Alaska delegation travels to USSR later this month

JUNEAU — Gov. Steve Cowper announced recently that he will lead a delegation of six state officials to the Soviet Far East later this month to elevate business, scientific and cultural ties between Alaska and the Soviet Union and implement a process for joint search and rescue operations.

The governor will depart Nome for Provideniya Aug. 30 and visit at least five other Soviet cities before returning Sept. 10, including Vladivostok, Anadyr, Magadan, Khabarovsk and

Lavrentiya.

Maj. Gen. John Schaeffer, Alaska National Guard adjutant general, will accompany the governor and for the

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Soviet Far East

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"Our neighbors in the Soviet Far East are not only potential business partners, but they share our concern for common resources and problems unique to people of the North," Cowper said. "This trip is designed to seal that relationship through joint search and rescue efforts and regular visits of our people. Better relations between Alaskans and Soviets means a better world for all of us."

The trip will be the first visit by a sitting Alaska state governor in recent memory, aside from Cowper's one-day visit to Provideniya on the June 13, 1988, Friendship Flight.

The governor will promote joint trade, tourism and research ventures, meet with the top leaders in each region and view Soviet military facilities.