

## New War on Dope in Vietnam

# Dogs' Noses Sniff Out Narcotics

By Sgt. Bob Palmer  
**TAN SON NHUT**—The young Army specialist led his dog into a warehouse filled with pallets of mail awaiting shipment from Saigon Air Mail Terminal here to points outside the Republic of Vietnam.

Removing the steel choke collar from the German Shepherd, Specialist 4 John W. Barnett, placed a special shoulder harness on the dog and gave a command.

At first the dog, Smidget, seemed confused by the number of people around him and the

flashbulbs popping in his eyes. But in less than two minutes he had uncovered the small package containing marijuana planted a few minutes earlier by his trainers.

Smidget and a fellow "marijuana sniffer" are the first of a corps of specially-trained dogs to be employed by the U.S. military in an attempt to reduce the flow of marijuana out of Vietnam.

The dogs and their trainers gave a demonstration in the mail terminal to prove their effectiveness in ferreting out con-

cealed caches of marijuana. The dogs eventually will be used extensively at Air Force installations throughout the Republic, as well as other service locations, explained Lt. Col. Walter E. Sears, Marine Corps narcotics suppression officer for Military Assistance Command.

Colonel Sears said the dogs are on loan to MACV from their training unit in the Ryukyu Islands. "Initially the dogs will be used here and at 9th Infantry Division locations in the Mekong Delta," continued Colonel Sears. Colonel Sears also added that

the introduction of the dogs in Vietnam represents the first extensive use of the dogs by the military in overseas areas.

Army trainers say the dogs are capable of smelling out caches through almost any packaging material. Sfc. Enos L. Cooper, chief trainer for the dogs, claims they can pick up the scent of the drug through several thicknesses of plastic or sealed containers.

The trainer also said the dogs are conditioned to respond to the scent and are rewarded only when they find the drug. "The

dogs look thinner than other shepherds because they're more active," he said. "We get better results from an energetic dog."

