

# FIRST LAAM BN. IN VIET NAM!



**LAST MINUTE CHECK**—BGen William K. Jones, Commanding General, Force Troops, FMFPac, holds last minute discussion with LtCol Bertrum E. Cook, Commanding Officer of the 1st LAAM Bn., prior to the unit's departure from Marine Corps Base 29 Palms, last November. (By Base Photo Lab)

## "FORCE IN READINESS" MAINTAINED AT 29 PALMS

Brigadier General William K. Jones, Commanding General, Marine Corps Base and Force Troops re-emphasized that all tactical units at Marine Corps Base, 29 Palms are continuing to stress combat readiness. The

Marine Corps takes pride in being the nation's Force in Readiness, and the Marines at 29 Palms feel they are among the best trained in the Corps.

As part of the never-ending effort to maintain and improve its readiness, the Navy-Marine team is conducting a major fleet exercise on the West Coast during the latter part of February and early March. The exercise is called SILVER LANCE, and will include practically all of the tactical units stationed here at 29 Palms. This of course will mean increased military traffic, both surface and air, in the Morongo Basin during the next four to six weeks, as these units move to and from their assigned staging areas.

**TRAFFIC  
FATALITIES**

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**1965**

The word is official now. The missile battalion ordered to Viet Nam last Sunday by President Johnson, is the 1st LAAM Battalion which "mounted out" last November from 29 Palms, Marine Corps Base.

"Operation Anthill" began as a routine "ORTEX" (operational readiness test and exercise) in the quiet stillness of the early Sunday morning hours, November 15. Marines of the 1st LAAM Bn. were recalled from liberty and went about the task of preparing to "mount-out." Exercises of this nature are part of the normal schedule of training for all Marines. During the exercise, however, "the word" came. **MOUNT OUT.**

All the training undergone by the unit proved effective as the 1st LAAM Bn., lock, stock and barrel, moved out on the 18th, for an undisclosed destination in the western Pacific.

Commanded by LtCol B. E. (Bert) Cook, the 1st LAAM Bn. was detached from 29 Palms where they were billeted since the unit was formed.

In addition to the approximately 600 officers and men of the 1st LAAM Bn., one doctor and 8 corpsmen left with the unit.

Many of the men's families still reside in the 29 Palms area where they have elected to remain.



**SHIPPING OUT**—Marines of the 1st LAAM Bn. prepare to board ship for deployment to the western Pacific. (By Base Photo Lab)

## BGen W. K. Jones Addresses ROTC Graduates At U. of K.

"... leading men is a 24 hour-a-day job. There can be no substitute for personal example in leadership."

The speaker was Brigadier General William K. Jones, Commanding General, Marine Corps Base. The occasion was a commissioning ceremony held at the University of Kansas at Lawrence.

It was a scene reminiscent of a similar one twenty-eight years ago when young William K. Jones received his lieutenantcy during commissioning ceremonies at the same university.

General Jones journeyed to Lawrence, Kansas, to deliver a speech at the joint ROTC commissioning ceremonies held February 3 at the University.

Rather than speaking on doctrines, tactics, techniques, and sophisticated modern equipment, the General spoke on human values; "Values which underlie and give meaning to our military power."

Emphasizing the essential requirements for command, and the hard years of work and ex-

perience necessary for such a position, he also extolled the virtues and pitfalls of the position of command.

Nineteen men received commissions into the armed forces after successfully completing the ROTC program.

While there General William K. Jones had the opportunity of swearing a university freshman into the Marine Corps Platoon Leaders Program. The young man was William K. Jones, Jr.

### NOTICES

All requests for absentee ballots for the local school bond election on February 23 must be received in San Bernardino by next Tuesday. Application forms are available from your unit voting officers.

Any Marines or Navymen, active or retired, who participated in the Iwo Jima campaign, are requested to call the Informational Services Office at Ext. 218/419.