

# 'You are the first ones to be shot at'

By Bill Hess  
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If the Soviets were ever to launch any kind of conventional attack on the U.S. soil nearest their homeland, village units of the Alaska National Guard would likely be the first resistance they would meet. "You are the ones who will be there when the first shots are fired," General J.G. Hoyt stressed when he spoke to a group of over 40 guardsmen gathered at Fort Richardson.

The soldiers had come from all over Alaska for a rugged, two-week Non-Commissioned officer course at the Alaska Military Academy.

Instruction included classroom work covering topics such as reconnaissance, codes, compass navigation, landmines

and other military skills, plus field exercises involving camping in sub-zero weather and war games both in taiga forest and mountain tundra.



Many days were spent in class, studying topics ranging from military codes to landmines and compass navigation. Oscar Evon, left, of Kwigillingok and another soldier study codes.



A Guardsman prepares his laser-equipped M-16 for combat exercises.



This sergeant salutes an officer before the men board a bus which will take them to lunch.