

**State of Alaska**  
**FY2009 Governor's Operating Budget**

**Department of Public Safety**  
**Village Public Safety Officer Program**  
**Results Delivery Unit Budget Summary**

## Village Public Safety Officer Program Results Delivery Unit

### Contribution to Department's Mission

The mission of the Village Public Safety Officer program is to preserve public peace, and protect life and property in rural villages.

### Core Services

Throughout rural Alaska, Village Public Safety Officers (VPSOs) are often the first responders to incidents, and/or the only individuals immediately available to provide a broad range of public safety services in their village. These functions range from basic law enforcement, to probationer and parolee supervision, to provision of first aid to the injured, to assisting with search and rescue missions, and with fire prevention activities.

Currently 51 state-funded VPSO positions and 19 federally funded VPSOs represent an on-going positive public safety presence in their villages and surrounding communities. VPSOs are employees of regional non-profit corporations but may receive direction from village leadership while receiving training and support from state troopers. At any given point in time, there are only about 45 to 50 filled VPSO positions due to challenges with recruiting qualified applicants.

State troopers travel to VPSO villages in support of the VPSOs. During these visits, troopers provide training on specific subjects such as writing reports and search and rescue coordination. The close working relationship between VPSOs and troopers helps foster a unified law enforcement team for rural Alaska. The oversight helps to develop trust and confidence in the VPSOs so they can be more successful in their mission. It further helps establish the necessary support and backup by the troopers for the VPSOs during crisis situations within rural communities.

The services provided by the VPSO Contracts component include the funding of the grants to Native regional non-profit organizations that manage and implement the VPSO program. The services provided by the VPSO Support component include those specifically associated with the management of the VPSO grants.

The Alaska State Troopers' (AST) goals for the VPSO program include taking action to:

- Continue to provide first responders who can manage criminal investigations involving misdemeanors and some felony property crimes;
- Continue to increase interdiction of illegal alcohol in areas where the residents have chosen to ban possession, sale, barter, or importation of alcohol; and
- Continue to provide for public safety in the areas of boating and fire safety and other non-criminal areas for rural remote communities.

End Result	Strategies to Achieve End Result
<p><b>A: Protect lives.</b></p> <p><u>Target #1:</u> 10% reduction of deaths due to accidents and criminal acts in VPSO serviced villages. <u>Measure #1:</u> Homicide rate in VPSO serviced villages.</p> <p><u>Target #2:</u> 10% reduction in recreational boating accidents with deaths in VPSO serviced villages. <u>Measure #2:</u> % change in fatality accidents.</p>	<p><b>A1: Improve response to alcohol-related crimes and domestic violence (DV) incidents.</b></p> <p><u>Target #1:</u> 10% reduction of accidental deaths in VPSO serviced villages compared to the previous 3-year average. <u>Measure #1:</u> % change in accidental deaths.</p> <p><b>A2: Enhance recreational boating safety patrols and education.</b></p> <p><u>Target #1:</u> 10% increase in the number of inspections in VPSO serviced villages over the previous 2-year average. <u>Measure #1:</u> % change in number of inspections.</p>

	<p><u>Target #2:</u> 10% increase in number of boating safety education presentations in VPSO serviced villages over the previous 2-year average.</p> <p><u>Measure #2:</u> % change in number of boating safety education presentations.</p>
End Result	Strategies to Achieve End Result
<p><b>B: Protect property.</b></p> <p><u>Target #1:</u> Reduce property crimes by 10% in VPSO serviced villages.</p> <p><u>Measure #1:</u> % change in property crimes.</p>	<p><b>B1: Improve property crime investigations.</b></p> <p><u>Target #1:</u> Increase solve rate of property crimes by 10% over the previous 3-year average in VPSO serviced villages.</p> <p><u>Measure #1:</u> % change in property crimes solved by arrest.</p>
End Result	Strategies to Achieve End Result
<p><b>C: Preserve public peace.</b></p> <p><u>Target #1:</u> 2% reduction in reported offenses compared to the previous 3-year average in VPSO serviced villages.</p> <p><u>Measure #1:</u> % change in number of reported offenses.</p>	<p><b>C1: Community oriented policing and patrols for criminal activity.</b></p> <p><u>Target #1:</u> 10% increase in the number of trooper visits to VPSO serviced villages logged in APSIN compared to the previous 3-year average.</p> <p><u>Measure #1:</u> % change in number of visits.</p>

