

# US A I R FORCE - AFM 125-6

## USAF SENTRY DOG MANUAL

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE

15 MAY 1956

Foreword

1. Purpose and Scope. This manual prescribes the policies and procedures governing the operation and maintenance of the USAF Sentry Dog Program as established in AFR 125-9.
2. Contents. This manual covers the following elements of the USAF Sentry Dog Program: Qualifications, selection and training of handler personnel; procurement, training and utilization of sentry dogs; and the procedures for providing the necessary administrative, maintenance and logistical support.
3. Recommendations. Suggestions for the improvement of the Sentry Dog Program and the measures prescribed in this manual are encouraged. They may be submitted through proper channels to The Inspector General, Headquarters, USAF, Washington 25, D. C., Attention: The Provost Marshal.

BY ORDER OF THE SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE:

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\* Commanders will requisition additional copies as required for issuing one copy to each dog handler.

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## Chapter 1 BACKGROUND

### Section I—ORIGINS OF THE USAF SENTRY DOG PROGRAM

#### 1. *Military Use of Dogs*

Throughout the history of warfare, from the days of the Medes and the Persians and the conquests of the Roman Empire, to the police action of the United Nations in Korea, dogs have gone into combat at the side of their masters or have been used in direct support of combat operations. Initially, entire formations of attack dogs, frequently equipped with armor and spiked collars, were sent into battle against the enemy as recognized and effective instruments of offensive warfare. However, with the invention of gunpowder and the consequent change in military tactics, the value of dogs as combat soldiers steadily diminished. At the same time, his usefulness in other military activities has increased. During World War I, vast numbers of dogs were employed as sentries, messengers, ammunition carriers, scouts, sled dogs and casualty dogs. It is estimated that Germany alone employed over 30,000 dogs for such purposes, and approximately 20,000 dogs served with the French Army. The American Expeditionary Forces had no organized dog unit, but borrowed a limited number of dogs from the French and Belgians for casualty, messenger and guard duty. During World War II, dogs were used on the largest scale yet realized. In all, over 250,000 dogs served with the armies of the Allies and the Axis Powers. Need for dogs in large numbers was recognized by the United States Army in 1942 and resulted in the establishment of the K—9 Corps. This organization operated five War Dog Reception and Training Centers scattered throughout the United States and during the course of the war trained approximately 10,000 dogs for the following duties: messenger, 151; scout, 595; mine detection, 140; sled and pack, 368; and sentry, 9,298. A number of these dogs established distinguished records and were officially cited for outstanding and faithful service.

2. Sentry Dogs in the Air Force Utilization of dogs by the Air Force began initially in the two overseas commands, United States Air Forces in Europe and the Far East Air Forces. During the past five years, both these commands have established programs for the procurement and training of German Shepherds for use as sentry dogs. More recently, the Strategic Air Command began procuring and utilizing sentry dogs at its installations in the zone of the interior. As a consequence, by the end of 1955, a total of 1379 sentry dogs were performing duty at Air Force installations in Korea, Japan, Okinawa, Guam, Puerto Rico, Germany, France, Great Britain, French Morocco and the Continental United States. This present widespread utilization of sentry dogs, plus anticipated increased requirements in the future, has led the Air Force to establish the USAF Sentry Dog Program.



Sentry Dogs Lined up for Inspection at an Air Force Base.

**Section II—OBJECTIVE OF THE PROGRAM**

The USAF Sentry Dog Program has but one objective: To provide commanders with a means for increasing the security of restricted areas and for protecting government property against theft or pilferage.

## Chapter 2 HANDLER PERSONNEL

### Section I—SENTRY DOG HANDLERS

#### 1. Source

The handling and care of sentry dogs are part of the duties and responsibilities of a fully qualified Air Policeman, AFSC 771X0, as set forth in AFM 35—1. Personnel selected for training and duty as sentry dog handlers will be drawn from the existing AFSC771X0 Career Field manpower resources of the using installation. No additional manpower requirements will be recognized by participation in this program.

#### 2. Qualifications

##### a. *Handlers:*

(1) Personnel selected for training and duty as sentry dog handlers must have a genuine liking for animals insofar as it is possible to determine.

(2) Only volunteers will be considered for this duty.

(3) Selectees must have at least 24 months service retainability.

(4) Air Policemen with AFSC's of 77150, 77130 and 77010 are eligible for handler training; however, helper-level personnel will be directed duty assignment three-level personnel only.

(5) Security clearance requirements will be as prescribed by the major air command concerned.

b. *Supervisors.* At each installation receiving five or more sentry dogs, one Air Police supervisor, AFSC 77170, will be selected for training in kennel administration and sentry dog utilization. In addition to meeting the same qualifications as handler personnel, supervisors must possess a thorough knowledge of and experience in security operations.

#### 3. Selection

The greatest care will be exercised in selecting NCOs and airmen for duty with sentry dogs. Commanders of Air Police units should interview each potential handler to establish his interest in and suitability for duty with sentry dogs. It is necessary that handlers possess a natural, friendly and affectionate attitude toward animals. Potential handlers must be advised that they will be held completely and solely responsible for the care and training of their assigned sentry dogs and that duty with sentry dogs will normally be performed only at night. Any individual who evidences doubt or hesitation about participating in the program should be eliminated from further consideration. Experience has proven that the best Air Policemen make the best dog handlers.



Handler and Sentry Dog On Duty

## Section II—FORMAL TRAINING

4. The Army Dog Training Center Except as provided in Section III below, Air Force personnel selected for duty with sentry dogs will complete the sentry dog handlers' course conducted by the United States Army Dog Training Center Fort Carson, Colorado. This course is eight weeks in duration and consists of instruction on the handling, care, maintenance, training and utilization of sentry dogs. Shortly after reporting to the Center, each handler is assigned a sentry dog with which he trains throughout the remainder of the course. At the completion of the training period, handlers and their assigned dogs are returned to their home station. Air Police supervisors, AFSC 77170, who will perform duty as NCOICs of the sentry dog flights at their home stations, will be assigned sentry dogs for training purposes only and will not retain the dogs upon return to their home stations.

### 5. Unsatisfactory Performance

Potential handlers who fail to demonstrate a satisfactory attitude or adaptability to sentry dog work will be eliminated from the course of instruction and returned to their parent organizations.



Handler and Sentry Dog Undergoing Training.

## Section III—ON-THE-JOB-TRAINING

### 6. Authority

When authorized by the major air command, installations may train a limited number of sentry dog handlers through an on-the-job training program. Normally such training will not be attempted until a highly proficient, well organized and thoroughly experienced sentry dog operation has been achieved. Under no circumstances will the number of handlers trained through OJT exceed the number of handlers trained through formal instruction at the Army Dog Training Center. All supervisors will complete formal training at the Center and will not be trained through OJT.

### 7. Training Program

OJT training will be conducted in accordance with the packaged OJT Program for sentry dog handlers listed in the USAF Training Prospectus.

## Section IV—STATUS OF TRAINED HANDLERS

Personnel who successfully complete either formal or on-the-job training as sentry dog handlers will be frozen in this specific function for a minimum period of 30 months and will be reported on personnel accounting rosters as Category B, in accordance with Section XXIII, Part 3, AFM 171—5. Re-assignment of handlers to other than sentry dog duties within less than 30 months after the completion of training must be approved by the major air command.

## Chapter 3 SENTRY DOGS

### Section I—THE GERMAN SHEPHERD DOG

1. The German Shepherd Dog has been selected as the breed best suited to the needs of the Air Force. This determination was based upon the German Shepherd's demonstrated possession of the following traits: keen sense of smell, endurance, reliability, speed, power, tractability, courage and ability to adapt to almost any climatic conditions.



2. As a recognized breed, German Shepherds are relative newcomers to the canine world. The first organized effort to develop and promote the breed dates from the founding of Der Verein für Deutsche Schäferhunde (Society for the Promotion of the Breeding of German Shepherd Dogs) in 1899. Under the leadership of Captain Max von Stephanitz, who headed this organization from 1899 until 1935, three principal varieties of shepherd dogs indigenous to Germany were cross bred to produce the German Shepherd breed we know today.

3. The modern German Shepherd is a working dog, strong, agile, well-muscled, alert and full of life. He is longer than he is tall, and has a deep body with an outline of smooth curves, rather than angular. The ideal male is 25 inches high and weighs between 75 and 85 pounds; the bitch is two inches shorter and approximately 15 pounds lighter. He has a distinct, direct, fearless, but not hostile, expression; a self-confident personality, and a certain aloofness that does not lend itself to indiscriminate friendship. He is a trotting dog. His long effortless trot covers maximum ground with a minimum number of steps, consistent with the size of the dog. Good conformation calls for firmness of back and muscles, and proper angularity of fore and hind quarters.

### Section II - SPECIFICATIONS FOR USAF SENTRY DOGS

1. German Shepherd Dogs procured for the Air Force will satisfy the following specifications:
  - a. **Breed.** German Shepherd.
  - b. **Sex.** Dogs and Bitches. Bitches must have been spayed at least 120 days prior to acceptance.
  - c. **Age.** Twelve to 36 months old.
  - d. **Temperament.** Alert, intelligent, confident and obedient to the wishes of its owner.
  - e. **Conformation to Breed.** Conform closely to the description and standards approved by the American Kennel Club for the German Shepherd Dog. Minimum height: 21 inches; minimum weight: 50 pounds.



f. **Health.** A certificate of health from a qualified veterinarian must accompany each dog. This certificate must include information on inoculations for rabies and distemper, result of test for heartworm, and the spayed condition of bitches.

g. Acceptance. The government reserves the right to return at government expense within 30 days after date of delivery any dogs which for any reason are not acceptable.

### **Section III—PROCUREMENT**

1. Under the terms of an inter-service agreement between the Department of the Air Force and the Department of the Army, the Quartermaster General, United States Army will procure all sentry dogs required by the Air Force.

2. All offers concerning the sale or donation of dogs for the USAF Sentry Dog Program will be forwarded direct to the Remount Section, the Quartermaster General, U. S. Army, Washington 25, D. C.

## Chapter 4 TRAINING

### Section I—BEHAVIOR AND INSTINCTS

#### 1. General

The dog's world differs from the human in some very specific ways. His world is predominantly one of odors. His nose tells him countless things about the environment that entirely escape humans. He is more sensitive to sounds. His vision is considerably inferior to human vision, and for this reason he depends less upon it. He prefers to approach closely to objects that must be examined. However, his sensitivity to the movement of objects compares favorably with human sensitivity of this kind. To find a dog's ability or quality in a particular trait, it must be sought directly. To discover whether a dog is gun shy, he must be tested with a gun. To discover whether he is intelligent and willing, he must be trained. At present there is no reliable shortcut.

#### 2. Basic Senses

The senses of the dog with which the military handler must concern himself chiefly are those of **vision, hearing, smell, and touch.**

##### a. Vision:

(1) **Structure and Physiology of the Eye.** A most striking difference between the retina of the dog's eye and the human retina is that the former lacks a fovea. When a man focuses his eye upon any object, the light reflected from that object is thrown upon the fovea of the retina. He can see many other objects besides that one, but they are seen indistinctly. This can be tested readily enough by focusing the eyes upon any word on this page and then trying to see how many other words can be read without moving the eyes. The words reflected upon non-foveal portions of the retina are blurred and poorly defined. Since the dog lacks a fovea, one may expect that even an object upon which he focuses is seen less clearly than it would be by humans. It seems certain that dog can most conveniently and comfortably see objects which are at a distance of 20 feet or more.

(2) **Perception of Movement.** There is a type of visual stimulation to which dogs seem very sensitive. If any object is moved ever so slightly, most dogs will detect and respond to the movement. This acuteness has been noticed in many psychological laboratories. Slight movement of an object in the vertical plane can be distinguished by dogs from movement in the horizontal plane, and discrimination between clockwise and counterclockwise motion is also possible.

(3) **Color Vision.** The bulk of experimental evidence indicates that to dogs the world looks like a black and white snapshot.

(4) **Value in Training.** Experimenters are agreed that dogs make scant use of their eyes in learning except in detection of motion.

##### b. Hearing.

(1) **Nature.** Tests made in Russia and in Germany show that dogs hear sounds too faint to affect human ears. In one test a German Shepherd at a distance of 75 feet responded to a sound which a man could not hear at a distance of more than 20 feet. Common observation supports these experimental findings. It seems apparent, too, that the dog hears sounds of higher pitch than affect human ears. The dog's ability to discriminate sounds of varying intensity is on a par with human ability.

