

'Life-Saving' Dogs Are Product Of Rigid 12-Week Course Here

By Ken Deats

Often, the first impression a person has of a Fort Benning scout dog is, "Gee, look how gentle he is. He even wags his tail. How can you use such a friendly dog in combat?" And usually the handler's reply is a whispered command that sends the dog into a fit of anger, complete with flashing teeth and deep-throated growl.

These dogs pack a wallop. Most of them can deliver a bite that would crush a man's leg. But they are not trained to be killers. They are just taught to attack.

At Fort Benning, hand-picked German Shepherds, some pure and some not, undergo a rigorous 12-week course that produces animals capable of alerting handlers on anything from VC troops nesting in thick jungles to a buried mine inches from a friendly footstep. At the end of their study, both the dog and his handler are sent with the fully-trained unit to Vietnam where tests the courses are proving their worth, saving lives.

Platoon Competition

Each scout dog platoon in Vietnam is composed of 24 selected handlers, a veterinary technician, a clerk, a platoon sergeant and company commander. But it is the dog that performs the real mission of the unit — to alert the Infantry troops. It supports with his senses of sight, hearing and smell. Usually a team — one dog and one man — goes with each Infantry platoon on a search and destroy mission. The scout dog can pick up the enemy scent up to 1,000 meters as it is carried downwind and give the alert through signals the handler has learned to understand.

The dog's sense of hearing, while not as acute as his sense of smell, is still several times greater than man's. He is able to alert on the sounds of enemy movement and give his handler indications of the direction. And, although he is color blind, his eyes can detect movement over great distances. Additionally, his tail is trained to alert on the touch of a trip wire, any, but deadly enough to snap out half a platoon with the explosion it detonates.

Used in the point or "well front" position, the dog can be used on reconnaissance and ambush patrols, as well as search and destroy, sweep and outpost missions.

From the first moment in training when man meets dog, the two stick together during training hours. On

Overnight problems, learning how to cross obstacles as a team, and generally learning to get along together, the dog and his master are molded into a team designed to serve one purpose — seeing the enemy before he sees you.

During the 12 weeks at Benning a dog and his

handler are exposed to most situations they will encounter in Vietnam. A dog must get used to the report of a rifle. A whimpering dog that cannot stand the noise must be taken out of the course. He learns to fear the sound of hand pits, body traps and mines — and is rewarded for discovery of them.

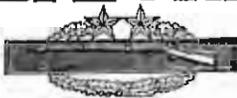
The whole mission of training and using scout dogs depends on one obvious factor — dog obedience. Fort Benning instructors have developed a whole philosophy of dog handling which hinges on a balance between reward and discipline. A dog is rewarded by spoken word, a pat on the

head and a stroking of his ears. He is disciplined by the restrained use of a standard choke collar which is jerked when the dog fails to heed a command. Through the process of association, the scout dog can learn various behavior patterns which mold him into a valuable asset in Vietnam.

Guard, Reserve Units Answer Call



THE BAYONET



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Armed Forces Day Stage Is Set; Parade Will Kickoff Festivities

By PFC George Duffy

The Armed Forces Day stage is set for a full day of activities beginning with one of the biggest parades ever assembled in the Chattahoochee Valley tomorrow at 9:30 a.m. from Gordon Field.

The 28th Army Band will play a host of high school bands, local veterans and civic organizations, profes-

sional clubs and scouts and Army units from all over the area in the parade, sponsored by the 1st. Inf. Bn., 29th Inf., 197th Inf. Bde.

Columbus Mayne B. Ed Johnson acting as Grand Marshal, will lead the numerous marching contingents on a winding one-mile route past the reviewing stand at Maj. Gen. John M. Wright Jr., Infantry Center commander, to York Field. Gen.

Wright will award the commanding general's trophy to the best band in the parade at a special ceremony in Marshall Auditorium where the bands will assemble for a presentation of the epic poem, "I am the Infantry."

The parade will be bolstered by the presence of not only Sandee McRee, Miss Georgia of 1967, but also an appearance from Atlanta's Playboy Club of these "banquets."

After the parade the Fort Benning Parachute Club and the Rangers will give demonstrations for the post's Armed Forces Day picnic.

