



Former Gov. Bill Sheffield was one of the speakers at the Alaska Public Health Association's 12th Alaska Health Congress in Anchorage last week. Sheffield stressed the importance of programs to fight alcohol abuse. Speaking at a luncheon during the meeting, Sheffield said that many of Alaska's problems are compounded by alcohol abuse.

photo by M.A. Klueber

Alaska selected as location for U.S.-Canadian exercises

by **Holly F. Reimer**

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The first annual *Amalgam Brave* air defense operations training exercise was held last week with more than 900 people and about 57 aircraft arriving in Anchorage from all over the Lower 48 and Canada.

This training exercise, conducted in southwestern Alaska near Stony, Naknek and other villages, tested pilots on defense against low-altitude targets, combat flying skills and radar interception.

Air Force officials said the area being used was selected because there are few people living near it.

Lt. Col. John Burns, commander of the defending "blue force" and Maj. Ed Whitt, commander of the attacking "red force," both started planning for this exercise months in advance. Neither has ever participated in the *Amalgam Brave* exercise before.

The exercise has been conducted since 1980 at Goose Bay, Labrador, by the Canadian North American Aerospace Defense Command, known as NORAD.

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—Maj. Ed Whitt

While the United States Air Force has participated in *Amalgam Brave* in the past, this type of training with the Canadian Air Force has never been conducted in the United States before this year.

Whitt said due to previous obligations, NORAD won't have any of their aircraft participating during this year's exercise.

"We're going to try and make this the best *Amalgam Brave* ever, so we can have it here again next year, and at least every other time," Whitt added.