

State of Alaska FY2002 Governor's Operating Budget

Department of Public Safety
Alaska State Troopers
Budget Request Unit

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BRU Mission

The mission of the Division of Alaska State Troopers is to preserve the public peace and to protect life and property.

(Note: The Division of Alaska State Troopers consists of three closely interrelated BRUs: the Alaska State Troopers, AST Detachments and the Village Public Safety Officer (VPSO) Program. Much of the following discussion applies to elements in all three BRUs.)

BRU Services Provided

The Alaska State Troopers provide primary public safety services to most of the geographic area of the state and limited service in all areas of the state including those areas also served by a local law enforcement entity.

While many municipalities across the state have elected to provide local police service, Troopers are the only agency in the state statutorily mandated to provide police services. Those services include:

- 1) Criminal law enforcement and investigation - Troopers respond to all levels of criminal law violations either reported to them or otherwise discovered by them. The occurrences are investigated, documented and presented to the Department of Law for prosecution when sufficient information is established to identify persons responsible. Troopers investigate criminal violations at all levels of complexity, from the simplest vandalism to the most complex homicides and fraud cases including complex drug and alcohol investigations. In order to provide those services, Troopers must maintain expertise in all aspects of criminal investigation. AST investigators often provide service to the municipalities that have a local police department but need to rely on AST in some specialized areas of criminal investigation.
- 2) Traffic law enforcement and investigation - Troopers provide active traffic law enforcement and traffic crash investigation throughout many parts of the state including all major state highways as well as in the rural areas of the state. In addition to providing these services in the primary areas of responsibility, Troopers provide technical crash investigation expertise and support to many of the local law enforcement agencies across the state. Traffic law enforcement includes enforcement of traditional motor vehicle laws as well as aircraft, watercraft, snowmachine and off road recreational vehicle laws.
- 3) Search and rescue - Troopers are also the only agency in the state statutorily mandated to provide search and rescue services. Unlike criminal and traffic law enforcement and investigation where Troopers provide some technical expertise and support to areas that have their own police departments, search and rescue services are the exclusive domain of the Troopers regardless of location. In this particular area, as in the court services area, the roles are somewhat reversed where we receive some assistance from local agencies but are responsible for the function even in the municipalities. Search and rescue services include responding to rescue situations, conducting searches, coordinating various agencies and private persons involved in search efforts, funding aircraft, provision and logistical needs, and providing technical expertise in the various aspects of search and rescue such as planning, canine utilization, mountain rescue and others.
- 4) Court services - as with the search and rescue function, Troopers are statutorily mandated to provide service to the court system throughout the state. Court services include providing courtroom and court facility security, transporting and guarding prisoners, serving the numerous and varying types of court process, and carrying out the general needs of the courts. The major courts in the state are served by Court Service Officers while the other areas are served by Troopers. Some local police agencies provide limited court services that generally does not include process service.
- 5) Sex offender registration - Troopers maintain Alaska's central Sex Offender Registry (SOR) program. This program tracks the status of over 4,000 sex offenders in the state. In addition, the SOR program provides current

information on sex offenders, free of charge to any member of the public who wants it. The information is made available at any Trooper office and most police departments as well as being available over the Internet. The SOR office also provides state and local law enforcement agencies with investigative information concerning sex offenders who have either refused to comply with the registration laws or who have gone out of compliance with the laws. The information is supplied as part of a coordinated effort to apprehend and criminally charge sex offenders who are in violation of the registration requirements.

- 6) Civilian Process Server and Security Guard licensing - Troopers administer the licensing programs for Civilian Process Servers (CPS), Security Guards, and Security Guard agencies. Currently licensed are 34 Security Guard agencies with approximately 1,000 active Security Guards - both armed and unarmed, and approximately 60 Civilian Process Services. A monthly average of 88 Security Guard and 3 CPS license applications (new, renewal) are processed, each requiring a background investigation and review of delinquent Student Loans and Child Support payments before issuance of the license. After issuance, AST reviews state and federal criminal justice responses to every new application, and processes a monthly average of 27 CPS and 315 Security Guard actions including complaints, transfers, status change requests, insurance reviews, and weapons qualification (for security guards only). AST monitors a monthly average of 177 domestic violence protective order notices and 50 criminal history updates that may result in license suspension or revocation.
- 7) Alaska Concealed Handgun Permit (ACHP) Program - Troopers administer Alaska's concealed handgun permit program. Currently there are approximately 13,000 permit holders. AST processes a monthly average of 300 new and renewal applications, each requiring a background investigation before issuance of the permit. After issuance, AST reviews state and federal criminal justice responses to every new application, and processes a monthly average of 50 replacement requests and address changes.