(2) **Use in Training.** The exact elements of a command situation which are effective depend upon the nature of the dog's training. No doubt, inflection, the actual words and gestures, all play a part. If it is intended to use a dog at night, or under any circumstances where the handler cannot be seen, it is important that he be trained to respond properly without benefit of gestures. Most dogs can readily be instructed to respond to a number of oral commands. Some of them appear to understand most accurately

the feeling of the handler as it is conveyed by his voice. A word spoken in an encouraging tone will elate the dog. A cross word will depress him. Some dogs, however, cannot be reached effectively through the ear. These are generally not desirable for military training.

c. **Smell:**

(1) **Nature and Physiology.** Dogs so far surpass man in keenness of smell that it is difficult to imagine the nature of the sensations which they receive. Just as it is probably impossible for a dog to imagine what colors are, so it is impossible for the human to conceive of the vast range of odors and the delicate difference in chemical shadings to which dogs are so sensitive. The dog's nose is ideally adapted for the detection of faint odors. Its snout is kept moist by a glandular secretion and is extremely sensitive to slight currents of air. Upon feeling such a current, the head is turned into the wind, the animal clears its nostrils and sniffs. A generous sample of the air passes into the nose and over areas richly supplied with nerves which detect odors. This mucous membrane is supported on a complexly convoluted bony structure. Its structure is such as to present a maximum surface with a minimum obstruction to the circulation of the air. By comparison, the human's apparatus for detecting odors is crude, yet even the human nose can detect chemicals borne by the air in such extreme dilution that they cannot be identified by the most sensitive chemical tests. In general, studies show that dogs can respond to odor traces of all known sorts and in dilutions far more extreme than can be detected by man.

d. **Touch.** There is a wide variation among dogs in the sense of touch. Certain dogs are very susceptible to manual caress or correction. Others appear to be relatively insensitive to it. These are generally not desirable for training.

a. **Sensitivity**

In using the term "sensitivity," reference is made not so much to the stimulus threshold per se as to the threshold in terms of fear response. In other words, the over-sensitive dog is startled by stimuli (sounds or touch) of lower intensity than is required to disturb the average dog, but his response is often one of flight and trembling. The normal dog responding to such stimuli might merely turn his head.

a. **Relationship Between Body and Ear Sensitivity.** Records suggest that body and ear sensitivity vary quite independently. Of 123 dogs rated as under sensitive to touch, 51 were also under sensitive to sound and 67 were medium sensitive to sound. For 220 animals that were medium sensitive to touch, 140 were medium sensitive, 60 under sensitive and 20 oversensitive to sound. The indicated independence of the two forms of sensitivity suggests that shyness (oversensitivity) is not centrally determined but is based upon receptor peculiarity. That is, it appears that shyness results from the extreme irritability of specific nerve endings; sureness results from the lack of it. A sound may actually "hurt" a gun-shy animal and yet a blow may not bother it.

b. **Implications for Military Training.** Trainers should have no difficulty in rating dogs with respect to the efficacy of stimuli, and from a practical standpoint the classification is helpful. In handling dogs the voice and the hand are utilized almost exclusively in correction and reward. Thus, in the course of his regular work, a handler cannot help but form a definite opinion with respect to the response of his dog in auditory and tactual stimuli.

(1) **Over sensitive Dogs.** A dog that is oversensitive (shy) is so handicapped that it is not likely to demonstrate what intelligence it possesses in a form which the instructor can utilize. Dogs shy to either sound or touch are difficult to train and are unreliable. Certain dogs showing only a mild degree of gun shyness can be accustomed to sound through repeated stimulation. But these near-shy dogs cannot be used where reliability in the face of noise is a life and death matter. In general, then, an oversensitive animal can be trained only with difficulty, if at all, and it cannot be trusted implicitly.

(2) **Under sensitive Dogs.** A dog that is under sensitive to both sound and touch is also very difficult to train. One cannot "reach" him readily to give either correction or caress. A dog sensitive to sound or

touch, but not to both, can be instructed readily though ~ man who discovers the right approach. He must employ his voice in one case, his hands in the other.

(3) **Ideal Dogs for Sentry Duty.** The ideal dog (that is, ideal in the hands of a good handler) is somewhat sensitive to both sound and touch. A mediocre handler may spoil him. Such dogs tend to do very well or rather poorly, depending principally upon the wisdom with which they are handled.

(4) **General Importance of Handler.** It has been found that certain men, because of a lack of the proper range and timbre of voice, are unable to appeal to the dog successfully through his ear, but because of a certain finesse in muscular control, are excellent in handling the dog manually. The converse is also true. In general, each handler succeeds best with a certain type of dog and each dog with a certain type of handler. To secure maximum effectiveness, the qualifications of the man must be matched with the sensory peculiarities of the dog.

#### 4. **Energy**

This term refers to the degree of spontaneous activity of the dog; that is, to the speed and extent of his movements in general, not in response to any command. Dogs differ widely in degree of spontaneous activity exhibited, and the task of rating them in this respect is easier than that of rating for other functional traits. Above-average energy is not particularly necessary for military purposes.

#### 5. **Aggressiveness**

a. The extreme manifestation of aggressiveness is seen in attack. In general, a dog which is rated under aggressive cannot be taught to attack. The dog of average aggressiveness can be taught, though less readily, than an animal rated as overaggressive. The only difficulty in teaching the latter consists in securing prompt cessation of attack upon command.

b. The average and the under aggressive dogs rank about the same in energy, but the overaggressive group includes a high proportion of dogs of great energy. Though in line with the observed fact that a dog can be made mean and his aggressiveness increased by keeping him attached to a short chain for a couple of days. He cannot release the energy he generates. This method is employed in training for attack work those dogs which do not possess sufficient aggressiveness. In America, German Shepherds might not have earned a reputation for over aggressiveness had they not been kept so closely confined in small homes and in apartments.

#### 6. **Intelligence**

a. Intelligence generally is the trait most closely related to a dog's success in military training and service. In intelligence, the dog is far inferior to man but probably superior to any other animal below the primates. It is certain that neither in laboratory experiments nor in preparation for work have dogs had an opportunity to fully demonstrate their native intelligence. A dog can be taught to respond appropriately to an indefinitely large number of spoken words. Under ordinary working conditions, not more than a score of words are needed, but dogs have been known to master responses to well over 100 commands.

b. A dog's rating for intelligence is based upon the readiness with which he learns and the extent to which he retains and uses what he has learned. It should not be assumed that by intelligence is meant the ease with which an animal conforms to the demands of its trainer. Certain dogs learn very readily, but are instructed with great difficulty. They are able to learn how to avoid doing the work demanded by the handler without, at the same time, incurring serious punishment. In a general way, then, a dog is rated high in intelligence if he is unusually capable of profiting by experience, regardless of whether this is to the full satisfaction of the handler.

c. Some highly intelligent dogs are successful only when working with a man who "pleases" them. Under others, they are unwilling and give the appearance of being stupid.

#### 7. **Willingness**

This term is an arbitrary one used to refer to the dog's reactions to man and especially to his handler. The term applies not only to the nature of the dog's response in a command situation, particularly his response to an act which the animal has already learned, but also to learning of new duties. The dog may make the requisite response to the command or he may make some other response.

- a. **Willing Dogs.** An animal is ranked high in willingness if he persistently responds to his handler's requests with an effort to fulfill them, even though reward or correction is not immediate. Whether the animal possesses the requisite intelligence and physical strength, whether it succeeds or fails, is not considered.
- b. **Unwilling Dogs.** If the promise of reward and the threat of punishment must constantly be before the dog in order for him to work properly, he is considered an unwilling worker. There is a large group of dogs perfectly capable of executing the required movements but strongly inclined not to do so. Many such dogs appear to make a nice distinction between work and play. They will take great pleasure in retrieving, in searching for objects, in taking jumps. Such a dog, after training, will at times go to his handler spontaneously and apparently suggest a romp which may include any of the acts mentioned. He will then respond, promptly and appropriately, to commands to retrieve, search, jump, trail and others. If, however, the situation is reversed and the handler initiates the activity, the dog may seem to have forgotten all he ever knew. The command "FIND" appears to be the same stimulus that had previously sent the dog eagerly seeking the hidden handkerchief, but now he responds with a cheerful but blank scrutiny of his handler's face.
- c. **Basic Considerations.** Certain considerations are basic to proper understanding of a dog's willingness or unwillingness.
- (1) **Relation to Handler.** A few dogs will work willingly for only certain people, often for only a single individual. Most dogs show unwillingness when commanded by a stranger. Certain animals have proven to be stubborn regardless of who trains and handles them. It is very evident that the best results are obtained when a dog and man are carefully matched. In any event, a dog's rating for willingness should be only in relation to his handler. A dog should be penalized in his rating on this trait if he readily shifts his "willingness" to another man.
  - (2) **Changes in Willingness.** Willingness can be enhanced or inhibited by the man who handles the dog. Improper handling may make a dog less willing at one time than at another. It is for this reason that some dogs will work willingly during the first five minutes of a training period, but perhaps because of impatience of the trainer, unwillingly during the remainder of the period. Other dogs, however, just naturally seem to become unwilling after a few minutes. They should be rated relatively low in this trait.
  - (3) **Confusion with Under sensitivity.** Under sensitivity may be confused with stubbornness. Certainly a dog that is under sensitive to both sound and touch may appear to • behave unwillingly, when as a matter of fact, the commands and the motivation supplied by the instructor are less effective merely because of the dog's sensory system.
  - (4) **Confusion with Intelligence.** When in doubt as to whether a dog's refusal to perform learned chores is due to stubbornness or forgetfulness, one can keep the animal shut in the kennels for a few days. The dog that is merely stubborn will then gladly run through his exercises for the privilege of being at large.
- d. **Military Significance.** The trait of willingness is significant for several military functions.

## 8. Motivation

a. The trait that sets dogs apart from all other animals that have been studied experimentally by psychologists is their willingness to work for a reward of a most intangible nature—the approval of the experimenter. No rodents, cats, raccoons, monkeys, or apes have appeared anxious to please the scientists who strive so earnestly to study them. For these animals, the reward must be something of a practical nature, such as food, and the punishment, whether it is an electric shock or a slap, must be just as tangible. Canine subjects usually become attached to the experimenter who finds that a casual caress can be a remarkably effective reward, and a disappointed or disapproving word a potent punishment. Finally, even the anticipation of such disfavor clearly controls the dog's behavior.

b. Working dogs, even more than their laboratory brothers, provide opportunities to observe the efficacy of “intangible” reward and punishment. Once the handler-dog relationship has been established, there is brought into play that motivation which finds its roots in the sentimental attachment of canine for man. Concrete punishment and reward are still used, and may be necessary on occasion, but to a large extent these may often be abandoned. It is more pleasant and more convenient to rely, so far as possible, upon the dog’s eagerness to serve. Complete scientific explanation of this eagerness has not yet been attained. The important thing, however, is the actuality of this trait.

## **Section II—GENERAL PRINCIPLES OF DOG TRAINING**

### **1. *General***

There are no tricks or mysteries to dog training. It is a relatively simple process based upon:

- a. A practical knowledge of how a dog’s mind works.
- b. Constant repetition of training exercises.
- c. Suitable recognition of a dog’s progress.
- d. Patience.

### **2. *Instincts of Dogs***

The entire training of dogs is based upon a proper use and development of the natural instincts of the dog, demonstrated by the following:

- a. The dog’s instinctive companionship for man is turned into comradeship with one handler.
- b. The dog’s instinctive response to human attitudes is used as the basis for training; the dog is praised and encouraged when he does well, and is corrected and reprimanded when he does badly.
- c. The dog’s instinctive urge for prey forms the basis of the sentry dog’s actions; the instinctive urge to pursue anything which runs from him is the means by which the dog’s urge is made effective.

### **3. *Mental Process of Dogs***

The dog has a pronounced ability to learn from past experience, and the repetition of similar exercises, commands and procedures constitutes the method by which dogs are trained.

