

By RONALD SMOTHERS

Military installations in the state and nearby were on precautionary alert yesterday, according to Defense Department spokesmen, and although officers at the installations would not confirm the alert there were reports of unusual activity at many of them.

Early yesterday morning the command at Plattsburgh Air Force Base in upstate New York called on the local radio station to broadcast an emergency summons to its 4,500 military personnel.

At McGuire Air Force Base in New Jersey, a spokesman would not comment on the alert but did say that 10 days ago

the Pentagon ordered tightened base security. The base, home of the 438th Wing of the 21st Air Force Military Airlift Command, has 6,250 servicemen and 59 C-141 transport aircraft.

Officials at smaller research-oriented and training bases, such as the Picatinny Arsenal at Dover, N.J., and the Army electronics command at Fort Monmouth in Red Bank, N.J., also refused to comment on whether they were on precautionary alert.

Secretary of State Kissinger said at a news conference yesterday that the order to take precautionary measures went out to "all U.S. military forces." The measure was taken hours after the United States "became

aware of the alerting of certain Soviet units," Mr. Kissinger said.

Only seven of the 40 KC-135 tankers that refuel B-52's and one of the 36 F-111 fighter-bombers were observed on the flight line at the Plattsburgh base yesterday afternoon. Officials of the base would not confirm reports that many servicemen stationed there were in transit to installations in Maine but it was learned that the officials had attempted to rent 25 cars from rental offices in the area.

A precautionary alert is a stage of preparedness a degree greater than the normal peacetime posture of the United States armed forces. It is mostly a mustering of troops and

equipment and in some cases can lead to the canceling of all leaves.

A spokesman at the New London Submarine Base in Groton, Conn., said that the base began a "routine drill" at 6 A.M. yesterday but would not confirm that the base had been put on precautionary alert.

National Guard units were not affected by the alert of active military forces. Only one Air National Guard Unit, the 107th Fighter Interceptor Group based at Niagra Falls, N.Y., reacted to the alert. Col. John E. Blewett, commander of the unit, said he had taken the opportunity to hold a routine readiness drill and had notified the base's full-time civilian technicians to report early.