

MONTHLY REPORT OF SCOUT DOG OPERATIONS

RCS: AVHGC-7 DATE 1 Mar 69

THRU: **Commanding General**
9th Inf Div
ATTN: AVDR-GI
AGO 96370

TO: **Commanding General**
HQ USARV
ATTN: AVHGC-OS
APO 96375

FROM: **Commanding Officer**
43d Inf Plat (Scout Dog)
9th Inf Div
AGO 96370

1. MONTH FEBRUARY	2. SDT AVAL 19	3. SDT OP 12	4. AUTH STR PERS 28 DOG 28	5. ACTUAL STR: PERS 27 DOG 22
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6. HANDLER KIA <u>1</u> WIA <u>2</u> HOSP <u>1</u> LIM DY <u>2</u> TNG <u>2</u> NO DOG <u>4</u> REPL RQR _____	7. DOG KIA <u>1</u> WIA <u>0</u> SICK <u>3</u> BAD _____ TNG <u>2</u> NO HANDLER <u>3</u> REPL RQR _____
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8. MISSIONS

SEARCH 57	AMBUSH 79	RECON 4	OUTPOST 2	PERI PTL 0
ROAD CLEARING 1		OTHER Blocking Force 2 Madcap 10 Roving Patrols 3		TOTAL 164

9. SCOUT DOG TEAM SUPPORT DAYS **186**

10. SCOUT DOG ALERTS:

- a. Warning of enemy ambush _____, occupied base camp _____, occupied bunker _____, cave _____, sniper 2, tunnel _____, other _____.
- b. Warning of enemy booby traps 3, caches _____, mines _____, unoccupied base camp _____, unoccupied bunker 3, unoccupied cave _____, unoccupied tunnel _____, other _____.
- c. Warning of enemy movement toward friendly ambush 1, friendly outpost _____, other 14 Not checked out.

11. DIRECT RESULT OF SCOUT DOG TEAM ALERT: EN KIA _____ PW _____ WPNS _____
 _____ SUPPLIES _____

12. REMARKS OF PLATOON COMMANDER:

SP/4 Keith C. Buckingham and Labe 5874 were killed by an enemy booby trap, possibly a command detonated claymore. Buckingham crossed a bamboo pole over a canal and his dog swam across. As Buckingham reached down to pull Labe out they were hit. Three other patrol members on the other bank were also wounded. SP/4 Robinson and SP/4 Zyle were both slightly wounded when a 120 mm mortar made a direct hit on the roof of the platoon's barracks on 27 Feb 1969.

SP/4 Riddall is still on profile for a broken arm and since he has under sixty days remaining in country I do not expect him to return to operational status. His dog Duke X125, becomes an extra dog as of 1 Mar.

13. REMARKS OF REVIEWING OFFICER:

[Handwritten signature and notes, mostly illegible]

14. NAME AND GRADE PLATOON COMMANDER: KARL K LUICKENHEIMER 2DF INF	15. SIGNATURE: <i>[Handwritten signature]</i>
16. NAME AND GRADE OF REVIEWING OFFICER: <i>[Handwritten name]</i>	17. SIGNATURE: <i>[Handwritten signature]</i>

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REMARKS OF PLATOON COMMANDER: (CONT'D)

SP/4 Williams has a temporary T-3 profile on his ear which will probably become permanent. His transfer has been requested and we are awaiting orders. His dog Brutus 46M2, has become an extra dog as of 1 March.

SP/4 Kingcade is at the 29th Evacuation Hospital, Can Tho, for 1st degree burns suffered when a cigarette set his cot on fire.

PFC Fahr and Pvt Warhurst with George 741M and Savage 665M arrived 24 Feb 1969 and are in training.

Princess 45X9 has had FUD and is now attempting to regain lost weight. Blackie X316 is a suspected / chronic non-bleeder and didn't come off profile until 1 Mar 69. Duke 92X5 bit a sun spot on his tail so severely that Captain Fetsch had to shorten his tail. He will be non-operation for at least one more week. Clem 03M1, Dusty X307, and Hugo X638 are extra dogs; at least two are scheduled to go to USARV by 10 Mar 1969. The four handlers listed without dogs are shorttimer NCO's - SSG Benbow, Sgt Criswell, Sgt Piber, (an extension) and Sgt Brush, T-3 profile from wounds.

During February the usual daily commitment was 1 dog with the 9th MP's, 1 with 2/39th Inf, 1 with 6/31st Inf, 1 with 4/39 Inf, and 3 with 3/39 Inf. The platoon had 164 missions in 186 field days. 17 missions were roadcaps with the 9th MP's, the other 147 were with the battalions of the First Brigade.

There were problems in coordinating with the 6/31st Inf. to get dogs out on their resupply so that we are not supporting them at this time. The 2/39th Inf. only utilizes the teams for an average of two missions in five days, which indicates they don't really know how to use them. On occasion we have had problems with the 3/39th in that they take a dog team along only to provide an extra weapon for an undermanned patrol. Also at least one platoon has ordered a handler to stand radio watch. It is our policy that the handlers only stand watch if he volunteers to do so - that is not part of his mission.

On scout dog alerts: all three booby traps were found by dogs with the 3/39th Inf. - two by Sgt. Anderson and Rex and one by SP/4 Marshall and Cinder. SP/4 Robinson and Yank requested a trail breaker one day with the 3/39th A Co, Blue, and the platoon leader and two others went ahead of him. It was more people than he wanted and his dog couldn't work. All three were wounded by a booby trap. 14 personnel alerts were not checked out, usually because the unit supported lacked the strength to enter woodlines with sufficient security. Generally such areas were avoided or kept under surveillance.

SP/4 Buckingham's dog Lobo probably either didn't alert or the alert wasn't easily readable because of the dog's excitement in crossing the canal.

At this time the platoon still has a training area just outside the burn. However the defoliation of that area by the engineers and the hazard of running training in a heavily suspect area may soon force us to try to find another area. There is none left inside the burn and wherever we go will be relatively hazardous.

This platoon has no excess scouting harnesses and will probably not be able to get any.