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UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS ^{100 J.}
Marine Corps Development and Education Command
Quantico, Virginia 22134

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Routing	
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46/9A/GDF:jfe	
7 MAY 1971	14 May 71
Secty	
REMARKS	

From: Commanding General, Marine Corps Development and Education
Command, Quantico, Virginia 22134

To: Commandant of the Marine Corps (Code AX) (10)

Subj: Final Report of USMC Project 90-69-01, Dog Detection of Mines/
Booby Traps ^{3) May 71}

- Ref: (a) CMC ltr AX-4E5-rdn of 2Jun69, Project Directive 90-69-01
 (b) CG MCDEC ltr 46/9A/GDF:jfe of 13Jan70, Subj: Interim Report
of USMC Project 90-69-01, Dog Detection of Mines/Booby Traps
 (c) CG MCDEC ltr 46/9A/GDF:jfe of 10Feb70, Subj: Dog Detection
of Mines/Booby Traps, evaluation of
 (d) CG MCDEC ltr 46/9A/GDF:jfe of 20May70, Subj: USMC Project
90-69-01, Dog Detection of Mines/Booby Traps

- Encl: (1) Proj O, Mine/Booby Trap Detecting Dogs ltr DAL/jls 3500 of
7Jan71 w/4 encl
 (2) Recommended T/O & T/E for Mine Dog Platoon

1. INTRODUCTION

a. Purpose. Pursuant to reference (a), this is a final report on a project to determine the suitability of using dogs for detection of mines/booby traps; ascertain equipment requirements and handler training procedures; and explore the feasibility of establishing permanent T/O units.

b. Objectives. The objectives of the project were:

- (1) To determine the suitability of dogs detecting mines/booby traps under operational conditions.
- (2) To establish optimum techniques for operational employment of dogs for mine/booby trap detection.
- (3) To determine size and organization of the dog unit, and the optimum command level for control and attachment.
- (4) To determine handler training requirements and ascertain inherent personal characteristics of any, which are indicative of quality handlers.

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1. As depicted on table T-1, although the dogs were specifically trained to detect mines/booby traps, they demonstrated a capability for alerting to non-mine objects such as tunnels, bunkers, personnel and punji pits which ultimately resulted in the dogs accomplishing their purpose, saving lives. Additionally, in aiding the using unit in better accomplishing their given mission. Although the dogs have demonstrated these unexpected capabilities, they should neither be expected or relied upon to perform in a capacity other than mine detecting.

2. There were fourteen (14) confirmed cases where dogs completely missed surprise firing devices, two (2) were actually detonated by the dogs, five (5) were detonated by personnel and seven (7) were detected by either members of the using unit or the dog handler.

a. Synopsis of these incidents are as follows:

(1). Dog missed a trip-wire connected to a C-4 mine. Trip-wire was woven through small hedgerow off trail. An ARVN found the device, no casualties resulted.

(2). Dog missed two (2) M26-A1 grenades in cans. Dog was not working because he had been sick earlier. Members of the patrol found the ordnance, no casualties resulted.

(3). Dog missed M26-A1 grenade (pressure release) buried in pool of water which was on the opposite side of the road from the dog, no casualties resulted.

(4). Dog missed drag-wire attached to M26-A1 grenade in a can. Handler tripped the booby trap and received minor wounds.

(5). Dog missed a buried 82mm mortar shell (pressure release). The dog handler was responsible for the detonation and received serious shrapnel wounds to head and chest.

(6). Dog missed a booby trapped box mine which was found off-trail by one of the members of the patrol. The mine was concealed with hard packed dirt. No casualties resulted.

(7). Dog missed a trip-wire which led to a M26-A1 grenade off trail. It was found by members of patrol, no casualties resulted.

(8). Dog missed a Claymore, the detonating device was approximately two (2) feet off trail, the hull box was approximately seven (7) feet off trail. Incident resulted in three (3) KIA and three (3) MIA Marines. Dog and handler were not injured, however, the dog was so frightened by the explosion that he ran away which resulted in the dog MIA.

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(9). Dog missed a trip-wire which led to a rocket warhead. It was raining and the area had been heavily bombed by air strikes, no casualties resulted.

(10). Dog missed a dud 105 MM projectile that was partially buried off trail. The ordnance was not booby trapped and was detected by the handler.

(11). Dog missed a buried 81 MM mortar shell on rice paddy dyke. The surprise firing device was detonated by a member of the patrol. Incident resulted in two (2) KIA Marines. Handler and dog were not injured. Triggering device was deduced to have been an under water trip-wire.

(12). Dog missed a buried 60 MM mortar shell with a pressure release triggering device. The booby trap was buried in a puddle of mud on a rice paddy dyke, it was detonated by the handler, the handler was wounded seriously.

(13). Dog detonated a booby trap of unknown size. Incident resulted in the handler receiving severe wounds.

(14). Dog missed a trip-wire to a 40 MM grenade. Wire was stretched across a ditch. The dog detected the ordnance while in the process of jumping the ditch. Incident resulted in the inflicting of serious wounds to the handler and dog.

3. Although the dogs have missed on several occasions, the lives that they have saved with good detection and as alerts to non-mine objects, by far outweigh that which has resulted from their misses. The dogs are functionally suitable in their operational environment.