

in case of an emergency. While working off leash dogs are not allowed to work out of the sight of the handler, but when working in open terrain, I have seen dogs work and work well, walking in front of the handler at distances in excess of 100 meters. Most dogs when the vegetation becomes thicker will fall back to regain constant visual contact with their handler without even being told. I am not criticizing the off leash dogs as they have come to my unit with training it may take six months to perfect, but I do not believe they are any more capable than most dogs I now have with over forty-five days in the field. If they can perfect these dogs to the point that they can work out of sight of the handlers I feel they will really have something. The two off leash dogs I now have, Thy and Trouble, are quite capable. I am expecting a lot of these dogs and men, and it is my opinion they can and will produce.

3. We have had one significant action this month. This was made by PFC Wytulka and his dog Duke (50K2). They were patrolling along a blue line with A/4/503 Infantry. The dog alerted 100 meters to the right front and upon checking the alert out they found a small group of hoochies. When they were searched they found a large number of Mountagnards hiding in tunnels under the hoochies. These people were detained as VC suspects.

Wytulka was working with a squad size element at the time and contrary to good procedure he went along with the point man to check out his alert. After they had finished rounding up the Mountagnards they started checking out the area in detail. PFC Wytulka spotted a pile of straw that looked out of place. He and the point man checked it out and it turned out to be a small tunnel containing three NVA with their weapons. They persuaded two of them to give themselves up. The third had to be killed where he was as he would not surrender. PFC Wytulka continued to call alerts all the time the company worked along the blue line (approximately six days). They found 15 hoochies, 20 bunkers, 30 tunnels, 1000 lbs of rice, 6000 rounds of small arms ammo, killed 1 NVA, captured 2 NVA and 38 VCS plus captured 1 SES, 1 Mensor and 1 AK47 all of which the dog alerted on prior to any action.

4. SP4 Dodd's dog, Mike was WIA'ed by a punji stick on 20 March. She had just alerted on another punji stick and there is no easily recognizable reason why she did not catch the second one. The first might have had human excrement on it or maybe the wind was not just right.



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