well as keeping some out of the system.

- ***Tribal courts*** could also be an effective way of dealing with some crimes.

VPSO Task Force List of Concerns and Recommendations, as Expressed at Hearings

Many suggestions would require funding, or more funding:

- ***Better pay*** is needed to attract and retain VPSOs. They need to be able to support themselves and their families in the village where they live; and the cost of living in the villages is very high.

- ***Better benefits*** are needed so they have a future and can choose being a VPSO as a career. This includes health insurance and retirement, so they have something to look forward to.

- They want ***housing*** and they want it to be acceptable housing, not substandard. There is not always a place for them in the village and that makes it hard. Provision for acceptable housing was often voiced as lacking.

- ***Being able to take leave*** is also necessary. They get sick. They want to be able to take time off for leisure.

- Yet just as important is having ***backup when the VPSO cannot be there*** for whatever reason. If they are gone for leave or even for training, there is no one there to do their job. The ***backup could be provided by a traveling cadre, or by having a second position, or in some other way.***

- They need to ***debrief and have counseling*** available when incidents occur. Some kind of CISM program: Critical Incident Stress Management. Troopers are required to take time off and have counseling when critical incidents occur; yet VPSOs may have to go right back out in very little time, even just a few hours, after having spent all day and night on a suicide or other tragedy. And this is done without counseling or other support.

- ***Training*** is critical, including for search and rescue and the other areas of responsibility, not just law enforcement. Training when they start, as well as periodically after that. Perhaps have someone come once a month to check in and answer questions, or assist in knowing how to handle something differently, or to confirm the handling of a particular incident was correctly done. It should not just be something that is done when they are hired; it needs to be continuous if they are to be effective and capable in performing their jobs.

- They need a decent ***public safety building*** where prisoners can be housed, and ***things like blankets and pillows are provided***. VPSOs often use their own homes and/or their own pillows and blankets.

- They have many, many ***equipment needs*** that are not being met. Often VPSOs use their own equipment at their own expense. Here is a list of some of the things mentioned:

- Transportation like ATVs, snowmobiles, boats, etc and the gas to run them.
- Phone and fax, including sat phones and radios.
- Oil and electricity for the public safety building
- Stamps and other supplies

- Although uniforms are provided, due to various weather considerations, they are not always satisfactory. Having ***uniforms to reflect weather issues*** for the seasons is needed.

- Perhaps some money could be put toward ***prevention***. Ideas mentioned were: ***education programs, street lights, and teen centers*** or other activities that would provide something to do.

- Also mentioned was the need to ***promote VPSOs*** through some type of campaign similar to what is done for the troopers. Something to improve how they are viewed, ***show them as being respected*** and respectable.

VPSO Task Force List of Concerns and Recommendations, as Expressed at Hearings

Some things came up that may require changes to law:

- There is a need to have ***a way of pardoning past crimes in some cases*** so that capable people who are now on the right path can qualify. Too often, people do things when they are young that they regret and that they would not do as an adult. But having done something stupid when they were young can take them out of consideration for a VPSO position. People do change, especially if the mistake was made when they were young, and/or it was an isolated occurrence rather than a pattern of behavior. With the difficulty in finding VPSOs and with the high rate of suicide among youth especially, this change if done carefully could make a big difference.

- Could the ***money from forfeitures*** in rural Alaska be used to pay for rural public safety? How much money is involved?

- Could some kind of ***rural public safety fund be established*** to pay for some of what is needed? Perhaps the forfeiture dollars could go into such a fund if one could be established.

- Would it be possible for ***VPSOs to be able to confiscate drugs and alcohol***, including home brew, when it is discovered; and especially if the

community is dry or damp? Often people can be seen walking with it openly, but because they have not broken a law, nothing can be done.

***The report of findings and recommendations is due February 15, 2008.***

use of Guard

# Recommendations

More value for VPSO staff
- Pay
- Benefits
- Training
- Career path
- Support / Relief / Counseling /
- Housing / ~~Equipment~~
- Local support
- State support - computers / back-up - / Vehicle fuel

- Criteria for villages to get VPSO
  - Viable (By Denali Com stds)
  - Distance from Trooper Post
  - Local support & Corporation / Dividends And Acceptance

- Advance levels for VPSO advancement
  - Peace officer certification
  - Regional supervisor rank
  - Com. Pilots License

- VPSO - Alaska National Guard Relationship
  - Shared facilities
  - Shared equipment
  - Shared personel - VPSO in Guard

EXPANDED Role For VPSO

- PROBATION SUPERVISION
- DARE INSTRUCTOR
- SOME CRIME INVESTIGATION
-

RELATED ISSUES

- LIABILITY
- CUSTODY OF SEIZED GOODS
- ACCESS to FUNDS from SEIZED STUFF
- MORE TROOPERS - How MANY - WHERE
- VPSO - TPO - ISSUES
- LOCAL CONTRIBUTION(S)
- CORPORATION CONTRIBUTIONS

Myron's (1)

11/20/07 VPSO Task Force -

- DARE Training for all VPSO's to work w/ children in schools -

the expected in villages to be

- VPSO's (as) Supervisors of VPO's/TPO's This creates liability possibilities - need to address this w/ villages where we place VPSO's and Troopers oversight

- Insurance limitations on VPSO's coverage - #10 million - no commentary by contractors State DPS - determines - When and with whom -

- VPSO's are limited to funding for one year - Contracts that are signed are changed that causes decreases to existing Contracts and need for VPSO's in villages continue to exist - No coordinated background checks - VPSO's to be at fault when they are not making reports due to lack of crime or other activity -

Grant Administration s/o VPSO's are being paid annual leave that they have accured during the year @ the end of grant year - due to lack of monies that is not funded for benefits - annual leave health benefits - Vehicle purchases are done w/ other grants funding unrelated to VPSO Contract - Expect villages to provide insurance coverage - i.e Wellness Prog.

Vehicles include:

ATV's
Trucks
Snowmachines

> VPSO's pay for their own fuel, repairs and parts.

VPSO's are expected to report, investigate crimes, ded w/ misdemanors - Recent State VPSO' handbook - ded w/ felonies when requested to do so by Troopers - VPSO's are expected to turn in reports to oversight Troopers for Troopers to built cases that are dealt w/ in court -

Tribal courts - should be considered part of solution to prevent crimes or other problems in a village - Not as "Sovereignty consensus", need more partnership programs between all entities -

Salary or payscale

Pay determinations should be kept up to regional contractors - not pre-determined by State - DPS - shows that it is a restrictive program keeps VPSO's at lowest level of pay for alot of work that they do - recognizes cost of living differences -

Need for better communications between VPSO and overnight troopers, especially after hours VPSO's deal w/ life or death situations & at times w/out back-up - Need another VPSO in village -

State troopers stationed in regional hubs or subregional locations - Need to respond to reports of crimes or threats of crime - they maybe only law enforcement in the villages - What is expected of a VPSO's should also apply State troopers at these villages - i.e reporting crimes, responding to disturbance of peace per State Constitution -

Sen. French biggest concerns - discussion

Size of village

Concessions & location: proximity to other villages

Salary

Advancement opportunities

Housing

List of solutions – compiled by Loretta Bullard from speakers at the hearings

- ✓ Reinstate cops program federal funding 75% 4 yrs D. Justice → IHS
- ✓ Increase VPSO wage
- ✓ Make housing available
- ✓ Circulate VPSO itinerant amongst villages
- ✓ Provide medical, dental, retirement benefits
- ✓ Provide backup to VPSO
- ✓ Build community support
- ✓ Have VPSOs become State employees
- ✓ Provide equipment so they don't have to use their own boat, snow machine
- More communication with oversight Troopers
- Tiered law enforcement
- Provide assertiveness training to locals to confront alcohol/drug dealers
- Have bush airlines search all bags
- Need to teach respect for law enforcement
- VPOs need training! SAR clueless
- More magistrates in villages
- Juvenile offenses to Tribal court
- Train VPSO to do prevention with kids
- More then 1 VPSO per community
- VPSO provide leadership/direction to VPOs
- Do training via video conferencing
- Place Troopers in villages
- Hire VPSOs, place from other villages

List of solutions – compiled by Loretta Bullard from speakers at the hearings

- Pay O:M/rent to cities for VPSO space
- Build housing/jail cell combo
- Fix up/renovate Public Safety buildings
- Look at VPSO P/P - amend/waive if need be
- Send Trooper in to train VPO – come in once per month to check on them
- Stop drugs/alcohol from getting into villages in the first place
- VPSOs need organized trauma debriefing program
- Form VPSO endowment fund
- Western AK Narco team – direct money to VPSO program
- Train VPSO/AST to fly planes
- Station VPSO/AST in units
- State provide rent/utilities for VPSOs in villages
- Lower duties of VPSO or pay what they're worth
- AST=higher paid prisoner transport
- Develop 5-10-20 year plan to improve public safety
- Model VPSO program on Health Aide program
- Cultural sensitivity training for all AST
- State get over paranoia over W/W tribes
- Develop partnerships to access money to strengthen program
- Need money to run Tribal courts
- Promote/hire VPSOs
- Develop youth Tribal diversion panel for drinking youth – replicate throughout the State to address juvenile delinquent problems

List of solutions – compiled by Loretta Bullard from speakers at the hearings

- ~~Examine closely – discuss closely with AVCP~~
- Give each Tribal Council the option to search/seize alcohol/drugs
- Provide avenue for waiver of clean background criteria
- If convicted of felony, can't carry weapons – need to allow exemption for hunting
- Improve services in rural Alaska to prevent MIS behavior
- Identify roles of tribe-city-state as it relates to law enforcement
- Need money for youth courts in villages
- Tribes need to be able to intervene and destroy home brew/drug selling
- Bump VPSO salary schedule to allow for CPI
- Show VPSO qualifications at career days
- Need a 911 help line (easy access)
- Expand the number of kids who can attend Nat'l Indian Policing Academy
- Teach kids ($3^{rd}/4^{th}$ grades) about laws, law enforcement respect - put in curriculum
- Help fund Elder intervention program in Emmonak
- Rural exchange program – village to village
- VPOs need training, orientation, ethics, etc confidentiality
- Need to develop/shape law enforcement stats
- Need to include rural Alaskans on justice related boards/issues
- Abraham – Agathluk VPO example of "turned around"
    - 5+ years working as a VPO
    - VPO all time low
    - Work whole year, get two weeks

List of solutions – compiled by Loretta Bullard from speakers at the hearings

- Cases stacked up
- Only 2 people working
- No training
- Has more support
- Has 2 vehicles
- Applicants can't hire – on probation or convicted felon

- Want teams
- Doing good in Bethel stopping drugs/alcohol
- Need search warrants – can't just confiscate
- VPSOs serve more than 1 village
- Arm the VPSOs
- When hiring, look at the character of the applicant; need to be strong
- Increase punishment for bootleggers
- Put more Troopers in the villages
- Provide report writing training
- Add to ~~juvenile delinquent~~ job description – assist ICWA (?) staff when home visits required – serve court ~~hearings~~ orders
- Tribes participate in evaluating VPSO
- AST needs to spend quality time in village
- Provide training to VPSOs to help health aides and CBC (?)
- Cover indirect costs fully
- Look at training schedule
- Need housing for VPSOs

List of solutions – compiled by Loretta Bullard from speakers at the hearings

- Better prepare VPSOs for academy
- Liaison in regional non-profits – ~~staff~~ state employee over State VPSOs
- VPSO need support at their ground level
- John – Elim – need to get whole village involved in providing law and order in village
- Have native organization provide cultural training to VPSOs

Village Public Safety Committee – Fire, SAR
Citizen patrols
community policing
neighborhood watch

~AEC

949- 1229 Martin Moore

Kawerak testimony to the State VPSO Task Force on VPSO Issues – November 5, 2007.

