

Guest editorial

Cambodia paying off

As time goes by, President Nixon's decision to send American troops into Cambodia seems to be paying off, both tactically and strategically.

The most important result to date is that the President's prediction that destruction of the Communist sanctuaries would save American lives is being borne out.

It has been about four months since the Americans and South Vietnamese moved into Cambodia, and two months since the Americans pulled out. Not enough time has passed for a conclusive appraisal of the over-all strategic success of the operation, but sufficient time has elapsed to reveal some tactical pluses and minuses that have accrued.

Writing in U.S. News & World Report, Col. William C. Moore, an Air Force officer who has served as planner at Allied headquarters in Europe and with the Strategic Plans Group of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, assesses the results to date and finds that the pluses have far exceeded the minuses.

He points out that the Communists have been slow in re-establishing new base areas from which to conduct operations against South Vietnam, and that such bases, or sanctuaries, are extremely important to combat operations. They permit combat troops to rest, regroup and plan new attacks, and most importantly, to assemble in strength before commitment to battle.

The newest strongholds apparently will be in Northeast Cambodia and Southern Laos, approximately 275 miles from Saigon. Enemy troops will no longer have a short night jaunt to their targets, as they did when their bases were in the Fishhook and the Parrot's Beak. Getting troops to vital targets will be a long-drawn-out, complicated and hazardous undertaking.

"Under these conditions," Col. Moore

writes, "it is doubtful whether the enemy will ever again be able to mount a large-scale operation in the Mekong Delta, or for that matter, in the southern half of South Vietnam."

Even more heartening is the decline in casualties, ambush attacks, terror and sabotage attacks, and other combat operations by the enemy since the Cambodian bases were cleaned out. In the two months before the Cambodian operation, the weekly average of Americans killed in action was 108. During the May and June fighting in Cambodia, the average rose to 141. But in July and August, the two months following the withdrawal, the weekly average dropped to 70, a 35 percent decline since pre-Cambodia.

True, there has been a 39 percent decrease in Communist troops killed in action in the past two months, also, but Col. Moore considers this a plus rather than a minus because it indicates an unwillingness by the enemy to engage in battle.

These and other tactical gains point toward significant progress in the strategic sense, as well. Vietnamization is moving ahead, U.S. troops are being withdrawn on schedule, and draft quotas at home are the lowest since 1964.

Col. Moore admits readily that the U.S., South Vietnam or Cambodia are not out of the woods yet and that the end of the monsoons may see an acceleration of enemy activity, accompanied by mounting casualties. Hanoi, having suffered a crippling blow to its ability to attack South Vietnam, may try to redress the setback by stepped-up offensives in Laos and Cambodia. The odds at present, however, do not favor early success in such a venture, the colonel maintains, and we can hope that he is right.

-The Houston Post

Dogs valuable tool in battle to curtail marijuana flow

WASHINGTON (AP)—Specially trained dogs are proving a major weapon against smugglers of marijuana and hashish, the Customs Bureau reports.

Some of the animals already are on the job at Laredo and Hidalgo, Tex., and at Miami and San Francisco.

Their handlers have found the police dogs can sniff out in a minute marijuana and hashish so well hidden that skilled human beings may miss it in a painstaking search.

"With expanded use of trained dogs I believe we can halt the entry of marijuana through the Mexican border," Customs Commissioner Myles J. Ambrose said Wednesday.

Twelve dogs and six handlers are being trained by the military

dog facility at Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio. More classes are planned and eventually the dogs will be used wherever large volumes of packages of luggage pass through customs, a spokesman said.

The dogs have been tested successfully the past several years at Boston, Miami, Seattle, San Francisco, Los Angeles, Chicago, San Antonio, Dallas, Laredo and Roma, Tex.

"Tens of thousands of packages were opened during the trial period," said Asst. Commissioner David C. Ellis. "In no case was any marijuana found in the packages which the dogs had passed free. Also, in no case did the dogs fail to detect control packages of illicit drugs planted

among the mail parcels."

