

New LAAM CO cited at P-111

General Robert E. Cushman, Jr. visited 2nd LAAM Bn.'s P-111 desert training site during the course of his visit here this week.

At the beginning of his visit to P-111, the Commandant presented a Meritorious Service Medal to LtCol. W.A. Cohn, the battalion's commanding officer, for outstanding service with the U.S. Army Air Defense Board's Combat Development Command Air Defense Agency at Fort Bliss, Texas from Aug. 1969 to Nov. 1972.

After the presentation, Gen. Cushman addressed the formation "Looking over the record of the 2nd LAAM Bn., I note that it has proven to be outstanding in both safety and performance. I want to thank all of you for maintaining this record of safety and for your outstanding performance. I am sure you will continue to march."

Gen. Cushman later received a briefing from LtCol. Cohn on the battalion's mission, training, performance and future plans.

The battalion commander emphasized the performance of his men, shortage of trained personnel within the unit, and use of "B" Battery as a training battery.

"This is unique in the Marine Corps today," he said. "We were forced with a decision — either man all batteries at a low level

CMC visits

2nd LAAM Bn.

(continued from page 1)

or deactivate one of the three we are now authorized. Rather than take either of these alternatives, the decision was made to make "B" a training battery. By doing so," he continued, "we were able to man the battery at a lower yet efficient level, and maintain the other batteries at close to peak strength."

LtCol. Cohn also discussed the improved HAWK, which the battalion expects to receive next year. He cited its advantages over the present system, plans for receipt of the equipment and the training of personnel in its use and maintenance.

Capt. Michael R. Kanne, the battalion Communications Officer, later briefed the general on a new communications center, which his section developed. This equipment had recently been tested during an exercise at Vandenberg Air Force Base and provides greater mobility, requires fewer men to maintain, and saves the Corps money and time in relation to transporting the new Communication center.

A mock aircraft attack by MCCRTG-10 aircraft was provided as a finale for the Commandant's visit to the desert site. During the course of the mock attack, Gen. Cushman observed each member of the 2nd LAAM Bn. 'doing his thing' to repulse the airborne intruders.



A unique experience!

Gen. Robert B. Cushman, Jr. inspects the new communications center developed by the 11th Battery Communications Platoon during his tour of P-11, last Monday. (photo by LCpl. Ray Hammond)