

Native public safety officers trained

Twenty-seven Native village public safety officers are attending the first advanced training academy of the Department of Public Safety's new Village Public Safety Officer program which is being held at the Public Safety Academy in Sitka beginning Aug. 27.

This is an intensive four-week course taught by Public Safety Academy instructors with additional instruction provided by the U. S. Coast Guard and the Department of Community and Regional Affairs. This will include a two-week course in emergency medical training, and two week training in law enforcement, boating and water safety, search and rescue operations, and preparation of village ordinances.

This will be followed later in the fall by a one-week training session in fire fighting conducted by the State Fire Service Training Program of the Department of education. This will be held

at the new Regional Fire Training Center of the Anchorage Fire Department.

The Village Public Safety Officer program was established by the Department of Public Safety this year to expand the role of the village police officer, to prepare him to meet the wide range of public safety problems experienced in rural villages in addition to law enforcement.

The village officers completing the program will receive certification by the Alaska Police Standards Council as Village Police Officers, certification by the State of Alaska as Emergency Medical Technicians, certification by the Department of Education as Rural Fire Fighter I, and scholastic credit at Sheldon Jackson College or the University of Alaska.

The officers attending the advanced academy were among approximately 65 village officers who attended two one-week basic training sessions for Village Public Safety Officers which were held last spring in Nome and Bethel.

The officers attending the

advanced academy in Sitka include: Harry Gilila and John Jasper of Aniak; Andrew Nicholai, Atmauthluak; Sergie Phillips, Chauthbaluk; Ferdinand Carter and Walter Brown, Eek; Mike Stewart, Jr., Goodnews Bay; Luke Tall and Paul Fisher, Hooper Bay; and Henry Kanuk, Kipnuk.

Edward David, Kongiganak; Tony Phillip, Kwigilingok; Crimet Phillips, Lower Kalskag; Moses Vaska, Upper Kalskag; Ho Howard Amos, Mekoryuk; Steven Paul, Sr., Napakiak; Matfie Larson, Napaskiak; Ignatius Tommy, Newtok; Peter Minock, Sr., Pilot Station.

Yago A. Pitka, Sr., Russian Mission; Yako Crane, Sleetmute; Ben Chagluak, Toksook Bay; Nicholi Japhet, Tuluksak; Mathew Active, Kasigiluk; Leo Kanrilak, Tununak; Alexis Matthias, Stebbings; and Peter Kobuk, St. Michaels.

Travel and other expenses of the village officers taking part in the program were paid by CETRA through Yupiktak Bista and Kawarek, Inc., the non-profit Native regional corporations in Bethel and Nome.