BRU Goals and Strategies

The goal of the Troopers is to provide quality public safety service to the people of Alaska, so that they are confident in the Troopers' willingness and ability to respond to their needs. Troopers maintain 34 posts across the state and provide all public safety services to the vast majority of the state's geographic area. The Alaska State Troopers provide these services in all areas not served by a local police department. The area served by AST includes over 200 rural communities and many culturally diverse areas that are both urban and rural. Additionally, Troopers provide court services and other specialized enforcement and emergency services in all areas of the state including those communities otherwise served by a local police department. While the Troopers provide some services to every person in the state, they provide direct public safety services to over 195,000 Alaska citizens. The main goal of the Division is to protect and serve the public. This will be accomplished by taken action to:

- Handle more than 96,000 criminal offenses.
- Respond to more than 4,100 motor vehicle accidents.
- Perform over 39,000 transports of prisoners with no escapes.
- Save or assist over 450 people through Search And Rescue (SAR) efforts.
- Investigate over 200 distributing and selling of illicit drugs crimes.
- Solve over 85% of the homicides that occur within AST jurisdiction.
- Serve or close over 11,000 warrants.
- Serve or close over 38,800 writs.
- Increase sex offender registration compliance by five percent.
- Implement DNA sampling compliance systems in each Detachment.
- Develop standard operating procedures for expedited Domestic Violence paperwork service.
- Increase DWI arrests by 10%.
- Increase postal interdiction cases.
- Increase seatbelt compliance by 10%.
- Increase the ratio of Burglary cases closed by arrest or referred to the District Attorney's Office for review.

Key BRU Issues for FY2001 – 2002

INADEQUATE STAFF IN RELATION TO THE POPULATION SERVED - The public and other agency expectations for the services provided by AST continues to steadily increase while the resources available to provide those services have been maintained at status quo. In FY2001, the Alaska State Troopers have a commissioned staff of 237 personnel located in 34 posts which provide all public safety services to the vast majority of the state's geographical area. While AST provides some services to every person in the state, they are the only providers of direct public safety services to over 195,000 Alaska citizens.

COURT SECURITY - The number of Court Services Officers (CSOs) located around the state is inadequate to properly provide court security, move prisoners, and serve court writs. Since the development of the CSO program as a cost-effective method of the statutorily mandated support of the Court System, the number of CSO positions has not kept pace with the increase in criminal and civil cases, and the increase in number of judges or courts to be served.

Major BRU Accomplishments for FY2000

MAJOR INVESTIGATIVE CASES - Troopers have been successful in solving major criminal cases. Of the thirteen murders this period, eight were in rural locations such as, Mountain Village, Petersville, Steese Highway, Quinhagak, Pilot Station, Eek and Big Lake. The remaining five were in Fairbanks (3), Ketchikan and Kenai. Eleven of these cases have been successfully resolved. Resulting in a 85% clearance rate compared to the Uniform Crime Report national clearance rate of 69%.

ILLEGAL DRUG AND ALCOHOL ENFORCEMENT - Troopers have taken the lead role in almost all regions of the state in coordinating the investigative efforts involving illegal alcohol and drugs. The Western Alaska Alcohol and Narcotics Team, working closely with the U.S. Postal Inspector and National Guard Counter Drug Support Program (CDSP) continue to increase efforts to detect and seize illegal alcohol and drugs being shipped via the U.S. Mail. During FY00 3.5 lbs. of cocaine, 3.5 lbs. of psychedelic mushrooms, 19 pounds of marijuana, 168 gallons of alcohol, and various amounts of miscellaneous drugs were detected and seized in this effort.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE - Troopers continue to provide domestic violence training to law enforcement officers across the state including VPSOs and VPOs. In an effort to better serve non-English speaking victims, the Information for Victims of Domestic Violence booklet was translated into six languages (Inupiat, Yupik, Spanish, Russian, Korean and Tagalog). Audio cassette copies of the translations were made and distributed to all law enforcement departments across the state. Hard copies of the translations are available on the Alaska State Troopers web page at www.dps.state.ak.us/ast/dv. Audio and video equipment was purchased for 25 law enforcement departments across the state. Numerous small and rural departments now have professional interview rooms which will enhance their domestic violence and sex crimes investigations.

SEX OFFENDER REGISTRATION - Mail out verifications continue in this program. Municipal police departments, the Department of Corrections and trooper detachments are supplied with a monthly list, either electronically, via a paper mailing or a CD-Rom, that lists the total database of sex offenders that are registered and in compliance, those requiring registration and those out of compliance. Updates of the forms are also in this monthly mailing. There are now over 4,000 convicted sex offenders in the database. The Department's Sex Offender Registry public website has been upgraded to make it easier to use and faster to navigate.

