

for  
SFC Mendley

ANNEX D ( Scout Dog Employment 33rd Scout Dog Platoon) to After Action Report 4-68

SUBJECT: Employment of Scout Dog Teams on LRRP patrols during Operation Oasis III.

1. GENERAL: Two dog teams from the 33rd Scout Dog Platoon were attached to RCH Team 34 and 35 from 12 February to 1 March. They were deployed on operation as the patrol team was deployed.

2. EMPLOYMENT: The Scout Dog Teams were deployed to provide early, silent warning as to the enemy's presence. They worked most effectively by utilizing them as a part of the point element. In the thick mountainous terrain, which was encountered on Operation Oasis III, the dog team should work behind the point man. This allows the point man to break trail; thus the dog has more freedom of movement and does not exert as much energy when the trail is prepared for him. When contact is made by the patrol team, the dog should be moved to the rear of the team for his protection.

3. RECOMMENDATION AND CONCLUSION:

a. Before <sup>1</sup>infiltration: The scout dog team should be attached at least 3 days prior to deployment of operation to give the dog a chance to familiarize himself with the scent of the patrol members. The dog should remain with the same team throughout the operation.

b. During Infiltration:

1) If the repelling insertion is used, a repelling apparatus has to be designed for the dog's use

2) The dog had no trouble jumping 10 to 15 ft. from the helicopter. If rope ladders have to be used for insertion, the dog can be lowered by the use of his harness. This is not advisable for distance greater than 25 ft. because it is extremely uncomfortable for the dog.

c. Period in the RZ: Because of the food and water needed by the dog, the handler's equipment can be distributed among the team to compensate for the difference. The dog handler's load in excess to his normal equipment and rations is two ~~units~~ of dog food per day and six canteens of water. The dog drinks a minimum of two canteens a day.

d. During Exfiltration:

1) The dog jumped readily into the helicopter on a touchdown LZ.

2) When rope ladders are used to extract teams, the dog can be lifted out of the LZ by the use of his harness and leash.

3) During an emergency extraction, the harness could be used with a snap link to extract the dog by use of McGuire Rigs.

e. Conclusion: The manner in which the scout dog teams were used during the operation was highly successful. The overall condition of the animals, plus the manner in which the dog were used, added to thier effectiveness.

ment) to After Action Report 4-68

1. Personnel Data:

- a. Team Leader: SSG Ralph Resch
- b. Team No: RCH Team 24
- c. Dog Handler: SSG Robert Rose
- d. Dog: Ringo, Brand No. 7X91

2. Sequence of events:

- a. 111130 Feb 68— SSG Rose and his dog, Ringo, were attached to Team 24, company E (LRP) 20th Inf (Abn).
- b. 12130 Feb 68—SSG Rose and Ringo, in conjunction with the 2nd Platoon departed for the MSB. They were transported to the MSB by helicopter and the dog showed no signs of fear during the flight.
- c. 131300 Feb 68— SSG Rose and SSG Resch made a McGuire rig for the dog out of his blanket. When tested, the dog did not seem to mind at all.
- d. 131630 Feb 68— Team 24 received the briefing for the mission of 14 Feb.
- e. 140700 Feb 68— Team 24 loaded helicopter for infiltration into their assigned LZ. The LZ in which we were intending to land was a helicopter touch-down LZ. The dog seemed to enjoy the ride and jumped off the chopper as the team did. We could tell the dog was working immediately, in that he started smelling and listening as we moved into brush approximately 300 meters from the LZ.
- f. 150700 Feb 68—The dog alerted on something between our previous night's location and the river. When we moved out, we could not find anything, so we moved down to the river. At this time, we let the dog go down near the river to see if he could pick up anything near or across the river. There was nothing so we all got the water we needed and moved north.
- g. 161700 Feb 68— Team 24 was extracted without incident; the dog was the first one to jump into the chopper. The chopper was hovering at approximately 5ft. distance from the ground.

3. Conclusions: During the duration of the mission, the dog alerted us to man-made objects and to animals. He also alerted to well used trails in the area. My men and myself all agree that we would rather work with a Scout Dog Team than have an additional man in the patrol. I, SSG Resch, believe that the dog knows the men in the team and that if the situation ever occur, any man in the patrol team could handle the dog. I would like to have the dog and his handler with my team as long as possible.

