

L0 Hpt No. 16 30 Apr 70 /

VIET NAM

OFFICE OF THE ENGINEER

AVHEN-MC

SUBJECT: Mine/Detecting Dog Program

Chief of Engineers  
Department of the Army  
ATTN: ENGME-RM  
Washington, D. C. 20314

1. (U) Reference: Confidential letter, ENGME-RM, 31 December 1969, subject: Mine/Detecting Dog Program.

2. (C) Referenced letter requested a recommendation as to the manner in which eight platoons of mine and tunnel dogs will be utilized to achieve the most beneficial results.

3. (C) USARV G3 is responsible for direct supervision of the War Dog Program in RVN and the allocation of dog spaces to USARV units. On 25 September 1969 USARV stated an immediate requirement to DA for 56 mine detecting dog teams. These teams were to occupy spaces vacated by cancellation of two scout dog platoons which would have arrived in RVN early in 1970. The 56 spaces were requested as two platoons to be the first of a total of eight platoons of mine and tunnel dog teams, the total USARV requirement stated to DA on 27 November 1969. These platoons were planned to be assigned to combat units on the basis of one platoon per division and one section per separate brigade. The first platoon was expected to arrive in February 1970 and the others subsequent to that as they could be trained. The 25 mine and tunnel dogs left in RVN in October 1969 after the operational evaluation of the 60th Infantry Platoon (Scout Dog) are currently distributed among the six divisions and four separate brigades. Three teams are occupying spaces in scout dog platoons.

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4. (C) USARV G3 recently learned informally from ACSFOR, DA that 37 trained mine dogs and handlers can be provided to USARV by March or April 1970, but the DA capability of providing the rest of the second platoon is unknown. The Office of the Chief of Research and Development does not have the money required to contract with a civilian

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agency for additional dogs. Any future mine dog teams must be trained by the Army. Currently, there is no training facility available, however OCRD is studying the possibility of developing a training base.

5. (C) Because of the reduction from eight platoons to a platoon plus it will be necessary to assign all the teams to one or two combat units and leave the other units without additional mine dog teams for an extended period, or distribute the teams among all or several combat units in a manner similar to the distribution of the 25 teams currently in RVN. The second source of action seems the most equitable. A final determination for distribution of additional dog assets will be made by USARV G3 based on the desires of the combat units in the field. In either case USARV Engineer Troops (Provisional) units will not be assigned any mine/tunnel detection dog teams.

6. (U) The actual method of utilization of dog teams, their effectiveness, and recommendations for modifying training are contained in the attached evaluation report published by the Army Concept Team In Vietnam.

FOR THE ENGINEER:

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W. W. HOGREFE  
Colonel, CE  
Deputy Engineer

May be in National Archives.

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