

Sitka academy trains village public safety officers

Thirty-seven Village Public Safety Officers from as many villages throughout the state attended the six-week Village Public Safety Officers Academy at the Department of Public Safety Academy in Sitka from November 2 to December 11.

This is the fourth VPSO Academy since the inception of the program in 1979, and the training has been expanded from the four weeks required at the beginning of the program.

Training at the academy will include two weeks in an intensive, 90-hour, course in emergency medical treatment; three weeks in law enforcement; and another week in boating safety, search and rescue, local government, and domestic violence.

The law enforcement training includes criminal investigation, report writing, substantive and procedural law, and court room procedure.

The training at the academy will be conducted by the Alaska State Troopers, U.S. Coast Guard and the Department of Community and Regional Affairs. Successful graduates of the academy will have certification as Emergency Medical Technicians, or Emergency Trauma Technicians, and as

Village Police Officers.

This will only be the beginning of their training, however. The Village Public Safety Officers will receive two weeks training in rural fire fighting at the Regional Fire Training Center in Anchorage later this winter. This will be conducted by the Fire Service Training Program of the Department of Education and will lead to certification as Rural Fire Fighters I.

The Village Public Safety Officers also will receive continuing monthly training by Alaska State Troopers assigned to their respective areas, advanced training in fire fighting, and quarterly training in fire fighting, emergency medical treatment, law enforcement, and local government.

The Village Public Safety Officers and their sponsoring regional corporations are

Mauneleug; Benjamin Arnold, Noatak; and Alfred Bailot, Deering.

Tlingit-Haida Central Council; Elliott James, Angoon; Eugene Natkong, Hydaburg; Kenneth Graham, Pelican; and Donna M. Charles, Saxman.

Tanana Chiefs Conference; Lee Joe, Tetlin; Leroy L. Peters, Holy Cross; Leonard Stickman Jr., Nulato; and James Solomon, Jr.

Bristol Bay Native Association; Patrick Aloysius, Alekanik; Henry Anelon Sr., Newhalen; and Larry Andree, Pedro Bay.

Kodiak Area Native Association; Robert Inga, Old Harbor; and August Aza, Larson Bay.

Kawerak; David Ivanoff, Unalakleet; Jon Trigg, Golovin; Sharon Gray, White Mountain; Caleb Okhtokiuk, Gambell; Ross Saccheus, Elim; Gabriel Ozenná, Diomedé; Walter Seeto, Brevig Mission; Peter A. Kobuck, St. Michael; and Levi Seppilu, Savoonga.

Association of Village Council Presidents; Noa Alexie, Tluksak; John Amadeus, Nightmute; Jesse Andreanoff, Sleetmute; Steve Epechook, Kwethluk; David Gilila, Akiak; Peter Pavila, Tuntutuliak; Wassilie Pleasant, Quinhagak; Elias Polity, St. Mary's; Dion Rivers, Scammon Bay; Walter Lewis, Chefornak; Gabriel Yunak, Kotlik; Phillip Yupanik, Emmonak; and Basil Zacharov, Pilot Station.