### **4. *Basic Principles***

The effectiveness of a dog training program depends largely on the regard shown for certain basic principles:

- a. The handler must establish himself as the master of the dog assigned to him. He pets, praises, feeds and handles only the dog assigned to him. He does not permit anyone but himself to make friends with the dog.
- b. The handler must be aware that there are many things one cannot expect of a dog, and many things one can, provided that he is properly handled. In the beginning a dog may be uncertain of what is expected of him. This is normal. A command may not be fully understood until the dog has been made to carry it out numerous times.
- c. There are specific techniques of giving commands so that they are suggestive and meaningful to a dog.
  - (1) **Vocal Commands.** Vocal commands are given firmly and clearly. Tone and sound of voice, not volume, are the qualities that will influence the dog. They must be directed at the one dog concerned and must inspire obedience.
  - (2) **Gestures.** Next to the voice, hand gestures are the chief means of influencing dogs. Often they are combined. When training is first undertaken, gestures may be exaggerated to help convey the desired command to the dog. As training progresses, exaggeration is reduced, and eventually the use of gestures is discontinued. Sentry dogs must be taught to respond to vocal commands alone.
- d. It is essential that the dog be made to carry out the same command over and over until the desired response is obtained without delay. Repetition is more important in dog training than in human training. However, both trainer and dog can go stale or lose efficiency by practicing any one command too much

during one period. It is better to go on to another exercise or let some time elapse before resuming practice of the command in question.

e. The trainer must never lose patience or become irritated. If he does the dog will become hard to handle because he takes his cue from the handler. Patience is one of the prime requisites of a good dog handler, but it must be coupled with firmness. The moment a dog understands, obedience must be demanded if the dog is to be a prompt and accurate worker. Dog training takes time and understanding.

f. From the very beginning of training, the dog should never be permitted to ignore a command or fail to carry it out completely. He must learn to associate the handler's command with his execution of it. He should never be allowed to suspect that there is anything for him to do but obey. He must learn that he will have to do what the handler commands, regardless of how long it takes. Laxity on the part of the handler on one occasion may result in an attitude or mood of disobedience that means difficulty and delay in the continuation of the training program.

g. A dog does not understand abstract principles of right and wrong according to human standards. Reward and punishment are the means of teaching him what it is intended that he learn.

(1) It is seldom necessary to resort to physical punishment to teach a lesson to a dog. Withholding of praise, rebuking tone, or NO said reprovably, is usually sufficient punishment for him. If the dog is callous or insensitive, punishment in his case must be more severe. The punishment must be made to fit the dog as well as the misdeed. Timing in punishment is very important. The correction, whatever form it takes, must always be administered immediately when the dog misbehaves. A dog cannot connect punishment with a misdeed committed at sometime prior to the punishment.

(2) Real punishment should be inflicted as a last resort and only for deliberate disobedience, stubbornness or defiance when the dog has learned better. He must never be punished for clumsiness, slowness in learning or inability to understand what is expected of him. Punishment for such reasons, instead of speeding training, will have the opposite effect. The word NO is used to indicate to the dog that he is doing wrong. NO is the only word used as a negative command. It is spoken in a stern, reprovably tone. If this form of reproof is not successful, the dog should be muzzled, chained or kenneled. A dog is never slapped with the hand or struck with the leash. The hand is an instrument of praise and pleasure to the dog and he must never be allowed to fear it. Beating with the leash will make him shy of it and lessen the effect of its proper use.

h. Whenever a dog successfully executes a command, even though his performance has taken more time than desirable, the handler must always reward him with petting, and praise him in some obvious way.

(1) Dogs are usually anxious to please; they must be shown how to do so. When a dog is rewarded for his performance, he senses that he has done the right thing and will do it more readily the next time he is given the same command. Praise may take the following forms:

(a) Kind words.

(b) Petting.

(c) Allowing a few minutes of romping.

(d) Allowing the dog to perform his favorite exercises, including free run and play.

(2) It is not advisable to reward a military dog by feeding him tidbits as he will become accustomed to this form of reward and expect it for some act performed in the field where such food is not available.

(3) In order to keep up his enthusiasm for his work every training period must be concluded with petting, praise and encouragement for the dog. If the dog's performance of the actual exercise does not warrant this, he must be allowed to perform a short exercise which he knows thoroughly and does well, so that he will earn a reward legitimately.

(4) The handler cannot force desired behavior upon a dog nor can he expect a dog to learn as readily as a human being. He must therefore be patient and must persevere until each exercise is brought to a successful conclusion.

### 5. *Summary*

The dog is like an intricate piece of machinery which is well equipped with indicators and gauges. Learning to read all these important indicators, is probably the most important part of working with dogs, and in order to read them it is necessary to pay constant attention to what they have to say. A handler who watches his dog closely will find that he has certain likes and dislikes. He may be distracted from his job by strong liking for, or dislike of, a particular person, type of uniform, a horse, or something similar, and the handler must learn what these distractions are and must be on his guard when the causes are present. In disciplining the dog, the use of the hands, feet or leash will cause the dog to flinch when these are moved suddenly in working. Punishment with the hand is likely to produce flinching when hand signals are given. Observation, patience, self control and discretion are essential in correction. Dogs come to associate certain happenings with certain localities, sounds, or people. If some particular action occurs too often in one place, the dog comes to expect it and the reaction becomes automatic. That is why field training must be constantly varied. The same applies to the dog's reaction to people; the dog cannot work if the handler changes his commands or his attitude from day to day. Therefore, the handler must start off on the right foot at the beginning and follow the same procedure all the way through. In that way the dog will come to know that it can always expect the right thing of the man, and it will be much easier for the man to obtain the desired results from his dog. If the man is steady, alert and consistent, the chances are that the dog will also be steady, alert and consistent. Shouting is unnecessary; commands should be given in a normal tone of voice in all cases. The inflection of the voice is used to indicate the urgency of the command. Thus a command is always given in a commanding, authoritative tone of voice, while the voice shows enthusiasm and admiration when the dog is praised. The voice should be sharp when a correction is intended and steady when it is necessary to quiet the dog. Commands given with the voice must initially be timed with hand signals or commands given by the leash, so that the dog receives both at the same instant. In this way it is possible to reach a degree of training which makes gestures or command by the leash unnecessary.



Dogs Walking at "Heel" Position.

## Section III—BASIC OBEDIENCE TRAINING

### 1. *General*

When conducting basic obedience training, the supervisor will use the circle or square formation for most of the class work. As the classes progress, the last few minutes of each period can be given to exercise in flight formation. During these formations the supervisor can pick out those dogs which are fighters and check the control which each handler has over his dog. In giving a command to a dog, the command itself is the command of execution; and it is important to have the dog's undivided attention when the command of execution is given. The choke chain is the only type collar that will be used during obedience training.



## 2. Preparation

Prior to participating in training exercises, each handler will walk his dog for approximately five (5) minutes in order that the dog may have an opportunity to empty his bladder and bowels. This is necessary if the dog's undivided attention is to be concentrated on the training. However, dogs should not be permitted to relieve themselves after the training has begun.

## 3. The Command "Heel"

The first command to be taught is the command "HEEL." In conjunction with this, the command "NO" is introduced and explained.

- a. At the HEEL position the dog should be at the left side of the handler, with his shoulder even with the handler's left knee. A loose leash is used at all times.
- b. At the supervisor's command "Forward, MARCH," the handler will step off on the left foot, slapping his left thigh and giving the command "HEEL" at the same time.
- c. The square formation is used in this exercise for the purpose of training men and dogs in right and left turns. These turns are made automatically at each corner of the square.
- d. For the right turn, the handler will make an individual flank movement. As the left foot hits the ground, the handler gives the command "HEEL," pivots sharply on the left foot and steps off on the right foot.
- e. For the left turn, the handler will execute an individual left flank movement. As his right foot hits the ground, he will pivot sharply on the right foot, give the command "HEEL," and step off on the left foot.
- f. "TO THE REAR MARCH" is executed in the ordinary manner. The handler gives the command, "HEEL," at the moment of turning and brings the dog around in the HEEL position. This turn can be used to correct the dog which does not heel well on the loose leash. If the dog hangs back on the leash, the right turn can be made to bring the dog into position. If the dog pulls forward on the leash, the left turn or the turn to the rear can be used. These corrections should be made in a decisive manner when the dog has been given ample leash to get out of the heel position. In this way the dog can grasp the fact that he has done wrong and is being corrected. The importance of the loose leash is not confined to its evidence of control or its contribution to the comfort of the handler. It is of vital use in sentry work, where the dog indicates that he has detected something by going out to the end of the leash. Thus, if the dog is pulling on the leash at all times, there is no means of telling when it is making an indication.
- g. If the dog has a tendency to sit when in the HEEL position, the correction should be made by placing the right hand on the choke chain while using the left hand to raise the hindquarters to the proper position. The command of STAY is given at the same time. In making this correction, it is important that the handler should not move his feet. Such movement will serve to confuse the dog.



Dogs responding To "Heel" Command Given By Handlers at Moment Of Turning

#### 4. The Command "Sit"

The command "SIT," is given in a sharp, concise tone of voice. The handler takes hold of the leash with his right hand a few inches above the choke chain. As he gives the command "SIT," he gives a straight upward jerk on the leash, and uses his left hand to push the dog's hindquarters down into the proper position. This is done by spreading the fingers, placing the hand over the dog's hips with the fingers toward the tail, and pressing down and slightly forward. When the dog assumes the correct position, he is given the command "STAY." This exercise should be practiced until the dog SITS on command.

#### 5. The Command "Stay"

When a fair degree of obedience has been obtained in the commands, HEEL and SIT, the command STAY is practiced with some variations.

- a. This command is given in a firm tone of voice. At the command "STAY" the dog stays in the same position which he held when the command was given, while the handler continues ahead. The dog must remain in this position until the handler gives a different command. The command STAY may be given while the dog is standing, sitting, or down. When the dog is to STAY for a long period, he will become less restless if he is in the DOWN position. See below.
- b. Practice in the command STAY should be started in the SIT position. The command is given in a firm, steady tone, and at the same time the left hand, palm toward the dog, is brought back in a short decisive gesture. The dog is not slapped, but the hand is brought back straight to the dog's nose; and may even touch the nose. Full control of the gesture is necessary to give it authority without making it a threat. This gesture is used for the command STAY when the dog is at STAND, SIT, or DOWN; to the left of and behind the handler. When the handler is in front of the dog and facing him, the gesture is made by moving the right hand, fingers up and palm of hand directly toward the dog.
- c. When the command and gesture have been given, the handler moves to the front of his dog, faces and circles him, staying close enough to be able to correct the dog immediately if he starts to rise. Correction is given by the admonition "NO," followed by the command "STAY" and the gesture at the first sign of the dog's breaking. If the dog does break, he is immediately put back in the SIT position and the command gesture for STAY are given again. In the beginning the exercise is given for short periods and the handler does not move very far away from the dog. As performance improves, the length of the exercise and the distance between the handler and the dog is increased.

#### 6. The Command "Down"

As performance in the commands HEEL, SIT and STAY improves, the command DOWN is introduced. At the command DOWN, the dog must lie down promptly, whether he is standing, sitting or heeling. In actual practice, the command DOWN is accompanied by a short gesture made with the right hand at waist level while the handler stands erect. However, when this command is first introduced, the handler should have his dog at the SIT position beside him. When the command DOWN is given, the handler places his left hand on the leash, close to the choke chain, gives the command DOWN, and at the same time leans over, pulls directly down on the leash and makes a downward gesture directly in front of the dog with his right hand. If the dog does not go down of his own accord, his front feet should be drawn out from under him and he should be lowered to the ground.

- a. While the gesture for the command DOWN is made with the right hand at waist level and the handler erect in ordinary practice, the early stage requires that the handler bend over with a short grip on the leash so that the dog may be forced down with less struggle and greater safety. Considerable care is necessary the first few times this exercise is given for obedience may require the use of some force, resulting in fear or resentment on the part of the dog. The handler's position is such that he may easily be bitten by a snapping dog, and it is safer to have the left hand on the leash close to

the choke chain so that the dog may be pushed away from the face or leg and pulled away from the right hand as it makes the gesture.

b. Once the dog has executed the command DOWN, he should be kept in position for a short time and brought to the SIT position. If the dog does not SIT on command, he should be pulled up to the SIT position by the leash while the command SIT is repeated.

c. Exercise in the command DOWN is repeated until resistance to it has ceased. As the period of the DOWN position increases, the command STAY accompanied by the proper gesture is used to keep the dog in position. If the dog shows signs of breaking, the correction "NO" is given; followed by the command "STAY" and the proper gesture. If the dog does break position, he is put in the SIT position and given the command and gesture for DOWN.

d. As the performance of the command DOWN improves, the handler refrains from pulling down on the leash until the dog has had a chance to obey the command and the gesture. The gesture itself is made less pronounced.

e. When a command is given calling for the handler to move, he should give his dog the command STAY in a firm, reassuring tone, and at the same time should make the STAY gesture in a clear decisive movement. When moving backwards away from the dog, the handler should watch for the first sign of a break, and if the repeated STAY is not enough, he should step in giving the correction NO in a harsh voice as he jerks on the leash. If the dog breaks completely, the handler should start the exercise over from the beginning.

f. While it is best to praise a dog when it has successfully performed each stage of an exercise, it is not wise to praise dogs when they are in the DOWN or STAY positions of exercises, since this encourages them to break position.

