Platoon Counts Reindeer

The 12th Aviation Company, Mohawk Platoon of Ft. Wainwright, recently combined forces with the Alaska Fish and Game Management Office to do an aerial recount of the reindeer herd on Nunivak Island.

A count done last spring showed 2,000 animals missing from the herd. Natives of the island refused to believe that many deer could be lost and asked for help in checking the animals.

The military will do the job with an OV-1 Mohawk aircraft

equipped with a super quiet surveillance system designed for combat conditions. The plane utilizes a sensative infrared system which will detect body heat and reproduce and recognizable image on film as well as KA-30 aerial cameras.

Earlier attempts to do a recount have been hampered by bad weather which Nunivak has had more than its share of this season. The military predicts, however, it can get the job done by this fall.