

# Six Alaskan communities to get cargo and mail service from GNA

Great Northern Airlines will begin scheduled cargo and mail service to six new Alaska communities this summer from Anchorage as a result of a U.S. Civil Aeronautics Board ruling. In addition, the airline plans to step up its existing service to

Bethel, Fairbanks, and Prudhoe Bay to five flights per week, according to Marvin Sprunk, the airline's vice president of administration.

The airline plans service to Barrow, Cold Bay, Unalaska and Kodiak by July 1, and to King Salmon and Dillingham by July 15.

The airline plans to increase flights to Bethel to five-a-week when it receives authority to carry the U.S. Mail.

Great Northern Airlines began carrying the mail to Nome and Kotzebue in January and sub-contracts with Munz Northern Airlines to move the mail to villages in northwest Alaska.

It has applied to the Civil Aeronautics Board for authority to carry passengers, cargo and mail to all of the other points it will begin serving this summer and authority to carry the mail to the dozens of Native villages

which are supported from those communities.

"Presently all mail dispatched to Great Northern by the Post Office is being moved out the same day we receive it," Sprunk said.

Great Northern became a subsidiary of Alaska International Air in February.

Alaska International Air operates a fleet of five Hercules airplanes while Great Northern operates three 35,000 pound capacity Lockheed Electras throughout the state.

"We're very pleased the Civil Aeronautics Board plans to deregulate scheduled air traffic in Alaska and we're ready to begin serving the communities that can support regular Electra cargo flights," Sprunk said.