## 7. Commands at a Distance

When the dog has become accustomed to obeying the handler from a short distance, the command STAY should be given at the SIT position and the handler moved to the end of the leash. The command DOWN is then given from that point. In doing so, the handler makes a sweeping downward gesture, with the right hand and steps in with his left foot. If the dog does not obey, the handler steps in and pulls down on the leash while repeating the command. As performance improves, the gesture is shortened and made less conspicuous, until the dog obeys the voice command alone.

a. Another exercise to be introduced at this time is the command SIT, given with the handler at the end of the leash and the dog in the DOWN position. The command is accompanied by an upward forward gesture of the right hand. If the dog does not obey, the handler steps in with his right foot and jerks upward on the leash.

## 8. The Command "Recall Dogs"

This exercise consists of the command RECALL DOGS given when the handlers are at the end of the leash. Each handler calls his dog by name and commands COME. If the dog does not respond, the handler jerks lightly on the leash, increasing the force until the dog comes to him. The handler takes in the leash, guiding the dog to a point directly in front of him, and gives the command SIT, jerking up on the leash to enforce the command. As performance progresses, the dog should obey the commands COME and SIT, the handler gives the command HEEL and brings the dog about to the HEEL position.

## 9. Jumps and Hurdles

Throughout basic training, as a final step in all but the earliest class periods, dogs should be put over jumps. Almost any dog can and will scale a 3 or 4 foot wall. The object of this training exercise is to get him to jump on command, and ahead of the handler, which is something entirely different. At the **command HUP**, the dog must immediately jump or scale the wall and then HEEL or return to the handler, according to the handler's position. (A dog jumps a low hurdle or fence which means that he clears it. He scales a higher hurdle or wall, which means that he jump as far as he can, then scrambles or climbs the rest of the distance in order to get over). a. A dog may be afraid of a hurdle, even though he

may have been taught to jump hedges or other obstacles. Therefore, it is well to use the hurdle removing all the boards except the bottom ones so that the hurdle is low enough to walk over. The handler steps over the hurdle with his left foot and, as he does so, gives his dog the command HUP. If the dog hesitates or balks, the handler stops on the far side and coaxes and helps the dog over, tugging on the leash. As the dog lands on the other side, the handler steps away from the hurdle, praises the dog, and gives the command HEEL. This exercise should be repeated as often as is necessary to make every dog in the group comply with the command. Those dogs who learn more readily than others are kept in line, since it is desirable for backward dogs to see "over the hurdle" successfully completed.

b. When the entire group has succeeded in clearing the hurdle at its initial height, the hurdle is raised one board at a time, and the jumping exercise is repeated. By the time the fourth board is inserted in the hurdle, the dogs should be so proficient in the execution of the command HUP that it will no longer be necessary for the handler to step over the hurdle. Each handler passes around the right side of the hurdle with his left hand extended holding the end of the leash which should be loose. As he passes the hurdle he gives the command HUP.

c. Jumping, properly taught, is an exercise which raises the dog's spirits and should be used as an alternate to depressing exercises such as DOWN. However, it is important that practice in jumping should not be overdone in any one period; although dogs enjoy it, it is very tiring to them. The age of the dog and the temperature of the weather must be considered in performing this exercise. The number of jumps should be decreased for older dogs working in a hot climate. For dogs over five years of age, three jumps each over two, four and six-foot hurdles, is sufficient even though the dog may be eager for more of this exercise.

#### **Section IV—ADVANCED OBEDIENCE, AGITATION AND ATTACK TRAINING**

##### *1. Advanced Obedience*

Advanced obedience consists of requiring the dog to run the obstacle course and to perform all obedience exercises while off leash and without the use of hand signals. Inasmuch as sentry dogs are normally utilized only at night, when hand signals are useless, it is essential that they be trained to understand and obey the vocal commands of their handlers. In addition, this training increases the control of the handler over his dog and develops in the dog the discipline necessary for effective military utilization. When this training is initiated, supervisors will insure that dogs are spaced at wide intervals to minimize the possibility of dogfights. A dog that attempts to attack another dog should be muzzled immediately as punishment. As the training progresses the handlers increase their control and the dogs become accustomed to working in proximity, the distance will be gradually diminished until handlers and dogs working off-leash are capable of doing close order drill and obedience exercises at intervals of four feet or less.

##### *2. Agitation*

a. Agitation consists of teasing the dog to the extent of making him bite at the agitator. An attack sleeve as protective clothing is used to give the dog something to actually bite and a light switch or burlap bag is used to irritate him. The agitator builds the dog up by acting frightened and backing up every time the dog advances. Without exception the dog must always be the winner and a handler never agitates his own dog.

b. Prior to agitation, the dog will be equipped with the leather collar and upon completion of the training the collar will be removed. In this way the dog soon comes to associate the leather collar with agitation and when it is placed around his neck he will begin to search for the agitator. Since the leather collar is the work collar that is worn while the dog is performing sentry duty, it is important that this association be established early and firmly. The choke chain will be used only when taking a dog to or from the kennel area and during obedience training.

c. It is agitation which develops in a dog the aggressiveness and viciousness essential to an effective sentry dog. The aggressiveness and viciousness of a dog determines his alertness on post. It is important

to keep in mind that each dog is an individual with a distinct temperament of his own, and to obtain the best results, the form of agitation must be suited to the dog. There are four principal methods of agitation: (1) **Line-Follow Agitation**. Handlers and sentry dogs form a single file and space themselves at intervals of approximately 30 feet. The agitator equipped with a switch or burlap sack takes position 30 feet from and directly facing the first handler and dog in the file. At the command MOVE, the file begins to advance slowly toward the agitator. At the same time the first handler in the file commands his dog WATCH HIM. When the dog comes within ten feet of him, the agitator acts excited and afraid and begins to retreat by walking backwards. When the dog has approached within three feet, the agitator uses his switch to irritate him a few moments and continues to retreat. The handler then peels off, returns to the end of the file and the procedure is repeated by the next handler and his dog. This should continue until each dog has completed three exercises. During this type of agitation the dog will not be permitted to take hold of the agitator.

(2) **Circle Agitation**. Handlers and sentry dogs form a circle and space themselves at 20 - 30-foot intervals. The agitator who may be equipped with either an attack sleeve or an attack suit and a switch takes position in the center of the circle. At the command MOVE IN the handlers and dogs move very slowly toward the agitator and the handlers order the dogs to WATCH HIM. At the same time the handlers begin taking up the slack in the leash until by the time the dog is within four feet of the handler, the handler is holding him by the leather work collar. This is necessary for the protection of the agitator and to eliminate the possibility of one dog attacking another. While the dogs are moving in, the agitator moves about using his switch on first one dog and then another. When the circle has been reduced to 8 or 10 feet in diameter, the handlers will halt and at the command MOVE OUT will resume their original positions. After this has been repeated several times and the handlers and dogs are in their original positions, the agitator will have handlers bring their dogs into the center of the circle one at a time for individual agitation and will allow the dogs to bite the sleeve or the suit. In this type of agitation, the aggressiveness of each dog stimulates aggressiveness in the other dogs and an emotional chain reaction is created. This is particularly effective in the case of dogs that are deficient in aggressiveness or slow to attack and bite.



Dogs Being Put Through "Circle Agitation" Exercises.

(3) **Kennel Agitation**. This type of agitation will only be used in the case of slow dogs that do not respond to other types of agitation. It is based upon the dog's natural instinct to protect his home. When the dog is in his run and the handler is present, the agitator approaches making threatening gestures and slapping the fenced run with a switch or burlap sack. At the first sign of aggressiveness on the part of the dog the agitator runs away and is chased by the handler. The handler then returns and praises and pets the dog. This should be repeated until the supervisor determines that maximum benefit has been realized.

- (4) **Post Agitation.** This method of agitation will follow kennel agitation and is conducted in the same manner with the following exception: The dog is chained to a post or stake in some open space away from the kennels. This procedure tends to further build up the dog's confidence in himself in unfamiliar places.
- d. Dogs will not be agitated from a vehicle. Eventually this will cause them to look for and anticipate vehicles instead of people. In addition, it will cause them to become nervous and excited when vehicles approach, thus making it difficult to transport them to and from post.
  - e. Through agitation training, a dog is made more alert and aggressive and develops the desire to find and attack strangers. Normally, they should be agitated at least three times weekly to keep them at the peak of effectiveness; however, in determining the frequency of this training, consideration must be given to the requirements of individual dogs.
  - f. Under no circumstances will a dog be agitated in the absence of his handler.

Dog Undergoing Attack Training While handler searches Agitator. (Photo)

### 5. **Attack Training**

The handler and his dog proceed to an area which is isolated from both pedestrian and vehicular traffic. Once in the training area the dog is equipped with the leather work collar which is worn until the conclusion of the exercise. The agitator, dressed in an attack suit, should be concealed upwind from the dog so that his scent will be driven directly into the dog's nose. The handler commands WATCH HIM, and the dog then attempts to locate the enemy by scent or ear. It is important for the initial exercise that the agitator, although well concealed from vision, be within easy scenting distance and directly upwind from the dog.

- a. The dog is encouraged to lift his nose and sample the wind well above the ground level. When he detects a scent other than his handler's, he is likely to react in one of the following ways: general tenseness of the whole body, hackles raised, barking, ears pricked, or other forms of alertness easily recognized by a keen observer, keenness to investigate, slight inclination to whimper or growl, tail active or distinctly rigid.
- b. When the dog has alerted and pulls on the leash, the handler should put his hand on the dog's flank, stroking gently and using the words, "Atta boy," "Good boy," uttered in a whispering voice to praise the dog. Sufficient praise must be given to encourage the dog, but it must not distract him from his purpose. The dog's attention must remain focused in the direction of the agitator. At intervals as the dog approaches the agitator, the handler uses words of praise and encouragement. When the dog gets to within a short distance, the agitator breaks cover and is ordered by the handler to halt and place his hands over his head. The agitator ignores the order to halt and attempts to escape. The handler then releases his dog and commands "GET HIM." The dog then pursues and attacks the agitator who after a brief struggle ceases to resist. The handler approaches, commands "OUT" and draws the dog away from the agitator, at the same time praising and patting him. Leading the dog to a distance of approximately ten feet from the agitator, the handler commands "SIT" and "WATCH HIM." He then returns to the agitator and makes a frisk search, being careful never to place himself between the dog and the agitator. In the course of the search, the agitator strikes or pushes the handler to the ground and attempts to run away. At this point the dog must attack the - agitator without command from the handler.
- c. During repetitions of this exercise the distance between the dog and the concealed agitator are progressively lengthened. The handler must give his dog every possible opportunity to locate the enemy. He stops at intervals to take advantage of every breeze and encourages the dog as soon as he shows signs of suspicion. Conditions are varied during these repetitions. The agitator is concealed in underbrush, in ditches, in the branches of a tree, behind buildings or rocks, or in any natural or artificial hiding place.
- d. The role of agitator is played by different men so that the dog will learn to pick up any human scent other than that of his handler. Also, more than one agitator may be used simultaneously for a given exercise.



Dog Undergoing Attack Training – Stay and Watch – While handler Searches Aggressor

### **6. *Distrust of Strangers***

The sentry dog is taught not to make friends with strangers. To insure such distrust, the following methods may be employed. The handler places his dog on leash at the heel position. A stranger approaches uttering ingratiating words and coaxes the dog to come to him. As soon as the dog makes an attempt to respond, the stranger slaps him smartly on the nose and jumps away. The handler then encourages the dog to attack the stranger. This is repeated until the dog growls and barks on the approach of the stranger no matter how friendly his attitude or how much he attempts to appease the dog. The stranger then tries to coax the dog away with some choice tidbit, meat or anything else of which the dog may be fond. If the dog attempts to take the food, the stranger again slaps him on the nose and runs away without giving him the food. Thus, the dog learns that his handler is the only one to be trusted.

