



SENTRY DOGS and SITE SECURITY

The ARADCOM Sentry Dog Program, to provide better security for the nuclear-capable Nike-Hercules sites defending our cities, was initiated in November 1958, when the first handler-sentry dog teams began training at Fort Benning, Ga. In January 1959, team training shifted to Lackland Air Force Base, Tex. Since then, nearly 500 teams have been trained and are on the job day and night.

The use of trained dogs for warfare and security is not new. Records show that as early as 700 B.C. dogs were trained to fight the enemy and protect their masters. In both World Wars and in Korea, more than 300,000 dogs were used as sentries, scouts, messengers, and in other roles in which their keener senses make them more alert to danger than their soldier-handlers. These senses, coupled with the intelligence and training of the handlers, are used at Nike-Hercules sites to guard against sabotage, pilferage, fire, and unauthorized entry.

As in all phases of Army air defense, teamwork and training are the keys to successful accomplishment of the mission. First, the dogs selected must meet rigid standards. German shepherds are preferred because of their temperament and adaptability. Dogs are procured by the Fort Worth General Depot,