

A Company gets Native officer

by Barbara Crane

Tundra Times reporter

BARROW — Through study, dedication and hard work, Fred Kaleak has moved from the enlisted ranks to become an officer in A Company (Barrow), 3rd Battalion, Alaska Army National Guard.

He was commissioned a second lieutenant during a special ceremony before his friends and family last month on the first day of *Nalukataq*, Barrow's spring whaling festival.

"We're especially proud of Kaleak," said Lt. Col. Charles Soxie, 3rd Battalion commander, "because we haven't had a Native officer in A Company for about 15 years."

To become an officer, Kaleak traveled to Anchorage to complete an intensive six-week officer candidate course held at the Alaska Military Academy at Camp Carroll.

After taking his oath, Kaleak received his second lieutenant bars from Lt. Col. Milt Cross, the new 297th Scout Group commander, and his father, Riley, who also served in the Alaska Army National Guard.



Photo by Barbara Crane

Fred Kaleak was commissioned a second lieutenant recently.