### **7. *Acclimation to Gunfire***

It is important that all sentry dogs be thoroughly acclimated to gunfire because in the performance of their duties they may be required at any time to attack an enemy equipped with firearms. A dog which is gun-shy is utterly worthless in a situation of this kind. Normally, all dogs which are incurably gun-shy will be screened from the program at the Army Dog Training Center; however, there will be border-line cases in which this defect can be eliminated by training. When a dog evidences gun-shyness, the handler must spend as much time as possible comforting and reassuring him whenever an unusual noise is heard. Firing a small caliber gun from a distance, only when the handler is with his dog, and slowly, on consecutive days, decreasing the distance, will in most cases result in improvement. If after a period of time the dog fails to respond, this procedure should be repeated at feeding time. If the dog runs into his kennel and hides, the food should be removed and he should not be offered anything to eat until the regular feeding the next day at which time the procedure is repeated. Gun-shyness results from a fear of the unknown and can usually be corrected by patient training over a period of time. This type of training should be regularly included with agitation and attack training. Agitators should frequently be provided with caliber .45 pistols and blank ammunition which they can fire while they are agitating or being attacked by the dogs. In this way sentry dogs can be taught to attack against gunfire without hesitation. Live ammunition will never be used in these training exercises. AFR 50-22 authorizes an allowance of blank caliber .45 ammunition for this purpose.

### **28. *Responsibility of the Handler***

In addition to teaching the dog to obey his commands, the handler must instill in his dog the idea that every human being, except himself, is his natural enemy. This he does by encouraging the dog to alert at the presence of any stranger. It must be emphasized that the handler never permits anyone to pet or make friends with his dog. He must remember that he is the only master. For the same reason he must never pet any dog except his own. Other members of the sentry dog flight act as agitators and stimulate the enemy.

It is the function of the agitator to sharpen the dog's aggressiveness and to build up his self-confidence by retreating as soon as the dog makes an aggressive move toward him. A certain latitude is permitted in the action taken by the agitator due to the fact that different dogs may require different treatment. It is essential, however, that in every encounter between the dog and the agitator, the dog must always be the winner. Different individuals are used as agitators in order to make the dog generally antagonistic toward all strangers. The agitator's work is as important in sentry dog training as the function of the handler and, therefore, his work must be carefully supervised.

### Section V—OBSTACLE COURSE

As in the case of human beings, sentry dogs cannot be expected to maintain maximum proficiency unless they are in top physical condition. This means that in addition to receiving proper food and medical care, they must be exercised frequently, regularly and strenuously. An obstacle course, which can be constructed out of salvage materials, provides an excellent medium for such exercise, and all units to which sentry dogs are assigned will insure that such a course is constructed. A good obstacle course should include, but is not limited to: hurdles, ditches and low ramps for jumping; high ramps to teach the dog that wherever his handler takes him he is not to be afraid; tunnels to teach a dog to crawl; and walking logs or ladders raised above and parallel to the ground to teach a dog to be more sure-footed and unafraid wherever his handler takes him.



Obstacle Courses Are Necessary for Exercising Dogs

### Section UTILIZATION AND CARE OF SENTRY DOG EQUIPMENT

This section specifies the manner in which certain items dog equipment will be utilized and maintained.

#### 1. Utilization

- a. **The Leather Collar.** This collar will be worn by the dog when he is on post and during agitation and attack training. Occasionally, when fenced runs are not available, it will be necessary to chain a dog to a stake in which case the leather collar must be worn. However, this practice should be discouraged since it usually results in severe collar burns which incapacitates the dog for duty and tends to destroy the dog's association of the leather collar with the presence of an enemy.
- b. **The Choke Chain.** The choke chain will be worn by the dog during obedience training, while being taken to or from the kennels and at all other times except when he is on post or undergoing agitation and attack training. As the name implies, with this chain a handler can choke his dog and thus compel obedience, but care must be exercised to insure that it is properly worn. The collar must be worn in such a manner that the instant tension on the leash is relaxed, it falls loose. Otherwise, it will lock in the constricted position and continue to choke the dog.
- c. **The Leather Leash.** This 60-inch leash is the one normally used both during training and when the dog is on post. The looped end of this leash should be carried in the handler's right hand. Under no circumstances will the dog ever be struck with the leash since this will eventually make him leash-shy. However, when the dog misbehaves and requires correction, the handler should never hesitate to jerk strongly on the leash and tighten the choke chain. The dogs selected for sentry duty are exceedingly sturdy animals and will not be the least bit hurt by this treatment.



d. **The Web leash.** This 30-foot line is used primarily during training when the dog is being taught to run the obstacle course or to perform obedience exercises off-leash. When local conditions make it desirable, the leash may also be used when the dog is on post.

e. **The Muzzle.** The muzzle is used only when a number of dogs in close proximity are being transported to or from the kennel and when a dog is being presented to the veterinary for treatment. The muzzle will not be worn during training periods because when he has a muzzle on, the dog's entire attention and efforts are directed at removing it, and no benefit is derived from the training. It is also well to keep in mind that the leather-mesh type muzzle, particularly if it is too large, is not proof against being bitten. Many dogs succeed in biting through the mesh. The solid leather muzzle, however, is reasonably effective.

f. **The Comb.** In grooming a dog, the comb should be used sparingly and infrequently. Excessive use of the comb will tear out the fine soft hair of the undercoat and leave the dog unprotected against the weather. It is much preferable that loose hair be removed by massaging the dog's coat with the fingers. This method leaves the undercoat undamaged.

g. **The Brush.** After it has been well massaged, the dog's coat should be thoroughly brushed to remove dirt and loose hair and to impart the sheen which is an indication of a healthy and well-cared-for dog. Moreover, the brushing is thoroughly enjoyed by the dog.

h. **The Attack Suit and Sleeve.** To outside of both these items must be made of some loosely woven fabric-like burlap, and padding should be of a loose variety such as cotton— not too tightly packed. If agitation and attack training is to be successful, the dog must be able to sink his teeth into this equipment. Suits and sleeves that are covered with a smooth, closely woven material-like canvas and suits that are padded with felt are unsatisfactory since the dog cannot bite into them and may tear his mouth or injury his gums trying to do so. Frequent repairs and the addition of another layer of burlap will prolong the life of suits and sleeves.



Attack Suit

## 2. *Maintenance*

- a. **Leather equipment** should be wiped with a damp cloth whenever it becomes muddy or dirty, and should be thoroughly cleaned with saddle soap or neats foot oil at least once each week. Any leather equipment in storage must be frequently inspected and be treated with neats foot oil as required to insure that it remains clean, soft, pliable and in good condition.
- b. **Metal equipment and metal parts** should be inspected weekly. Any rust should be removed with a fine grade of steel wool and a light coating of oil applied. c. Web equipment should be washed with a mild soap or detergent when it becomes solid and dried in the shade.

## Section VII—CONTINUOUS TRAINING PROGRAM

1. General supervised training program is vitally necessary to maintain the alertness and aggression. A continuous, well planned and closely observance of sentry. Neglected, both handlers and dogs will soon become lax and will be unable to accomplish their mission satisfactorily. Therefore, this important requirement will not be disregarded.

### 2. *Minimum Requirements*

- a. Each handler and his dog will train together for one hour either before or after each tour of duty on post. It is further required that handlers and dogs frequently and regularly devote an eight-hour day to training. See Section I, Chapter 6.
- b. Additional training will be prescribed for handlers and dogs whose performance does not meet the proficiency standards set forth in Section IX of this chapter.
- c. The training program will include all training described in Section II, III and IV of this chapter. Particular attention will be given to agitation and attack exercises. Although not required, it is recommended that such training be conducted as frequently as possible while the dog is on post. In this way the dog will come to associate the presence of the agitator with patrol duty and will be more alert and aggressive while on post.
- d. Handlers and supervisory personnel will be required to have a thorough knowledge of this manual and will be periodically tested on the material contained herein..
- e. At least once every two weeks the entire sentry dog flight should be assembled for one hour of training and inspection. This will permit commanders and supervisors to make a comparative evaluation of each handler and his dog and to determine the general state of proficiency of the flight.



Agitation and Attack Exercises While Dog Is on Actual Patrol Duty.

## **Section VIII—ELECTIVE TRAINING**

### **1. *General***

Elective training is non-mandatory training which may be included as part of the continuous unit training program after the required training outlined in Sections II, III and IV of this chapter has been mastered. After they have become thoroughly experienced in working with dogs, handlers should be permitted and encouraged to develop their dog's proficiency in this type of training during off-duty hours on a voluntary basis.

### **2. *Elective Training Exercises***

The following trials as described in Regulations and Standards for Obedience Trials, published by the American Kennel Club, are recommended as subjects for elective training; Retrieving Dumbbell on the Flat; Retrieving Dumbbell over the Obstacle; Broad Jump; Scent Discrimination; Seek Back; Hurdle and Bar Jump.

## **Section IX—STANDARDS OF PROFICIENCY**

Assist commanders and inspectors in evaluating the proficiency of sentry dog units under their jurisdiction, the following standards are

### **1. *Appearance of Handlers***

Supervisory personnel and handlers must present a smart personal appearance commensurate with the standards required of Air Policemen.

### **2. *Kennel Facility***

- a. The kennel area should: be removed from disturbing influences; be well drained; have piped water supply; have adequate lighting; be clean and well policed; be posted "Off Limits."
- b. Kennels should: be strong, secure and in good repair; be waterproof; appear to have been cleaned regularly.
- c. Kitchen should be clean, neat and orderly. Food should be stored and prepared under sanitary conditions. Forage should be stored in rodent-proof containers. Feeding and drinking utensils, stove and refrigerator should be clean. Waste material should be disposed of in a satisfactory manner.
- d. Leather equipment should be clean, pliable and have the appearance of being regularly treated with saddle soap or neats foot oil. Metal parts should have a light coating of oil.
- e. An established supply of first aid items should be available. Authorized stock levels of other items of supply should be maintained.

### **3. *Veterinary Services***

It should be determined if veterinary service is satisfactory and if a veterinarian or veterinary technician visits the kennels regularly.

### **4. *Records***

The following records should be current and available: Sentry Dog Service Record; Weight Chart; Feeding Chart; and Utilization Record.

### **5. *Appearance of Sentry Dogs***

Dogs should appear sharp, alert, well groomed and in good health. Ears should be erect and eyes clear. Coat should appear healthy and have a sheen which comes from regular grooming.

### **6. *Performance***

- a. Handlers must have their dogs under control at all times.
- b. Commands should be given in a moderate tone and in a firm clear voice. A dog should respond completely and without hesitation to a single command of his handler. Repetition of commands and the use of hand signals or gestures are faults. A dog should respond only to the commands of his handler.

Inspectors should test this discipline by whistling to or calling a dog by his name after he has been placed in the sit-stay position and the handler has moved away 50 or more feet. It is a fault if the dog breaks and runs to the inspector.

- c. When the dog is walking in the heel position, the leash should always be loose. A taut leash is a fault.
- d. When the leather work collar is placed around his neck, the dog should become perceptibly more alert and aggressive. Lack of response is a fault.
- e. The leather work collar should be worn only while the dog is on post and during agitation and attack training. The choke chain should be worn during obedience training and while the dog is being taken to or from the kennels. Improper use of this equipment is a fault.
- f. During agitation and attack training, the dog should exhibit every indication of being eager to attack the agitator in the face of gunfire. Any gun-shyness is a fault.
- g. When released by his handler, the dog should immediately pursue - and bite the agitator. Any refusal or reluctance to bite is a fault.
- h. Handlers should be able to read their dogs. Inability of a handler to recognize an alert from his dog is a fault.
- i. Supervisors and handlers should be thoroughly familiar with the contents of this manual. Failure to answer questions on all phases of the sentry dog program promptly and correctly is a fault.

## **Chapter 5**

### **HEALTH, CARE, AND FEEDING**

#### **Section I—GROOMING AND CARE**

##### **1. *General***

With dogs, as with horses, a daily grooming is necessary. If a dog is groomed properly every day, it will seldom be necessary to bathe him. A good brushing will keep a dog clean and maintain his coat and skin in a healthy condition. The dog must be kept free from fleas, lice and ticks. Grooming includes inspection and care of ears, nails, nose, teeth and anal glands. A dog's appearance denotes his state of health as well as the care he receives, and reflects directly on his handler.