The Alaska State Constitution states: "All persons have a natural right to life, liberty and are entitled to equal rights, opportunities and protection under the law." In the arena of Public Safety and "equal protection", this is not the case. Many, many communities in rural Alaska are without any law enforcement whatsoever. In these communities, residents call upon the Alaska State Troopers to respond when situations arise in their communities where law enforcement is needed. Unfortunately, because of weather, other priorities, and Trooper staffing levels, in many instances, the AST are not always able to respond promptly, with the net result that situations are not contained, lives are put at risk or lost, evidence is lost or destroyed, and people are victimized and live in fear. If a property crime occurs in Rural Alaska, you can wait months for Trooper response.

We encourage the Alaska State Legislature and the State DPS to make a commitment to support the VPSO program and rural Law Enforcement and budget accordingly. Certainly, over the past four years, the VPSO contractors have felt like the VPSO program has not been a priority of the State . . . and in fact have felt like the unwanted step children of the State. In an early meeting with the VPSO contractors, the previous DPS Commissioner stated very succinctly, that "when it came to asking the Legislature for a dollar for a VPSO or a dollar for a Trooper. . . . he would ask for a dollar for the Troopers every time."

We believe there is much room for improvement and welcome this opportunity to make recommendations on how the provision of public safety in rural Alaska can be improved.

There is a public interest in keeping our children, families and communities safe. The safety and security of citizens in our communities is a fundamental responsibility of government. If the State of Alaska cannot or is not going to diligently seek to fund and implement the protection of its citizens, we recommend that the State of Alaska support a recommendation that was presented to the Rural Justice and Law Enforcement Commission - to restore to Alaska's federally recognized Tribal Councils on a pilot basis, the ability to control alcohol and illegal substances within five miles of the village radius. The old saying: "Lead, Follow or Get out of the Way" comes to mind. The State of Alaska has opposed restoring the ability of the IRA and Traditional Councils to address alcohol and drug issues, asserting that the responsibility for law enforcement rests with the State, but the state has not adequately met that responsibility and has opposed efforts by village councils to regain control over their community.

Probably 95% of the crimes in rural Alaska occur when the individual is under the influence of alcohol or drugs. . . . and while the State DPS has done a much better job cutting down on the flow of alcohol and drugs to the villages. . . . anecdotal evidence suggests that people are increasingly "brewing their own." Given the current inability to control/address alcohol issues in rural Alaska, we are fearful what will happen once meth gets a foothold in the bush. It doesn't have a foothold yet, but people need tools at the local level to contain these issues before they gain a foothold. Currently the system is - call the VPSO (if your community has one –130 rural communities are without), call the

VPO (**if** your community has one – who has no training and may have alcohol, drug, domestic violence or other convictions on their record) or call the Alaska State Troopers – and hope they respond timely. There is room for improvement in the existing system.

The VPSO program has worked well in the past. Over the past seven or eight years, it has not worked as well, but the VPSO Program does have the potential to be very effective in providing public safety to those of us living in rural Alaska if it receives adequate fiscal, programmatic and structural support. Some background:

In the 1980's, even though wages were extremely low for the VPSO's ($11.16/hour), there were at the time, approximately 100 individuals employed as VPSO's around the state. There is one major structural difference between the program today and how the program was operated 15 years ago. At that time, various troopers were assigned to serve as the oversight trooper to an average of 6 or 7 specific VPSO's. It was a very structured connection. The assigned trooper worked closely with his or her VPSO's and provided support, law enforcement supervision, an avenue to vent as it relates to situations encountered during the work day and guidance – on a daily or weekly basis. Troopers traveled regularly to the villages, not just to investigate felony crimes. Today, I'm sure the Troopers endeavor to keep in touch with the VPSO's, but it is a much less structured relationship, with the net result that VPSO's often feel like they are on the front line with little to no support. I think that re-structuring the Trooper support of the VPSO's in the field, to the model that was in place 15 years ago, would help greatly in improving VPSO retention in the field.

VPSO's need support and an avenue to vent. VPSO's often have to secure suicide, homicide or accidental death scenes. After the fact, they are sometimes called upon to "clean up" the scene after the body has been removed. (So the family doesn't have to.) They are the first responder to serious gun shots and other accidents in the village. The Health Aides do not respond to a scene until they have informed by the VPSO that the scene is secure. (We don't know how these situations are handled in communities without law enforcement.) Because of their position, the VPSO's are exposed to severe trauma scenes. They know who in the village are experiencing or perpetrating: domestic violence; assaults; theft; violating the local alcohol ordinance; and who may be neglecting their child or sexually abusing children. They know pretty much everything unpleasant about their neighbors. In many instances they are not able to do much about the activity, because the individual has to be apprehended in accordance with State statutes and convicted in a State court of law. If they arrest or detain members of the community, they and their family can experience hostility, threats of retribution, harassment and other negativity. All of these situations create stress on the VPSO. They need an avenue to discuss confidential issues and they need support in a structured, organized way.

At our 2006 joint Norton Sound Health Corporation/Kawerak full board meeting, staff were directed to seek funds to pay individuals to clean up after major trauma situations in the villages. Because we have so many suicides in our villages (many of which are teenagers or young adults under the influence of alcohol), clean up of suicide scenes

occurs frequently – and both the health aides and the VPSO's don't want to do it. Who can blame them? No one wants the responsibility of cleaning up a scene after a traumatic death! Over the last ten years, we have had 62 suicides in the Bering Straits Region. Every single one of these suicides had to be responded to . . . and cleaned up after. These are the very real issues that are discussed at our board meetings. . . . because there is a need and because alcohol and drugs, and the resulting impacts on our families and children are not adequately controlled within our communities.

The VPSO program in the Bering Strait Region and in other regions in the State is having a hard time with recruiting applicants. Kawerak does not receive any funds for recruiting. I recommend that the State start an ad campaign to recruit for the VPSO positions as they do for other State programs, particularly as this was an activity that the state stated they would undertake(and was funded to do) in the 2005 IHS grant's scope of work the State received. For example, during the Alaska Federation of Natives convention in October 2006, the Alaska State Troopers had a nice recruitment display for AST, current color photos, brochures to hand out and small items to pass out, for example: pens, cups and breath mints. Next to the display was the VPSO recruitment poster board with outdated photos and no other advertisement materials.

Although there has been an improvement in the starting wages of the VPSO, the VPSO salary is still not at market. Currently, the VPSO starting salary is $16.55 an hour, there are also a parole and probation funds that can bring up to an additional $2.50 an hour to the VPSO salary. This is up from $15.05/hour 1 year ago. Another positive change is the addition of retention incentive bonuses added to the salary schedule. Currently there is no cost of living allowance (COLA) in the program; we recommend the State add a COLA to the program. VPSO's, once they reach Step M in the pay scale, (which is at 8.5 years of service) stop receiving pay raises. We would like to see the VPSO program continue to provide raises to help with retention. Kawerak annually adjusts our corporate wide salary schedule to adjust for the previous year's rate of inflation per the Anchorage Consumer Price Index – with the exception of the VPSO program. We take the Anchorage CPI rates for the two previous six month periods, add them together, divide them by two – and adjust our salary schedule up effective January 1 of each year to correct for the previous year's inflation. For 2007, for example, our corporate wide salary schedule was increased by 3.97% - which brought our salary schedule current to the rate of inflation for Anchorage. We do this annually to keep our schedule current with inflation – since if we didn't, the 3% merit increases that we provide for above average performance would not even keep current with inflation. The State contract prohibits us from annually adjusting the VPSO salaries to keep current with inflation.

2 Wage

Budget

Most of the cities' holding cells and office spaces are in dire need of repair or upgrades. Most cities in rural Alaska are financially hurting due to the cut of revenue sharing and higher costs of operating (i.e., high fuel, insurance, PERS). Some communities in the Bering Strait Region have only one holding cell that is not suitable for holding both adults and juveniles together. Some buildings do not have running water and use a bucket in the corner of the holding cell (not even a honey bucket!) for human waste. Kawerak recommends that the State assist with upgrading the holding facilities and office

funding turned back in

space including maintenance and operational funding based on the needs of the community. The cities are incurring tremendous liability by holding detainees in substandard facilities – and they are probably not even aware they are exposing themselves to this liability, nor do they have insurance. We're fortunate that more people have not died while being held in substandard holding cells in the villages. We also recommend that the State allow the contractors to provide an office rental fee to the local city or other entity housing the VPSO Office. Electrical, heating, janitorial and other facility expenses have increased tremendously, and with no revenue sharing, the expense has fallen solely on the City offices to provide free office space and other utilities to the VPSO. This is another state imposed contractual requirement. The State has consistently refused to make funds available for VPSO office lease; rather they require the city to donate free office space to the VPSO. This is particularly hard to understand when DPS consistently returns funding to the State General Fund. We speculate that the state takes this position to have the cities make an in-kind contribution to the program. . . . but when the city has no financial resources whatsoever coming in . . . it's like trying to squeeze blood out of a turnip. The State certainly does not make the same demand to cities where Trooper outposts are located. Why then, does DPS impose this requirement on Cities with VPSO's? Cities are finding it difficult to heat and maintain City facilities. We're amazed that more city offices haven't completely shut their doors over the past four years.

