

1st Scout Battalion of Nome Forming Arctic Rescue Unit

Guardsmen of Alaska's 1st Scout Battalion are forming a volunteer arctic rescue unit in Nome, according to the com-

manding officer of the battalion, MAJ Jack Fuller.

Using a semi-military organizational plan, the unit will consist of a rescue squadron with three subordinate troops. Initially, all parts of the rescue squadron will be in Nome, but it is hoped that the idea will catch on and spread into other Alaskan communities.

Aside from the Civil Air Patrol, there is no organized rescue group in any of Alaska's more remote populated areas. The new squadron will provide a ground search and rescue capability which can augment the air

search program of CAP.

Although most of the men organizing the unit are members of the Eskimo Scout Battalion, membership in the rescue troops will be open to any interested citizens.

Each rescue troop will be equipped with a sled which will carry supplies and equipment required for missions. The sleds will be packed and kept ready for ready use.

Members of the squadron will use their own snow machines for winter transport, but will be able to take advantage of National Guard communication networks and some other equipment.

Initial training sessions for the units will concentrate on first aid for winter injuries, particularly frostbite.

Financial support of the group will rest with Nome citizens, but Fuller indicates that the obvious need for such a unit in the area, the rescue squadron anticipates little problem in gaining that support.