



Members of the 4th Battalion 297 Infantry Group Scout with the Alaskan Army National Guard prepare to depart Ketchikan Wednesday during Brim Frost '87.

Elmendorf Air Force Base photo

Troops wage 'war' in Interior

by Holly Reimer
Tundra Times writer

ALLEN ARMY AIRFIELD — This airfield and Fort Greely, about 70 miles southeast of Fairbanks, is an open battlefield for some of the troops participating in Brim Frost '87 this month.

At the temporary 2nd Brigade Tactical Operations Center near the airfield, Maj. Peter Fiorey explained how

important it is that the "enemy" doesn't penetrate this UHF telecommunications center consisting of a AN/TRAC 145 radio terminal and generator. This center, which is hooked up to the Alascom satellite, is moved frequently to avoid detection.

The communications system allows troops to contact literally any where in the world.

Staff Sgt. Mark Ingram of the 21st Special Police Squadron and his troops

demonstrated "area denial" — protection of their center — with triplines and flares.

The triplines consist of a camouflage thread connected to a flare. When the line is broken, it sets off the flare to alert the troops of intruders during the night.

These Interior Alaska activities are part of Brim Frost '87, an exercise

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Brim Frost '87 offers training in Arctic

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sponsored by U.S. Readiness Command — REDCOM — to test troops and equipment for war in a cold-weather environment. It is held every two years in Alaska.

Allen Army Airfield at Fort Greely is one of several locations throughout the state where "war" is taking place.

Officials said the ability to communicate and protect communication sites is crucial. Communication sites are guarded day and night, and the main objective of each unit and their support groups is to keep the area secure and alert.

Also needed are hospital facilities.

Maj. Jim Dougherty and his unit from the 363rd tactical team from Shaw Air Force Base in South Carolina, set up their intermediate air transportable medivac hospital, which has a 25-bed and 120-casualty capability. This particular type of hospital was tested in Egypt last year, and this year the desert hospital is being tested in an Arctic environment.

The mobile hospital has X-ray facilities. Also, it has a two-bed operating room, as well as iso-shelter laboratory.

The hospital unit's mission is to get the soldiers back on the battlefield as quickly as possible.

Media representatives were taken to Allen Airfield at Fort Greely from Anchorage and Fairbanks Friday and witnessed the "war" during an all-day press tour.

More than 30 reporters, photographers and artists from Alaska and the Lower 48 got a first-hand view of troops' training activities.

The cold-weather training is nothing new for Alaskan troops, officials said. But for many of those participating from the Lower 48, it is one of the few times they get a chance to "fight" in the Arctic.



Alaskan Army National Guard troops wait to depart Ketchikan during Brim Frost '87 Elmendorf Air Force Base photo

The scenario of Brim Frost calls for Army and Air Force forces to respond to the Army Special Forces and Navy SEAL teams portraying small Soviet special operations forces attempting to operate against specific sites within Alaska.

The aggressors use their own U.S. tactics and wear U.S. uniforms.

The "friendly" forces expect to operate against harassment at targets in the Interior and similar operations by teams trained in water operation at ports and coastal facilities.