Major Activities to Advance Strategies	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• VPSO training academy.</li> <li>• VPSO regional update training.</li> <li>• Driving Under the Influence (DUI) patrols.</li> <li>• Domestic violence and DUI training.</li> <li>• Report writing and investigation in-service.</li> <li>• Coordination with outside domestic violence-related agencies and support groups.</li> <li>• Domestic violence supervisory case review with district attorney coordination.</li> <li>• Provide search and rescue management training.</li> <li>• Water safety education.</li> <li>• Increased inspections.</li> <li>• Crime Stoppers.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Alcoholic Beverage Control Board (ABC) training.</li> <li>• Coordination of ABC investigations.</li> <li>• Provide boater safety public education.</li> <li>• Provide boater safety training to VPSOs and AST.</li> <li>• D.A.R.E. programs.</li> <li>• Alcohol Rewards Program.</li> <li>• Patrol high crime areas.</li> <li>• Investigator training.</li> <li>• Enhanced communications between jurisdictions.</li> <li>• Community Oriented Policing (COP) training.</li> <li>• Participation in village council meetings.</li> </ul>

FY2009 Resources Allocated to Achieve Results							
<p><b>FY2009 Results Delivery Unit Budget: \$5,865,100</b></p>	<p><b>Personnel:</b></p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 80%;">Full time</td> <td style="text-align: right;">2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Part time</td> <td style="text-align: right;">0</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Total</b></td> <td style="text-align: right; border-top: 1px solid black;"><b>2</b></td> </tr> </table>	Full time	2	Part time	0	<b>Total</b>	<b>2</b>
Full time	2						
Part time	0						
<b>Total</b>	<b>2</b>						

## Performance Measure Detail

### A: Result - Protect lives.

**Target #1:** 10% reduction of deaths due to accidents and criminal acts in VPSO serviced villages.

**Measure #1:** Homicide rate in VPSO serviced villages.

#### Number of Homicides in VPSO Serviced Villages (calendar year)

Year	YTD
2001	6
2002	5 -16.67%
2003	3 -40.00%
2004	2 -33.33%
2005	3 +50.00%
2006	2 -33.33%

Source: Alaska UCR Data

**Analysis of results and challenges:** To the extent that it can, the department will influence the homicide rate by deterrence (solving homicides committed in the department's jurisdiction) and by focusing on contributing factors, such as reducing the availability of illegal drugs and alcohol. Homicide rates are dependent on many factors, most of which are not controllable by the department.

**Target #2:** 10% reduction in recreational boating accidents with deaths in VPSO serviced villages.

**Measure #2:** % change in fatality accidents.

#### Number of Fatal Boating Accidents in VPSO Serviced Villages (calendar year)

Year	YTD	Percent Inc/Dec
2001	0	
2002	2	+100%
2003	0	-100%
2004	1	+100%
2004	2	+100%
2006	0	-100%

Source: Alaska Public Safety Information Network – Case Activity data

**Analysis of results and challenges:** These figures are based on boating fatality accidents reported to the Alaska State Troopers.

## A1: Strategy - Improve response to alcohol-related crimes and domestic violence (DV) incidents.

**Target #1:** 10% reduction of accidental deaths in VPSO serviced villages compared to the previous 3-year average.

**Measure #1:** % change in accidental deaths.

### Number of Accidental Deaths in VPSO Serviced Villages (calendar year)

Year	Accidental Deaths	3-Year Average	Percent Inc/Dec
2001	4		
2002	25		
2003	5	11	
2004	8	13	-27%
2005	13	9	0%
2006	4	8	-56%

Source: Alaska Public Safety Information Network – Case Activity data

**Analysis of results and challenges:** The four accidental deaths reported in CY2006 represent a 56% decrease in the number of accidental deaths in VPSO serviced villages from the previous 3-year average of nine accidental deaths per year.

These figures are based on accidental deaths reported to the Alaska State Troopers. Accidental deaths include those resulting from motor vehicle accidents, aircraft accidents, boating accidents, fire (non-arson), falls, industrial accidents, firearm accidents, and other accidents.

## A2: Strategy - Enhance recreational boating safety patrols and education.

**Target #1:** 10% increase in the number of inspections in VPSO serviced villages over the previous 2-year average.

**Measure #1:** % change in number of inspections.

### Number of Recreational Boating Inspections in VPSO Serviced Villages (calendar year)

Year	Boating Inspections	2-Year Average	Percent Inc/Dec
2001	0		
2002	23		
2003	23	23	
2004	17	20	-26%
2005	5	11	-75%
2006	2	4	-82%

Source: Alaska Public Safety Information Network – Case Activity data

**Analysis of results and challenges:** The two boating safety inspections in CY2006 represent an 82% decrease from the previous 2-year average of 11 boating safety inspections per year in VPSO serviced villages.