Frequently, we hear that if rural people want services, they should tax themselves more. . . or do without. Currently, every city in the Bering Straits Region imposes a sale tax ranging anywhere from 3-6% on the cost of already expensive goods. This is the only reason the cities have survived the last four years. This when the majority of people living in the villages exist on very low household incomes. It's not possible to tax ourselves to fund a police department in every village. In many communities, the cities are using some of their very limited tax revenues to fund Village Police Officers, which in 99.9% of the cases, are untrained individuals, who, because they are a municipal employee, are eligible to carry guns. The State constitution outlines some very specific government services that the State of Alaska is responsible for providing to every state citizen. We encourage the administration and state legislature to meet these obligations fully . . . or as stated earlier, support Tribal Councils efforts to regain the authority to police at the local level.

As quoted in the interim report of the Alaska Rural Justice and Law Enforcement Commission (ARJLEC), Kawerak supports the idea "to develop a statewide, uniform and tiered system of certification and training for police and public safety officers with a reasonable opportunity for advancement that could culminate in full APOC police officer certification. The first tier of certification would require a reasonable minimum level of certification and training, including non-police function training, to ensure professional competency and service delivery, with tribally-employed officers encouraged to participate. Over the years, 4 or 5 of Kawerak's former VPSO's, went on to become Alaska State Troopers. We support this and think this is wonderful. However, in order to become Troopers, these individuals had to attend and complete a trooper academy, which is basically the same as a VPSO academy, (except Troopers receive training in guns and

vehicle control.) A career track would promote retention of VPSO's and help ease DPS's recruitment difficulties for Troopers.

Kawerak requests that the Commissioner "develop a template cross-deputization agreement between the State and tribes that can be used as a basis for individually negotiated agreements." State policy makers question the existence of tribes in Alaska . . but in the field, we have found that the Troopers have been willing to work with Tribal Peace Officers. In one of our communities, we were unable to hire a VPSO for five years, since it was a larger community with many social problems, and residents were unwilling to put their lives on the line for the $12-13 an hour. The Tribal Council in desperation funded two Tribal Peace Officers out of their Bureau of Indian Affairs funding, to maintain law and order. The Tribal Peace Officers would arrest individuals and call the Troopers. In this instance, the Troopers had no problem working with the Tribal Peace Officers. Somehow the State policy and legal people need to move beyond the rhetoric and to set in place solutions and systems that work collaboratively and effectively in rural Alaska. We were fortunate in eventually hiring an individual to work in this community, who did a wonderful job for three years. He resigned to become a Security Guard because he could make $22 an hour, with considerably less stress.

There is a perception perhaps, that VPSO's don't receive much training. In fact they do. Currently, VPSO's receive 602 hours of training at the Sitka Academy in order to become a certified VPSO. Municipal Police Officers and Alaska State Troopers each receive 900 (?) hours of training. Pretty much the only difference between the training provided to VPSO's and AST & Municipal Police Officers is that AST and Municipal Police Officers receive training on handling guns and cars. Certified VPSO's have undergone significant training (for which we are very thankful), but it's our perception that the VPSO's are not adequately recognized (or compensated) for their training and the work they do. The VPSO's are truly the "First Responders in the Last Frontier" and they need to be afforded the respect, support and pay, their very difficult position is due.

timely

Kawerak has not had a grant awarded on time since 2003. In 2004, Kawerak was prepared to send letters of termination to the VPSO's due to the fact we still did not have a grant in place. Our grant awards have been consistently awarded well after the start of the state fiscal year. By not receiving grant awards on time, Kawerak is placed in the position of funding the VPSO program out of our own fund balance (which would otherwise be earning interest) or laying off the VPSO's. We have kept the VPSO's on staff – and footed the bill out of our own pockets. We recommend that the State award the grants in a timely manner.

DPS needs to allow contractors more flexibility with the VPSO budget. I would recommend that if there is lapsed money in the VPSO personnel line item that the Non-profits (in consultation with DPS) could spend the money on much needed equipment or supplies, for example, gas, snow machines, ATV, VHF radios or computers. This will provide the tools and equipment required for the VPSO's to aid in Search and Rescue, community patrol, and basic communications. Guidelines could be set up during the contract negotiations.

On a positive note, budget modifications are now turned around in a timely manner compared to previous years.

The VPSO contract places significant liability burdens on the regional non-profits and allows the State to exercise close control over the VPSO program while escaping any responsibility for the program. Currently the State negotiates and purchases liability insurance for all the VPSO contractors in the State. The contractors budget for the insurance in our budgets, but we never actually receive the money. The State takes the money from the contracts and purchases the insurance on behalf of all the VPSO contractors in the State. We don't mind never seeing the money, since by "bulk purchasing" on behalf of all the contractors, the state is able to get a better deal in terms of cost. The problem is the State is negotiating and purchasing the insurance levels without consulting with the VPSO contractors. A State Trooper is not necessarily versed in insurance and liability issues and could benefit from consulting with the various regional non-profit staff that deal with this issue on a regular basis.

The contracts should provide for equal allocation of liability risk between the State and non-profit corporations instead of a one-sided approach. The State should purchase liability insurance for the non-profits with adequate scope of coverage and coverage amounts. The insurance the non-profits are required to purchase should be closely reviewed and revised to assure that it is affordable and adequate.

The previous administration attempted to force consolidation of the VPSO Program to one – three contractors for the last four years. The contractors spent a large amount of energy fending off that attempt. We believe that State DPS was pursuing this approach as a cost saving measure – thinking that by decreasing the nine-contractors to 1 or 3, it would save in non-profit administrative costs, with additional dollars being spent on VPSO salaries. While it would have saved on administrative costs, Alaska is a huge state . . . and local knowledge and the ability to work closely with the city and tribal governments and village residents in support of the VPSO program and law enforcement, is a critical component of the program. You can't have an effective working relationship if the Director of a program is 750 miles away, has never and will never travel to a majority of remote communities, interact with very diverse councils, or meet with VPSO's and Troopers at a local or regional level. We encourage you to seek input from the Manillaq Corporation as to how they perceive the VPSO program working in their region. . . . given that it is/was administered by the Kodiak Area Native Corporation, whose main offices are located in Kodiak.

The other major area which directly affects our ability to recruit and retain VPSO's, is the lack of housing at the village level. A number of our villages have indicated a preference for outside individuals to be hired as VPSO's. That way, the VPSO doesn't have the added stress or perceived nepotism issues that arise from having to arrest (or not arresting) close family, friends and relatives. The problem is, when we hire a VPSO from outside the village, the individual needs to be able to rent a place to stay in the village. Decent housing and rental units in our villages are in very short supply, with every

housing unit filled to capacity with two or three generations . . . because there is no housing available. When VPSO's come from outside, they are often shocked at the quality of the housing that is available to them and soon resign because of the housing conditions. The housing units available in most communities are likely old, with mold issues, poorly insulated and therefore **very** expensive to heat, small, lack water and sewer, and generally dilapidated. VPSO's (particularly those with families) don't stick around when faced with this kind of housing.

Bering Straits Regional Housing Authority, our regional housing authority has indicated that a BSRHA housing unit can be set aside for rent/use by a VPSO in each community, if the Tribal Council passes a resolution approving that action. We have sent a letter to each council encouraging them to do this. However, the Council may or may not take this step. The tribal council has to consider setting aside one unit for the VPSO, versus trying to meet the needs of 10-20-30 families in need of housing within the community, who have been on a list, waiting to purchase a home for the last five-ten years.

We know that the DPS has taken steps to provide for Trooper Housing in rural areas and have expressed interest in building trooper outstations in some of the sub regional centers around the state. We support constructing trooper housing and facilities in those communities where housing and facilities are not available. But we also encourage the State to help address the need for VPSO housing in our very remote, over crowded communities by designing and perhaps helping to construct modular housing units for VPSO's. We understand that upon construction of the Trooper housing in Bethel, troopers in Bethel who owned their own homes, relocated to the Trooper housing and subsequently rented their own homes out for income.

On a positive note, I wanted to announce that the Kawerak's Board of Directors recently established a VPSO work group to examine ways that people and councils at the local level can help recruit, support, recognize and encourage retention of VPSO's.

We recommend that the new administration look at the current policies and procedures and work with the contractors to make changes that pertain to the VPSO program. We encourage this Task Force to consider making funds available to:

- fund indirect as negotiated in Indirect Cost Agreements;
- adequately fund VPSO's and Director's salaries,
- fund office space and holding cells leases for VPSO's;
- develop recruiting and retention materials;
- station VPSO's in on road communities; and
- place more than 1 VPSO in large communities.

We also recommend that the Department of Law be included when negotiating changes to the VPSO contractual agreements. We also recommend that the State consider moving management of VPSO contracts to DCCED but retain the tri-party agreement between the regional non-profit, AST and the city or tribe.

Thank you for your time and consideration and we believe with these changes, law enforcement and the VPSO program can be greatly improved in Rural Alaska.

# RECOMMENDATIONS AND STUDIES OF RURAL JUSTICE IN ALASKA

I. *Bush Justice*, Lloyd Weinreb, Harvard Law School, Sep. 1977.

a. Constables: **A constable should visit every village at least once or twice a month, on a predictable schedule that enables persons to seek him out, and without a display of force. This is essential if the constable's presence is to be sought and accepted.**

b. Magistrates: There is no need for the regular presence of a magistrate in each village. The title and office should be filled by whatever local custom dictates, and it should not be expected to retain much of its Anglo-American historical significance.

c. Responsiveness: Local troopers should increase the responsiveness of official action and make the increased responsiveness evident to villagers.

d. Information: An official copy of records from cases affecting a village should be posted in a public place in the village.

e. Procedure: Formal criminal procedures should be modified to account for the realities of criminal justice systems in rural areas.

f. Bureaucracy: The responsible agencies should develop a coordinated approach to bush justice, and it should include a regular mechanism for identifying soluble problems and solving them

g. Training: A serious, carefully planned, and not too technical meeting for instruction and discussion should be held once or twice a year for at least one week.

h. Alcohol: The penalty for a large-scale commercial bootlegger should not be so light that it is a trivial cost of doing business.

i. Overall Structure: The economic and cultural diversity of villages suggests that Alaska should avoid "over-all" theories and solutions in favor of a serious and constant effort to improve bush justice and solve specific difficulties as they arise in concrete situations.

