

43 INFANTRY PLATOON (SCOUT DOG)
5TH INFANTRY DIVISION (MECH)
APO SAN FRANCISCO 96477

27 OCTOBER 1970

SUBJECT: HISTORY OF THE 43D INF PLAT (SCOUT DOG) FROM 1 AUG 1969 THRU 31 SEPT 1970

- 1 AUG 69 - 43D INF PLAT (SCOUT DOG) REASSIGNED TO THE 1ST BDE 5TH INF DIV (MECH)
- 10 AUG 69 - 43 IPSO COMPLETED MOVEMENT TO THE 5TH INF DIV
- 10 AUG 69 - 31 AUG 69 - SUPPORTED 42 MISSIONS FOR A TOTAL OF 54 DAYS. 15 DOG TEAMS WERE AVAILABLE WITH 14 DOG TEAMS OPERATIONAL. SUFFERED 10 WIA'S OR KIA'S.
- 1 SEPT 69 - 31 DEC 69 - SUPPORTED INFANTRY AND MECHANIZED INFANTRY UNITS ON 350 MISSIONS FOR A TOTAL OF 306 DT DAYS. SUFFERED 2 KIA AND 1 WIA (HANDLERS) IN THE MONTH OF NOV. 19 DOG TEAMS AVAILABLE WHILE AVERAGING 13 DT OPERATIONAL. IN DEC. 1 TUNNEL DOG AND 1 MINE DOG ASSIGNED. TUNNEL DOG PERFORMED 11 MISSIONS IN 12 DAYS AND THE MINE DOG PERFORMED 9 MISSIONS IN 10 DAYS.
- 1 JAN 70 - 31 FEB 70 - SUPPORTED 353 MISSIONS FOR A TOTAL OF 390 DT DAYS. SUFFERED 2 MAN WIA AND 3 DOG WIA. 20 DOG TEAMS WERE AVAILABLE AVERAGING 14 DOG TEAMS OPERATIONAL. MINE DOG HAD 13 MISSIONS IN 9 DAYS. TUNNEL DOG PERFORMED 5 MISSIONS FOR 5 DT DAYS.
- 1 MAR 70 - 31 MAR 70 - SUPPORTED 150 MISSIONS FOR A TOTAL OF 227 DT DAYS. SUFFERED 2 MAN WIA AND 1 DOG WIA. 25 DOG TEAMS WERE AVAILABLE WITH 15 DOG TEAMS OPERATIONAL.
- 27 MAR 70 - V.C. CHIEF HOI. GAVE REASON AS HIS FEAR OF THE SCOUT DOGS SUPPORTING MARINE CAG TEAM 4-3-1 FOR RALLYING. THE PRESENCE OF THE SCOUT DOG IN THE VILLAGES PREVENTED THE V.C. FROM RETURNING TO THEIR HOME AND ALSO HINDERED THEIR MOVEMENT AT NIGHT BECAUSE OF THE SCOUT DOGS BEING USED ON NIGHT AMBUSH. HE SAID THAT HE FEARED THE DOG WOULD LEAD U.S. FORCES TO POSITION. CAG TEAM FELT THAT THE CONSTANT PRESENCE OF SCOUT DOGS WITH THEIR ELEMENTS WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE V.C. GIVING HIMSELF UP.

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- 1 APR 70 - 31 JUN 70 - SUPPORTED 452 MISSIONS FOR A TOTAL OF 557 DT DAYS. SUFFERED 6 MAN WIA'S AND SUFFERED 2 DOG WIA'S AND 3 DOG KIA'S. MINE DOGS SUPPORTED 87 MECHANIZED MISSIONS FOR A TOTAL OF 98 DT DAYS. AVERAGED 21 SCOUT DOG TEAMS AVAILABLE AND 16 TEAMS OPERATIONAL.
- 1 JUL 70 - 31 AUG 70 - SUPPORTED INFANTRY AND MECHANIZED INFANTRY UNITS ON 87 MISSIONS IN 121 DAYS IN THE FIELD. SUFFERED NO CASUALTIES. 21 DOG TEAMS WERE AVAILABLE WITH 12 OPERATIONAL.
- 1 AUG 70 - 31 AUG 70 - SUPPORTED 81 MISSIONS FOR A TOTAL OF 96 DT DAYS. MINE DOGS SUPPORTED 43 MISSIONS FOR A TOTAL OF 51 DT DAYS. 1 MAN WIA. 19 SCOUT DOG TEAMS WERE AVAILABLE WITH 11 TEAMS OPERATIONAL. PFC WILLIAMS RECEIVED TWO BRONZE STARS WITH "V" DEVICES FOR VALOR, ONE WITH AN OAK LEAF CLUSTER, AND ONE PURPLE HEART IN TWO DIFFERENT ENCOUNTERS WITH ENEMY PERSONEL. PFC WILLIAMS WAS ACCREDITED WITH 1 ENEMY KIA.
- 1 SEPT 70 - 31 SEPT 70 - SUPPORTED 140 MISSIONS WITH INFANTRY AND MECHANIZED INFANTRY UNITS FOR A TOTAL OF 175 DT DAYS. UTILIZATION OF MINE DOGS ROSE TO ITS HIGHEST PEAK SUPPORTING 52 MISSIONS FOR A TOTAL OF 101 DT DAYS. SUFFERED 1 MAN AND 1 DOG WIA. 18 SCOUT DOG TEAMS WERE AVAILABLE WITH 14 TEAMS OPERATIONAL.
- JUN, JUL, AND AUG 1970: 430 INF PLAT (SCOUT DOG) WAS APPROXIMATELY 50% EFFECTIVE AS A RESULT OF A LARGE NUMBER OF DOGS BEING ON PROFILE WITH RED TONGUE.