**Target #2:** 10% increase in number of boating safety education presentations in VPSO serviced villages over the previous 2-year average.

**Measure #2:** % change in number of boating safety education presentations.

### Number of Boating Safety Education Presentations in VPSO Serviced Villages (calendar year)

Year	Boating Presentations	2-Year Average	Percent Inc/Dec
2001	0		
2002	0	0	
2003	0	0	0%
2004	7	3.5	100%
2005	0	3.5	-100%
2006	10	5	+186%

Source: Alaska Public Safety Information Network – Officer Activity Reporting data

**Analysis of results and challenges:** The ten hours of boating safety education presented in CY2006 in VPSO serviced villages represent a 186% increase from the previous 2-year average.

## B: Result - Protect property.

**Target #1:** Reduce property crimes by 10% in VPSO serviced villages.

**Measure #1:** % change in property crimes.

### Number of Property Crimes in VPSO Serviced Villages (including arson) (calendar year)

Year	YTD
2001	415
2002	454 +9.40%
2003	598 +31.72%
2004	478 -20.07%
2005	345 -27.82%
2006	319 -7.54%

Source: Alaska UCR Data.

**Analysis of results and challenges:** These figures are based on property crimes reported to the Alaska State Troopers. Property crimes include burglary, larceny-theft, motor vehicle theft, and arson.

## B1: Strategy - Improve property crime investigations.

**Target #1:** Increase solve rate of property crimes by 10% over the previous 3-year average in VPSO serviced villages.

**Measure #1:** % change in property crimes solved by arrest.

### Number of Property Crimes Solved by Arrest in VPSO Serviced Villages (calendar year)

Year	# of Crimes	Solve Rate	3-Year Avg Solve Rate	% Change
2001	415	36%		
2002	454	32%		
2003	598	35%	34%	
2004	478	47%	38%	+13%
2005	345	34%	39%	-4%
2006	319	37%	39%	-2%

Source: Alaska UCR data

**Analysis of results and challenges:** The 37% property crime solve rate in CY2006 represents a 2% decrease from the previous 3-year average of 39% for property crimes solved by arrest in VPSO serviced villages.

**C: Result - Preserve public peace.**

**Target #1:** 2% reduction in reported offenses compared to the previous 3-year average in VPSO serviced villages.

**Measure #1:** % change in number of reported offenses.

**Number of Reported Offenses in VPSO Serviced Villages (including arson) (calendar year)**

Year	Reported Offenses	3-Year Average	Percent Inc/Dec
2001	1,341		
2002	1,553		
2003	1,627	1,507	
2004	1,465	1,548	-3%
2005	1,150	1,414	-26%
2006	861	1,159	-39%

Source: Alaska UCR data.

**Analysis of results and challenges:** The 861 reported offenses in CY2006 represent a 39% decrease compared to the CY2003-2005 average of 1,414 reported offenses. These figures are based on offenses reported to the Alaska State Troopers. Reported offenses include the FBI Uniform Crime Reporting offenses of criminal homicide, forcible rape, robbery, assault, burglary, larceny-theft, motor vehicle theft, and arson.

**C1: Strategy - Community oriented policing and patrols for criminal activity.**

**Target #1:** 10% increase in the number of trooper visits to VPSO serviced villages logged in APSIN compared to the previous 3-year average.

**Measure #1:** % change in number of visits.

**Number of Trooper Visits to VPSO Serviced Villages (calendar year)**

Year	Public Appearances	3-Year Average	Percent Inc/Dec
2001	214		
2002	385		
2003	751	450	
2004	528	555	17%
2005	229	503	-59%
2006	306	355	-39%

Source: Alaska Public Safety Information Network – Case Activity data

**Analysis of results and challenges:** Although an increase of overnight trooper visits was realized in CY2006 compared to CY2005, the desired level of overnight trooper visits was not obtained due to factors which include vacant VPSO and rural trooper positions, an increase in court transports (troopers transporting prisoners to and from court), prisoner transports between Nome and Kotzebue, increasing numbers of cases being investigated, and an increased requirement to appear in court in relation to increased case activity.

**Key RDU Challenges**

VPSO turnover continues to be a challenge. There are many factors that cause high VPSO turnover. In fact, many of the same factors that affect Alaska State Trooper recruitment also influence VPSO recruitment, including the public's general lack of interest in law enforcement jobs. For VPSOs, one unique factor has been a historically low rate of pay. Toward that end, VPSO duties and pay were increased by adding supervision of parolees and probationers, and a reduction in administrative overhead costs was re-invested in VPSO salaries. As a result, the lowest paid VPSOs have seen pay increases of approximately 33 percent over the past three years.

