

Allakaket Gets Schoolhouse with Help from Army

FT. WAINWRIGHT—The village of Allakaket on the Koyukuk River received its own schoolhouse this winter with help from the United States Army.

Elements of the 242nd Aviation Company, Ft. Wainwright, transported the building, complete with furnaces, insulation and decking in a CH-47 (Chinook) and a CH54B (Crane) from Bettles, 175 miles northwest of Ft. Wainwright, to the native village from 49 miles southwest of Bettles.

"The building is a rectangular pre-fab aluminum affair," said Captain Craig Jenkins, pilot of the Chinook. "It's what you might call a 'modern adaptation of the quonset hut.'"

Captain Jenkins explained that the Crane was capable of carrying the building internally by itself; however, since a couple of the I beams of the disassembled building were too long for the pod, a Chinook was also used in the mission.

"The schoolhouse was originally taken to Bettles by a unit of the National Guard in Anchorage," he said. "From there we ferried it to Allakaket."

"This is our second mission of this type in the past three

months," said CW4 Dale Lance, Aircraft Commander of the Crane. "We can foresee a lot of this in the future with the pipeline coming through and the National Guard activities in Alaska."

The entire project was a joint effort of the Army and the Alaskan Bureau of Indian Affairs in coordination with University of Alaska. It was funded by the Ford Foundation as an experiment in which Alaska na-

tives will assemble the school, provide teachers, and run the school by themselves.

"The whole thing is involvement on the part of the natives," said Dr. Donald Moyer, Director of Planning and Institutional Studies at the University.

"Although there is a school at Allakaket run by whites they won't be assisting the natives with their school unless the natives request it," Dr. Moyer concluded. "The idea is for the native to develop his own program."
