

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
Regraded UNCLASSIFIED When Separated
From CLASSIFIED Inclosures
DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
26TH MILITARY HISTORY DETACHMENT
HEADQUARTERS, UNITED STATES ARMY VIETNAM
APO San Francisco 96375

AVHCS-MH

12 December 1969

SUBJECT: USACDC Mine/Countermining Warfare Conference II.

Office of the Chief of Military History
ATTN: Mr. Warner Stark
Department of the Army
Washington, D.C. 20315

Enclosed is the narrative and slides presented at the USACDC Mine/Countermining Conference II at Fort Belvoir, Virginia. The narrative was presented by LTC Edgar E. DeMaris on 20-22 October 1969. LTC DeMaris is the Chief of the Mine Warfare Center at HQ USARV Engineer Section.

1 Incl
as

Kurt E. Schlotterbeck
KURT E. SCHLOTTERBECK
CPT CE
Commanding

DECLASSIFIED BY ORDER
OF THE SEC ARMY BY TAG
PER D-6
240382

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
Regraded UNCLASSIFIED When Separated
From CLASSIFIED Inclosures

ing and workable adaptation of the device to the current situation.
icle (CEV). The device has detonated two mines, and the same type of
CEV can be used to some advantage in replacing damaged components. [Slide 27 off]

e. (U) An interesting addition to our mine and booby trap detection capability has been the mine/tunnel detector dog. [Slide 27 on.] A platoon of 28 dogs and handlers arrived in the Republic of Vietnam in April. The first phase of their evaluation was conducted in support of the 25th Infantry Division in an area northwest of Saigon. The platoon has just finished the final part of the evaluation, which was conducted with the Americal Division at Chu Lai in the I Corps Tactical Zone. The overall performance of the dogs has been good, and seems to be improving as training techniques are developed and as the dogs adjust better to the heat. There have been numerous valuable responses to dangerous munitions, caches, and tunnel complexes. [Slide 27 off, Slide 28 on.] Although there have been some misses of mines in roads by the dogs, units very much desire the dog team support. The 39th Engineer Battalion and the 26th Engineer Battalion of the Americal Division employ the dogs on minesweep operations regularly. [Slide 28 off.] It appears the mine and tunnel dogs are providing

[REDACTED]

... of the mine, ...
... platoons are being prepared in ...
... Marine Corps in I Corps.

1. (4) You will recall from the beginning of my discussion the rather startling rate at which M113 Armored Personnel Carriers are being lost to mines. There is also an accompanying serious personnel casualty problem. The main damages have occurred in failure of the hull structure and in rupture of fuel lines, leading to fire. To reduce the effects of these anti-tank mines, kits are presently being installed on the carriers to give supplemental armor for the hull bottom and to relocate and strengthen the fuel line. Although it may be too early to tell the full effectiveness of the kits, [Slide 29 on.] at least one carrier crew and driver are grateful. [Slide 29 off, slide 30 on.] This 25th Division APC with an armor kit hit a mine estimated to be 20 pounds, and there were no casualties. [Slide 30 off.] Priority of issue for kits coming into Vietnam are to 1st Infantry Division, 25th Infantry Division, and 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment. With over 2000 kits being produced, enough for all carriers, we are hoping to see a big drop in the combat loss rate.

