

Off-Leash Scout Dog Training
Scenario

Scene

Action

1

Obedience training

- a) Start of session - handler removes choke collar and puts working harness on dog.
- b) On-leash obedience: Heel, Sit, Down, Stay, Come, with both voice and arm commands.
- c) Initial off-leash obedience, emphasizing sit-stay-come.
Note: handler pets and praises dog when it performs correctly.
- d) End of session, handler removes harness and allows dog to romp.

2

Initial sit-stay alert training, on-leash.

- a) Session begins with obedience drill, here emphasizing off-leash sit-stay-come.
- b) First search problem - handler commands dog "search!" then guides it toward concealed decoy, placed upwind (note wind direction indicator). Handler does not allow dog to put nose to ground. When close to decoy (well within scent cone) handler commands dog to sit and stay. With dog in sit-stay alert position, decoy comes out of hiding, without exciting the dog. Dog is not allowed to approach decoy. Handler drops back to end of leash and recalls dog. Handler praises dog for correct performance.

3

Repeat of scene 2 with sit-stay alert performed at greater distance from decoy.

SceneAction

- 4 Repeat of scene 3 with decoy in a different hiding place, emphasizing need to change training locale to avoid "place" learning. Transition to 25 ft. leash.
- 5 Transition to off-leash search and alerting.
- a) Demonstration of drag-leash technique - handler drops his end of leash. In early stage, handler may recover the loose end if necessary to obtain proper alerting behavior.
- b) Drag-leash using 25 ft. leash. Handler increases distance between himself and dog in search. Dog is not allowed to approach decoy. *68*
OFF LEASH OUT OF SIGHT.
- 6 Radio harness showing transmitter mounted on dog's working harness and handler with AN/PRR-9 receiver.
- 7 Patrolling exercises.
- a) Early patrol exercise, on-leash. Hidden decoy has walkie-talkie for communication with patrol.
- b,c) Later patrol exercises, off-leash. Handler recalls dog with "silent" whistle. Emphasis on increasing working distance (handler to dog) with use of radio to monitor dog out of sight, increasing alerting distance (dog to decoy), and increasing overall problem length.
- 8 Correcting the dog
- a) Dog reluctant to start search. Handler repeats command "search" until dog moves out.

Scene

Action

8
(Cont'd)

- b) Dog alerts almost immediately. Handler knows that (1) either there is no decoy or (2) the alerting distance exceeds the permissible maximum. Handler administers sharp verbal reprimand ("No! No!"). Handler then puts dog through short, brisk obedience drill to remind it that this is a work session.
- c) Search command is repeated until dog now moves out briskly and proceeds without repeating the false alert.