

Noorvik team named best of the best

by Barbara Crane
for the Tundra Times

The Best of the Best. That's what an Eskimo Scout team from Noorvik is being called after taking first place in the Alaska Army National Guard's 207th Infantry Group Scout Team Competition held at Selawik recently.

These men — Sgt. Henry Adams, Spec. Ronald Barr Jr., Spec. Tommy Geffe, Spec. Jeff Melton and Pvt. Ralph Wilson — are from C Company of the Alaska Army National Guard's 3rd Battalion.

First the men had to earn their places on the C Company team by proving they were the most skilled members of their unit. Then that C Company team had to beat the other companies in the 3rd Battalion.

Finally, at the Selawik competition March 21-23, the group outperformed first-place teams from the 1st, 2nd and 5th Battalions.

"Teams had to plan and execute missions which tested their knowledge of weapons, communications, radios, first aid, map reading and other patrolling skills," said Maj. Gen. John Schaeffer, adjutant general of the Alaska National Guard.

There were fun events, too, such as a snowmachine obstacle course and a snowshoe race in which each five-man team lined up in a row with their snowshoes tied together, then tried to run.

Schaeffer watched the teams com-



photo by Staff Sgt. Ian Robertson, Alaska National Guard

Members of the aggressor force patrol their area during the team event portion of the Selawik competition.

pete and congratulated the winning team.

"It was a valuable training exercise," Schaeffer said, "and I'm proud of everyone who participated."

Though the competition was designed to encourage teamwork, each group naturally wanted to bring home the top honors for its battalion.

"Friendly competition between the

battalions is a good thing," said Col. Joseph P. Beans, commander of the Guard's 207th Infantry Group. "It gives the men a chance to compare themselves to other Scouts and see where they can improve their skills."

In addition to the team competition, awards were also given to individual Guard members from the four battalions for their proficiency in the

following areas:

- Best Team Leader — Staff Sgt. Joseph Mute of Kongiganak.

- Best Senior Scout — Spec. Ronald Barr Jr. of Noorvik.

- Best Radio Operator — Spec. Tommy Geffe of Noorvik.

- Two Best Scouts — Pvt. Rodney Albert of Ft. Yukon and Spec. Jeff Melton of Noorvik.