

# *Forces gather for Brim Frost*

**by Holly Reimer**

*Tundra Times writer*

Military forces from Alaska and the Lower 48 will be "playing war" in various military sites in the state during this month and February in Brim Frost '87.

Although the exercise provides a

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# Brim Frost: Training in the cold

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simulated combat environment, the intent is to prepare troops and equipment for real war.

Brim Frost is an exercise conducted every other year, and this year it will involve more than 21,000 people. This exercise is to test equipment and train troops from the Lower 48 in a cold weather environment.

Brim Frost '87 covers a broader geographical area than in the past. That means this year's airlift will be larger than in 1985.

The National Guard will be using the newest twin-engine helicopter, the UH 60 Black Hawk. The Guard also will test 240 high-frequency radio scrambling devices.

In general, the equipment to be used during the maneuvers varies between sites, but will include about 130 fixed-wing aircraft and helicopters, as well as more than 700 wheeled and tracked vehicles.

Live ammunition will not be used; however, the use of rifle and machine-gun blanks, tear gas, flares, artillery simulators, smoke grenades and smoke pots is planned.

Units participating in Brim Frost are:

- U.S. Army's 6th Infantry Division (Light) from Fort Richardson and Fort Wainwright.
- Alaskan Air Command, headquartered at Elmendorf Air Force Base.
- Units of the 207th Scout Group of the Army National Guard.
- U.S. Coast Guard from District Seventeen in Juneau.
- Army Reserve's 12th Special Forces Group, headquartered at Fort Sheridan, Ill.
- Navy's Special Warfare Group in Coronado, Calif.
- U.S. Army and Air Force active du-



*Alaskan Scouts from the 292nd Alaskan Scout Group were deployed to Unalakleet in 1985, photo courtesy of Elmendorf Air Force Base.*

ty and National Guard and Reserve units.

Exercise activities will begin simultaneously throughout the state with most peak activities occurring from the Jan. 24 to Jan. 28.

The largest operations will occur at Kodiak Island and Allen Army Airfield at Fort Greely in the Interior.

At Allen Army Airfield, Air Force security police, members of the Army's 79th Military Police from Minnesota and the Alaska Army National Guard will defend the Fort Greely Airfield.

An air transportable hospital from

Shaw Air Force Base in South Carolina and an air logistics control element will also be deployed at Allen Army Airfield.

At the Bartlett Earth Station near Talkeetna, elements of the 6th Infantry Division will defend this communications site against aggressors played by Army Special Forces teams from the 12th Special Forces Group.

In Valdez, Naval warfare group Seal teams will attack facilities of the Trans-Alaska Pipeline terminal.

In Seward, the docking facility will be used. Defending that site will be

Coast Guard port security people and elements of friendly Army and Navy forces.

At Kodiak Island, off the south coast, Navy Seal teams will also conduct unconventional warfare attacks on several Coast Guard facilities.

Coast Guard and Army forces, aided by A-10 close air support aircraft, will defend Kodiak's port and construction sites.

Brim Frost '87 officially began last week with the activation of Joint Task Force Alaska, under the command of Lt. Gen. David L. Nichols.