At 10:30 a.m. the Parachute Club, featuring Spect. 1 Linda Stewart, who has just recently qualified for the National Parachuting Championships, will entertain the crowd in a sky diving exhibition at York Field. Immediately following will be a demonstration at Watson Field of "Rafters in Action." The Rangers using a 65-foot tower will exhibit both rappelling and climbing techniques as well as rappelling in hand-to-hand situations and many other techniques. The Ranger demonstration will be given at 10:30 a.m. and again at 1 p.m. at Watson Field.

An "Entertainment Spectacular," featuring a host of military musical talent is the highlight of the afternoon events.

Appearing will be the Infantry Chorus, the Traveling Troubadours, the Infantry Center Symphony Band, the Polka Dots and Capt. Herstel Gober, "the Singing Soldier."

The WAC Drill Team will appear at noon. Following the WAC's will be the Traveling Troubadours. Capt. Mike Moore and Maj. Bill Noll Moore and Noll will bring their afternoon concert.

(See PARADE, Page 2)

Col. Montesclaros Assumes Command of Training Center

Col. Melchor J. Montesclaros assumed command of the U. S. Army Training Center, Infantry, Wednesday morning from Col. Herbert E. Wolff, newly-named deputy commander at Fort Belvoir, N. J.

Marine Field, surrounded by flags of the 50 states, was the scene of the transition review which eliminated the traditional change of command ceremony.

Col. Samuel C. Smith, commanding officer, 1st Inf., was commander of troops in the parade which included massed colors of the Training Center and guards of its 52 companies.

On Reviewing Stand

Joining Col. Wolff and Col. Montesclaros on the reviewing stand were CSM James L. Runyon, who is also departing, and Sgt. Maj. Henry Gris.

Maj. Gen. and Mrs. John M. Wright Jr., Brig. Gen. James S. Timothy, Sen. and Mrs. I. W. (Bill) Gregory and Le Grand Hinson were among Fort Benning military and civilian guests.

Two Groups Are Here; Another Six by Monday

By SFC Dorsey Pointer

The first two of eight National Guard and Reserve units assigned to Fort Benning as a result of President Johnson's mobilization order arrived this week. The remaining units are scheduled to arrive tomorrow, Sunday and Monday.

The men are among over 30,000 Reservists and National Guardsmen who have reported for active duty at installations all over the country. Already 10,000 are earmarked for duty in Vietnam.

First unit to arrive was Co. D, 1stst Long Range Patrol, Part of the unit arrived at Milledgeville Army Airfield on Wednesday, while the remainder of the unit arrived later that evening by truck. Stationed at Kelley Hill, the Indiana National Guard unit was greeted by the commanders and staffs of the 197th Inf Bde, and the 29th Inf., 1stst Inf. The 28th

Army Band was on hand to provide music.

Commanded by Capt. Kenneth W. Hines, the 214-man unit was formerly headquartered at Greenfield, Ind. The unit is now attached to the 29th Inf., 1stst Inf.

The second unit, the 29th Medical Hospital Surgical (MHS), began arriving yesterday. A welcoming reception, sponsored by the 29th Medical Bn. was held with cowasand and staff personnel from Martin Army Hospital greeting the 29th National Guard unit.

Formerly based at North Miami, Fla, the unit will be quartered in the 29th black area, along Indian Head Road on Main Post.

The 110-man unit is commanded by Lt. Col. E. D. Hardin, Jr.

Other units scheduled to arrive include the 29th Engineer Co. (Panel Bridg), a Reserve unit from Fort Belvoir, Mo. Under the command of Capt. John W. Wood, the 177-man unit will be quartered in the 600 black area at Harmon's Church. The unit is scheduled to arrive tomorrow.

Scheduled to arrive Friday is the 1011st Gun and Support Co. Supply & Services.

(See GUARD, Page 2)

Saves Army One Million, Gets \$1000

By Spec. 4 Phil Skitt

Lt. Col. J. P. Mabry, of The Infantry School Brigade and Battalion Operations Dept, became Fort Benning's economy champion last week when he received \$1,000 for a suggestion that is expected to save the government more than \$1 million a year.

This is the largest incentive award ever presented at Fort Benning.



COL. MONTESCLAROS Replaced Col. Wolff

and Combat Infantryman's Badge.

Returned Here in 1965

Following a second tour in Korea and an assignment in the Canal Zone, Col. Montesclaros returned to Fort Benning in 1965 as director of the Company Tactics Dept. and then as secretary of The Infantry School. He