MILITARY DOG TRAINING CENTER
Saigon, Viet Nam

16 January 1962

SUBJECT: Second Report as Requested by Classified Message AFISL 470773

THRU: Pacific Air Force AG-V (Colonel John R. Nettles, Jr.)

TO: Headquarters, U.S. Air Force, AFISL (LtColonel Frederick Weil)

1. This report is submitted to describe progress made with the forty-six (46) sentry dogs shipped from Lackland AFB, Texas to Saigon, Viet Nam under the provisions of classified message AFISL-470773. It will cover the period since submission of the initial report on 9 November 1961 to the present, 13 January 1962.

2. Change from the climate of the U.S. to that of Viet Nam has required adaptation for both dogs and U.S. Air Force personnel. This was expected and mentioned previously. The new environment with its heat, humidity, insects, diseases and other factors has required adjustment. For example, during the first month, November, in Viet Nam there were 12 cases of moist exema. During the second month, December, there was a drop to two (2) new cases. Another change noted has been extensive shedding of hair, especially the thick inner coat the German Shepherd is noted for. Improved grooming and skin care together with shedding contributes to the decrease in the number of moist exema cases. At present the lesions have healed (Slide 1) with the exception of the last two (2) cases. Treatment using Bacitracin ointment, Pellitol and Pasoral locally with Azium and antibiotics systematically has proven successful. Diet improvement (one can Kennel Ration per day) was also done with some exema cases. Repeated washing using Weladol and Selsun together with clipping helped one severe case.

3. Under field conditions and to an extent in the kennels at the MDTC, (Slide 2) the dogs are exposed to a variety of insects and external parasites. Flies, mosquitoes, ear mites, fleas, ticks, lice and mange are present in Viet Nam. Leeches are found in the jungles and attack between the toes as in the ears. During the period 1 November 1961 through 8 January 1962 flea and tick infestations were controlled in the kennels using chlordane (Dane) dip. All the dogs were dipped twice, 16 November and 8 January. Elimination of contact between military dogs and privately owned animals is recommended. This would close one avenue of reinfection. Fences to keep stray dogs from the kennel area have been built.

4. Feeding of the dogs has changed in that dry dog feed shipped from the U.S. was used to supplement the locally procured rice, meat and vegetable ration.

The "Purina" was given to help the dogs recover loss of condition due to heavy training and climate adjustment. In a future project of this type it is recommended that at least a ten day adjustment period be used after arrival in transferring the dogs from the U.S. ration to the locally purchased Vietnamese feed. It was recognized earlier that a vitamin supplement would be needed with the local purchase ration. A mixed supplement isn't available locally. It was requested through OSD/ARPA, but hasn't been received.

5. General care has improved since the beginning of training. The Vietnamese handlers are applying much more effort to grooming, kennel and area cleaning, equipment maintenance, feeding and watering routines, and observation of disease symptoms in their dogs. It is still doubtful that most of the handlers really grasp basic reasoning behind sanitation. They use a bucket at the well rather than a shower for bathing (Slide 3), but cleaning routines have been established. Field use will require the dogs to drink non-potable water (by U.S. standards) as do the handlers. A proposed regulation on use of military dogs in Viet Nam simply states "the dogs will receive the same water as their handlers." Cases of enteritis are to be expected.

6. Health of the dogs during the period 1 November 61 through 7 January 1962 was affected by many factors. One was the acclimation. Another group were the conditions listed below:

		Number Affected
a.	Moist Exema	14
b.	Viral Infections	11
c.	Gastroenteritis	9
d.	Penis and Preputial Inflammation	5
e.	Wounds	
	(1) Minor	7
	(2) Requiring two or more sutures	3
f.	Eye (conjunctivitis)	5
g.	Parasitism	
	(1) External	All 46 dipped twice
	(2) Internal	31 5
h.	External Otitis	3
i.	Anal sac infection	1
j.	Heat Stroke	1 (Slide 4)
k.	Tail Amputation	1

7. The following case report brief is given on one of the dogs treated with the condition listed above as "viral infection." On 9 December, Kim, 0F22, age 7 years, was brought to the clinic on sick call. He was reported to have little appetite, was listless and a grey, mucus discharge was present in the eyes. Rectal temperature, 102.8, pulse 110/minute and respiration 50/minute. This was the picture presented by the vital signs with the exception of two temperature peaks of 103.1 on 13 December and 104.0 on 21 December. Chloramphenical (40 mg/pound) was given orally for eleven days followed for two days with Chlortetracyclaine (25 mg/pound/day in 3 doses). Chlortetracyclaine was discontinued after the second day due to vomition. Penicillin (300,000 u) and dihydrostreptomycin (300 mg) I.M. were continued daily for another twelve days. On 11 December a differential W.B.C., and urinalysis were done. The report

from Cong Hoa hospital stated leucocytes were present in the urine.

8. Two blood transfusions using citrated whole blood were given (total 350 cc). Fluids including saline, saline-dextrose (5%), dextrose (5%), Ringer's Solution and protien hydrolysate were given using the blood recipient set indirect transfusion, disposable, field type (Stock No. 6515-558-1509). Vietnamese help was vital in giving these intravanous injections. This transfusion set, sterile and pyrogen free; for single use was invaluable and extremely useful. It should be an item included in medical supplies when planning a future project of this type. The blood donor was another sentry dog.

9. From 12 December through 22 December this animal was force-fed, five times daily, a sweetened milk and vitamin mixture. On 23 December his appetite returned and the five feedings were continued using the milk together with ½ can Kennel Ration per feeding. By 6 January, the nightly feeding was increased to a full can. Light exercise is now being given twice daily, he is regaining some of the weight lost, and appearance is normal (Slide 5), other than a lameness present in the right rear leg. Decubital ulcers are present on both elbows, but are healing as the dog becomes more active. No diarrhea was noted at any time in this case although present in similar cases.