The VPSO program has suffered from high turnover since inception. The expectations of a VPSO have changed over time and become more demanding. As a result, fewer village residents are willing to serve as a VPSO, which then requires the seeking of applicants elsewhere. It has proven difficult to recruit qualified applicants from urban areas to serve in villages.

Grant management and oversight require significant and increasing staff time. Upper level AST managers expend an increasing amount of diplomatic effort to ensure a successful program.

With the increases in pay, AST anticipates more successful recruitments, but it has not yet borne fruit. There will be a strong presence of Village Public Safety Officers at the recruitment booth during the 2007 Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) conference. The VPSO website has been modernized with updated information concerning the VPSO employment opportunities and qualifications so interested parties have easy access for applying for the VPSO program.

### Significant Changes in Results to be Delivered in FY2009

DPS has been working with the Indian Health Service (IHS) regarding a plan to distribute grant funds that have not been previously allocable due to grant restriction. Once IHS approves the plan and lifts the suspension, DPS intends to distribute federal funding to the nonprofit regional Native corporations. As a result, several rural Alaska communities that currently lack a public safety presence will be served by a VPSO.

The AST Detachments component (Alaska State Troopers RDU) includes additional funding to improve recruitment results for both troopers and VPSOs. Increasing the number of VPSOs will provide improved levels of service and a greater degree of assurance that Alaska's Native population is being served adequately and on par with all other citizens.

### Major RDU Accomplishments in 2007

VPSO probation and parole services continue throughout the VPSO communities. The probation and patrol training is being provided to new VPSOs attending VPSO basic training at the DPS Academy in Sitka. The VPSOs have developed a good working relationship with their probation and parole oversights and monitor offenders in their communities on a regular basis.

- 1,288 VPSO Visits
- 2,732 training hours conducted by oversight troopers
- Nine new VPSOs attended the basic VPSO academy in Sitka
- VPSOs investigated 1,721 cases, including 36 driving under the influence (DUI), 48 assaults and 74 domestic violence assaults

In FY2007, the VPSO program was authorized carry-forward authority from FY2006 of \$780,000. With these funds, DPS was able to contract with smaller villages that do not have public safety services. The Native regional nonprofits were given a portion of the money for building holding cells, modification of outdated offices, 20 utility terrain vehicles, many computers, heaters for the VPSO offices, and other law enforcement supplies.

#### Contact Information

**Contact:** Dan Spencer, Director, Administrative Services  
**Phone:** (907) 465-5488  
**Fax:** (907) 465-5500  
**E-mail:** danial.spencer@alaska.gov

**Village Public Safety Officer Program  
RDU Financial Summary by Component**

*All dollars shown in thousands*

	FY2007 Actuals				FY2008 Management Plan				FY2009 Governor			
	General Funds	Federal Funds	Other Funds	Total Funds	General Funds	Federal Funds	Other Funds	Total Funds	General Funds	Federal Funds	Other Funds	Total Funds
<b><u>Formula</u></b>												
<b><u>Expenditures</u></b>												
None.												
<b><u>Non-Formula</u></b>												
<b><u>Expenditures</u></b>												
VPSO Contracts	5,561.8	0.0	0.0	5,561.8	5,446.4	0.0	0.0	5,446.4	5,446.4	0.0	0.0	5,446.4
Support	337.4	0.0	132.8	470.2	259.6	0.0	155.2	414.8	263.5	0.0	155.2	418.7
<b>Totals</b>	<b>5,899.2</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>132.8</b>	<b>6,032.0</b>	<b>5,706.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>155.2</b>	<b>5,861.2</b>	<b>5,709.9</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>155.2</b>	<b>5,865.1</b>

**Village Public Safety Officer Program  
Summary of RDU Budget Changes by Component  
From FY2008 Management Plan to FY2009 Governor**

*All dollars shown in thousands*

	<u>General Funds</u>	<u>Federal Funds</u>	<u>Other Funds</u>	<u>Total Funds</u>
<b>FY2008 Management Plan</b>	<b>5,706.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>155.2</b>	<b>5,861.2</b>
<b>Adjustments which will continue current level of service:</b>				
-Support	3.9	0.0	0.0	3.9
<b>FY2009 Governor</b>	<b>5,709.9</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>155.2</b>	<b>5,865.1</b>