

Winter maneuvers for Army and Air Force units in Alaska

ANCHORAGE--Lieutenant General M.L. Boswell and Brigadier General James G. Boatner, commanders of the Alaskan Air Command (AAC) and the 172nd Infantry Brigade (Alaska) respectively, have announced final plans for this winter's joint Air Force and Army arctic training in Alaska.

The commanders emphasized there will be extensive arctic training involving both Air Force and Army personnel in late January and early February. Instead of one compressed training period, as with past exercises, training this year will consist of several different activities spread over the winter months.

Involved will be some 22,000 military and civilian personnel and some 235 military aircraft. Emphasis will be on joint Army-Air Force combat operations.

The training will begin in December with the activation of the Headquarters, Joint Task Force (JTF) Alaska, to conduct a joint command post exercise, called EMERALD PIN-GO.

JTF Alaska headquarters consists of members of AAC, the 172nd Infantry Brigade and the Alaska State Area Command. It is activated when necessary to command and control all military forces in Alaska during emergencies.

In January, the Air Force will also conduct a command post exercise followed by a tactical exercise, COBBLER STRIKE 78-1. Although primarily an Air Force exercise, a portion of this training will be in support of Army ground maneuvers at Forts Wainwright and Greely, located in central Alaska.

Major units for the arctic training will include 13 Army battalions, three Air Force fighter squadrons, one tactical reconnaissance element, a Military Airlift Command squadron and various support elements. The training will be conducted at Forts Greely, Wainwright and Richardson; at Elmendorf and Eielson Air Force Bases; and at King Salmon Airport.

Participating forces will include active duty and National Guard Army and Air Force units based in Alaska. Also involved will be some 4,400 Army and 470 Air Force active duty and guard personnel from the "lower 48," along with 120 Canadian soldiers from Calgary, Alberta.

Participants for the joint arctic training will include: 12,000 members of the Alaskan Air

Command; 526 personnel from the Alaska Air National Guard; 470 Air Force active duty and guard personnel from the "Lower 48;" 4,100 members of the 172nd Infantry Brigade (Alaska); 300 Alaska Army National Guard members; 4,400 Army active duty and guard personnel from the Lower 48; and 120 Canadian soldiers. (Total: 21,916).

Specific Army units involved in the training will be: the 172nd Infantry Brigade (Alaska), Ft. Richardson, Alaska; the 7th Infantry Division, Ft. Ord, Calif.; the 24th Infantry Division, Ft. Stewart, Ga.; the 197th Infantry Brigade, Ft. Benning, Ga.; the 18th Airborne Corps., Ft. Bragg, N.C.; the 205th Infantry Brigade (USAR),

Ft. Snelling, Minn.; 207th Arctic Recon Group (ARNG), Camp Carrol, Alaska; and the 1st Canadian Brigade Group, Calgary, Alberta.

Alaskan Air Command forces

will be joined by the 339th Tactical Fighter Squadron, Moody AFB, Ga., and an element of the 124th Tactical Reconnaissance Group, Boise Air National Guard, Idaho.