APPENDIX 2 (Team Leader's estimate of Dog Team) to ANNEX D (Scout Dog Employment) to After Action Report 4-68.

1. Personnel Data:

- a. Team leader: 1st Lt L. Ross, SSG
- b. Team No. ICN Team 23
- c. Dog Handler: PFC Jeffery Dick
- d. Dog: Nickki, Brand No. 40X1

2. Sequence of Events:

a. 11 Feb 68--PFC Jeffery A. Dick and his dog Nickki were assigned to Team 23, Co B (LRP) 20th Inf (Abn). The dog's first reaction to the patrol members was friendly. The men and the dog got along well with each other.

b. 12 Feb 68-- We left camp Enari for the mission support site located at t Oasis. At 1900 hrs, we went to our briefing prior to infiltration on 13 Feb 68.

c. 13 Feb 68-- At 1245 hrs, all team members and the dog were moved to the chopper and boarded for insertion into our assigned LZ. There was no problem with the dog while boarding or during the flight. On infiltration, the chopper hovered about 8 feet over the LZ. There was no problem with the dog unloading the chopper. We then moved into the wooded area, immediately the dog showed signs of alertness to the Southwest. We moved in an immediate Southwest direction and found bunkers over looking the river. At 2330 hrs, we heard the enemy firing mortars. The firing woke up the dog at which time he checked out the immediate areas by smelling. He did not find any foreign scent in the area, so we went back to sleep.

d. 14 Feb 68-- We moved east to our previous night halt. We stopped for a short halt at 0930. At 0945, still moving East, the dog started alerting on foreign scent in the area. We moved in the direction of the alert and as we moved closer, the dog's alerts became stronger. We came upon a trail and at this time, set up a hasty ambush because we heard voices coming towards us on the trail. The dog remained quiet as we moved into position. The enemy spotted us moving and opened fire. The dog remained quiet during the fire fight, but wanted to attack the enemy. We broke contact and moved South for 30 meters and then we stopped and listened to see if we were being followed. At this time, I, SSG Ross, sent team members back to the area where the contact was made. The patrol members found two NVA bodies and saw blood trails leading down the trail. When the two men returned to the team's location, it was noticed that the dog began to alert to the flanks. The team then saw four personnell pursuing them. Contact was initiated again; we broke contact and started running. We ran for approximately 50 meters and the dog again alerted to our front. We changed direction, at the time a PFC was over our position the PFC directed us to an LZ. In moving to the LZ, the dog stayed alert knowing that the enemy was still in the area. During extraction the chopper hovered 10 feet in the air because he could not land due to the terrain. Am-

ships were covering our exfiltration with rockets and machine gun fire. The dog remained quiet during all the firing. We had to climb a rope ladder to get in the chopper; we pulled the dog up to the chopper by his leash and harness. During the whole incident, the dog remained quiet and calm.

3. Conclusions: I, SSG Ross, would like to say that the dog, during the whole mission, remained quiet, never barked at any time during contact or night. This type of operation worked out very well for the dog and the handler.

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2. EMPLOYMENT: The Scout Dog Teams were deployed to provide early, silent warning as to the enemy's presence. They worked most effectively by utilizing them as a part of the point element. In the thick mountainous terrain, which was encountered on Operation Oasis III, the dog team should work behind the point man. This allows the point man to break trail; thus the dog has more freedom of movement and does not exert as much energy when the trail is prepared for him. When contact is made by the patrol team, the dog should be moved to the rear of the team for his protection.

