

RCA to lease White Alice system

RCA Alaska Communications, Inc., has announced recently that the Department of Defense has approved an agreement between RCA Alascom and the U.S. Air Force for lease of the White Alice Communications System owned by the Air Force.

Alascom President Ben W. Agee called the agreement a significant breakthrough in communications of Alaska. He said, "The lease will enable Alascom to develop a modern cohesive communications program that will fully satisfy the communications requirements of Alaskans anywhere in the state."

Agee explained that the lease agreement places operation of the White Alice system with the state's long lines carrier.

It also enables Alascom to begin a three-year construction program to totally replace obsolete TROPO (radio) links

with a network of satellite earth stations to improve communications throughout the state.

Earth station construction is scheduled to relieve system constraints at traffic congested locations. The schedule was determined by service priorities and provides for uninterrupted communications for the public and military. It will enable Alascom to introduce modern communications to many remote areas of the state where service is marginal.

Over a three-year period from 1976 Alascom will construct a total of 21 earth stations. Locations for the construction of major earth stations are as follows: 1976—Kotzebue, Barrow, Dillingham, Adak, Galana, Unalakleet, and Unalaska; 1977—Cold Bay, Sand Point, Tanana, Indian Mountain, Fort Yukon, Kodiak and Shemya; and 1978—King Salmon, McGrath, Iliamna, Sparrevohn, Cape Romanzoff, Cape Newenham and Cape Lisbourne.

Alascom President Agee said conversion of the White Alice system to a commercial long lines system gives Alaska several advantages. Primarily, it permits Alascom to add urgently needed circuits in the rural areas of the state by re-routing traffic over the White Alice circuits, phasing out obsolete TROPO (radio) systems, and freeing the system of traffic bottlenecks with installation of new facilities at critical service points.