

# Dog Training Under TPMG



**LEARNING THE ROPES**—German Shepherds of Camp Carson's Army Dog Training Center show they know the meaning of the command "sit". The dogs and handlers learn to work as teams. (U. S. Army Photo)

By Sgt Ed White

Cp Carson, Colorado, home of the Army's only animal pack units, added another "only" when the Army Dog Training Center was organized December 7, 1951 under the technical supervision of TPMG.

In operation less than a year, the training center, which is located near the PMO on the post, has grown by "leaps and bounds." Handlers and dogs are trained for all branches of the Armed Forces. with a cadre of 4 officers (two of the military police corps) and 30 enlisted men, the center can train 86 students and 380 dogs during one training cycle. Sixty-eight handlers and dogs are in training at the present.

During September, six Air Force enlisted men became the first graduates of the eight-week course in sentry dog handling, and left with their dogs for overseas assignments. To date 20 Carson-trained men and dogs have been shipped to overseas installations, the majority to Korea.

Facts and figures are available that prove the Army dog can "pay his way". According to the CO, well trained handlers and dogs can and do save the taxpayers millions of dollars. As an example, it is pointed out that during the first four months of 1949, warehouses and depots in Japan, which were being guarded by an infantry battalion, reported a loss of \$600,000 through theft. From the first of May, one command of 125 men and 65 dogs, took over the guard duties of the storage area. Until March of 1950, not a single loss was reported.

In addition to releasing approximately 600 men for training, it is estimated the dogs saved the government "millicns" of tax dollars.

The training cycle for the dog handlers is of 12 or 8 weeks' duration. Scout and messenger handlers require 12 weeks of schooling while the sentry handler graduates in 8 weeks.

Since the dogs need more "basic" than their handlers, each class of dogs starts training in advance of their future handlers. Therefore, partially-trained dogs are on hand when prospective handlers arrive from Army, Navy, Air Force and Marine Corps bases throughout the world.

The advanced course prepares the dogs for one of three duties: sentry, scout or messenger. The human students learn to work with the dogs as sentries or scouts.

Each student starts the course with two dogs. At the end of the course, the better of the two accompanies him to his assignment.

The first weeks of training for the men consist primarily of becoming accustomed to working with a canine companion. For the dog it's obedience training — learning that man is master, and that at a soft spoken command or flick of a leash they are to heel, sit, jump, crawl, or stay. Hour upon hour is spent in the field, performing the simple

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Over the top — A German shepherd, at the Cp Carson Army Dog Training Center shows his vaulting skill during basic training exercises. Cpl. R. M. Thayer lends a hand. On the right: After weeks of training with his handler, the German shepherds are quick to obey a command. (U. S. Army Photo)



All of the dogs, German Shepherds, are carefully chosen, mainly from eastern kennels, by officials of the Remount Service in Washington. The trainee dogs must be between one and two years old, with eight between 60 and 75 pounds. They have an average usefulness to the armed forces of five years.

Carson, which is located near Colorado Springs, Colorado, is commanded by Brig Gen George V. Keyser. Capt J. F. Riddick is CO of the Dog TC.

Airman 1/c Ernest I. Reando recently received his diploma on completion of the eight-week sentry dog handler's course at Cp Carson. Brig Gen G. V. Keyser presented the "diploma." Airman Reando was honor man in the class of six. WOJG J. B. Whitworth who read the citation is standing behind the Airman.

