

Troopers to use \$700,000 grant to fight drugs

The Alaska State Troopers intend to use a \$700,000 grant from the Department of Justice to relocate experienced Alaska drug enforcement officers to other parts of the state and continue the re-evaluation and expansion of the anti-drug program established in 1987, according to Sen. Frank Murkowski, R-Alaska.

The officers being transferred have experience in a major-offenders unit and in drug task forces, according to Lt. Thomas Stearns, chief of criminal investigations in Anchorage.

Stearns advised Murkowski that the plan is to use their experience in catching drug dealers and abusers in Anchorage, the Mat/Su area, Southeast, the Kenai Peninsula and Anchorage International Airport.

Each state received a base amount of \$500,000, with the additional money decided by state population.

Stearns said about \$100,000 of this year's grant will be distributed to local communities to be used fighting drugs either in conjunction with the experienced troopers or in their own police force's anti-drug efforts.