

Villages await Guard armories

Eight communities are looking forward to early construction of Alaska Army National Guard armories that will serve local members of the State's 297th Infantry.

The armories will be unit headquarters for men and women of the Guard's 1st and 2nd Eskimo Scout Battalions in Buckland, Deering, Gambell, Huslia, Kaltag, Kongiganak, Nightmute and St. Marys. At Gambell, the new building will be connected with an existing armory by a covered passageway.

The eight 30 by 40 foot structures are being prefabricated by Niedermeyer-Martin Company of Portland. The Army Corps of Engineers Alaska District is seeking bids from contractors interested in providing foundations and erecting buildings.

Armories in the villages also serve as meeting places when not needed for Guard activities.

With completion of the new armories, a total of 62 facilities will have been designed and contracted for by the Corps of Engineers since 1959.