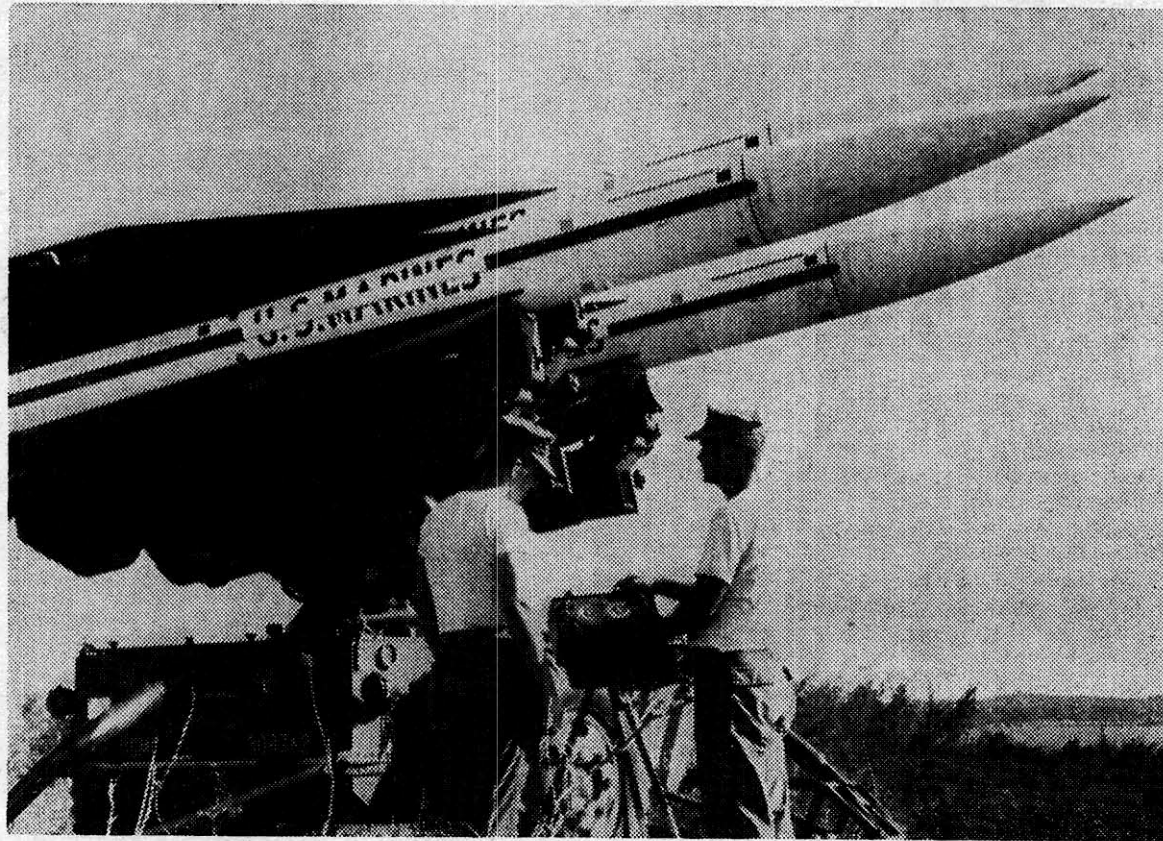


# The DRAGON and The GODDESSES\*



**MISSILE CHECK**—A HAWK missile launcher is checked by PFC F. G. Day (Dallas, Texas) left, and Cpl J. W. Sandy (La Porte, Ind.). The 2nd Light Anti-Aircraft Missile (LAAM) Bn. launchers are checked daily to ensure instantaneous reaction should enemy aircraft attempt to hit Chu Lai. (OFFICIAL USMC PHOTO by Cpl Dupe Snyder)

## PELILU 'VETERAN' NOW MARINE SGT IN VIETNAM

DA NANG, Vietnam—The Marines stormed across the beach, the enemy fire was murderous.

A small boy, further back on the island, shuddered as he listened to the firing. He was eight years old, and he was scared.

## MAG - II Thwarts Out Post Overrun

He had never seen Marines before, all he knew about them was what the enemy told the

## Viet Kids Score On Candy Assault

CHU LAI, Vietnam — Battle scenes are not always thunderingly active. They are sometimes poignant. Like this one:

Thirty helicopters squatted in a long line, machineguns thrusting from each side of troop compartments loaded with Army of the Republic of Vietnam (ARVN) soldiers on their way to battle.

## 'Guardians Of The Sky; Watchdogs Of The Ground'

(Many of our readers will remember Cpl Doby. "Dupe" Snyder, a good friend and a fine writer, who, up until the 2nd LAAM Bn. deployment in August, lent his talents to the OP as Sports Editor. Dupe, currently serving as a squad leader at Chu Lai, RVN, assumed the additional duty of battalion ISO and this, his initial release, is the first of what we hope will prove a series of prime accounts.—Ed.)

CHU LAI, Vietnam, Nov. 16 — Marine infantrymen, who ring the hills protecting this tactically important airfield, and the pilots who fly from it daily, now have one less problem to worry about. The possibility of an enemy air attack is nil.

In fact, it is the general opinion here that an enemy air assault would be a disaster for its originator, due to the deadly HAWK (Homing All The Way Killer) missiles.

A battalion of them, the 2nd Light Anti-Aircraft Missile (LAAM) Bn., under the command of Maj E. F. Penico (Philadelphia, Pa.), is now completely operational and on constant alert for enemy air activity in this section of Vietnam.

The battalion consists of three batteries, strategically emplaced to provide cover for the Marine elements at Chu

Lai. Another battalion 1st LAAMs, has an identical role at Da Nang.

**A Headquarters and Service Battery** is centrally located between the three firing batteries here and can be used to control the firing of each. But such isn't mandatory. Each missile battery has the capability of individual action.

Though this is the first time that 2nd LAAMs has been in a hostile zone since its activation in 1960, two sources of pride have already developed.

First, the battalion has proven that its concept of complete mobility is valid. It can transplace within hours, totally or in part, providing protection anywhere Marine forces might move.

And, lastly, the missilemen are as adept at being basic rifleman-type Marines as anyone else, though highly specialized technical skills are required in such a battalion.

This might lead to a new slogan: "Guardians of the sky; Watchdogs of the ground."

★ *"Legend has it that from the union of a dragon and a goddess came the hundred venerable ancestors of all the Vietnamese."*—A Pocket Guide to Viet-Nam