



# BIRTH OF PATROL DOGS



The use of sentry dogs were limited in the states to Strategic Air Command (SAC) bases with nuclear weapons or other high priority weapons systems. These dog were well suited for guarding these areas. The majority of these bases were located in parts of the US not known for having a warm climate (for example: North Dakota, South Dakota, Maine, Wyoming, etc). The use of a sentry dog was considered deadly force which limited their use.

Patrol dogs were adopted by the Air Force because of the need for a more controllable dog. The patrol dog concept developed by the Washington DC Police Department proved that controllable but still aggressive dog could be effectively used at any military base. The concept of a dog being considered minimum force caused a rapid growth of military dog utilization. Many sentry dogs were retrained to patrol dogs as Army Nike missile batteries located around American cities were phased out. As training methodology improved, drug detector & explosives detector dogs were included in the dog inventory. The dog program owes much to this first class. By the early 1970's many bases had small dog sections.

For example; Keesler Air Force Base, Mississippi had 5 dogs in 1976. Two Patrol, Two Patrol/Drug Detector, and one explosive detector dog. Keesler is a training base, that would have never used sentry dogs.

The use of force rules concerning dogs evolved. A patrol dog handler could release his dog to attack or utilize physical restraint techniques. Security Police preferred to have the dog "rolling in the dirt" with a suspect instead of having it's personnel risk injury to themselves.

## **First Class - September 1968**



First Row: Sgt Cisco & Yukon; A/C Bradbury & Enno; Sgt Bradley & Missy; A/C Callintine & Turk; Sgt Larson & Smokey; A/C Peaslee & Shadow; Sgt Rittichier & Bambi; Sgt Towns & Greywolfe; A/C Landis & Prince

Second Row: Sgt Johnson & Rocky; Sgt Sheckells & Ceasar; A/C Langford & Steele; Sgt Shive & Bingo; A/C Gibson & Spike; A/C Potter & Raven; A/C Frisk & Duke; A/C Hunter & Demo; A/C Laplante & Ilex

Third Row: Sgt Yanez & Ceasar; A/C Lloyd Licciardello & King; A/C Berkowitz & Buck; Sgt Mattson & Major; A/C Nissen & Shadow; A/C Conklin & Nugget; A/C Puge & Saint; A/C Brugnola & Astor; A/C Borders & Sully

### **Instructors**

SMSgt Walker; TSgt Hooten; TSgt Witt; TSgt Nixon; TSgt Blackwell; TSgt Dover; SSgt Drysdale; SSgt Leak; SSgt Conners; SSgt Rosenfelt





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