

Army National Guardsmen to Train at Camp Carroll

Army National Guardsmen from across the northern portion of the State will gather in Anchorage this weekend to begin their annual two-week training period.

The majority of the men will be Eskimo Scouts, members of the 1st and 2nd Scout Battalions, 297th Infantry. Nearly 1000 Scouts will live and train at Camp Carroll, the Guard training site on Fort Richardson.

Also taking part in the camp will be members of the State Headquarters Detachment and the 10th Ordnance Platoon. About half of the total strength of the Headquarters Detachment, 30 men, will function as an administrative support element for the Scout units.

Remaining members of the headquarters will perform the

same function for the 3rd Battalion (Mechanized) in March. The 40-man Ordnance Platoon will provide maintenance of vehicles, weapons and other equipment for the encampment.

Most of the Scouts will arrive on Friday and Saturday by commercial airlift from their home areas. The airlift will begin on Thursday, as small bush planes alight in villages across the northwest section of Alaska.

The Scout detachments in the villages will be flown into larger villages and into central points such as Nome and Bethel. From these points they will board large aircraft for the trip into Anchorage.

Nome and Bethel are the headquarters locations for the 1st and 2nd Battalions, respectively.

The majority of the training time will be spent in familiarization with new weapons, the M-16 rifle, and M-60 machine gun, and some items of new communications equipment.

On top of the class and range time spent with this equipment, the men will take part in a five day field exercise, moving from the permanent billets at Camp Carroll into tents in the training areas bordering Eagle River.

New weapons and training programs will not be the only new items at camp this year. The first permanent masonry barracks for the camp area are ready for occupancy, and will be used by Co. A, 1st Scout Battalion.

These one-story block structures are part of a continuing

program to upgrade Camp Carroll to a first-class National Guard training site. They were completed this winter, at a cost of \$200,000.

Over the next seven years, the programs will result in a total of 58 buildings, including barracks, latrine facilities, dining halls and administrative and support buildings.

By the end of the period, all of the quonset-type buildings now in use will be removed.

For 15 members of the Scout

units, this camp will be especially arduous. The men are applicants for commissioning through the U.S. Army's Infantry Officer Candidate School at Fort Benning, Ga.

During this winter camp they will receive special preparatory training for their OCS tour later this spring.

Under the direction of Lt. Kenneth G. Martinez of Anchorage, they will follow a daily routine which has been carefully

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planned to closely resemble the regimen they will follow at Ft. Benning.

Much of the training is designed to accustom the prospective candidates to the extremes of military discipline under which they will function while taking their officer training.

They will spend time both on the drill field and in the classroom, working on the routine military skills of drill and ceremonies, as well as the responsibilities of junior officers in the field and in training situations.

They will work with new weapons, and will begin to absorb the fundamentals of small unit leadership. Their days will begin at 5:00 AM and end with "lights out" at 10:00 PM.

The Guardsmen will return to their homes during the weekend of February 27.