

# Army Keeps Nome Busy

"NOME TOWER THIS IS PIPER 45 Romeo . . . (?) Nome Tower???" . . . That's right, Nome, Alaska had a control tower for a couple of weeks recently during the Alaskan Command's Joint Military Training Exercise Ace Card VI.

Exercise Ace Card VI was designed to test the abilities of military personnel, plans and equipment to successfully wage a limited war in the remote areas of Alaska during an Arctic winter, and was probably responsible for making Nome airport the busiest place in the Arctic last week.

U.S. Air Force aircraft, during the exercise period, flew more than 600 sorties into or out of Nome, not to mention several hundred more U.S. Army helicopter sorties.

Takeoffs and landings averaged around 120 per day according to MSgt Luckman A. Martinez, who headed the eight man team from the 3rd Mobile Squadron, Tinker Air Force

Base, Oklahoma.

These figures include civilian aircraft ranging in size from little 65 horsepower "Cubs" to multi-engine airliners, and military planes of all sizes.

"Some of the light civilian aircraft did not have a radio, and we had to use the light gun to signal them," Sergeant Martinez stated.

The mobile control tower which Sergeant Martinez and his men operated from at Nome is a self-contained unit complete with its own power generation device.

"The entire air traffic control package can be loaded aboard an aircraft, flown anywhere in the world, and be set up and operating in about an hour. This trip however, it took about three and one half hours because of the extreme cold and some minor technical difficulties," Sergeant Martinez said.

The mobile control tower was the first unit to arrive for the exercise, operated all during the deployment, employment and redeployment phases, and was the last unit to leave Nome at completion of the exercise.