Sitka VPSO Academy underway

SITKA-Thirty Village Public Safety Officers are attending the 11th VPSO Academy which began Monday, Oct. 7, at the Public Safety Academy in Sitka.

The academy is a six-week basic training course for Village Public Safety Officers and is the initial phase of an extended training program in which the VPSOs receive training and certification in emergency medical treatment, law enforcement, fire fighting, boating and water safety, and search and rescue.

The officers are employees of their respective villages and regional nonprofit Native corporations, although the training is conducted and coordinated by the Alaska State Troopers.

The present academy class, which is the 11th since the VPSO program was established in 1979 includes training in emergency medical treatment, law enforcement and search and rescue, including training in cardiopulmonary resuscitation, hypothermia, cold water survival, self defense, criminal law and the judicial process. investigation, search and seizure, criminal law, domestic violence, government and the local option law.

Subsequent training for those who graduate from this academy will include two weeks of training as rural firefighters at a regional fire training center and continuing on-the-job training and quarterly training sessions conducted by Alaska State Troopers.

Village Public Safety Officers attending the basic academy which will graduate Nov. 16 from the regional

corporation areas are:

Association of Village Council Presidents: Sonny Dock, Kipnuk; Gabriel Andrew, Kongiganak; Larry Evan, Lower Kalskag; Kenneth C Nanok, Chevak; Glennwood Clyde, Akiak; and Ralph Waska, Kotlik.

Bristol Bay Native Association: Melvin P. Andrews, Manokotak; Evan Chochnok Sr., New Stuyahok; Wilbur E. Sharp, Twin Hills; Robert A. Brown, Ekwok

Kodiak Area Native Association: Marvin L. Bartleson, Port Lions; and Leonard D. Zeedar, Akhiok.

Kawerak: Perry L. Barr, Shishmaref; Benjamin K. Bakoona, Brevig Mission; Thomas Menadelook, Little Diomede; Clyde E. Oxerok, Wales; and Boyd R. Saccheaus, Elim.

Manillag: Lewis A. Norton, Kivalina; and Loweel W. Ramoth, Selawik,

Tanana Chiefs Conference: Ronald E. Avery Chalkyitsik; Beattus Moses Jr., Allakaket; Don W. Stevens, Stevens Village: Franklin Tritt. Arctic Village; Wilson Sam, Huslia; Robert M. Workman, Shageluk.

Tlingit-Haida Central Council: Richard M. Berenson, Klukwan; Jay J. Cardinal, Yakutat; Michael K. Krueger, Thorne Bay; Pamela A. Meyer, Saxman; and John F. Bilyeu, Angoon.