

Lance Joins NATO Forces

The first shipment of new Lance missile equipment to Army forces overseas has arrived in Europe where it will be issued to Army artillerymen deployed there in support of NATO forces.

Lance is replacing Sergeant and Honest John battalions, that for years have played an important role in NATO defense.

Everything needed to fire and support the 20-foot-long battle-field missile was included in the shipment except tactical missiles. The shipment consists of tracked vehicles — Self Propelled launchers and Transporter-Loaders — as well as military vans filled with repair parts, training missiles and ancillary equipment.

Tactical missiles will be channeled through regular ammunition supply lines later to meet the established Lance deployment date.

Once the battalion getting the equipment—the 2/333rd Artillery Battalion — completes conversion training, it will return to White Sands Missile Range, for its first annual service practice.

A team of Lance Project Office and Missile Command personnel will be on the ground in Europe to assist the battalion in changing to Lance. The team includes Lieutenant Colonels G. M. Beavers and Dale Fay and Jack Parrish, Lance Project Office; Martin Abeytta, Robert Williams, Roy Stevens, Leon Jones, Curtis Wade and Beryl Witherspoon, missile maintenance technicians for MICOM's Maintenance technicians from MICOM's Maintenance Directorate; and Ted Sisemore and Robert Brooks, Materiel Management Directorate.

Lance equipment was marshalled from the Michigan Army Missile Plant, Tobyhanna Army Depot and Anniston Army Depot before being sent to Bayonne for consolidation and loading aboard the Navy's William M. Callaghan, the world's first gas turbine powered roll-on, roll-off ship.

Lance is the Army's only major missile system to be fielded this year.

The Michigan Division of LTV Aerospace Corporation is Lance prime contractor.

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James D. Cuff of the Lance Project Office is the author of an article entitled "Risk-Decision Analysis in Weapons System Acquisitions" which has been published in "Long Range Planning."

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