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HEADQUARTERS, U. S. ARMY SECTION
MILITARY ASSISTANCE ADVISORY GROUP, VIETNAM
Saigon, Vietnam

MAAG-OT (OP)

MEMORANDUM FOR: See Distribution

SUBJECT: RVNAF Military Dog Program (U)

1. The purpose of this memorandum is two-fold: First, to provide detailed information concerning the RVNAF Military Dog Program and MAAG proposals/recommendations incident thereto, and second, to solicit comments/recommendations from the Corps, Civil Guard, and Airborne Brigade Senior Advisors relative to the organization, care and tactical employment of military dogs.

2. As you know, in-country tests have demonstrated that military dogs can be used successfully against the VC, especially in warning of ambushes and infiltration and for security of fixed installations. Presently, there are a total of 130 military dogs in South Vietnam. Fifty-six of these have been trained as scout dogs and have been deployed to using units. The other 74 dogs and their Vietnamese handlers are being trained at the Go Vap, Saigon, Canine Training Site. From February thru July of this year a total of 300 dogs will be trained at an average rate of 50 per month. Funds have been approved for an additional 650 dogs to be delivered during the last half of CY 62 and requisitions for these dogs were submitted on 6 March 1962. In order to expand the training base, a 300 kennel/400 personnel Dog Training Center is being constructed at Thanh Tuy Ha just Southeast of Saigon. Eventually this center will have the capability of turning out 150 trained dogs monthly. It is expected that a grand total of 1,000 military dogs will be in-country by early 1963.

3. To assist the RVNAF in the initial phases of their Military Dog Program, this section has made many recommendations/proposals, several of which are attached as inclosures to this memorandum for your information. The monthly input of dogs requested in MAAG requisitions to the QMG is as indicated in Inclosure 1. This inclosure also contains a proposed breakdown of sentry versus scout dogs. Spaces in the currently approved force structure have been allocated to support the Military Dog Program (Incl 2). Proposed scout/sentry dog deployment schedules together with information concerning the employment of each type of dog has been submitted to RVNAF (Incls 3-6). In addition, MAAG has submitted a proposed dog platoon TOE plus a suggested breakdown of Logistical Commands' sentry dogs into TD units (Incls 7&8). Finally, to insure that dogs deployed to using units will receive adequate medical care it has been recommended that three animal clinics be established; one at Da Nang, one at Pleiku, and one at Thanh Tuy Ha. These clinics will provide medical support to military dogs located in their respective Corps areas (Incls 9-11). It is anticipated that these clinics will be operational by August of this year.

4. In order to properly evaluate and improve the RVNAF Military Dog Program, special operational reports on the

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- a. Current status (Number of dogs that are available for operations).
- b. Operations employment.
- c. Results obtained.
- d. Lessons learned which should be passed on to improve operational efficiency.
- e. Training deficiencies noted.
- f. Care and general appearance.
- g. Comments/recommendations. (Evaluation of the operational effectiveness of dog program.)

11 Incls
a/s


H. K. EGGLESTON
Brigadier General, USA
Acting Chief

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