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ment) to After Action Report 4-68

1. Personnel Data:

- a. Team Leader: SSG Ralph Beach
- b. Team No: RCN Team 24
- c. Dog Handler: SSG Robert Rose
- d. Dog: Ringo, Brand No. 7X91

2. Sequence of events:

a. 111130 Feb 68-- SSG Rose and his dog, Ringo, were attached to Team 24, company E (LRP) 20th Inf (Abn).

b. 12130 Feb 68--SSG Rose and Ringo, in conjunction with the 2nd Platoon departed for the MSS. They were transported to the MSS by helicopter and the dog showed no signs of fear during the flight.

c. 131500 Feb 68-- SSG Rose and SSG Beach made a McGuire rig for the dog out of his blanket. When tested, the dog did not seem to mind at all.

d. 131650 Feb 68-- Team 24 received the briefing for the mission of 14 Feb.

e. 140700 Feb 68-- Team 24 loaded helicopter for infiltration into their assigned LZ. The LZ in which we were intending to land was a helicopter touch-down LZ. The dog seemed to enjoy the ride and jumped off the chopper as the team did. We could tell the dog was working immediately, in that he started smelling and listening as we moved into brush approximately 300 meters from the LZ.

f. 150700 Feb 68--The dog alerted on something between our previous night's location and the river. When we moved out, we could not find anything, so we moved down to the river. At this time, we let the dog go down near the river to see if he could pick up anything near or across the river. There was nothing so we all got the water we needed and moved north.

g. 161700 Feb 68-- Team 24 was extracted without incident; the dog was the first one to jump into the chopper. The chopper was hovering at approximately 5ft. distance from the ground.

3. Conclusions: During the duration of the mission, the dog alerted us to man-made objects and to animals. He also alerted to well used trails in the area. My men and myself all agree that we would rather work with a Scout Dog Team than have an additional man in the patrol. I, SSG Beach, believe that the dog knows the men in the team and that if the situation ever occur, any man in the patrol team could handle the dog. I would like to have the dog and his handler stay with my team as long as possible.

APPENDIX 2 (Team Leader's estimate of Dog Team) to ANNEX D (Scout Dog Employment) to After Action Report 4-68.

1. Personnel Data:

- a. Team Leader: Pat L. Ross, SSG
- b. Team No. RCH Team 25
- c. Dog Handler: PFC Jeffrey Dick
- d. Dogs Nickki, Brand No. 40X1

2. Sequence of Events:

a. 11 Feb 68--PFC Jeffery A. Dick and his dog Nickki were assigned to Team 25, Co B (LRP) 20th Inf (Abn). The dog's first reaction to the patrol members was friendly. The men and the dog got along well with each other.

b. 12 Feb 68-- We left camp Anari for the mission support site located at the Oasis. At 1900 hrs, we went to our briefing prior to infiltration on 13 Feb 68.

c. 13 Feb 68-- At 1245 hrs, all team members and the dog were moved to the chopper and boarded for insertion into our assigned LZ. There was no problem with the dog while boarding or during the flight. On infiltration, the chopper hovered about 8 feet over the LZ. There was no problem with the dog unloading the chopper. We then moved into the wooded area, immediately the dog showed signs of alertness to the Southwest. We moved in an immediate Southwest direction and found bunkers over looking the river. At 2330 hrs, we heard the enemy firing mortars. The firing woke up the dog at which time he checked out the immediate areas by smelling. He did not find any foreign scent in the area, so we went back to sleep.

d. 14 Feb 68-- We moved east to our previous night halt. We stopped for a short halt at 0930. At 0945, still moving East, the dog started alerting on foreign scent in the area. We moved in the direction of the alert and as we moved closer, the dog's alerts became stronger. We came upon a trail and at this time, set up a hasty ambush because we heard voices coming towards us on the trail. The dog remained quiet as we moved into position. The enemy spotted us moving and opened fire. The dog remained quiet during the fire fight, but wanted to attack the enemy. We broke contact and moved South for 30 meters and then we stopped and listened to see if we were being followed.

At this time, I, SSG Ross, sent team members back to the area where the contact was made. The patrol members found two NVA bodies and saw blood trails leading down the trail. When the two men returned to the team's location, it was noticed that the dog began to alert to the flanks. The team then saw four personnell pursuing them. Contact was initiated again; we broke contact and started running. We ran for approximately 50 meters and the dog again alerted to our front. We changed direction, at the time a PAC was over our position the PAC directed us to an LZ. In moving to the LZ, the dog stayed alert knowing that the enemy was still in the area. During extraction the chopper hovered 10 feet in the air because he could not land due to the terrain. Am-