##### **2. *Coat***

Daily combing and brushing is important. A dog's coat is a special development where each hair grows from a separate hair follicle. It was developed as a protection from rain, excessive heat or cold. German Shepherd dogs have a double coat; the deeper layer or under coat, composed of soft woolly hair and the outer layer or outer coat, composed of more or less coarse, stiff hair which is somewhat oily and water resistant. A good brisk rub-down with the finger tips loosens the dead skin. A thorough, but gentle brushing, following the rub-down, not only keeps the dog's coat clean and free from foreign matter, but also polishes and burnishes the coat and imparts a healthy glowing appearance or bloom. In winter the dog's under coat is of great importance. Normally, combing must be avoided as it will tear out the warm under coat, and leave the dog exposed to the weather. However, matted formations of hair must be combed out to prevent skin disorders.

##### **3. *Nails***

The daily grooming will include inspection of the dog's nails. Long nails often break or grow into the pads of the feet, rendering the dog unfit for service. Nails should be trimmed periodically by the handler after receiving proper instructions from a veterinarian. However, if dogs spend any length of time on concrete surfaces, normal wear will usually keep the nails at the proper length. Particular attention should be given to the first digits on the front and hind feet, which compare to our thumbs and large toes. They do not come in contact with the ground and therefore do not have a wearing surface. Some dogs have an additional toe on the inside of the foot adjacent to the thumbs or big toes. These digits are known as dew claws and serve no useful purpose.

#### 4. *Eyes*

The dog's eyes should be clear and the mucous membranes pink. If there is evidence of mucous discharge or pale mucous membranes, the dog should be examined by the veterinarian. Eyes are referred to as the mirror of the body, and their appearance will often indicate the onset of infections.

#### 5. *Ears*

Grooming will always include daily cleaning of the ear flaps and ear canals. The ear flap is brushed and all matted particles removed. The flap is then examined for wounds, thickening of the margins, and other abnormal conditions. The ear flaps were designed by nature as a protective cover for the ear against the entrance of foreign matter. However, dogs with long ear flaps accumulate a moist, thick, brown wax in the ear canal, caused by lack of sufficient air to dry the canal. The ear should be examined daily and all wax removed. This can be done with the fingers using dry cotton. Foreign objects should never be introduced into the ear to assist in cleaning. Cotton moistened in ether or alcohol can be used when the wax is firmly adhered to the ear. The operation should be performed in a gentle manner and care must be taken to prevent any liquid from entering the ear canal. Dogs evidencing symptoms of ear trouble will constantly shake their heads, twitch their ears, and/or scratch them with their hind feet. When these symptoms are noticed, a veterinarian should examine and treat them.

#### 6. *Nose*

The nose must be inspected for cuts, scratches or mucous discharge. Cuts and scratches should be kept clean. In a case of a persistent watery or thick discharge, the veterinarian should be consulted. An excessively dry or moist nose is sometimes a symptom of ill health.

#### 7. *Teeth*

Teeth must be inspected. A veterinarian may clean the teeth when there is an accumulation of tartar. Sometimes dogs have abnormal or diseased teeth that may be removed.

#### 8. *Anal Glands*

In the care of dogs, it should be kept in mind that the anal glands, which are small glands situated on either side of the rectum just inside the anal opening, often become infected or impacted, causing severe pain or annoyance to the dog. These glands should be drained by placing a large piece of cotton over the anus and pressing firmly with the thumb and fingers on both sides of the rectum, expelling the impacted matter into the cotton. Infected glands require treatment by the veterinarian.

#### 9. *Skin Parasites*

a. Fleas, lice and ticks are common canine parasites. Fleas not only cause the dog great annoyance, but at times are the cause of eczema. They are also the intermediate host of the dog tapeworm. The eggs of the flea do not remain attached to the coat of the dog, but fall into the bedding or cracks on the floor where they hatch and undergo part of their life cycle. Consequently, the elimination of fleas from the animal will do little to correct the condition unless the bed and kennel are also disinfected.

b. Dog lice are small sucking and biting insects which attach themselves to the dog's body. The eggs of the lice, unlike those of the flea, are attached to the hair and may not be affected by the agents used to kill the adult lice. To eliminate lice, strict sanitation, careful grooming, and the repeated application of parasiticides are necessary. The bedding should be burned and kennels thoroughly disinfected. Ticks should be removed carefully by means of tweezers and should not come in contact with the hands, as some ticks are carriers of diseases transmissible to man. A small amount of ether on cotton placed over the tick prior to removal will cause it to remove its head from the animal's skin. This facilitates removal of the entire tick. Daily grooming will help keep the dogs free from skin parasites which may be eliminated by dipping, spraying or the use of insect powder as prescribed by the veterinarian.

## Section II—FIRST AID AND VETERINARY SUPPORT

### 1. *General*

To obtain the most efficiency from a dog, he must be kept in a healthy condition. If a dog becomes sick or injured and the sickness or injury is ignored, his future usefulness may be lost. It is important to report promptly any signs of disease.

### 2. *Treatment of sick Dogs*

a. First aid may be administered by kennel attendants, however, the following signs may be indicative of serious illness and should be called to the attention of the veterinarian:

- (1) Severe coughing or sneezing.
- (2) Pus discharges.
- (3) Failure to eat for two or more days.
- (4) Diarrhea with or without blood.
- (5) Bloody urine.
- (6) Loss of hair without obvious cause.
- (7) Repeated vomiting.
- (8) Abnormal behavior and fever.
- (9) Pale or yellow mucous membranes of the eyes or gums.

b. When a dog is presented to the veterinarian for treatment, it must be muzzled and accompanied by its handler. If the handler cannot be present, the next person most familiar with the dog should accompany the dog. The veterinarian must be given full details of the conditions that brought about the illness as well as the signs observed by the handler. The dog's medical record card must be presented so that the veterinarian can make the appropriate entry at the time of the treatment.

c. Situations may arise in isolated areas where military veterinarians and facilities are not available to provide veterinary care. In these instances employment of civilian veterinarians for emergencies is authorized under the provision of AFR 160—53 and other applicable medical directives. When practical, an effort should be made to converse with the responsible military veterinarian for advice before contacting the civilian veterinarian.

d. The veterinarian or veterinary technician are the only persons authorized to treat sick or injured dogs except as stated in paragraphs a and c above.

e. The responsibilities of veterinarians toward government animals are set forth in AFR 160-8.

### 3. *First Aid Treatment*

Until a dog can be taken to the veterinarian, the following suggestions for first aid may be useful:

a. **Bites.** Clean wound with soap and water, remove hair from and around wound and apply antiseptic. Make sure that wound remains open.

b. **Burns:**

- (1) **Acid.** Wash with water and apply neutralizing agent such as sodium bicarbonate solution.
- (2) **Alkali.** Wash with water and apply vinegar solution.
- (3) **Water or Flame.** Apply tea solution or bicarbonate of soda powder. A grease or medicinal ointment specifically for the purpose, if available, is better. Speed of treatment in all burns prevents extensive blistering and promotes more rapid healing. The same is true with the more severe brush burns.

c. **Choking.** Examine the mouth carefully for any lodged particles. If nothing is found, immediate professional care is needed. Do not wait, especially if blood is mixed with saliva.

d. **Cuts.** Check bleeding with pressure bandage or tourniquet, depending on the severity and the place. If suturing is necessary, take the dog to a veterinarian immediately. If not severe, remove hair from area and protect with antiseptic and bandage when bleeding has stopped.

e. **Over Heating.** Place animal in coolest spot available and wet animal especially on the head. Do not give water to drink until reasonably cooled off and then only in small amounts.

f. **Poison.** Give emetic (something to make a dog vomit) such as hydrogen peroxide (one

teaspoon in one cup of water), or strong salt water (one heaping teaspoon in a half glass of water). Follow with Epsom salts and immediately secure the service of a veterinarian. It is also important to try to identify the poison by the container or a sample, if available.

g. **Fits.** Fits are generally not dangerous to the handler. Usually the dog will not bite because it is not conscious. If it is only a running fit or one that is mild and the dog is semiconscious, then the handler may be bitten. The dog should be put on a leash immediately and confined to avoid self injury. Advice from the veterinarian is extremely important at this time in order to establish the cause and prevent similar occurrences in the future.

h. **Snake bite.** Make a deep cut beside wound. DO NOT SUCK WOUND. If it is in a leg, use a tourniquet. Suction apparatus or milking will remove some venom. Identify snake if possible.

i. **Electric Shock.** Animal in state of shock and paralysis. Artificial respiration should be used because of the paralyzed condition of the respiratory tract. Keep animal warm. When animal can swallow, stimulant should be given. Rest is important.

### Section III—NUTRITION AND FEEDING

#### 1. *Physiology of Digestion in the Dog*

a. A dog bolts his food down without chewing and there is no digestion in the mouth. His teeth are used mainly for tearing food.

b. The intestinal tract is typical of carnivores (meat eaters) and the stomach is quite large in relation to the capacity of the intestines. Digestion in the stomach is somewhat prolonged and the food does not pass to the intestines until gastric digestion is complete. Proteins affect the length of gastric digestion. The amount of carbohydrates and fat digested in the stomach is unimportant since digestion of carbohydrates and fat occur mostly in the small intestine.

c. The short intestinal tract of the dog is best adapted to a concentrated diet that can be digested quickly and will leave a non-bulky residue. Foods of animal origin are best suited to the physiology of the dog because of the ease and completeness with which they are digested as compared with plant foods which contain considerable amounts of indigestible cellulose.

#### 2. *Nutritional Requirements of Dogs*

a. **Protein Requirements.** Proteins are needed for body building and for tissue repair. The diet of a grown dog should contain about 22% protein on a basis of dry weight.

#### b. **Energy Requirements:**

(1) The energy requirements of dogs vary greatly with size, age, activity and nutritive conditions. Energy requirements are measured in terms of calories. The following table is a suggested guide for the caloric requirement: Weight of Dog Pounds (Chart)

(2) Energy for the body is supplied by carbohydrates mainly in the form of starch and sugar. It was once believed that dogs could not digest starch; however, experiments have shown that dogs can digest large quantities of cornstarch, either raw or cooked, and show no ill effects as long as other dietary requirements are satisfied.

(3) Cereals and vegetables contain large amounts of carbohydrates. These foods, however, often contain large amounts of fiber and their carbohydrates are encased in hard cellulose membranes. To make the carbohydrates available, the hard membranes must be broken down and this can be done by mechanical means such as grinding and chewing, by cooking, or by certain processes in digestion. Ordinarily, the dog cannot split the cellulose membranes by chewing or by digestion, therefore, most cereals and vegetables should be well cooked before they are fed to a dog.

(4) When starch foods are fed in large quantities, it is necessary that the diet be well balanced and contain protein, minerals, vitamins, and sufficient fat.

Weight of Dog Pounds		TOTAL cALORIES FOR	
Maintenance	Moderate	Activity	Great Activity
1265		1665	2120

59 1550 88 2020 110 2330 2060 2670 3085 2620 3400 3930

**3. Mineral Requirements**

a. The only minerals that require special consideration in the dog’s diet are calcium, phosphorus, and salt. Salt is increased in warm weather. Other minerals are generally fed in sufficient quantities. The calcium and phosphorus requirement is greater in the growing dog than in a fully developed animal, but even adult dogs, when fed a diet deficient in these two minerals, may show symptoms of deficiency disease.

b. The estimated requirements of these three minerals are as follows:

**MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS PER POUND OF BODY WEIGHT**

Calcium 0.009 grams per day

Phosphorus .018 grams per day

Sodium Chloride .136 grams per day

Vitamin	Amount, per Pound of Important Sources I Body Weight per Day 10—36 International units Fish-liver oil, green leaves, carrots, cheese, eggs, butter, liver, kidney, heart	
A		
B, (Thiamin)	3 Micrograms	Wheat germ, liver, eggs, toma toes
Riboflavin	11.3 micrograms	Yeast, milk, liver
Nicotinic Acid	2.2 Miligrams	Meat, milk, eggs
C	None	
D	Y <sub>2</sub> —1 International units	Sunshine, fish liver, egg yolk

**4. Vitamin Requirements**

a. The following table shows the suggested vitamin requirements of dogs and some of the important sources of these vitamins:

Vitamin Amount, per Pound of Important Sources Body Weight per Day  
 10-36 International units Fish-liver oil, green leaves, carrots, cheese, eggs, butter, liver, kidney, heart  
 Vitamin A & B, (Thiamin) 3 Micrograms  
 Wheat germ, liver, eggs, tomatoes Riboflavin 11.3 micrograms  
 Yeast, milk, liver Nicotinic Acid 2.2 Milligrams  
 Meat, milk, eggs C None D  
 2-1 International units Sunshine, fish liver, egg yolk

b. Vitamins are needed for various functions of the body and when they are absent in the diet, specific disease conditions appear. Many mild symptoms of general unfitness may be attributable to an inadequate supply of one or more of these essential food factors.



