

NEWS NOTES FOR THE ARTILLERYMEN

A REDSTONE MILESTONE

The US Army's highly reliable Redstone rocket engine has passed another milestone in its brief but colorful career. The delivery of the last of the liquid propellant rockets to the Army by the manufacturer marked the end of eight years of production which started early in 1952. During that period the Redstone has chalked up a record of accomplishments and reliability that is unique in the field of missiles, rockets, and space exploration. Of 61 attempted firings, 59 have been successful. A Redstone boosted the Army's Explorer I, America's first space satellite, into orbit. Subsequently, it boosted two of the next three successful US satellite launchings.

Although production has ended, the operational life of the Redstone is far from finished. United States Army Redstone units will continue to stand guard in Europe until eventually replaced by the newer solid propellant Pershing missile units.

A Redstone is scheduled to boost the capsule in which the first US Astronaut will be transported out of the earth's atmosphere into space. The 78,000-pound thrust Redstone engine was the predecessor to the H1 engine, which, in a cluster of eight units will provide the first stage lift for the 1.5-million-pound thrust Saturn space vehicle.