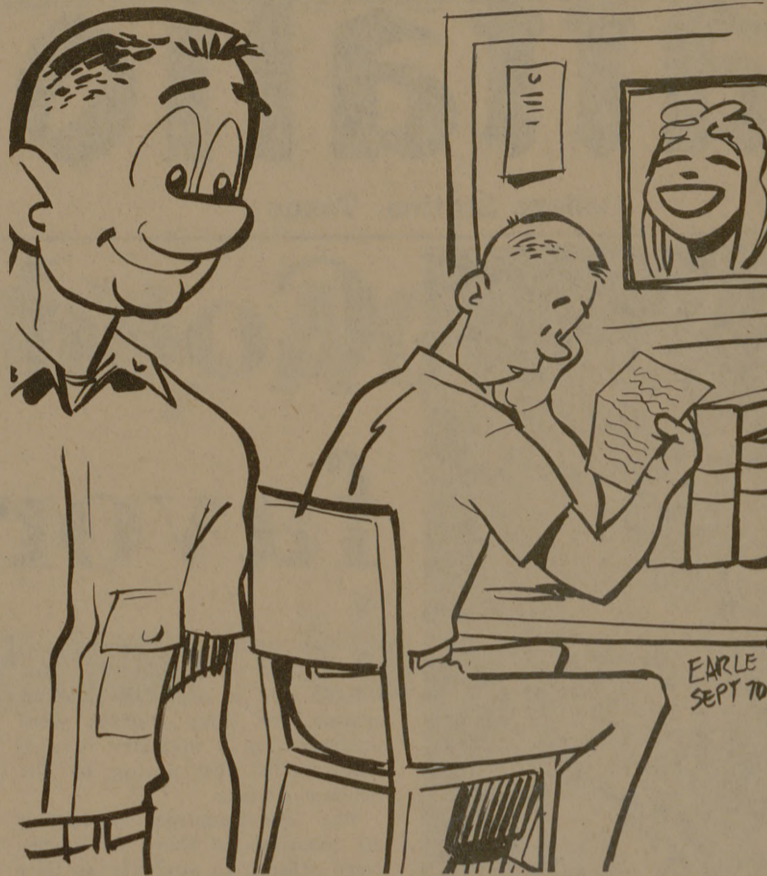
The Bureau said one dog at Laredo turned up five pounds of marijuana hidden so cleverly behind an auto door panel that customs officers had found no indication of tampering.

In Miami, a dog found 20 pounds of hashish hidden inside a wooden table.

During a two-week trial, dogs found 18 illegal shipments of drugs, the bureau said. Training takes two months. Before graduation, dogs must pass tests which include finding marijuana concealed in food-stuffs and disguised by odor-making chemicals.

In one test dogs must find and dig up a fruit jar containing marijuana and buried in a gravel road.

CADET SLOUCH by Jim Earle



"I could have taken a 'Dear John' letter, but it's too much when she addresses it to 'box holder!'"

Bulletin Board

MONDAY
Texas Aggie All-Star Bowling League will meet at 7:30 in MSC rooms 2A-B for an organizational meeting.
Rodeo Club will meet at 8 p.m. in the Agricultural Industries Building.
Host and Fashion Committee will meet at 7:30 p.m. in the MSC Birch room.

TUESDAY
Rugby Club of A&M will meet at 8 p.m. in room 2C of the MSC to elect officers.
Marketing Society will meet at 7:30 p.m. in MSC rooms 3B-C. Marketing Professors will be present, and films of last season's Superbowl will be shown.

THURSDAY
Mid County Hometown Club will meet at 8 p.m. in the MSC lobby. It is an organizational meeting for all persons from Port Neches, Nederland and Groves.

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tonight on the tube

Numbers in () denote channels on the cable.	8:00	3 (5) Friday Movie—Battle Hymn	7:00	15 (12) What's New (NET)		
3:00	3 (5) Gomer Pyle	8:30	15 (12) Maroon and White	7:30	3 (5) Here's Lucy	
15 (12) Sesame Street (NET) (Repeat of Thursday)	10:00	3 (5) Final News	15 (12) Maggie and the Beautiful Machine	8:00	3 (5) Mayberry RFD	
3:30	3 (5) Town Talk	10:30	3 (5) Medical Center	15 (12) Spectrum (NET)	8:30	3 (5) Doris Day
4:00	3 (5) Dark Shadows	11:30	3 (5) Alfred Hitchcock	MONDAY	15 (12) Space in the 70s	
15 (12) University Instructional	3:00	3 (5) Gomer Pyle	15 (12) Sesame Street (NET) (Repeat of Friday)	3:30	3 (5) Town Talk	
4:30	3 (5) Bewitched	4:00	3 (5) Dark Shadows	15 (12) University Instructional	4:30	3 (5) Bewitched
5:00	3 (5) General Hospital	15 (12) Sesame Street (NET)	3:30	3 (5) Town Talk	5:00	3 (5) General Hospital
15 (12) Misterogers' Neighborhood (NET)	4:00	3 (5) Dark Shadows	15 (12) University Instructional	4:30	3 (5) Bewitched	
5:30	3 (5) CBS News	15 (12) Sesame Street (NET)	4:30	3 (5) Bewitched	5:00	3 (5) General Hospital
15 (12) Sesame Street (NET)	5:00	3 (5) Evening News	5:00	3 (5) General Hospital	15 (12) Misterogers' Neighborhood (NET)	
6:00	3 (5) Evening News	6:30	3 (5) Oral Roberts Special	15 (12) Campus and Community Today	7:00	15 (12) What's New (NET)
6:30	3 (5) Oral Roberts Special	15 (12) Sesame Street (NET)	5:30	3 (5) CBS News	7:30	3 (5) Hogan's Heroes
15 (12) Campus and Community Today	6:30	3 (5) Evening News	15 (12) Sesame Street (NET)	6:30	3 (5) Gunsmoke	
7:00	15 (12) What's New (NET)	6:30	3 (5) Gunsmoke	15 (12) Campus and Community Today		
7:30	3 (5) Hogan's Heroes					
15 (12) Forsyte Saga (NET)						

The Battalion

Opinions expressed in *The Battalion* are those of the student writers only. *The Battalion* is a non-tax-supported, non-profit, self-supporting educational enterprise edited and operated by students as a university and community newspaper.

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