10. This outline of a "viral infection" case is submitted to illustrate the course followed by this infection, treatment given and nursing care. A Vietnamese veterinarian mentioned this case looked like "measles" or their strain of canine distemper. Three factors included in the treatment contributed, in my opinion, in a greater degree to recovery than any others. First in importance were the blood transfusions with the whole blood drawn from one of the dogs brought to Viet Nam by T/Sgt Pitts. This dog had been in Viet Nam for over four months and was in good health. Secondly, the nursing care, and thirdly the use of antibiotics, aspirin and fluid therapy (saline and Ringer's Solution). The course of the condition described above was the same to a degree as shown by the other ten (10) animals affected. Mucus discharge from the eyes, anorexia, lack of dramatic response to antibiotics make a viral infection probable.

11. Training under S/Sgt Pate's close supervision has progressed a great deal since the last report (Slides 6-9). All four teams have progressed through advanced obedience, (Slide 10) agitation, apprehension (Slide 11), and are now working on day and night scouting and patrolling (Slide 12) simulating combat areas (Slide 13) and conditions as much as possible. Proficiency of teams 1 and 2 is excellent, while teams 3 and 4 still require at least two weeks day and night scouting and patrolling. There are presently 43 handler/dog teams that will be ready for shipment to the field by 15 January. Due to the change of dogs there are two handler/dog teams which will require additional training. However, acceptable proficiency should be obtained by 31 January. There are three ineffective dogs. Lobo, 3797, due to no suitable handler being able to train with the dog. Kim, OF 22, due to the illness described and Ranger, 0833, (positive for microfilaria and waiting treatment). It is doubtful these dogs will complete training before 31 January 1962.

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12. Utilization of the forty-six (46) dogs received in the two shipments from Lackland AFB has been entirely devoted to training handlers, (Slide 14, of one training area). Other dogs (6), have been used on operational missions. These were trained by SSgt Youngman. From 1 December though 11 December two teams were utilized for sentry duty at Tan Son Nhut airport. On 11 December one team returned, the second staying until 26 December. Effectiveness was reported as satisfactory. From 26 December through 30 December, four teams were utilized by an airborne unit at Duc Hoa resulting in apprehension of seven Viet Cong, discovery of a carbine and brief case containing various documents and VC currency. Use of these teams was deemed extremely successful, and it was stated that a request for additional dogs would be made for future operations. On 8 January six (6) more handler/dog teams were requested by the airborne unit and are at present on an operation. A request has been made to extend me sixty (60) days to assist in follow-up observation on operational use and health of dogs in the field. There is a need for this follow-up if field utilization is to be reported.

13. Since the initial report a water supply system has been set up at the MDTC (~~Slide 15~~). Defects haven't been ironed out completely as no chlorination is being done (coliform organisms are present by laboratory analysis), the water level falls so that the supply can't be reached and electricity to operate the pump fails. Electrical equipment (lights, sterilizer and clipper) can be used most of the time which is appreciated. Painting of the kennels (Slide 16) inside and out has been completed together with the veterinary clinic (Slides 17-18) and support buildings. Screen has been installed (Slide 19) over kitchen windows and doors to cut interior fly members. A pan rack (Slide 20) which puts the pans in direct sunlight during the day has been built and is in use. Rat control isn't satisfactory. They are common, dogs kill them in the kennels, and paths are well defined due to heavy traffic. Control using Warfarin has been recommended but this product isn't available. Insects including flies, mosquitoes and ants haven't been controlled although one DDT spraying was done.

14. Up to the present no medical instruments have been received although they were shipped. In a future project of this type the addition of an instrument set for small surgical procedures (suturing) and diagnosis (stethescope, oto-opthalmascope) with the basic treatment agents is recommended. One of the first problems encountered was a wound requiring sutures and amputation of a tail due to a crushing bite wound. Very little could be obtained from Vietnamese channels although instruments were requested repeatedly. Finally the minimum set was obtained from the U.S. Navy Dispensary. Injectable antibiotics were not included and would have been very useful. Oral treatment is extremely difficult with a language barrier, and then there is no assurance the dog is being treated at regular intervals. Filcide and Dizan were not included and are needed for one dog; Ranger (0233). Additional Tems could be used, but with these exceptions the treatment agents included with the shipment was adequate.

15. Since the regulation governing the military dog in Viet Nam hasn't been finalized there is no guide for their use. At the present no concrete program can be depended upon for proper utilization of these dogs in the field. At the end of January the handler/dog teams will be ready for the field and individual field commanders will dictate use. I am concerned about the quality of housing, feed and effectiveness of utilization although the individual handlers

handlers appear to be able to do a good job. They are troops from combat units sent to the center on a TDY basis for training. Veterinary support will be under the supervision of Major Qeune who has been here at the MDTC. Major Qeune is a veterinarian. Major Do, MDTC Commander, will, as I understand the policy, have no control of the dogs after they finish training. With few exceptions training, care, handling and sanitation has progressed well during the period of observation. The overall quality and adaptability of personnel assigned as dog handlers has been quite good. The effectiveness of use of these teams in the field is still an unknown, but will depend a great deal on the supervision and support they receive. If training isn't continued utilizing proper correction methods, if dogs are abused and sanitation neglected, they will soon be non-effective. Without a regulation governing the use of these dogs the field commander may attempt to utilize them as track dogs (French methods) or fail to allow the handler to work the dog as they have been trained. On the spot inspections of kenneling, care, health, feeding, training and operational use are necessary to evaluate their effectiveness in the field.

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Slides, 1-20, 2 copies each

Carleton L. Lohse
1/Lt, USAF, (VC)