

# 350 COMMAND WEEKEND VISITORS OBSERVE HAWK MISSILE FIRING

Story and Photos by PFC Dallas Rose

Three hundred men and women from Babcock Industries, manufacturers of a component for the missile target drones and fifty residents and civic leaders from Fresno, Calif., were aboard the Base, Saturday, April 24, to witness a HAWK missile shoot put on by Alpha, Charlie and Delta Batteries of the 2nd Light Anti - Aircraft Missile Battalion. "D" Battery is made up solely of reservists from Fresno.

The 50 men arrived early Saturday morning aboard a plane and were met at the Airfield by their Marine escorts, Lt Despotakis, CO, "A" Btry., 2nd LAAMs and 2ndLt R. W. Andrews.

After a welcome by BrigGen W. K. Jones and an idea of what they would see in the field by Lt Despotakis, the visitors were taken directly to the firing site where they were joined by the group from Babcock.

Major E. F. Penico, who narrated the day's events, welcomed the visitors to the launch site and explained the job of each Marine and the function of each piece of equipment.

The crowd was held in awe by the sight of the deadly HAWK missiles atop their launchers and the bright orange-colored drones.

During a lull in activities, the Fresno men were invited to lunch in the field with the men from 2nd LAAM's. All indications point to the fact that the meal was totally enjoyed by all.

On returning to the stands, the 350 visitors saw what they had awaited. A HAWK missile fired by Alpha Battery made a clean kill on one of the target drones. The complete firing function, from the missile leaving the launcher to the kill, was witnessed by all. Later in the evening "D" Btry., the reservists, fired two HAWK missiles with success.

After the day's events, the Babcock people departed for home while the Fresno group stayed on as guests for the night.

Sunday morning, the men departed the Base with a better understanding of the workings of the Marine Corps and especially the workings of a LAAM Battalion.

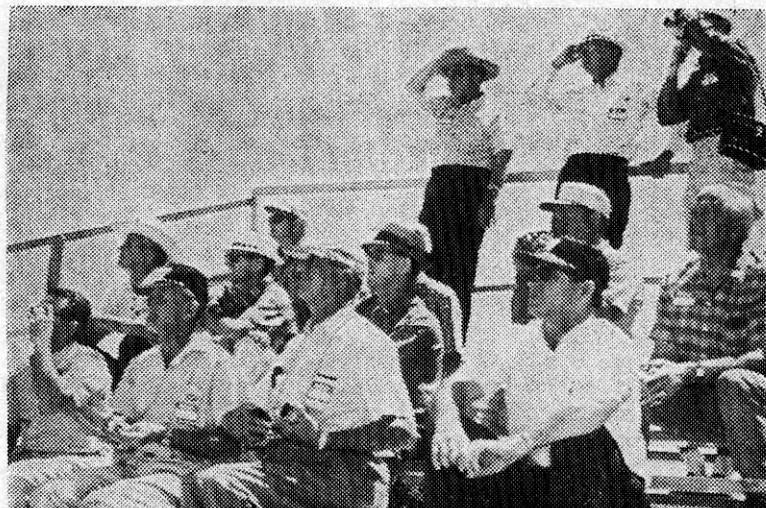
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