



*Lt. Col. William Haas, deputy commander for operations for the 17th Tactical Airlift Squadron, helps pass out gifts to Athabaskan children. The village of 180 people is perched on the banks of the Chandalar River and lies in the shadow of the Phillip Smith Mountains. The 17th TAS made its 20th annual trip to the village this year, bringing 3,800 pounds of toys and food, including some 400 pounds of turkey. Flying a C-130 and landing on the frozen river that serves as Arctic Village's landing strip, the 17th TAS combines the yearly flight with its training mission, landing on frozen runways and at nearby Fort Yukon for training purposes.*

*photo by Sgt. Willie Thornton*