

National Guard Scouts in Camp

The Alaska Army National Guard's Scouts, some 1,200 of them from 58 villages, this week will make their annual trips to Camp Carroll on Ft. Richardson, where they will begin a two-week field training period Saturday.

The training camp is the only opportunity most Scouts have to get out of their bush villages ranging from Dillingham, 300 miles southeast of Anchorage, to Barrow and Wainwright on the Arctic Coast some 700 miles north, and Little Diomed Island, just a dozen miles from Siberian Big Diomed in the Bering Strait.

Mostly Alaskan Natives, the Scouts come from places with names like Tuntutuliak and Nunapitchuk on the mouth of the Kuskokwim River and Noorvik and Shungnak on the Kobuk. They bring to Anchorage a new awareness of Alaska as they migrate to the city each year. But their purpose in coming is serious business.

According to the Guard's Adjutant General, Maj. Gen. Bruce I. Staser, the Scouts from the Guard's 1st and 2nd Scout Battalions will receive instruction and experience in simulated field combat which cannot be conducted in the small home units.

This year's camp also will feature fire fighting training, driver's training, radio communications training and, for some of the men, physical examinations, including X-rays and eye tests, which are given to all Guards-

men every four years.

An Army Guard spokesman said bivouacs and much of the vehicle support have been eliminated from this year's training schedule due to the national energy crisis.

The bivouacs, normally three days spent by the troops in the field, require large amounts of fuel for Yukon stoves which heat the tents. Instead, the Scouts will spend the entire two weeks housed in new cement block barracks at the camp.

The new barracks replace World War II quonset huts which have been in use at Camp Carroll for some 30 years. Placed in use last year, the barracks were Phase One of a continuing project to modernize the camp.

In use for the first time this year will be eight new facilities, including a 200-man billet, a 350-man dining facility, a large dispensary and a headquarters building.