

## A Dog's War or No?

# Army, Marines Making New Breed

BY JOE HUTTIE

The Army and the Marines joined forces with 28 grey-haired fighters of another breed last week in a training program that may produce still another in the long line of Marine Corps traditions.

This unusual cross-service combination will employ the 26th Scout Dog Platoon of the 1st Battalion, 29th Infantry, 197th Infantry Brigade as the experienced teacher, a contingent of 36 Marines as eager students and 28 thoroughbred German Shepherds as the objective of intensified study.

The purpose of the inter-service cooperation is the formation of a Marine scout dog unit patterned after the already extant outfit of the 197th Infantry Brigade.

The Marines, under the command of Lt. Robert Wilder, arrived last Friday, and immediately set about getting their gear stowed away before the grueling 12-week training program began.

### Host Company

Capt. Arthur Bair, a recent returnee from the conflict in Viet Nam, will serve as the host company commander and project officer for the operation. He will be assisted by Lt. John Clark, commander of the 26th Scout Dog

Platoon, and members of the platoon's staff.

The program of training will begin with a course in basic obedience, in which the Marines and their dogs will become familiar with one another, says Sgt. Charles Paris, operations and training NCO for the combined effort.

The introductory step will be followed by courses in basic dog handling, basic scouting and advanced scouting.

"The whole program is set up to train the handler and his dog to act like one," said Paris.

Sgt. Charles Gaston, who will serve as an instructor for the training period, adds, "These dogs have almost unlimited ability. But they will only be as good as their handlers."

"These dogs are just like humans. Some are quick to learn, others are slow-witted. Some cooperate, some are stubborn. You just don't know what to expect until the dog and the man start working together," Paris points out.

### Fresh Dogs

In the case of the Marines, they will be handling fresh dogs, untrained and unbroken. The first phase of the program will concentrate on making the dogs obey their individual masters. "During

this time the dogs will become one-man animals and their handlers will learn the characteristics of their dogs," says Paris.

The dogs and their Marine masters face a strenuous test in the weeks ahead. Obstacle courses, escape and evasion, scouting, swamps and bad terrain, and ambush training are just a few of the problems that the two companions will face.

For the Marines the biggest problem will be "learning their dog," according to Paris. "These dogs are just like a man's rifle. You have to get to know their every move," he adds.

At the end of the twelve week training period the Marines will be able to judge the distance and the direction of an enemy simply by the feel of their dog, the scout dog cadre say.

But before that time the soldiers will face many problems probably the most testing of which will be a dog's habit of "keeping his nose to the trail," says Sgt. Gaston.

### Sense of Smell

The instructing sergeant points out that the dogs sense of smell is 40 per cent more acute than a human's, his hearing 20 per cent more accurate, and his eyesight 10 per cent keener. "But a dog's biggest aid is his sense of smell. And we try to get him to rely on this more than anything else," the sergeant claims.

"At first these dogs will have a tendency to put their nose to the ground. As a result they will pick up the scent of almost anything and take you on a wild chase," he adds.

Thus a great deal of the dog and handlers' training will concentrate on distinguishing between the true scent and the false one. The 26th scout dog personnel won't be much of an aid during this phase of the program as they will be harassing the Marines and their dogs with de-

coy after decoy.

Sgt. Paris is quick to make one point clear. "We don't want to break the spirit or will of the animal. We just want to make him use as much of his capability as possible."

There are good dogs and bad ones according to the scout dog instructor. But it isn't usually until the training program is underway that the bad animals can be weeded out. A few of the more popular ailments that will show a dog unfit for duty are man-shyness, when the animal just can't work with a human; pride which makes the dog act just like a stubborn child; and actual physical sickness.

### Avoiding Ailments

To avoid the ailments which hamper a dog's performance in the field, members of the Scout Dog Platoon maintain a clinic in which each dog receives regular treatment. Kennels are kept immaculately clean, and

a careful diet of dry meat and horsemeat complete with vitamin supplements is prepared according to each individual dog's needs.

Before the dogs are chosen for this type of mission they must pass rigid standards in addition to passing a complete physical examination. The dogs must prove to be aggressive, prove to be without shyness toward humans, display courage in the face of gunfire, and attack when provoked.

Once the Marines and their dogs complete the training program, still another problem will always remain, according to Sgt. Paris.

"Men too often become too overconfident when they have dogs on patrols with them. They think because of the dog they are infallible. It just can't so," he says.

