

NEWS OF THE DAY
VOL. 33-278
MAY 14, 1962

REPORT ON CRISIS IN SOUTHEAST ASIA

A task force of the U.S. Seventh Fleet steams purposefully toward the Gulf of Siam and predicted landing of Marines in Thailand. For this friendly country is threatened by Communist aggression in Laos, buffer against Red China. Communist advances in violation of a year-old cease fire re-open the struggle among the three contending Laotian factions: pro-Western royalists, pro-Communist leftists and neutrals. Efforts for a coalition government have failed. Once more civilians suffer the ravages of war. Again a showdown looms between Red China and the United States over the fate of these people -- which might well determine the fate also the the people of Thailand, Cambodia and South Viet Nam. Defense Secretary McNamara tours centers of operation in guerilla-infested South Viet Nam. The outcome in Laos depends somewhat upon Russian reaction, and largely upon American determination not to give up in Southeast Asia.

ARMED FORCES WELCOME PUBLIC

Armed Forces Week, 1962, begins with "Open House" at U.S. military installations throughout the country. One of the best, so far as future soldiers, sailors and Marines are concerned, is the one at Andrews Air Force Base near Washington. This is the thirteenth year that the several military services have held joint observances. In real operation, the jump tower is used to train paratroops. Today it's as good as any amusement park ride. A landing craft comes in for a "mass invasion" ... and what a pity all invading forces can't be as happy as this one! The Navy's Blue Angels specialize in hair's breadt formations. The Buckeye shows that parachutes can go up as well as down. Technically this is called "ground-level ejection." The motto for Armed Forces Week is "Power for Peace", and here is unique power indeed. The rocket man will never get to the moon this way, but he can make three-hundred-and-sixty-foot leaps, and even soar over hills, provided they're not too tall.