

UNITED STATES ARMY INFANTRY CENTER
HEADQUARTERS DETACHMENT SCOUT DOG US ARMY
Fort Benning, Georgia 31905

3 February 1969

Training and Employment - Off Leash Scout Dog Teams

1. Training.

a. Objectives. The objectives of off-leash scout dog team training are:

- (1) To train the dog to work off-leash well out in front of the handler, while remaining under his control.
- (2) To train the dog to sit when he has any type of alert.
- (3) To train the handler to read his dog's alerts with the dog off-leash in front of him.
- (4) To train the handler to read his dog's alert, transmitted by radio, when he does not have visual contact with the dog.

b. Methods.

- (1) During basic obedience the dog is trained to take directional commands (RIGHT, LEFT) both orally and by hand signal. Eventually the oral commands are dropped. The dog is also trained to come using a silent whistle in addition to voice and hand recall.
- (2) During basic scouting the dog is trained to sit when he has an alert. The dog is also encouraged to work at end of the leash.
- (3) The dog is next trained to work at the end of the 25 foot leash.
- (4) When the handler has established firm control over the dog, the dog is worked first on drag leash and then off-leash.
- (5) It is occasionally necessary to allow the dog to chase a decoy in order to maintain his interest. He must only do this on command, however.

c. Refresher training. Refresher training should consist of working the dog on normal patrolling lanes, off-leash. In addition to normal procedures, emphasis should be placed on control of the dog to insure that he sits on alerts and only goes in on the decoy on command.

2. Employment.

a. Capabilities. The off-leash scout dog team has the same capabilities as the on leash team except as noted in the sub-paragraph b. It has the following additional capabilities.

(1) The dog appears to be more sensitive and easier to read than the on leash dog.

(2) When using the radio the dog can be employed out of sight of the handler.

b. Limitations.

(1) The tracking transmitter and AN/PPR-9 receiver are not yet thoroughly reliable.

(2) The audio tone of the transmitter receiver system is of such a pitch as to make it extremely difficult to monitor over a long period of time.

(3) When not using the radio the dog team will be difficult to employ at night.

(4) Tracking transmitter battery life is only 6 to 8 hours.

(5) When the dog is working out of sight of the handler the radio only indicates that the dog has stopped moving, presumably sitting on an alert. It cannot indicate how far away or in which direction the dog is from the handler nor how far away or in which direction the decoy is from the dog, or what type of decoy the dog has found.

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to base.*

c. Suggested employment.

(1) Roads and trails. The teams should be exceptionally useful to units moving along roads and trails since the dogs can range far out in front of the unit and thus give an earlier silent early warning.

(2) Heavy vegetation. Not being encumbered by a leash, the dog should be able to work well and become fatigued less rapidly in heavy vegetation.

(3) Danger areas. The dog should provide an extra margin of safety in checking the far side of danger areas, etc.

d. Use of the radio. In view of the serious limitations the following suggestions are made for use of the radio.

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(1) Only send the dog out of sight on a well defined trail or to check a specific area. Recall the dog frequently so that his location is always fairly well known.

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(2) Turn on the receiver only when the dog is going out of the handler's sight.

(3) When the dog alerts (radio tone becomes steady) wait a moment to see if the dog holds the alert. If he does, recall the dog, noting how long it takes him to return and from which direction he comes. Praise the dog. From this information an alert, though not an accurate one, may be called. When recalling the dog it is necessary to use frequent, rather long blasts on the silent whistle so that the dog may locate the handler readily and return by the most direct route.