



AURORA BOREALIS COMPANY—Members of special Alaskan Company arrive at Chicago's O'Hare International Airport. Next stop—Recruit Training Command, Great Lakes, Ill.  
(Photo by JO3 Robert McLean)

## Alaska Aurora Borealis Company Brightens Chicago with 80 Smiles

Alaskan Company to undergo Recruit Training GREAT LAKES, ILL., June 17—Eighty smiles, as bright as the snow that caps the mountains of our 49th state, lit up the terminal of Chicago's O'Hare International Airport recently as the future members of the Alaska Aurora Borealis Company arrived for nine weeks

of recruit training at the Naval Training Center here.

Smiles are a rarity for incoming recruits. The beginning of military basic training is usually a time of anxiety and solemn expectancy; but these Alaskan youths were an exception to the rule. Their faces were happy and showed no sign of weariness despite their

2 a.m. arrival time.

After a quick "welcome aboard" speech from a Recruit Training Command representative, they made a mass exodus through the airport doors and into the two waiting Navy buses.

The first few days at RTC will be spent processing—in. During this hectic period, they will receive their uniforms, get Navy haircuts, undergo extensive medical and dental examinations and take the all-important series of tests to determine their aptitude for specialized training after "boot camp."

The 80 young men have travelled a long way since being sworn—in June 12 by Rear Admiral D. M. White, Commandant of the 17th Naval District, just prior to their 1 p.m. departure from International Airport in Anchorage, Alaska.

They will travel a great deal further during the long transformation from civilian to sailor and graduation day—Aug. 9, 1968.