



ENGLISH FOR SPECIFIC PURPOSE: MECHANIC

**Text: MARTIN LACROSSE MOBILE LAUNCHER**



The Army's newest surface-to-surface guided missile, LACROSSE, is controlled from a forward observation station in order to enable it to hit its target without having a complicated computer installation at its launching site. When a target is located by the forward station the missile is fired from the launching site and directed into the target by the light and mobile forward guidance station.

Although LACROSSE was originally designed for close troop support, its role has been expanded to include general military support, and the missile is capable of delivering numerous types of warheads. The units are self-contained and highly mobile having a simple and efficient supporting system. All units are vehicle mounted, and can be air-lifted to battle areas when necessary. Because of this mobility, it presents a difficult target for the enemy. A standard ARMY 2<sup>1/2</sup> ton, 6X6 truck chassis serves as a launcher.

LACROSSE has an overall length of 19.2 feet, a fuselage diameter of 20.5 inches, a wingspan of 9 feet, and a fin span of 4.7 feet. The missile body has three major assemblies, the nose section or warhead, the center section, which includes the guidance equipment, and the tail section with its solid propellant rocket engine. Four swept wings and four movable tail fins control pitch, yaw, and roll, keeping the rocket on course, and fit quickly into recesses in the fuselage. The missile has a range of between 15 and 20 miles.

The MARTIN COMPANY is one of the pioneers in the American missile program, having developed the VIKING, the MATADOR and the VANGUARD. The LACROSSE represents an important trend in the development of modern artillery weapons.