DRUG ABUSE RESISTANCE EDUCATION (D.A.R.E.) - The Alaska State Troopers are the representative agency for the Drug Abuse Resistance Education program in Alaska and provides D.A.R.E. training to all federal, state, city, and borough police officers. All planning, coordinating, training and certifying of D.A.R.E. officers in Alaska is done by the State Coordinator, an AST sergeant. The coordinator prepares budgets; writes grants; raises donations; maintains training records of all D.A.R.E. officers in Alaska; prepares reports for federal and state agencies, D.A.R.E. America, and the D.A.R.E. regional training center. The coordinator also acts as the director of the Alaska D.A.R.E. Training Center and as an advisor to the Alaska D.A.R.E. Officers Association. During FY2000 AST held its second in-service training on October 7-8, 1999 for current DARE officers. Twenty-four new officers completed the two week DARE officer Training November 1-12, 1999. Six DARE officers completed mentor training during the DARE office Training

in November 1999 and will form the nucleus of the State's DARE training staff. Eighteen DARE officers attended Jr. Hi training February 14-18, 2000.

Alaska State Troopers
BRU Financial Summary by Component

All dollars in thousands

	FY2000 Actuals				FY2001 Authorized				FY2002 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
Formula Expenditures												
None.												
Non-Formula Expenditures												
Special Projects	0.0	930.8	327.0	1,257.8	0.0	1,570.6	468.9	2,039.5	0.0	1,554.7	468.9	2,023.6
Criminal Investigations Bureau	3,054.6	0.0	65.5	3,120.1	3,129.7	0.0	1.9	3,131.6	3,205.3	0.0	0.0	3,205.3
Director's Office	687.3	0.0	0.0	687.3	667.4	0.0	0.0	667.4	668.9	0.0	0.0	668.9
Judicial Services-Anchorage	1,863.9	0.0	25.0	1,888.9	1,895.1	0.0	51.9	1,947.0	1,893.4	0.0	53.0	1,946.4
Prisoner Transportation	1,490.9	0.0	0.0	1,490.9	1,476.7	0.0	0.0	1,476.7	1,476.7	0.0	0.0	1,476.7
Search and Rescue	301.8	0.0	0.0	301.8	283.1	0.0	0.0	283.1	633.1	0.0	0.0	633.1
Rural Trooper Housing	275.1	0.0	375.1	650.2	253.6	0.0	435.4	689.0	253.2	0.0	435.1	688.3
Narcotics Task Force	399.5	2,258.6	0.0	2,658.1	449.6	2,808.6	0.0	3,258.2	445.7	2,770.9	0.0	3,216.6
Commercial Vehicle Enforcement	0.0	0.0	80.3	80.3	0.0	0.0	91.3	91.3	0.0	0.0	90.4	90.4
Totals	8,073.1	3,189.4	872.9	12,135.4	8,155.2	4,379.2	1,049.4	13,583.8	8,576.3	4,325.6	1,047.4	13,949.3

Alaska State Troopers

Proposed Changes in Levels of Service for FY2002

The FY2002 Governor's Request for the Alaska State Trooper BRU includes changes in the Criminal Investigation Bureau and Search and Rescue components. The other service changes for the Division of Alaska State Troopers are reflected in the AST Detachment BRU and Village Public Safety Officer Program BRU.

Included in the FY2002 Governor's Request is a request for ten new Trooper positions. One of these positions is budgeted in the Statewide Drug Enforcement Unit, Criminal Investigation Bureau component \$89.9 GF.

Included in the Search & Rescue FY2002 Governor's Request is an \$350.0 GF increment for Avalanche Public Education and Search and Rescue Equipment. This will allow the Department to provide public education through classes, seminars, public outreach, presentations, signage, general public service announcements (PSA) on avalanche safety, distribution of safety files and purchase of search and rescue equipment.

Alaska State Troopers

Summary of BRU Budget Changes by Component

From FY2001 Authorized to FY2002 Governor

All dollars in thousands

	<u>General Funds</u>	<u>Federal Funds</u>	<u>Other Funds</u>	<u>Total Funds</u>
FY2001 Authorized	8,155.2	4,379.2	1,049.4	13,583.8
Adjustments which will continue current level of service:				
-Special Projects	0.0	-15.9	0.0	-15.9
-Criminal Investigations Bureau	-15.5	0.0	-1.1	-16.6
-Director's Office	1.5	0.0	0.0	1.5
-Judicial Services-Anchorage	-4.6	0.0	1.1	-3.5
-Rural Trooper Housing	-0.4	0.0	-0.3	-0.7
-Narcotics Task Force	-3.9	-7.7	0.0	-11.6
-Commercial Vehicle Enforcement	0.0	0.0	-0.3	-0.3
Proposed budget decreases:				
-Criminal Investigations Bureau	0.0	0.0	-0.8	-0.8
-Narcotics Task Force	0.0	-30.0	0.0	-30.0
-Commercial Vehicle Enforcement	0.0	0.0	-0.6	-0.6
Proposed budget increases:				
-Criminal Investigations Bureau	91.1	0.0	0.0	91.1
-Judicial Services-Anchorage	2.9	0.0	0.0	2.9
-Search and Rescue	350.0	0.0	0.0	350.0
FY2002 Governor	8,576.3	4,325.6	1,047.4	13,949.3