II. *Alaska Village Police Training: An Assessment and Recommendations*, John Angell, Criminal Justice Center, University of Alaska, Dec. 1978.

a. Stability: Some means should be developed to stabilize the village police employment situation and reduce turnover

b. Cooperation: Alaska should develop an economical village police training program that can eventually continue without LEAA support, possibly through cooperative efforts between policies agencies and other agencies such as the Alaska Skill Center in Seward.

c. Support: The Alaska State Troopers should increase their support of the village police and be actively involved in any reorganization of village police training

III. *Alaska Village Justice: An Exploratory Study*, John Angell, Criminal Justice Center, University of Alaska, Feb. 1979.

a. Cooperation: State level justice officials need to take a more active role in working directly and closely with rural Native communities to define and address rural problems related to public safety, deviant behavior, and justice.
b. Support: The level of support and services should be increased, even if not justified by a per capita formula, to provide a set minimum level of policing services
c. Traditional Methods: Troopers need better training on the traditional practices and social control methods of local people
d. Social Control: Criminal justice systems serving rural communities should conduct an assessment of the social control practices of the Native communities and initiate changes to resolve conflicts between state and local practices
e. Resources: A manual containing the federal and state constitutions and pertinent Alaska Statutes should be provided to the officials of each rural community

IV. *The Village Public Safety Officer Program: A Conceptual Design to Improve Law Enforcement and Public Safety in the Rural Areas of Alaska*, Alaska Department of Public Safety, March 1980.
a. Duties: VPSOs should combine law enforcement with emergency medical, firefighting, search and rescue, water safety, and other duties
b. **Oversight: One or two additional Troopers should be stationed in each regional center to conduct ongoing training and support for VPSOs**
c. **Training: Training should consist of six weeks of formal training followed by monthly contacts to each village by the Troopers for additional training and support.**
d. Traditional Methods: The VPSO should be able to utilize local mechanisms for dispute resolution without entering the formal processing of the State's criminal justice system.
e. Program advantages: minimal cost, direct economic and employment benefit to rural Alaska, increase in local control and self-determination, minimal increase in state bureaucracy, development of a career ladder for Alaska Natives in the public safety field eventually leading to the State Troopers, and decrease in loss of life and property in villages.

V. *Village Public Safety Officer Program: First Annual Evaluation*, John A. Sellin, 1981.
a. Support: Additional administrative support staff should be added and troopers should maintain levels of service while supporting expanding commitments to the VPSO program
b. Training:
    i. Oversight troopers should be given instructional support and on-going refresher training

ii. Follow-up training must be delivered in a timely and relevant manner
iii. Academy training must be integrated into follow-up training in a meaningful and cost-effective way
iv. Teaching modules should be evaluated on teachability, relevance, and appropriateness of vocabulary.
v. Curriculum, schedules, instructors, training, and delivery systems must be reviewed and revised as needed

VI. *Final Report to the Commissioner of the Department of Public Safety on the Village Public Safety Officer (VPSO) Program*, Arthur E. Hippler, ISER, October 1982.

a. Selectivity: We should have fewer, better selected, and better trained VPSOs
b. Constables: We should have more constables
c. Oversight: There should be more careful and intense professional oversight by Troopers
d. Program advantages:
   i. Villages are a bit more than marginally better off with the program. Some villages are significantly better off, many only marginally better, and for some the program makes no discernible difference.
   ii. There is no discernible difference in program effectiveness from region to region
e. Program disadvantages:
   i. cost-effectiveness (most villages were served by marginally effective VPSOs at $70,000 per annum)
   ii. problems with personnel selection and competence
   iii. questionable usefulness of training modules,
   iv. variable quality of data collected,
   v. the burdensome concept of the program:
      1. multifaceted VPSO duties and
      2. the inevitable inefficiencies associated with disjunctive administrative, operational, and fiscal control.
   vi. Such problems are a likely a result of extremely rapid program expansion, overly ambitious program aims, innate difficulties in finding qualified personnel, and the sheer logistical difficulties associated with bush programs.

VII. *Overall VPSO Program Evaluation*, Price Waterhouse, December 1984.

a. Program advantages:
   i. The VPSO Program has met its primary goal of providing public safety services to selected villages.
   ii. It is an appropriate to providing village public safety services to a state with as many diverse governments, geographical areas, and cultures as Alaska.

iii. A major program strength is deterrence of crime due to the presence of a VPSO in the village
iv. The village has a trained officer who can respond to the diverse needs of both the village and the Troopers

b. Program disadvantages:
i. poorly defined roles and responsibilities of the various parties involved in the program
ii. inadequate planning
iii. inefficient utilization of human and financial resources

VIII. *The Village Public Safety Officer Program, Concept, History and Operation*, State of Alaska, undated (1988?).

a. Career Ladder: Part of the conceptual design of the VPSO program is to provide a long term career ladder for rural individuals, enhancing their opportunities for employment in municipal police departments, State Troopers, or Fish and Wildlife

**b. Program Advantages: VPSOs act as a valuable communications link with the Troopers, and their immediate action, as directed by the Troopers, can extinguish many potentially volatile situations and protect items of evidentiary value.**

IX. *Report on the Status of Alaska Natives: A Call for Action*, Alaska Federation of Natives, 1989.

a. Public policies and interventions intended to assist Native individuals have created and perpetuated dependence rather than self-sufficiency. The struggle to adjust to political and economic systems over which Natives living in rural villages have little real control generates feelings of helplessness and frustration and results in destructive behavior. Native policy must be premised on facilitating self-help and on assisting individuals, families and communities to cope with social and economic change.

X. *The Village Public Safety Officer (VPSO) Program in Rural Alaska: Trends and Prospects*, Otwin Marenin, Department of Political Science/Justice, University of Alaska Fairbanks, 1989.

a. Village Support: Existing political institutions in the village must support the VPSOs for them to be effective. In villages where councils were strong, VPSOs were able to carry out their work. Where councils were weak, village police often resigned their position.

**b. Goals of Policing: Policing should be**
**i. *effective* (order and safety are maintained or restored),**
**ii. *efficient* (with little waste),**
**iii. *accessible* (community members are sustained in demanding services by the belief that they are entitled to them), and**
**iv. *legitimate* (the substance of policing incorporates existing traditional values with imported formal legal rights and**

**obligations, and the behavior of police matches the expressed preferences of the community)**

c. Program advantages
   i. The notion of policing not just as crime fighting but as the use of state power to provide for minimal social order and protection against accidents, emergency, disorder, and victimization and to be secured in their personal welfare.

d. Program disadvantages:
   i. **The goals of the program are unlikely to be achieved given the current organization of the program. They are an extension of imported law enforcement into rural areas; agents paid by the state and working for the state to enforce state laws. Genuine generalist police orientations and work habits which incorporate multiple expectations (firefighting, search and rescue, assistance to the elderly, animal control, etc) will only arise when the VPSO system comes to be controlled by the villages.** Not a likely event. The state is not going to pay for something which it cannot ultimately control.
   ii. The quality of personnel attracted and retained by the program is low. As one of the few salaries positions available in villages, public safety positions are handed out for patronage or personal reasons.
   iii. High turnover – and the loss of training and competence which results
   iv. VPSOs do not have the training or legal authority to deal with much of the problem that confronts them – they deal with the symptoms, not the causes.
   v. The number of agencies involved in administering the program makes any concerted, precisely delineated action problematical as all participants will have somewhat different ideas on what to do and how to do it.
   vi. **The vagueness of stated goals glosses different priorities in objectives and success criteria. Troopers judge needs and effectiveness very differently from villagers or nonprofit coordinators.**

XI. *Innovation in Policing: Bureaucratic Entrepreneurship in the Development of the Village Public Safety Officer Program in Alaska*, Otwin Marenin, Department of Political Science/Justice, UAF, 1989.
   a. **The VPSO program works best in sovereign native communities with functioning Native institutions.**

XII. *The Village Public Safety Officer Program: Providing Public Safety Services to Rural Alaska*, Patrick Jolly, April 1990.
   a.

- The issue of ***whether or not VPSOs should become state employees*** was argued from both sides, for and against, and is still an issue. Those in favor seem to be in favor of more equitable treatment on a par with troopers; while those against seem to be concerned with the possibility of losing control of hiring as well as the program itself to the urban areas.

- There needs to be ***better communication with and better response from the Troopers.***

- There is support for ***some type of elders' program***, in particular when dealing with youth. It could be an effective way of turning youth around and putting them on track, as well as keeping some out of the system.

- ***Tribal courts*** could also be an effective way of dealing with some crimes.

VPSO Task Force List of Concerns and Recommendations, as Expressed at Hearings

Several concerns were consistently voiced by many:

- There is a ***feeling of inequity*** whether perceived or real. Public safety is a State responsibility and they want to be treated fairly. Rural Alaskans deserve protection and are as entitled to peace and dignity as the residents of this state who happen to live in an urban area.

- There is also a ***disparity when you look at the area/number of miles covered*** by VPSOs compared to what is asked of a Trooper; it is not just about the population, other factors need to be considered.

- VPSOs really need the ***support and respect of their community***. And they need to ***understand the culture and village***. Which is a lot of why they ***need to come from the rural parts of the State***, not an urban community, no matter who hires them and how they are hired.

- There ***needs to be regional control and input***, including hiring, into their safety issues. Perhaps ***recruiting several VPSOs from larger villages*** to go to other villages; with those from smaller villages going to other villages rather than their own village. ***No one wants to arrest their family or friends***, so this would be one way around that, while still having someone who could adjust and fit in to the culture of the village in which they will reside.