Members of the visiting Marine platoon will be hosted by companies B and D of the 29th Infantry during their stay with the 197th.



SCOUT DOG'S COURAGE TESTED  
All the Dogs Undergo Obstacles

# Marines, Scout Dogs Produ



## THE BAYOU

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FRIDAY, DEC. 10,

# Building Four Nov

## 15 Medals Given Posthumously For War Heroism

A Silver Star topped the list of 15 medals presented posthumously to Mrs. Jack W. Sanford on behalf of her husband who died June 16 in Viet Nam.

Maj Gen Robert H York, Fort Benning commander, presented the decorations last Friday. Maj. Sanford was former commander of the Mavericks, 3rd Armored Pla

loon of Company A, 502nd Aviation Battalion.

Mrs. Sanford, 3542 Gentian Blvd., accepted the awards at Fort Benning's Infantry Center in ceremonies attended by relatives and close friends.

In addition to the Silver Star, the third highest award for heroism Gen York presented Mrs. Sanford a Distinguished Flying Cross, first oak leaf cluster, a Bronze Star and the first oak leaf cluster to the medal with V device for valor, the Air Medal, ninth, 10th, 11th, 15th, 16th, 17th, 18th, 19th and 20th oak leaf clusters, of which

(See MEDALS, Page 2)

## Post Opens Yuletide On Monday

Fort Benning will officially open its Christmas season this Monday at 6 p.m. with a brief cere

### CHRISTMAS DINNER FOR DEPENDENTS

The Community Services Agency has been named to coordinate arrangements for Christmas dinner at post mess halls for Army families whose sponsors are away from this area. Reservations may be made at the agency in



RECEIVES HUSBAND'S MEDALS  
Mrs. Jack Sanford and Gen. York

## Boy Scouting Awards Presented At Annual 'Pot Luck' Dinner Here

The presentation of coveted scouting awards highlighted the annual Fort Benning Boy Scout District "Pot Luck" dinner held at Service Club No. 1 on Tuesday.

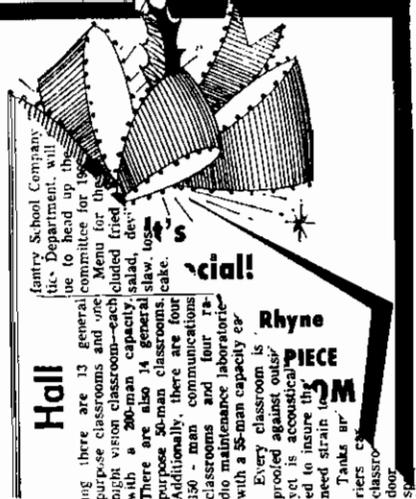
Among the awards presented was the Boy Scout Distinguished Service Citation II

ing end for three other citations as he was presented the scout's training, arrowhead honor and 10 year veteran's awards.

Also honored at the dinner was Mrs. Wilma Chapman who received a Certificate of Appreciation for "distinguished" (See SCOUTS, Page 2)

## Benning Infantry Chorus

Continued Fr



Hall  
Every classroom is protected against outside fire by fireproofed steel joists. Tanker air conditioning system. Tanker air conditioning system. Tanker air conditioning system.

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## General Order Proclaims Building Four's New Name

BY SAM RUSH

The multi-million dollar headquarters-school complex will now be known by a name instead of a building number.

Until now the building has been known as "Building Four," "The Academic Building" and "The School Building." As a result of General Order Number 149 it will be known as "Infantry Hall."

The Hall, a project begun in 1951, reached this fitting finale when Maj. Gen. Robert H. York, Fort Benning commander, decided on the new name after consideration of several names submitted by Fort Benning personnel.

Infantry Hall the huge "H" shaped, six-story, multi-million dollar building, two years in construction, was dedicated on June 5, 1964.

It was the culmination of a plan originating in October 1951 during the tour of the late Maj. Gen. John H. Church.

First Proposed  
The project was first proposed for inclusion in the 1953 fiscal year Military Construction Army (MCA) Program at a cost of \$3.8 million. It was not until the tour of Gen. Paul L. Freeman in 1958 that the project won final approval at a cost of approximately \$10 million.

The Infantry School library dominates the first floor of the central, six floor section. The library is spacious and offers ready access to research material.

In the wings of the building  
(See HALL, Page 2)



SPEAKS TONIGHT  
Gen. Freeman

## Gen Freeman Will Address Order Tonight