

ALASKA'S FIRST CONSTABLES GRADUATE

Alaska's first constables graduated in ceremonies Thursday, May 8, at the Public Safety Academy in Sitka. Completing the six week, 280 hour session were: David Drvenkar, Unalakleet; James Gallen, Northway; Abraham Grey Bear, Chitna; and Roger Whitaker, Eagle.

These officers will be returning to their home areas to carry out a law enforcement program created by the Department of Public Safety to better meet the needs of rural Alaska and the pipeline communities. The constables will be uniformed, and be furnished with vehicles and standard police equipment.

The full-time mid-level law enforcement constable position falls between that of state trooper and village policeman. It carries the same police power as the trooper the the responsibilities for a larger geographic area than the village policeman.

The constable session, which included both in-class instruction and practical application, covered such diverse subjects as patrol and observation, emergency medical techniques and family disputes.

Department of Public Safety Commissioner Richard L. Burton commented, "I am extremely proud of these men. They did an

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outstanding job during their course of instruction. I only wish we had more applicants like these in this new pilot constable program.

The Department of Public Safety is seeking additional constable applicants from several villages along the pipeline route.

People interested in a full time constable career should contact their area state trooper office or call Sergeant Robert Cockrell at 822-3263 Glennallen for applications and further information. Cockrell has been named Commander of the constable program.