# RECOMMENDATIONS

MORE VALUE FOR VPSO STAFF
- PAY
- BENEFITS
- TRAINING
- CAREER PATH
- SUPPORT / RELIEF / COUNSELING /
- HOUSING / EQUIPMENT
- LOCAL SUPPORT
- STATE SUPPORT - COMPUTERS / BACK-UP / VEHICLE FUEL

- CRITERIA FOR VILLAGES TO GET VPSO
  - VIABLE (BY DENALI COM STDS)
  - DISTANCE FROM TROOPER POST
  - LOCAL SUPPORT & CORPORATION / DIVIDENDS AND ACCEPTANCE

- ADVANCE LEVELS FOR VPSO ADVANCEMENT
  - PEACE OFFICER CERTIFICATION
  - REGIONAL SUPERVISOR RANK
  - COM. PILOTS LICENCE

- VPSO - ALASKA NATIONAL GUARD RELATIONSHIP
  - SHARED FACILITIES
  - SHARED EQUIPMENT
  - SHARED PERSONEL - VPSO IN GUARD

1

EXPANDED Role For VPSO

- PROBATION SUPERVISION
- DARE INSTRUCTOR
- SOME CRIME INVESTIGATION
-

RELATED ISSUES,

- LIABILITY
- CUSTODY of SEIZED GOODS
- ACCESS to FUNDS from SEIZED STUFF
- MORE TROOPERS - How MANY - WHERE
- VPSO - TPO - ISSUES
- LOCAL CONTRIBUTION(S)
- CORPORATION CONTRIBUTIONS

Public Safety Services in Alaska: 1981-2004

| Year | State Troopers | Funded VPSO Positions | Constables | Fish and Wildlife Officers |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| FY81 | ? | 52 | ? | ? |
| FY82 | ? | 108 | ? | ? |
| FY83 | 308 | 108 | 15 | 117 |
| FY84 | 297 | 116 | 15 | 118 |
| FY85 | 300 | 116 | 15 | 113 |
| FY86 | 302 | 116 | 15 | 111 |
| FY87 | 310 | 116 | 0 | 88 |
| FY88 | 249 | 115 | 0 | 85 |
| FY89 | 258 | 125 | 0 | 88 |
| FY90 | 257 | 125 | 0 | 88 |
| FY91 | 257 | 104 | 0 | 88 |
| FY92 | 260 | 101 | 0 | 88 |
| FY93 | 258 | 104 | 0 | 86 |
| FY94 | 259 | 96 | 0 | 86 |
| FY95 | 251 | 96 | 0 | 91 |
| FY96 | 252 | 94 | 0 | 91 |
| FY97 | 258 | 92 | 0 | 93 |
| FY98 | 258 | 90 | 0 | 93 |
| FY99 | 258 | 85 | 0 | 91 |
| FY00 | 237 | 84 | 0 | 89 |
| FY01 | 237 | 84.5 | 0 | 89 |
| FY02 | 248 | 84.5 | 0 | 91 |
| FY03 | 252 | 84.5 | 0 | 91 |
| FY04 | 256 | 64.5 | 0 | 91 |

Sources: Department of Public Safety, "History of the VPSO Program: Funded VPSO Positions by Fiscal Year," 2004; Department of Public Safety, "Division of Alaska State Troopers: Personal Services Positions History Classifications Summary by Fiscal Year," 2005; Patrick Jolley, "History of the VPSO Program," 41.

VPSO Task Force List of Concerns and Recommendations, as Expressed at Hearings

Many suggestions would require funding, or more funding:

- ***Better pay*** is needed to attract and retain VPSOs. They need to be able to support themselves and their families in the village where they live; and the cost of living in the villages is very high.

- ***Better benefits*** are needed so they have a future and can choose being a VPSO as a career. This includes health insurance and retirement, so they have something to look forward to.

- They want ***housing*** and they want it to be acceptable housing, not substandard. There is not always a place for them in the village and that makes it hard. Provision for acceptable housing was often voiced as lacking.

- ***Being able to take leave*** is also necessary. They get sick. They want to be able to take time off for leisure.

- Yet just as important is having ***backup when the VPSO cannot be there*** for whatever reason. If they are gone for leave or even for training, there is no one there to do their job. The ***backup could be provided by a traveling cadre, or by having a second position, or in some other way***.

Talis Colberg
Myron
Fred
Loretta

- They need to ***debrief and have counseling*** available when incidents occur. Some kind of CISM program: Critical Incident Stress Management. Troopers are required to take time off and have counseling when critical incidents occur; yet VPSOs may have to go right back out in very little time, even just a few hours, after having spent all day and night on a suicide or other tragedy. And this is done without counseling or other support.

- ***Training*** is critical, including for search and rescue and the other areas of responsibility, not just law enforcement. Training when they start, as well as periodically after that. Perhaps have someone come once a month to check in and answer questions, or assist in knowing how to handle something differently, or to confirm the handling of a particular incident was correctly done. It should not just be something that is done when they are hired; it needs to be continuous if they are to be effective and capable in performing their jobs.

- They need a decent ***public safety building*** where prisoners can be housed, and ***things like blankets and pillows are provided***. VPSOs often use their own homes and/or their own pillows and blankets.

- They have many, many ***equipment needs*** that are not being met. Often VPSOs use their own equipment at their own expense. Here is a list of some of the things mentioned:

- Transportation like ATVs, snowmobiles, boats, etc and the gas to run them.
- Phone and fax, including sat phones and radios.
- Oil and electricity for the public safety building
- Stamps and other supplies

- Although uniforms are provided, due to various weather considerations, they are not always satisfactory. Having ***uniforms to reflect weather issues*** for the seasons is needed.

Dragon Slayers Aniak

- Perhaps some money could be put toward ***prevention***. Ideas mentioned were: ***education programs, street lights, and teen centers*** or other activities that would provide something to do.

- Also mentioned was the need to ***promote VPSOs*** through some type of campaign similar to what is done for the troopers. Something to improve how they are viewed, ***show them as being respected*** and respectable.

Some things came up that may require changes to law:

- There is a need to have ***a way of pardoning past crimes in some cases*** so that capable people who are now on the right path can qualify. Too often, people do things when they are young that they regret and that they would not do as an adult. But having done something stupid when they were young can take them out of consideration for a VPSO position. People do change, especially if the mistake was made when they were young, and/or it was an isolated occurrence rather than a pattern of behavior. With the difficulty in finding VPSOs and with the high rate of suicide among youth especially, this change if done carefully could make a big difference.

- Could the ***money from forfeitures*** in rural Alaska be used to pay for rural public safety? How much money is involved?

- Could some kind of ***rural public safety fund be established*** to pay for some of what is needed? Perhaps the forfeiture dollars could go into such a fund if one could be established.

- Would it be possible for ***VPSOs to be able to confiscate drugs and alcohol***, including home brew, when it is discovered; and especially if the

community is dry or damp? Often people can be seen walking with it openly, but because they have not broken a law, nothing can be done.

***The report of findings and recommendations is due February 15, 2008.***

BYRON L. DORGAN, NORTH DAKOTA, CHAIRMAN
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United States Senate
COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6450
http://indian.senate.gov

November 7, 2007

Dear Tribal Leader:

Over the past year, the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs has held three hearings and convened a number of listening sessions and meetings with tribal leaders to discuss the state of tribal justice systems. These meetings confirm that tribal communities are in the midst of a public safety crisis. I write to ask for your participation in developing legislation to address this crisis and to improve the current system.

Attached is a concept paper that is based on tribal leader comments and recommendations received at our hearings and meetings. The paper describes some of the deficiencies in the tribal justice system, and lists some legislative solutions offered by tribal leaders. The paper was developed to help begin the discussion, which will take place in the coming weeks. This concept paper is merely a set of ideas and we would like to solicit your comment and ideas before deciding on a strategy.

I look forward to working with you to address the serious law enforcement problems that exist in Indian Country. If you have any questions, please contact our staff at the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs at (202) 224-2251.

Sincerely,

Byron L. Dorgan
Chairman

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## SUMMARY OF THE LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS

*FEDERAL ACCOUNTABILITY-COORDINATION MEASURES*

- U.S. Attorneys often decline to prosecute Indian Country crimes, and fail to coordinate with tribal prosecutors. *Mandate federal officials to file and maintain data on declination reports.*
- The legal resources at the Federal level are overburdened. *Create an Office of Indian Country Crime within the Criminal Division, and authorize the Department of Justice to appoint tribal prosecutors as Special Assistant U.S. Attorneys.*
- Tribes have no one office to go to within the Department of Justice to answer their questions. *Elevate and define the role of the Office of Tribal Justice as a resource for tribal leaders.*
- U.S. Attorney tribal liaisons have proven helpful in prosecuting Indian country crimes, but are inconsistent in delivery of services and communication with tribal communities. *Define the role of Tribal Liaisons at appropriate U.S. Attorney's Offices.*
- Tribal leaders complain that the Department of Justice's grant programs are inflexible, and fail to account for the unique law enforcement needs of Indian communities. *Require the Department of Justice to consult with tribes on the administration of tribal programs.*
- Prosecution of misdemeanor and some other Indian Country crimes do not count towards U.S. Attorney evaluations. *Require U.S. Attorneys' evaluations to include credit for all Indian Country prosecutions, including misdemeanors.*
- Tribal leaders have raised concerns that the current organizational structure of the Bureau of Indian Affairs' Office of Justice Services (BIA-OJS), including the Internal Affairs Office, has led to a lack of coordination and response to the law enforcement needs of tribal communities. *Enhance coordination between BIA-OJS and tribal law enforcement agencies.*

*STATE ACCOUNTABILITY-COORDINATION MEASURES*

- Federal laws delegate responsibility of many violent crimes committed on Indian lands to several State governments; however, the laws provide no means of holding States accountable for failure to provide public safety to tribal communities. *Clarify that the Federal Government retains concurrent authority over all PL 280 jurisdictions*
- *Authorize Tribes to to adopt resolutions to retrocede jurisdiction back to the federal and tribal governments when States refuse to provide public safety*
- *Set minimum resource (funding and personnel) requirements for States that wish to continue to exercise authority over reservation crimes. If States cannot meet the requirements, then authority over reservation crimes should retrocede back to the federal and tribal governments*
- *Establish programs that provide incentives to Tribes and States to coordinate law enforcement strategies and criminal information (See Wisconsin Stat)*

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*EMPOWERING TRIBAL LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES AND TRIBAL GOVERNMENTS*

- Tribal law enforcement officers are often the first responders to crimes committed on Indian lands. However, federal laws limit the authority of tribal officers to arrest non-Indian suspects. *Expand on program to grant special commissions that enable tribal police officers to make arrests for* ***all crimes*** *committed on Indian lands.*
- Tribal law enforcement officers are often the first responders to crimes committed on Indian lands, but few have access to criminal databases that enable them to determine whether a suspect is dangerous or has a prior criminal record. *Authorize tribal law enforcement to access national criminal databases.*
- There exists a significant shortage in police personnel on Indian lands. Recruitment and retention of tribal police officers is difficult. The problem is exacerbated by the fact that Bureau of Indian Affairs police officers are required to receive training at the Indian Police Academy in Albuquerque, NM. *Provide greater flexibility for training of tribal law enforcement officers.*
- Tribal law enforcement agencies rely in on available tribal and federal funds and have been historically underfunded. *Establish a federally-chartered tribal law enforcement foundation to support the mission of tribal police departments.*

