

BRIEFING GUIDE FOR SCOUT DOG HANDLERS

INTRODUCTION

Assemble all patrol members in order that they see and hear all instructions and demonstrations.

Identify yourself and your dog. (Name and Unit)

Coordinate with patrol leader on time and place for patrol orders, rehearsal and other information.

Always try to rehearse with patrol prior to moving out on assignment.

MAKE SURE DOG SMELLS EVERY MEMBER OF THE PATROL!!!

CAPABILITIES

Dog can give early warning (silent) of individual or group of people nearby in vicinity of patrol, i.e. Silent early warning of ambush or sniper.

Dog can detect an infiltrator or a group of persons infiltrating the perimeter.

Dogs can assist in the detection of tunnels and/or other devices used by the enemy as storage locations for food and supplies.

A dog's alertness and sense of smell, sight and hearing is considerably better than that of a man.

A dog should be used on point whenever possible.

If vegetation is dense a trail breaker should proceed ahead of the dog. The dog will still be able to use his senses of detection.

LIMITATIONS

A dog should only be worked by one qualified handler.

If speed is essential, the team should be moved to the rear.

A dog team does not join the attack unit or the enveloping unit.

Wind plays an important factor when working the dog's ability to alert.

Alerts can vary according to the wind velocity, wind direction, the concentration of human scent, humidity, density or openness of the terrain and the amount of other confusing noises in the area.

Never split a dog team.

If a dog is wounded he should be evacuated under the same conditions as a human casualty.

If a handler becomes a casualty and the dog becomes aggressive and the handler cannot be administered aid due to the dog, the dog **MUST BE DESTROYED**.

Patrol members **MUST NOT** feel an exaggerated sense of security due to having a dog team in their patrol, nor must they become agitated and apprehensive because of the presence of the dog.

One man should be assigned to the dog team from the patrol unit as a Body Guard for security. This is due to the dog handler needing both hands to control the dog and cannot use his weapon effectively.

In hot weather, carry extra water for the dog as dogs dehydrate very easily.

If more than one dog is used on a patrol, the extra dogs should be kept in reserve of the patrol and the point dog should be relieved frequently, especially in rough terrain.

CAUTIONS

Do **NOT** pet my dog!!! Dog may very likely become noisy and aggressive.

Always approach handler on the right side.

When taking "Cover," avoid jumping too near the dog or myself.

Checking danger areas: Ask patrol leader; mission depends on situation and terrain.

Village surveys: Check with patrol leaders on section assigned.