- c. Advanced deficiency of vitamin A may cause an eye disease with partial blindness, while a mild deficiency may show only loss of weight or an apparent lowered resistance to bacterial infection.
- d. A deficiency in Vitamin B1 (Thiamin) may cause loss of weight, loss of appetite, and impaired digestion. In advanced stages, the animal is paralyzed and death may result. A deficiency of Riboflavin may cause a skin disease while lack of Nicotinic acid may show a loss of appetite and weight, which in advanced stages can terminate in a disease called Black Tongue.
- e. Dogs normally do not need Vitamin C in their diet since they can synthesize this vitamin in their own body.
- f. Vitamin D is needed by growing dogs for proper growth and bone development but adult male dogs living out of doors probably do not need extra Vitamin D. On the other hand, very large doses of this vitamin may be harmful.

#### 4. Feeding of Dogs

##### a. *Meats and Other Animal Products:*

- (1) Meat is generally the essential basis for all dog diets. Beef is usually preferred but because of economy, horse meat has become very popular and is the main component of most commercial dog feeds.
- (2) Fish makes a satisfactory substitute for meat when given occasionally and provided it does not contain harmful bones. Canned salmon is preferred but other canned fish is satisfactory.
- (3) Milk, either fresh or processed, and eggs may also be used as a substitute for meat and are excellent sources of protein. Excessive amounts of eggs, if fed raw, may cause diarrhea in dogs.
- (4) Meat fed to mature dogs may be fed in large chunks, in medium sized pieces, or ground. Some portions of meat are more valuable than others and dogs cannot easily digest skin tendons, and cartilage. Muscle meat and glandular organs such as liver, heart, and tripe are best.
- (5) Meat may be fed raw or cooked. Frozen meat should be thoroughly thawed before feeding. If cooked improperly, meat may lose a considerable amount of nutrient. It is better to boil, roast, or broil meat for only a few minutes and use the juices in the ration. Fried meat should be avoided. Cooked meat should be slightly seasoned with salt.
- (6) The ration of a mature dog should contain about 50% (by weight) meat or meat substitutes.

##### b. *Vegetable:*

- (1) The primary functions of vegetables in the dog ration are to furnish vitamins and minerals, supply bulk, and regulate the bowels.
- (2) Carrots, tomatoes, spinach, onions, and beets are the most commonly used vegetables, but potatoes, cabbage, turnips, and certain other green vegetables are sometimes used.
- (3) Methods of preparing and feeding vegetables vary somewhat depending on the kind used. Root vegetables have a large amount of indigestible cellulose and must be cooked to liberate the starch for feed purposes. Beets and carrots may be fed raw if the primary purpose is to supply bulk to the ration. Tomatoes may be fed raw. It is important to thoroughly mix vegetables with other feeds or many dogs will refuse to eat them. The extensive use of vegetables having a higher fiber content should be avoided.
- (4) Where feeds of animal origin make up one-half of the ration, vegetables may constitute about one-half the remainder, or 25% of the total.

##### c. *Cereals and Cereal Products:*

- (1) Cereal grains and certain cereal products are valuable in supplying bulk, energy, protein, some vitamins and minerals, and should be used although dogs do not particularly relish them. The most common ones used are corn, rice, oats, wheat and barley.
- (2) Corn is used chiefly in the meal form and is best adapted to cold weather rations and for dogs getting abundant exercise. Ground or rolled oats are of value, but must be thoroughly cooked and

should be fed to active outdoor dogs. Rice should also be thoroughly cooked. Wheat is fed mostly in the form of bread and should never be moldy.

(3) Cereals may constitute approximately 25% of the total feed of mature dogs. If it is necessary to reduce the amounts of vegetables below the 25% allotment previously mentioned, cereals may be used as a substitute for the vegetables removed.

d. **Bones.** Bones are a good supply of calcium and phosphorus but feeding bones to mature dogs may be more harmful than beneficial. Chewing bones causes abnormal wearing and breaking of teeth, particles of bone may splinter off and be swallowed causing damage to the intestinal tract, and an excessive amount of bone feeding may cause constipation. Therefore, if a source of mineral matter is desired, ground bone meal will be mixed with the normal ration.

e. **Fat:**

(1) A certain amount of fat in the diet is important to allow the absorption and utilization of calcium and phosphorus, particularly if the percentage of cereals is high. Normally, any average diet for adult dogs may have 5% of fat but if the proportion of cereals is high, it is best to increase the fat content to 11% of the diet.

(2) Horse meat is usually lean and when used in the ration, some additional fat may have to be incorporated in the diet.

f. **Commercial Dog Feeds:**

(1) Many commercial dog feeds are available either in canned or dry form. Most of those manufactured by reputable firms are complete and balanced rations, and one may evaluate them by the manufacturers' statement of contents on the labels. These products may be fed alone or they may be supplemented with additional meat, carbohydrates or fat if needed.

(2) Canned meats are usually subjected to extremely high temperatures during processing which may affect their nutritive value so that additional supplements such as vegetables and cereals may be necessary.

g. **Water.** Regardless of the kinds of quantities of meat, vegetables, cereals, or other feeds used in the ration, it is essential that all dogs be supplied with plenty of potable, clean, cool drinking water.

h. Components of the diet: On the basis of the above information, it is recommended that the average diet of the sentry dogs contain on a basis of dry weight, 22% of protein, 5% fat, 70% carbohydrate, 0.5% fiber, and 2.5% ash.

## 5. Canine Ration

The information contained in the above chapters will help kennel supervisors plan a balanced canine ration, with the help of base veterinarians, which would be suitable for particular conditions. Items for the ration should be obtained through regular supply channels; however, under certain conditions, local purchase may be authorized. Occasionally, some food items such as broken eggs, fresh or powdered milk, stale bread, and other items are available at supply warehouses, dining halls or at commissaries which, because of their condition, cannot be used for issue or resale. Whenever these items cannot be used for other purposes, permission may be obtained from the base commander to use them as substitutions in the sentry dog diet, resulting in considerable savings in the dogs' maintenance. Leftover scraps from the dining halls, however, will not be used. These scraps often contain bones, highly seasoned foods, or other undesirable products. Their variation makes it impossible to evaluate the dog's diet and may cause intestinal disturbances in the dog.

**6. Standard Ration**

a. The standard ration for preparation at the base will consist of horse meat, vegetables, cereals, and, when necessary, additional fat. The quantities indicated below constitute an example of a well balanced diet for a 60-pound dog for one day. (Approximate amounts of feed required daily for different size dogs are indicated in paragraph 3.)

Horse Meat 1 lbs

(See par. 5a, b, and c below)

Yellow or green vegetables % lb

(See par. 5b and d below.)

Cereals 1lb

(See par. 5c and e below.)

Fat As needed.

(See par. Se below.)

b. Grade D or E beef may be used in lieu of horse meat if procurement of horse meat is impractical or quality does not meet requirements. However, canned horse meat may be requisitioned through supply channels.

c. Horse meat will be fresh chilled, frozen, or canned and will consist of muscle tissue to include all cuts on the carcass. Edible organs such as hearts (free of large blood vessels), livers, spleens, brains, stomachs (well cleaned), kidneys and pancreas may be included in the proportion in which they appear in the carcass. Skin, snouts, intestines, large blood vessels, large tendons, fiat fibrous sheets (fascia) lungs and mammary glands will be excluded.

d. Vegetables will consist of carrots, tomatoes, spinach, onions, or beets of good fresh quality or canned. Other vegetables may be temporarily substituted.

e. Cereals will be preferably cornmeal, rolled oats, soybean meal, rice, wheat (in form of bread), or prepared breakfast foods.

**20. Quantities of Feed Required**

a. The quantities of feed required by dogs are influenced by a number of factors such as age, size, physical condition, kind and proportion of the various feeds in the ration, climate, and type or amount of work done. Of these, the size of the dog and kind of work done are the most important in determining feed requirements. The following table may be useful:

Body Weight Total reed (wet basis)  Pounds Pounds	Feed per Pound of Body Weight				
	Ounces				
25 50 3 100 150	1Y2 2½ 4 5-j	0.96	.80	.70	.64 .56

Approximate Quantities of Feed Required Daily By Mature Dogs

b. The proportion of feed will be approximately 50% of animal protein foods, 25% of vegetables, and 25% of cereals. For example, a 75-pound dog will be fed approximately 13/4 pounds of meat, 3/4 pound cereals, and 3/4 pound of vegetables.

c. Each dog should be fed according to its own needs. The physical condition of the dog is the best guide in determining whether the ration is adequate. When the moisture content of the ration is low, smaller quantities of feed may be needed.

### 7. *Method of Preparation of the Ration*

- a. Meat will be cut into small chunks or ground. If frozen meat is used, it should be thawed completely and preferably fed raw. If it is desired to feed cooked meat, it will be cooked for only ten minutes and the juices will be used in other ingredients of the ration. Meat will be dished out individually to each dog's feeding pan and then the other ingredients added.
- b. Cereals will be cooked for at least 30 minutes. Raw vegetables may be cooked with the cereal if desired, but canned vegetables do not need much cooking. Cereals and vegetables will be mixed and then added to the feeding pan containing the meat.
- c. The consistency of the final ration should be taken not to feed a ration of a liquid consistency.

### 8. *Feeding Rules*

- a. Number of Meals. Ordinarily, one meal a day is sufficient for a mature dog. If he appears thin and underweight, he may be fed an additional ration at another time.
- b. Time for Meals. Dogs should be fed at the same time every day. The dog's feeding pan should be left in front of him just long enough for him to eat. If he does not want to eat, the food should be taken away- after 30 minutes and not offered again until the regularly scheduled feeding time of the next day.
- c. General Considerations:
  - (1) The use of too hot, too cold, highly seasoned, fried, or sweet foods should be avoided. However, most cooked foods should be slightly seasoned with salt.
  - (2) The appetite of the dog cannot usually be taken as a guide to its feed requirements. Many dogs will over-eat if given the opportunity.
  - (3) The use of moldy, spoiled, or rotten food is prohibited.
  - (4) Economy in rations and feeding practices are desirable, but not if they are obtained at the expense of the dog's health and efficiency.
  - (5) All feeding and drinking utensils must be kept scrupulously clean.
  - (6) The crude fiber content of the rations should be kept at a low level, usually below 2%. This is ordinarily accomplished by a ration that contains a good proportion of feeds of animal origin.
  - (7) It is usually desirable to reduce the feed allotment during hot weather.

## Chapter 6 UTILIZATION OF SENTRY DOGS

### Section I—SENTRY DOG FLIGHT

#### 1. *Organization*

Each Air Police unit to which five or more sentry dogs are assigned will form a sentry dog flight that will be comprised of all handlers and supervisory personnel. This is considered necessary in view of the working hours, the nature of the duties and the training required for proper sentry dog utilization.

- a. **Officer-in-Charge.** One Air Police Officer, AFSC 7724, will be assigned the additional duty of OIC of the sentry dog flight. Normally, this duty will be performed by the operations officer.
- b. **Non-Commissioned Officer-in-Charge.** One Air Police Supervisor, AFSC 77170, who has completed a formal course of instruction as prescribed in Section II, Chapter II, will be assigned the full-time duty of NCOIC of the sentry dog flight when it numbers five or more dogs. When the number of dogs in a flight is less than five, this will be a part-time duty.
- c. **Kennel Man.** When a sentry dog flight numbers more than 15 dogs, it is recommended that an additional Air Policeman, AFSC 77130, be assigned the duty of kennel man to assist the NCOIC.

Due to the opportunity which he is afforded to become familiar with sentry dog work, the kennel man usually makes an excellent replacement for any handler who is eliminated from the program.

d. **Handlers.** All Air Police personnel, AFSCS 77150, 77130 and 77010, trained and utilized as sentry dog handlers, will be assigned to the sentry dog flight.

## **2. Operation**

In order that handlers and dogs will develop and maintain the highest proficiency, commanders must consider the following factors in establishing duty schedules: continuous training is mandatory, daily care of dogs is necessary, handlers work continuously at night. Therefore, it is recommended that the sentry dog flight be divided into three sections each of which will follow a nine-day cycle:

**3 eight-hour days (1600-2400 hours);**

**3 eight-hour days (0001-0800 hours);**

**2 days off duty; and one eight-hour day of training.**

This arrangement requires two-thirds of the handlers and dogs to perform duty each night. Under normal conditions, an eight-hour tour of duty will consist of six hours on post, plus two hours devoted to the maintenance of kennels and equipment and to the training, grooming and feeding of the dogs. In addition to these duties, it is necessary that either the NCOIC or a qualified sentry dog handler be present in the kennel area at all times to enforce the off-limits rule and to cope with any emergencies that may arise.