*PROGRAMS AND RESOURCES FOR TRIBAL JUSTICE SYSTEMS*

- Alcohol plays a role in 80% of crimes committed on Indian lands. The Indian alcohol and substance abuse act expired in 2000, and has not been funded within the BIA since 2005. *Reauthorize and amend the Indian Alcohol & Substance Abuse Act*
- The Indian Tribal Justice Support (ITJSA) and the Tribal Technical & Legal Assistance (TTLA) Acts fund essential tribal court services, the ITJSA expired September 30, 2007; TLAA expired in FY 2004. *Reauthorize the Indian Tribal Justice Support and Technical & Legal Assistance Acts*
- BIA funds meet only 30% of need regarding tribal law enforcement personnel. Tribes have used the DOJ Community Oriented Policing Services Program since FY 1999 to supplement law enforcement personnel. The program has worked well to help tribal police presence; however, tribal leaders complain that the program only offers temporary 3-5 year funding. *Reauthorize and amend the Tribal Community Oriented Policing Services program within the Department of Justice to provide for long term funding.*
- Tribal jails funding has a $400 million backlog. As a result tribal courts are forced to release offenders often without punishment. *Reauthorize and expand on the Department of Justice Tribal Jails program.*
- *Authorize the construction of regional detention centers for long-term incarceration where deemed appropriate by a consortium of Tribes*

- *Authorize the transfer of prisoners convicted of violent crimes in tribal court to federal prisons with placement assurances.*
- *Authorize/expand on the Native American Probation Office Liaison program*

*COLLECTION OF INDIAN COUNTRY CRIME DATA*

- Indian Country crime data either does not exist or is unreliable. This deficiency hinders a comprehensive understanding of crime trends in Indian Country and limits the development of effective strategies for crime prevention. In addition, without reliable data law enforcement agencies cannot effectively allocate resources or measure strategic approaches. *Require the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Federal Bureau of Investigations, and U.S. Attorneys to track crimes committed in Indian Country by adding an "Indian Country" category to the Uniform Crime Reports; require the Bureau of Justice Statistics to report to Congress annually*
- *Require the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Federal Bureau of Investigation, and the Bureau of Justice Statistics to help establish **tribal** data collection systems*
- *Establish or enhance existing Department of Justice data collection programs for Tribes*
- ***Establish a Congressional Indian Crime Commission** to review the tribal criminal justice system and make recommendations for needed reforms*

*DOMESTIC VIOLENCE & SEXUAL ASSAULT PILOT PROJECT*

- Approximately 70% of the violent victimizations against Indian women are committed by non-Indians, over whom tribal courts have no jurisdiction. The Amnesty Report noted, "The apparent gap in jurisdiction or enforcement has encouraged non-Indian individuals to pursue criminal activities of various kinds in Indian Country." *Establish a pilot program to enhance tribal court jurisdiction over all domestic and sexual violence crimes committed on Indian lands regardless of the race of the offender.*
- Tribal police training programs provide little focus domestic and sexual violence crimes, while in practice, police in Indian Country routinely face these crimes. As a result, many tribal and federal police are not equipped with the skills to adequately address crimes of sexual violence. *Enhance family violence training for tribal and federal law enforcement*

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## CONCEPT PAPER FOR AN INDIAN COUNTRY CRIME BILL

In 2007, the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs has held three hearings and convened a number of listening sessions and other meetings with tribal leaders to discuss the state of Indian Country justice. These meetings confirm that tribal communities are mired in a severe public safety crisis.

Those who live in Indian Country know that the crime problems that tribal communities face are not recent developments. In 1975, during the Ford Administration, a "Task Force on Indian Matters" within the Department of Justice found that "law enforcement on most Indian reservations is in serious trouble."[1] This Task Force stated the following reasons for reservation crime in the early 1970s: a confusing jurisdictional structure, inadequate funding of tribal justice systems, inadequate training of tribal and federal police, and a lack of coordination between and within government law enforcement agencies responsible for reservation crimes.

**The problem of Indian Country crime and the reasons for it given in 1975 continue unchanged to the present day.**

In some ways the problem has been exacerbated by the growth of the reservation population, the increase in non-Indian traffic, and the result of the Supreme Court's *Oliphant v. Suquamish* decision. The statistics are staggering. American Indians are victims of violent crime at more than 2.5 times the rate of the rest of the population. More than 1 in 3 Native women will be raped or be subject to sexual violence in their lifetimes. Crime rates on remote reservations exceed 10 times the national average.

Tribal communities have suffered with the broken system of justice for more than 30 years. This longstanding crisis demands an immediate and comprehensive response.

This paper addresses five deficiencies: (1) accountability at the federal level for meeting the obligation of enforcing federal crimes on Indian lands; (2) cooperation and accountability of tribal, state, and local authorities with responsibility over Indian Country crimes, particularly those in Public Law 280 jurisdictions; (3) authority of tribal police to arrest and tribal governments to prosecute and proportionately punish crimes on Indian lands; (4) resources for tribal justice systems; and (5) data collection at all levels. A separate section is included to discuss the prevalence of and solutions to domestic violence and sexual assaults against women in Indian Country.

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[1] Doris Meissner, U.S. DOJ, Rept on the Task Force on Indian Matters 23 (1975).

## ISSUE #1: LACK OF FEDERAL GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY

As noted above, the criminal justice system that exists in Indian Country today is the product of over 200 years of disjointed federal laws and court decisions based on outdated federal policies.[2] The current system divides responsibility to police Indian lands to federal, state, and tribal governments.[3]

Under this system, many tribal communities rely solely on the Federal Government (the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI), and U.S. Attorney's Offices (USAOs)) to investigate and prosecute violent crimes and other felonies committed on Indian lands.

A glaring deficiency in the system is the lack of any method of accountability on the part of the Federal Government. When a breakdown occurs, tribal governments and community members have no means of demanding a response to their local law enforcement concerns and have no input in decisions which are made hundreds and even thousands of miles away in Washington, D.C.

Tribal leaders and citizens have consistently lodged complaints to Congress that federal and State officials often decline requests for investigate and prosecute reservation crimes, and fail to keep the Tribe and the victims of crime informed about the status of investigations or prosecutions. Federal officials are not required to maintain these records.

Another common complaint is that officials within the Department of Justice (DOJ) and Department of the Interior (DOI) refuse to consult with tribal governments. These agencies routinely make internal decisions using unpublished guidelines that affect the investigation and prosecution of Indian Country crimes, and the administration of programs designed for the benefit of tribal justice systems. Tribal leaders have asked that these guidelines be made public, and that they be consulted prior to making these determinations.

Consistency in law enforcement personnel is essential to building trust within tribal communities. However, BIA routinely transfers police officers from reservation to reservation without providing an explanation to or receiving input from the tribal communities that they serve.

In the past, the BIA provided an annual law enforcement spending report to Congress and Tribes. That practice has not been followed for the past six years.

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[2] The Major Crimes Act and Public Law 83-280 were enacted during the eras of Assimilation and Termination respectively. The now-repudiated policies behind these Acts were rooted in paternalism. Their ultimate goals were to destroy tribal cultures, and terminate the status of tribes as governments.

[3] See Appendix A for breakdown of jurisdiction over Indian Country crimes.

Absent consultation at the community level, many tribal leaders are forced to travel to Washington, D.C. to demand answers. Tribal leaders who have made the journey complain that there is no single office within DOJ that has both the information to answer their questions and the authority to respond to their needs.

The following is a summary of possible legislative solutions to address the lack of accountability at the federal level for reservation crimes.

**Recommendations**

- **Mandate federal filing of declination reports.** Current law authorizes the BIA, FBI, and USAs to report to tribal officials when declining to investigate or prosecute a major crime committed in Indian Country. The bill should mandate that federal officials file declination reports and maintain specific data on such declinations.
- **Authorize DOJ to appoint tribal prosecutors as Special AUSAs.** Federal law authorizes the Attorney General to "appoint attorneys to assist United States attorneys when the public interest so requires." (28 USC §543). The bill should clarify that USAs can appoint tribal prosecutors to handle Indian Country crimes.
- **Institutionalize OTJ.** The Office of Tribal Justice is only able to serve the needs of tribal leaders if it has access to the Department decision-makers and access to timely information. The bill should institutionalize OTJ, elevate the office within the Department, and codify its mission.
- **Create an Office of Indian Country Crime within the Criminal Division.** This office would work under the direction of a Deputy Assistant Attorney General to: (1) ensure that the law enforcement needs of Indian Country receive focused attention; (2) manage an office of criminal prosecutors offering assistance and expertise to U.S. Attorneys; (3) measure performance and respond to referred prosecutions; (4) facilitate cooperation among tribal and state law enforcement and the various branches of federal law enforcement; (5) and serve as a point of contact and information for Congress, tribal governments, and the public on matters related to Indian Country law enforcement.
- **Tribal Liaisons at each District.** DOJ routinely appoints tribal liaisons at USAOs. However, tribes have reported inconsistent success and responsiveness from the various offices. The bill should require DOJ to appoint a tribal liaison to each District with significant Indian Country jurisdiction, and define the duties of the tribal liaison in order to provide more consistent results to an already successful program.
- **DOJ Consultation.** Legislation should require the Attorney General to consult with tribes in administering programs that affect their justice systems.
- **USAO Evaluations.** DOJ evaluates individual USAs and Assistant USAs based on the number and type of successful prosecutions completed. The bill should require the Attorney General to include all prosecutions in Indian Country towards the positive evaluation of federal prosecutors.
- **BIA Accountability**. Require BIA Special Agents in Charge (SACs) to meet with tribal leaders at their request at the BIA Superintendent's office so that BIA officials can better coordinate on the full array of community needs. Legislation should require the BIA to submit an annual law enforcement spending report to Congress and tribal leaders.

## ISSUE #2: TRIBAL, STATE, AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT COOPERATION

Tribal, State, and local governments share a range of common interests, including the interest in maintaining public safety in their communities on limited budgets. Public safety is, however, a fluid condition. When it breaks down in one jurisdiction, chances are that breakdown will spill over into a nearby community. Thus, public safety in many tribal and nearby communities depends heavily on cooperation between tribal, state, and local governments.

A number of factors add to the need for Tribes and States to coordinate law enforcement services to their citizens, including: Public Law 83-280; the lack of tribal authority over non-Indians; and the increase in criminal use of Indian lands as safe havens to distribute drugs and other illegal substances to the tribal and nearby local communities.

Congress enacted Public Law 83-280 (PL 280) in 1953, in large part at the urging of State governments so that they would have greater authority over reservation matters. Today, more than half of all federally recognized tribes are subject to PL 280 jurisdiction.[4]

As a result of the Act, Public Law 280 State governments have a legal obligation to prosecute most crimes committed on Indian lands. While States have concurrent authority with Tribes over these crimes, many tribal governments rely almost entirely on the States to meet their legal obligation.[5]

As is the case with the Federal Government's obligation to police Indian lands, tribal leaders in PL 280 jurisdictions complain that State police are unresponsive to calls for criminal investigations and the public safety needs of tribal communities. Like the Major Crime Act, PL 280 implemented no mechanism to hold State governments responsible for the obligations incurred.

