

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

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REF: (A) See Distribution

SUBJECT: Review of RVNAF Military Dog Program (U)

1. (U) Purpose: A review of the RVNAF Military Dog Program during the period 31 July 1963 to 31 December 1963 is required.

2. (C) Background:

a. Starting in 1961, the program of military scout and sentry dogs for RVNAF originally provided for a maximum of 1,000 dogs. They were to be organized in platoons of 20 dogs each and assigned to divisions, ranger units, border detachments and to the airborne and marine brigades. Dogs were procured in the U.S., trained at the ARVN Military Dog Training Center.

b. In March 1962, it became evident that many abuses were occurring in the field after dog platoons had joined their parent units. In August 1962, MACV directed a halt of the flow of dogs from the U.S. and an evaluation to be conducted 1 September 1962 thru 1 March 1963. With the aid of numerous reports from U.S. advisory groups and detachments in the field, this evaluation was conducted by USAF. This study revealed a wide variation in field conditions and results obtained. A notable exception was the sentry dog program, which was viewed as satisfactory. It was concluded that the potential operational worth of the military dog program was sufficiently high to warrant continuing the program at the then reduced level, but that limitations did exist and that action was necessary to overcome them. Generally, it was recommended that one scout dog platoon be assigned to each Corps and to the Capital Military District (CMD), that retraining be conducted, that advisors be assigned to each platoon, and that the sentry dog program continue unchanged. (See Incls 1 & 2).

c. The recommendations submitted were approved and forwarded to the Joint General Staff (JGS), RVNAF. On 11 June 1963, JGS directed a reorganization as recommended effective 30 June, to be completed by 31 July. This reorganization has been completed for the most part, except for dogs absent from retraining.

d. MAAG-V has requested a review of the RVNAF Military Dog Program as of 31 December 1963.

ADAK-01 (U A)
SUBJECT: Review of RVNAF Military Dog Program (U)

3. (U) Future Actions:

a. Frequent staff visits to corps and division advisory detachments and to dog platoon locations will be made by GAT Division, USAF C.

b. Monthly reports will continue to be submitted by U.S. Military dog training advisors directly to this headquarters AS in the post. The U.S. Advisory Detachment, AAVR Military Dog Training Center will continue to forward these monthly reports to this headquarters.

c. A change to the JIS has been proposed which will assign the advisors in the field to Corps advisory groups and the CMD advisory detachment.

4. (U) Requirements: It is requested that corps and CMD army senior advisors accomplish the following:

a. Provide proper and integrated use of scout dogs in ARVN operations.

b. Provide active and continuous command and staff supervision of scout dog platoons within both channels. This includes not only the organic scout dog platoons but also sentry dog platoons assigned the mission of guarding organic base installations.

c. Forward comments on any aspect of this general subject when and if desired at any time to this headquarters, attention Sub-07 (U A).

Note d. Submit a comprehensive report of military dog activities to this headquarters (ATTN: Sub-07 (U A)) for the period 31 July through 31 December 1963, with primary emphasis on scout dog operations. U.S. military dog training advisors may be used to assist in compilation of data and other information required. Suspense date for submission of this report is 6 January 1964. The scope of this report will include, but need not be limited to, the following information:

a. Amount and type of employment - results obtained should be indicated as well as number of requests and number of operations.

b. Steps taken by U.S. Advisors and AVS to remedy deficiencies noted in training and care of military dogs.

MACAR-07 (S A)

SUBJECT: Review of RVNAF Military Dog Program (H)

c. Lessons learned which should be passed on to other units in order to improve operational efficiency.

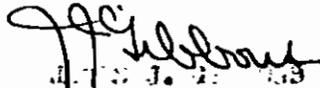
d. Care and general appearance of military dogs.

e. Adequacy and propriety of training and handling of dogs.

f. Adequacy of facilities.

FOR THE CHIEF:

2 Incl
as


J. J. Johnson
Colonel, Infantry
Deputy Chief

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