

Guardsmen win 5-man contest held in Noatak

by Holly Reimer

Tundra Times writer

Five members of Delta Company, Northwest Arctic National Guardsmen, got special honors recently as winners of the Army National Guard 3rd Scout Battalion's first annual five-man Scout Team Competition in Noatak.

"Training alone is not that challenging to people in the villages," said Maj. Bo Austin, executive officer. "We're basically competitive by nature, so we set up this team competition to revitalize interest in training and stimulate team spirit."

Scout teams came from Shungnak, Kivalina, Barrow and Selawik to compete in the competition in Noatak during the last week in March.

Delta Company winners included Staff Sgt. Glenn Douglas, team leader; Sgt. Gregory Commack, senior Scout; Pfc. Samuel Tickett, radio-telephone operator; Pfc. Floyd Douglas, Scout; and Pfc. Donald Lee, Scout.

One Scout team from each line company was selected to compete. Scout teams were picked by their commanders on their ability as individuals and as group members — which men the commanders thought would be the best for this competition.

Each five-man team consisted of a team leader, one senior Scout and three Scouts. Each company also provided evaluators and Multiple Integrated Laser Engagement System

(Continued on Page Eight)



Sgt. Glenn R. Douglas accepts the award for Delta Company from Maj. Gen. John Schaeffer.

National Guard photo

• Delta Company Guardsmen take top honors

(Continued from Page One)

controllers.

Equipment required for each team was an M-60 machine gun, a complete ahkio — fibreglass sled — group, with a 10-man tent and Yukon stove, and PRC-104 and PRC-77 radios.

Individual equipment required was an M-16 rifle, a protective mask, chemical overgarments, winter field

uniforms and load-bearing equipment.

Team competitions began with a message relay in which a message was relayed between several people as quickly and accurately as possible.

A message, such as the location and identification of an enemy unit, was given to the first person who then repeated it to the next person about 50 meters away, and so on until the last person reached the finish point.

Other events were snowshoe relay races and a timed snow-machine and ahkio slalom obstacle course race in which snowmachines had to be carried over an obstacle. Also, teams pulled a loaded ahkio, unloaded, set up a 10-man tent and radio antenna, made radio contact, packed the load back up and raced back to the finish line.

A few other events were patrolling, route and area reconnaissance, and a

screening mission.

Winners of the individual awards included Staff Sgt. Glenn Douglas, Sgt. Johnny Carter, Pfc. Samuel D. Tickett, Spec. 4 Buddy Cleveland and Spec. 4 Virgil Clark.

Austin explained that judging was weighed heavily toward the patrolling events.

"The Scouts' mission is to sneak and peak, and live to tell," he said.