Moreover, there is no consensus among State or tribal justice officials about the legal implications, obligations, rights, and effects of PL 280. As a result, Tribes and local governments have engaged in disputes over which government has or doesn't have authority over a particular crime.

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[4] PL 280 continues to have a broad effect in Indian Country. Today Public Law 280 and like statutes structure law enforcement and criminal justice for 23% of the reservation-based tribal population in the Lower 48 states and all the Alaskan Natives. Another way of measuring its impact is that 51 % of all federally-recognized tribes in the lower 48 states, and 70 % of all recognized tribes (including Alaska Native villages) are affected by Public Law 280 [and like statutes].

[5] "Only 21% of PL 280 tribes in mandatory states outside Alaska have police departments. In contrast, 74 % of all remaining tribes in the lower 48 states, including those in the optional Public Law 280 states, have tribal police departments.... [Restricting the analysis to tribes with reservation populations over 100], 35% of all PL 280 tribes with reservation populations greater than 100 in mandatory states other than Alaska have tribal police departments. By comparison, 80% of all other tribes in the lower 48 states with reservation populations greater than 100 have tribal police departments." {*Cite*}

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However, despite the antagonistic underpinnings of PL 280, a number of Tribes and States have proven that these disputes and complaints can be avoided.[6] Tribes and States have forged working law enforcement relationships, negotiated exactly what the legal obligations are and are not of each government, and devised agreed-upon plans to provide public safety services to their communities.

In non-PL 280 jurisdictions, cooperation is essential to addressing crimes committed by non-Indians. If there is no cross-deputization agreement in place, tribal police will be unable to arrest the non-Indian offender, and local law enforcement will rarely choose to enter reservation lands. When state police do respond, they have to proceed carefully when investigating the crime, absent clear, agreed-upon arrest procedures.

The following is a summary of possible legislative solutions to address the lack of accountability and coordination between Tribes and States to address reservation crimes.

**Recommendations**

- **Clarify PL 280 Jurisdiction.** The bill should clarify that the Federal Government retains concurrent authority over all PL 280 jurisdictions.
- **Authorize Tribal Retrocession.** For a number of reasons, State governments have not been able to meet their obligation to provide public safety services to tribal communities. In these cases, the bill should authorize Tribes to to adopt resolutions to retrocede jurisdiction back to the federal and tribal governments.
- **Establish PL 280 Accountability Agreements.** The bill should set minimum resource (funding and personnel) requirements for States that wish to continue to exercise authority over reservation crimes. If States cannot meet the requirements, then authority over reservation crimes should retrocede back to the federal and tribal governments.
- **Create incentives for States and local government cooperation on law enforcement issues.** Establish a program within the Office of Justice Programs that would encourage tribal-state cooperative law enforcement efforts. An example is found in Wisconsin Statutes §165.90, which provides State grants to joint tribal-county law enforcement plans. This program has been evaluated as very successful in improving reservation law enforcement in Wisconsin. *See David Lovell, Senior Analyst, WI Legislative Staff, Wisconsin's County-Tribal Law Enforcement Program (June 27, 2000).*

## ISSUE #3: LOCAL TRIBAL AUTHORITY OVER RESERVATION CRIME

For decades, community policing has proven to be the best method of combating crime. When law enforcement and justice officials develop relationships with citizens and possess a personal investment in the community, they are more likely to understand that community and its law enforcement needs. However, the opportunity of strong community policing is limited in Indian Country.

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[6] *See* Wis. Stat. §165.90.

Tribal law enforcement officers are the first responders to reservation crimes, but the jurisdictional scheme in place limits their arrest authority. Tribal police officers are generally only permitted to arrest individuals for crimes over which tribal courts have criminal jurisdiction. Thus, tribal officers have to restrain offenders until a county, State, or federal officer arrives, which can be difficult due to the remoteness of reservations, limited Federal and State law enforcement budgets, and the lack of coordination.[7]

The problem with the system is that State, local, and Federal governments have responsibility over Indian Country crimes, but they rarely dedicate an amount of funding that is equal to that responsibility. State and local governments prioritize the public safety needs of their own communities. Federal law enforcement agencies are focused on terrorism, homeland security, and immigration. Public safety in Indian Country is often last on the priority list.

At the same time, tribal governments have only limited jurisdiction, but they are often the only day-to-day regulators of public safety in Indian Country. Tribal police are also the only law enforcement agencies with a vested interest in and understanding of the public safety needs of their communities.

Tribal justice systems represent the last and sometimes only opportunity at obtaining justice for victims of reservation crimes that fall through the federal or state systems. Without prosecution at the tribal level, many of these crimes go unpunished.

Another barrier to tribal policing is the limited access that tribal law enforcement agencies have to national criminal databases.

The Committee has received an increasing number of reports about criminal organizations exploiting the confusion created by the jurisdictional scheme in place. That confusion coupled with a lack of police presence has made Indian reservations soft targets for criminal organizations.

Federal law enforcement officials have stated that Indian reservations are being used as a business development tool by large drug trafficking organizations. Authorities have seized documents outlining the distribution plans of drug organizations to replace alcohol with methamphetamine on reservations and their nearby communities.

This reality makes it essential that tribal police have the ability to access and share criminal history and other information among jurisdictions. Information sharing alternatives include interoperable communication systems, integrated justice information sharing systems, and reliable crime statistics, terrorism, and criminal intelligence. While

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[7] A program that is working in Indian Country is the granting of Special Law Enforcement Commission (SLECs) to tribal officers to enforce federal law, and thus, make arrests of any individual (Indian or non-Indian) committing a crime on Indian lands. The program was not being sufficiently implemented by the BIA. However, several U.S. Attorneys' Offices have taken the initiative of granting Special Commissions through their offices. The BIA would still have to approve the MOU granting the SLEC. Some Tribes complain that the BIA is inflexible in amending its "boiler plate" MOU.

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Tribes are permitted limited access to some of these programs, such access is difficult to obtain and is not standardized.

Enhancing authority and legitimacy of the local tribal justice system is crucial to addressing problems with the administration of justice in Indian Country. The following are only a few possible recommendations for legislative provisions to enhance the authority of tribal governments to directly address reservation crimes.

**Recommendations**

- **Tribal Law Enforcement Arrest Authority.** Current law provides that BIA law enforcement can enforce federal laws on Indian lands. The BIA and a recent DOJ program have offered Special Law Enforcement Commissions to tribal police officers. Legislation should expand on this program, clarify the standards required of tribal officers, and permit flexibility in reaching MOUs between the BIA and the tribal governments seeking special commissions. Legislation should also look to expanding the arresting authority of tribal and federal officers over all crimes committed on Indian lands regardless of the nature of the offense (tribal, federal, or state crime) or the status of the offender as Indian or not.

- **Law Enforcement Information Access.** The bill should enhance coordination, information sharing, and cooperation between tribal, state, and federal law enforcement officers and prosecutors. It should authorize tribal police officers that meet established training and other requirements to access national criminal databases and interoperable communications, and establish clear and consistent standards to permit such access.
- **Law Enforcement Training and Recruitment.** Legislation should establish flexible but consistent national standards for tribal police officer training, require quicker turn around time from the United States for background checks of potential tribal officers, and encourage the BIA to implement a recruitment and retention program.
- **Law Enforcement Foundation.** The current funding for law enforcement is limited. The bill should establish a federally-chartered tribal law enforcement foundation to support the mission of tribal police departments. The foundation would supplement funding for law enforcement activities such as community policing, equipment, and other essential needs.
- **Regional Information Sharing System Grants, (42 USC §3796h).** This program authorizes the Director of BJA to make grants and enter into contracts with State and local criminal justice agencies and non-profit organizations to identify, target, and remove criminal and terrorist conspiracies and activities spanning jurisdictional boundaries. Legislation should establish a tribal set-aside within this program.
- **Federal Indian Country Crime Commission.** Establish a commission made up of judges, law enforcement officers, legal experts, and tribal officials to review the current tribal criminal justice system and to make recommendations relating to jurisdiction, the establishment of federal court satellites on Indian lands, enhancement of tribal court jurisdiction and sentencing authority, and other needed reforms.

**ISSUE #4: RESOURCES TO SUPPORT TRIBAL JUSTICE SYSTEMS**

Many of the deficiencies listed above can be attributed to the lack of resources dedicated to address reservation crime at all levels of government responsible for such crime.

Maintaining law and order in Indian Country is both a legal and moral obligation that the United States incurred in the over two centuries of dealings with tribal governments. Through treaty and other agreements, Indian Tribes ceded hundreds of millions of acres of their homelands to help build the Nation. In a 1970 Special Message on Indian Affairs, President Nixon summarized the United States' related obligation: "The government has agreed to provide community services such as health, education and public safety, services which would presumably allow Indian communities to enjoy a standard of living comparable to that of other Americans." The Interior Department, through the BIA, provides a base funding stream for all tribal government justice programs to meet a portion of the United States' treaty obligation.

In addition to this broad trust responsibility, the United States Constitution, federal laws, and Supreme Court decisions all acknowledge that Indian Tribes are separate distinct governments within our federal system. As a result, just as DOJ administers grant programs for the benefit of State and local government justice systems, such grants are also made available to tribal governments to supplement their justice systems.

DOJ's FBI presence in Indian Country has understandably dropped sharply in the years since September 11, 2001. FBI activity on Indian lands in New Mexico is down 58%, Washington -55%, Oklahoma -70%, Minnesota -87%, and Utah -50%.

At the same time, funding for tribal justice systems within DOJ that would enable Tribes to make up for the lessened federal presence has consistently dropped over the past seven years. In FY 2000, Congress appropriated the following funding amounts for tribal justice programs within DOJ: tribal COPS program – $40 million; tribal jails – $34 million, and the Tribal Youth Program – $12.5 million. The funding for these programs in FY 2006-07 was $15 million, $9 million, and $10 million respectively. The Administration sought to eliminate these programs in its FY 2008 Budget.

Less than 2500 federal and tribal law enforcement officers patrol 56 million acres of Indian lands. Many reservations are larger than some States. Because of this lack of law enforcement personnel and the remote nature of many reservations, survivors of violent crime report waiting hours and even days for police to respond to their calls.

