

MASTER  
LESSON PLAN

INSTRUCTIONAL UNIT: Capabilities and Limitations of Scout Dogs Operating in RICE PADDIES, MARSH, SWAMPS, etc.

TYPE: Lecture Performance

TIME ALLOTTED: TBA

CLASS PRESENTED TO: Students of Scout Dog School

TOOLS, EQUIPMENT, & MATERIAL: TBA

PERSONNEL: TBA

INSTRUCTIONAL AIDS: Dog and Equipment

REFERENCE: Handbook for U.S. Forces in Viet Nam, MCV, Dec 65

STUDY ASSIGNMENT: None

STUDENT UNIFORM & EQUIPMENT: Fatigue Uniform, Notebook & Pencil

TROOP REQUIREMENT: TBA

I. PRESENTATION:

A. Introduction:

1. Attention Step: By use of joke or gimmick appropriate to class, gain students attention. Tie in w/previous hours of instructions you were taught the capabilities and limitations of Scout Dogs, and are now well into specialized training. This knowledge, however, is not worth the time that was spent on it unless your dog is properly employed.

2. Objective: During this block of instruction you will be given an understanding of the tactical employment of scout dogs in rice paddies, marsh land, swamps, mud, water, etc.

3. Reason: The importance of this subject cannot be stressed too much. You have already been informed of your assignment, so I would advise you to pay close attention to instructions, methods, techniques used to familiarize you so you can train your dog.

B. Explanation:

1. Explain the use for and purpose of this training:

a. For a Scout Dog Team (SDT) to be successful, accomplish his mission in support of Infantry Units in Viet Nam you must be conditioned to operate in mud, water, swamps and capable of detecting VC ambushes and other concealed hiding places which have previously provided a haven for the VC to slip away and avoid detection.

b. For those of you who have served in Viet Nam well know, that rice paddies are found thru out the country. The Mekong River Delta is nothing but a net work of canals, rivers, and flooded marsh land. To effectively carry the war to the enemy in this region, patrols must travel thru all types of this terrain. Under these conditions, a patrol is extremely vulnerable to VC ambush, and sniper fire due to reduced visibility, cover and concealment. With a highly trained scout dog the risk of the patrol being ambushed is reduced considerably.

c. ~~Recognizing this~~ capability, scout dogs can effectively patrol at the point position to and from objective areas. A Scout Dog Team is capable of carrying out any mission in water, mud, swampy areas, and can be as effective as on dry, clear open terrain.

2. Explain: The proper employment of Scout Dog Teams under this environment:

- a. The dog should be worked on point position.
- b. One guard is assigned to protect the handler.
- c. ~~The~~ number of reserve dogs with the patrol would depend on distance, mission, and terrain of the patrol is to conduct its operation.
- d. Due to the excessive amount of noise caused by the patrol the dog team should patrol ahead with the forward element keeping eye contact with the main body. In this manner noise can be minimized allowing the dog to work more effectively, and to use his senses of scent, sound and sight.
- e. Because of irregular wind drifts caused by this terrain, the dog team should be permitted to zigzag if possible using the wind to his dogs advantage.
- f. Handler should travel as light as possible, because excessive equipment will cause him to sink deeper in mud and swamp.
- g. Dogs should be highly trained and controlled.
- h. Dog fighters, fast workers, nervous, energetic, and noisy dogs should be corrected of this undesired habit, or not selected for these patrols. This type of dog will not hold up in rugged terrain, and will only tire himself and his handler.
- i. Small (light weight) dogs (40-60) lbs. under voice and hand signal control are ideal for this type of employment.
- j. Use of the 25 ft. leash and off leash should be considered, if possible, to allow freedom of movement to the SDT, provided that the scout dog is under control.
- k. Handlers patrolling in mud should take small short steps to prevent from sinking deeper and constantly moving around.
- l. The command (Easy) should be used so that the dog sets a slow pace.
- m. Dogs are corrected for playing and jumping around in mud and water.
- n. Handler should take cover, when under fire and control his dog during actions.
- o. When walking or working on top of rice paddy (dike walls), handlers should be cautious, as the VC set many mines or booby traps in these areas. (REMEMBER - THE DOGS WEIGHT MAY NOT SET OFF A MINE)
- p. Correct your dog for drinking excessive amounts of dirty rice paddy water, this will cause the dog to become sick, cough and create undesired noise.

3. Summary:

- a. Restatement: Restate all main points covered during lesson.
- b. Appeal: Re-motivate the class by re-emphasizing the "need to know" aspects of scouting and patrolling.
- c. Introduction: Introduce next class.