

Village police training open

Commissioner Richard L. Burton of the Department of Public Safety has announced that applications for the Village Police Training Program are being accepted for an early spring training session. The Commissioner stated that 77 village policemen were trained in 1976 under the Law Enforcement Assistance Agency grant. He pointed out that four Alaska Natives who started their law enforcement training in the Village Police Training Program in earlier years had become Alaska State Troopers, Fish and Wildlife Officers or Alaska State Constables.

The program consists of one week field training sessions which cover basic police skills and emergency first aid. In 1976 field training sessions were held in Dillingham, Fort Yukon, Bethel and Nome. The students for the Advanced Village Police

Academy held at the Public Safety Academy are selected from the graduates of the field training courses. 1976 was the fifth year that the Department of Public Safety has conducted training for Bush Police Officers. Since 1970, 164 officers have been trained.

In 1977, the Department plans to conduct two field training sessions and an Advanced Academy at Sitka. The schedule is not yet firm and will be published when funding is approved.

Commissioner Burton stated that applications were needed from all interested communities to demonstrate a continuing interest in the program. Any community desiring training for their police officers should write: Captain Walter J. Gilmour Academy Commander, Attn: Village Police, Box 119, Sitka, Alaska 99835, or call 747-6611 and applications and questionnaires will be sent.