In addition, many tribal courts systems lack computers, essential tracking systems and public defenders. Tribal jails also face a $400 million construction backlog. While DOJ provides some funding for jail construction, the BIA provides funding for maintenance, operation, and training of tribal jails and corrections officers.

Given the limited sentencing authority of tribal courts, most tribal jails were built with short-term incarceration in mind. However, in recent years tribal prosecutors have picked up violent criminal cases that fall through the cracks in the federal system, and stacked offenses in an attempt to ensure that the punishment meets the level of the crime. As a

result, the current tribal jails system now includes a diverse mix of petty misdemeanor criminals and hard core violent offenders.

Tribal leaders have noted that there is lack of juvenile justice programs in Indian Country to address the growing problem of juvenile and gang crime. The great majority of Indian Tribes lack a comprehensive juvenile justice system. Many juveniles are not punished for crimes, and status offenses are completely ignored. While DOJ's Tribal Youth Program is a proven success for delinquency prevention, the program is limited in offerings to address juveniles after they are in the tribal or federal court system.

Because of the limited resources available and the complex nature of tribal justice systems, tribal justice administrators are forced to be creative when implementing programs to address crime in their communities. However, this creativity is not welcomed or permitted in many federal programs. Further, federal grants have varying deadlines and requirements, making it administratively complex and time consuming.

**Recommendations**

- **Reauthorize the Tribal Justice Support & and Tribal Technical and Legal Assistance Acts**, (25 U.S.C. §§ 3601-3681).
- **Reauthorize and Amend the Tribal COPS program**, (42 USC § 3796dd - 3796dd-8), to establish a long-term grant program for tribal police departments.
- **Reauthorize the DOJ Tribal Jails program,** (42 USC § 13709), and clarify that Tribes can use funds to construct tribal court buildings.
- **Tribal Jails.** The bill should establish a permanent funding stream for facilities, staffing, training, and maintenance of local tribal jails for short-term incarceration. This provision should consider alternative sentencing programs and the use of private contract firms for more efficient construction.
- **Regional Detention Facilities**. The bill should establish a funding stream to authorize construction of regional detention centers for longer term incarceration where deemed appropriate by a consortium of Tribes.
- **Transfer tribal prisoners to the Bureau of Prison**. Legislation should establish a program for the regular transfer of violent criminals convicted in tribal court to federal prisons.
- **Increase Funding for Indian Probation Officer Liaisons.** Federal parole officers supervise offenders who are sentenced to a term of probation by the court or who are on parole or supervised release after they're released from prison. Legislation should expand on the Indian Liaison program.
- **Tribal Youth Program,** (42 USC §3796ee-1). The bill should strengthen and expand upon the Tribal Youth Program within DOJ to include programs beyond delinquency prevention.
- **Flexibility of Administration of Tribal Programs**. The bill should require that all federal tribal justice programs should make efforts to allow innovative approaches to justice, including traditional mechanisms of social control.

- **Streamlining Funding Programs**. The bill should consider streamlining tribal justice funding programs to cut administrative costs and time for Tribes, while including adequate accountability requirements.

## ISSUE #5: LACK OF INDIAN COUNTRY CRIME DATA

For years, tribal leaders have rightly asserted that Indian Country crime data either does not exist or is unreliable. There is no sustainable system for collecting data of crimes committed on Indian lands. This deficiency hinders a comprehensive understanding of crime trends in Indian Country and limits the development of effective strategies for crime prevention. In addition, without reliable data law enforcement agencies cannot effectively allocate resources or measure strategic approaches.

The lack of timely and reliable crime data is also a proven impediment to obtaining federal funding for tribal justice programs. Without current data, the Administration is less likely to request and Congress is less likely to appropriate significant resources to help address this serious and pervasive problem.

Because the BIA, FBI, and U.S. Attorney's Offices have primary responsibility for violent crimes in Indian Country, the United States should develop and maintain a self-sustaining system for tracking Indian Country crime data. No such system exists.

The Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) conducted one of the first reported studies on American Indians and crime in 1999, which studied the years 1992-1996. In 2004, BJS followed up the '99 report with a similar study of the years 1992-2002. No national reports or updates have been conducted since the 2004 report.

From 1993-2004, BJS compiled a compendium of federal justice statistics. These statistics are very useful, but they lack a specific tribal component. While the studies examine the types of federal offenses committed and the race of criminals in the federal system, they do not make clear which crimes were committed in Indian Country.

**Recommendations**

- **Federal Data Collection.** The bill should require the BIA, FBI, and U.S. Attorneys to track crimes committed in Indian Country. It should consider adding an "Indian Country" category to the Uniform Crime Reports, and require BJS to report to Congress annually on national Indian Country crime data.
- **Tribal Data Collection.** The lack of resources and expertise in data collection at the tribal level has prevented many Tribes from collecting their own data on reservation crimes. The bill should establish a program directing the BIA, FBI, and BJS to work with tribal governments to implement tribal data collection systems.
- **Improvement of Criminal Justice Records, (42 USC §3759).** This program provides grants to States and local governments to improve their criminal justice records, including completion and automation of criminal histories, improving their criminal records systems and the sharing of such data with the Attorney General. Legislation should consider establishing a similar program for tribal governments.

## DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND SEXUAL ASSAULTS IN INDIAN COUNTRY PILOT PROJECT

The prevalence of sexual violence against women in Indian Country has been well-documented. The April 2007 Amnesty Report found that more than 34% of Native women will be raped in their lifetimes. This percentage is more than 2.5 times the rate of other women in the United States. Amnesty also found that a significant percentage of perpetrators against Indian women are non-Indian. BJS confirmed this finding and has reported that at least 70% of the violent victimizations Indians are committed by non-Indians. The Amnesty Report noted, "The apparent gap in jurisdiction or enforcement has encouraged non-Indian individuals to pursue criminal activities of various kinds in Indian Country."

The title of the Amnesty Report "Maze of Injustice" alludes to the confusion created by the jurisdictional "maze" on Indian lands discussed in detail above. This complex scheme hampers law enforcement and delays the process of investigating and prosecuting crimes of domestic and sexual violence.

The gaps in jurisdiction and lack of accountability are particularly glaring in the area of domestic and sexual violence crimes. Advocates for Native women survivors of sexual assaults have reported that serial rapists plague reservations with impunity, in part because there is no system of accountability in place. They claim that these criminals target reservations based on the lack of law enforcement presence, and a known lack of coordination among tribal and state officials.

With regard to sexual violence, the lack of resources is also devastating. In addition to the lack of law enforcement, Tribes face severe shortfalls in health care. Forty-four percent of Indian Health Service (IHS) facilities lack personnel trained to provide emergency services to respond to sexual violence, and 30% lack the basic protocols for treating victims.

Victims of sexual violence report delays of hours and even days before receiving a response to their distress call. When victims' calls are answered, the local health facility may lack the necessary sexual assault evidence kit. Some victims are forced to travel hundreds of miles in to reach a health facility where the critical forensic examination can be performed. Even then, there is no guarantee that an exam will be performed.

Many advocacy groups report that the police officers often lack the necessary training to respond appropriately to sexual assaults. Few tribal, state, and federal officer training programs include in-depth components on responding to domestic violence, rape, and other crimes of sexual violence. The Basic Police Officer Training Program, offered by the Indian Police Academy trains a significant number of tribal and all BIA police. The program includes intensive training for a number of issues including narcotics, preservation of evidence, criminalistics, civil rights, Indian county law, and BIA specialized training. Little focus is provided on domestic and sexual violence crimes,

while in practice, police in Indian Country routinely face these crimes. As a result, many tribal and federal police are not equipped with the skills to adequately address crimes of sexual violence.

Jurisdictional confusion, lack of police training, lengthy delays in starting investigations, and lack of prioritization all play a role in permitting crimes of sexual violence to occur with impunity. The end result is that many instances of sexual violence against Indian women go unpunished.

A National Public Radio report of rapes on the Standing Rock Sioux Reservation found that a number of cases "are going unreported, uninvestigated, and unprosecuted." NPR interviewed an ex-BIA police officer who confirmed that many sexual assault cases are never investigated.

When crimes are investigated, they often fall apart in court. From October 1, 2003-September 30, 2004, federal prosecutors declined to prosecute 60.3% of the sexual violence cases filed with their offices. The BIA is consistently among the federal investigating agencies with the highest percentage of cases declined by federal prosecutors. Once declined in the federal system, there is little chance of prosecution. Only 27 of the 475 cases that the United States declined during FY 2004 were prosecuted in other courts.

Crimes against Indian women and children strike at the very heart of tribal sovereignty. These drastic crimes by their very nature attack the political integrity of tribal governments. As a result, legislation to address violent crimes in Indian Country should consider returning criminal jurisdiction over these crimes to tribal courts to prosecute regardless of the status of the defendant as Indian or not. Empowering tribal governments to try crimes committed on their lands corresponds with Congress policy of strengthening tribal self-determination. In addition, trying these crimes within the community in which they were perpetuated will lessen the perceptions of bias in the federal justice system, and at the same time strengthen community members' faith in the tribal justice system.

**Recommendations**

- **Establish a Pilot Project** to enhance tribal court jurisdiction and sentencing authority over a set of domestic and sexual violence crimes committed on Indian lands regardless of the race of the offender. The project should establish standards to ensure adequate constitutional protections for defendants. It should also establish programs to aid tribal justice systems in meeting these requirements.
- **Authorize Non-Indians to Voluntarily Enter Tribal Drug Courts** for lesser offenses (misdemeanors) that involve domestic abuse.
- **Establish as a federal crime the violation of any court's domestic protective order while on a federal enclave, including Indian Country.**
- **Enhance family violence training for tribal and federal law enforcement.** The bill should consider mandating that BIA and tribal police receive significant training in responding to domestic and sexual violence crimes.

• Opening remarks – Senator Olson

- Purpose of the Task Force

In May 2007, the Senate passed SR7, "A resolution creating and relating to the Senate VPSO Task Force". This resolution created a Task Force to find ways to strengthen and improve public safety in rural Alaska by identifying problems with the Village Public Safety Officer (VPSO) program, and ways those problems might be addressed.

- What we hope to accomplish

By taking testimony from those most affected by rural public safety issues, we hope the ideas, concerns and potential solutions discussed at these meetings will give the Task Force what it needs to make thoughtful recommendations for improvement to the Legislature.

- Process we are using

We are holding 7 public hearings, and an additional meeting with most of the VPSOs to share the results of these meetings, and solicit their feedback and ideas as well.

Nome
Ganovey
Savoonga
Bethel
Emmonak
Mtn Village
Kodiak