## **Section II—PRINCIPLES OF UTILIZATION**

### **1. General**

In utilizing sentry dogs, it is necessary that the dog be regarded as nothing more nor less than an item of special detection equipment that has been provided by the Air Force to assist an Air Policeman in maintaining more effective surveillance over his post. An Air Policeman who is a sentry dog handler in no way loses his identity as an Air Policeman. A sentry dog handler is merely an Air Policeman who has received training which qualifies him to utilize an item of special equipment, a sentry dog.

### **2. Principles**

As in the case of most equipment designed to perform a specific function, maximum benefit from sentry dogs cannot be realized unless certain guard principles of utilization are observed.

Accordingly, the following principles of sentry dog utilization are set forth for the information and guidance of all concerned:

- a. Each dog will be assigned to only one handler. In this way, the loyalty and affection of the dog remain undivided and focused on a single master. This facilitates the development and maintenance of any unfriendly and vicious attitude in the dog toward all strangers. Any attempt to train more than one handler to work with the same dog is prohibited.
- b. As soon as he is posted, the handler will exchange the choke chain for the leather work collar thus indicating to the dog that he is in a duty status and is to be on the alert for intruders.
- c. All sentry dogs will be worked on leash by their assigned handlers. Utilization of dogs that are not accompanied by their handlers is prohibited.
- d. A shoulder weapon interferes with the control of the handler over his dog. Therefore, when on duty, a handler should be armed with a caliber .45 pistol or a caliber .38 revolver.
- e. When on post, a sentry dog's primary function is that of a detection and warning device. This function has been performed when the sentry dog detects and alerts his handler to the presence of an intruder. It then becomes the responsibility of the handler to cope with the situation in the most appropriate manner. The secondary function of the sentry dog is to pursue, attack and hold any intruder who attempts to evade or escape from apprehension. When utilizing a sentry dog for this purpose, the dog will be considered a deadly weapon. Accordingly, before releasing the dog, the handler will challenge a fleeing intruder three times and order him to halt. If the intruder fails to heed the thrice repeated challenge, the sentry dog

may then be turned loose and ordered to "GET HIM." This procedure will be made a part of the special orders of all intruders.

f. In order to realize the full value of dogs as a psychological deterrent to unauthorized entry and to protect the innocent and unwary, signs measuring 30 inches by 40 inches and worded as follows will be posted along the perimeter of areas in which sentry dogs are utilized:

**WARNING  
THIS AREA PATROLLED  
BY SENTRY DOGS**

g. The average properly trained sentry dog worked by a competent handler will alert at an average distance of 100 yards. The alerting range will vary depending upon the conditions which prevail in an area at any given time. Under extremely favorable conditions, i.e., a totally isolated area devoid of all activity and distractions, dogs may be expected to alert at a range of 300 yards or more. When used inside a building, the dog's effective alerting range is limited to the confines of the structure. Subject to the variations in capability of individual dogs, the state of training and the degree of understanding which exists between the handler and his dog, the general rule to be considered in utilization is: The alerting range of a sentry dog is inversely proportional to the number of distractions presented in the area being secured.

h. To insure adequate security coverage, sentry dogs should initially not be assigned to posts which exceed 200 yards in length. This distance is witnessed only as a guide which can be used until experience indicates the proper size for patrol areas in any given location.

i. Subject to terrain conditions and the existence of any artificial barriers or obstructions which may prevent the observance of this procedure, it will usually be found that a dog provides better security when he patrols at a distance from the item or area which is to be guarded. This permits the dog's hearing and sense of smell to take full advantage of any breeze that may carry the sound or odor of an intruder.

j. A sentry dog should be rotated from one post to another, since he is generally more alert in strange surroundings.

k. Whenever practical, sentry dogs should patrol downwind from the area being secured. This procedure permits the dog to make full use of his sense of smell and increases the effective alerting range.

l. Except for the psychological value, no advantage accrues from the utilization of sentry dogs during daylight hours. It has been established that the eyesight of a dog is one of the weakest of his perceptual senses and is markedly inferior to that of the average human. During the day, a single Air Policeman is capable of securing an area the same size as that secured by a sentry dog and his handler. Therefore, except under exceptional circumstances, sentry dogs will not be used during the daytime.

m. There is no need to withdraw sentry dogs from post during inclement weather. Although a heavy rain will tend to reduce a dog's effective alerting range, his ability to detect intruders will still exceed that of his handler.

n. While on post, handlers and sentry dogs should be frequently inspected and tested by simulated penetrations to insure alertness and proper performance of duty. In this respect, handlers and sentry dogs are no different than guards not equipped with dogs.

o. As soon as a handler and his dog are relieved from post, the handler will remove the leather collar and substitute the choke chain which will be worn until the dog has been returned to his kennel.

### Section III—AREAS OF SENTRY DOG UTILIZATION

Utilization of sentry dogs will be considered to increase the security of Category I and Category II elements as defined in AFR 355-4 and as a means of protecting government property from theft or pilferage. Typical sentry dog posts are: tactical aircraft parking areas; POL storage areas; POL pipelines and pumping stations; remote transmitter and receiver sites; radar sites; flyaway kit storage areas; guided missile launching sites; special weapons storage areas; ammunition storage areas.

## Chapter 7

### LOGISTICAL SUPPORT AND ADMINISTRATION

#### Section I—KENNELS AND RUNS

##### 1. *Definitions*

- a. Kennel—A box-like wooden structure comprising the dog's sleeping quarters.
- b. Run—A fenced or unfenced area adjoining or surrounding such kennel.
- c. Training Area—A fenced enclosure containing the necessary training aids and of sufficient size to conduct regularly scheduled training.

##### 2. *General*

Kennels and runs must be completed before delivery of sentry dogs.

##### 3. *Location*

The kennels must be located in a well-drained area which is both readily accessible to handlers and fire-fighting equipment, and sufficiently isolated from traveled roads and congested areas to insure a minimum of noise and distraction. The sentry dog tends to lose his efficiency unless isolated to permit him to secure a normal amount of rest and sleep.

##### 4. *Facilities*

Construction of permanent-type kennel facilities will be in accordance with USAF Standard Definitive Drawing AD-39-19-01, "Canine Kennel and Kennel Support Building." Minor changes from this design will be permitted to fit local conditions. Variations in material and planning may be made, but dimensions as shown in the referenced definitive designs are minimum requirements. For semi-permanent and temporary-type facilities, the site layout will be followed, but the kennels and support building may be prefabricated, job-assembled types of structures and enclosures. The sentry dog shipping crate which is issued with each dog may be used as a kennel in the construction of these latter types of facilities. The following points should be considered:

- a. *Runs*. Concrete surfaced runs with a trowel finish are preferred over any other type. However, well-drained soil covered with smooth gravel provides an acceptable type of surface for runs when concrete is not available or the facility is only temporary. See paragraph 4e below.
- b. *Roofs*. The roof of the kennel is best waterproofed by heavy asphalt paper or metal. Canvas will not be used for this purpose because it is flammable and not permanently waterproof. Roofs should be hinged to permit cleaning and inspection of the kennel and to provide ventilation in hot weather. In hot climates roofing surface should be painted with white or aluminum paint to reflect the heat.
- c. *Partitions and Doors*. All partitions and doors will be made of wood or chain link or woven wire fencing, one inch maximum mesh, and must be strong enough to withstand repeated lunges by a 90-pound dog.
- d. *Dog Proofing*. All dog run fences of woven wire mesh to be fastened to top and bottom pipe rails. Wood fences will have top and bottom wood rails. Fences over concrete runways will terminate one inch above the runway surface. Fences, wire or wood; over gravel or dirt runways are to terminate one inch above a buried 12" corrugated galvanized metal curb set flush with the grade to prevent the dogs from burrowing under the fencing. Runway fences less than eight feet in height should have chicken wire

stretched over the top of the runways to prevent the dogs from jumping or scaling them. Strands of smooth wire, twelve inches or less apart, stretched over fences eight feet in height, as shown in Definitive AD 39-19-01, will serve this purpose.

e. **Shade.** Grass matting, salvage tenting or tarpaulin materials stretched over the inclosures around the runs and supported by wire dog proofing are economical ways of providing adequate shade during hot weather. Shade material should be secured to wire to prevent blowing away.

#### 5. **Water**

A water supply must be available at the kennels. Drinking water for dogs must come from a source approved for human consumption. Individual stainless steel water buckets are recommended when available.

#### 6. **Lights**

Adequate lighting of the kennel area is necessary to prevent accidents when dogs are being taken from or returned to the kennels at night.

#### 7. **Fire Protection**

A sufficient number of fire extinguishers must be located in the kennel area. The type and number of extinguishers will be determined by the local installation fire department.

#### 8. **Sanitation**

Sanitary conditions will be maintained in the kennels, runs, dog kitchen, food storage space and surrounding area. Insects and rodents can be controlled by immediate disposal of all waste material. Rodents are attracted by dry meal and scraps; therefore, all such material will be stored in rodent-proof containers. Stools must be policed at least twice daily. In areas infested with ticks; tall grass, weeds and brush should be removed; preferably by controlled burning under fire department supervision. The area should then be sprayed with a 5% DDT solution.

The kennels, kitchen and adjacent areas will be sprayed periodically with a residual-type insecticide as prescribed by the Base Veterinarian.

#### 9. **Off Limits**

“Off Limits” signs will be posted in sufficient numbers on all sides of the kennel area and unauthorized personnel will not be admitted. Signs will measure 30 inches by 40 inches and will be lettered as follows:

**OFF LIMITS  
SENTRY DOG AREA  
DANGER**

#### 10. **Dog Pounds**

Stray dogs which are picked up on the installation will not be housed in or near the kennel area.

#### 11. **Privately Owned Dogs**

Privately owned dogs will not be fed, trained or housed in the sentry dog kennel area. This is applicable to dogs owned by sentry dog handlers as well as by all other personnel.

### **Section II—EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES**

#### 1. **Equipment**

The equipment allowance for sentry dogs and kennel facilities is contained in Equipment Component List 20-20-5. In accordance with AFR 125-9, certain individual items of equipment will be issued to the dog at the Army Dog Training Center; the remainder will be procured by the using installation. Should these allowances prove inadequate, unsuitable or excessive, a change request will be submitted in accordance with AFR 5-25 through channels to the Commander, Air Materiel Command, Attention: MCSE. Change requests will provide details for the



solution of problems encountered under actual operating conditions and a substantiation of the requested changes.

## **2. Rations**

The rations prescribed for sentry dogs in Section III, Chapter V, of this manual will be procured through local purchase by using installations. It is the responsibility of using installations to take necessary budgetary action to provide funds required for proper amount of rations.

## **Section III—RECORDS**

### **1. General**

A permanent field file consisting of the records described below will be maintained for each sentry dog by the using organization. In accordance with AFR 125-9, this file will be forwarded to the accountable agency upon the death, destruction or sale of the dog.

### **2. Permanent -Records**

AF Form 323, Sentry Dog Service Record, will be initiated and maintained by the using organization as a permanent part of the field file.

### **3. Temporary Records**

The records listed below are temporary in nature and will be maintained as indicated by the using organization. Completed record forms will be retained in the field file of the appropriate sentry dog for a period of six months, after which they will be destroyed.

a. **AF Form 320, Sentry Dog Feeding Chart**, is an individual record of the amount and cost of the daily ration consumed by each sentry dog for a period of six months. This record will be initiated 1 January and 1 July, each year.

b. **Sentry Dog Utilization Record** is provided on back of AF Form 320 to accommodate simultaneous accomplishment with the Feeding Chart. The Utilization Record will be used to maintain a daily record of the manner in which each sentry dog is utilized for a period of six months.

c. **AF Form 321, Sentry Dog Training Record**, will be used to record the different types of training conducted, the time spent on each and an evaluation of the dog's proficiency by the NCOIC.

d. **AF Form 322, Sentry Dog Weight Chart**, will be utilized to record the weight of each dog as of the last day of each month for a period of six months and will be initiated 1 January and 1 July, each year. This information will serve to indicate the adequacy of the amount and type of diet and exercise, as well as the general health of each dog.

### **4. Supply of Forms**

The forms prescribed in this manual will be requisitioned through supply channels.