

**HANDBOOK
FOR
SCOUT DOG
EMPLOYMENT**



**UNITED STATES ARMY INFANTRY SCHOOL
FORT BENNING, GEORGIA**

MAY 1967

This handbook provides interim training guidance and is a temporary publication of the U. S. Army Infantry School. It does not reflect final approval by the Department of the Army.

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SPECIALIZED TRAINING

CHAPTER 1

1. INTRODUCTION. Scout dog platoons may be assigned at corps or division level. Elements of the platoon (squads or teams) may be attached down to battalion and company level for specific missions or periods of time.

2. MISSION OF A SCOUT DOG PLATOON. The mission of a scout dog platoon is to support infantry, airborne and other type units in tactical operations against hostile forces by detecting and giving silent warning of any foreign presence outside the main body. Scout dog teams may be utilized for specific missions:

- a. Detection of ambush sites.
- b. Detection of snipers close-in.
- c. Detection of enemy "hideouts" or "stay behind groups."
- d. Detection of enemy caches of weapons, food, and ammunition.
- e. Detection of mines or boobytraps during road clearing operations.
- f. Assist in village block and search or block and sweep operations (figs. 3-4).

g. Accompany ambush patrols and/or listening posts to give early warning of enemy approach (fig. 2).

3. THE PURPOSE OF PLANNING AND PREPARATION FOR USE OF SCOUT DOG TEAMS.

a. When an infantry scout dog platoon is attached to a tactical element the platoon leader advises and makes recommendations to the commander of that unit on the employment of the platoon. When scout dog teams are employed with units that have not previously used them, then personnel of these units are carefully oriented on the scout dog team's capabilities and limitations. **This is absolutely necessary to the team's success in combat since most unit commanders are unfamiliar with the proper methods of employing scout dogs.**

b. Prior to assignment to any operation the infantry scout dog platoon leader is carefully briefed on planned missions as far in advance as possible. This allows him time to select the scout dog teams which will be most effective for each mission. It also allows the handlers time to prepare themselves and their dogs; i. e., checking the dogs out for any physical handicaps that might limit their effectiveness on operation, exercising their dogs to relieve excess energy from being kenneled, and running dogs on a short patrol to stimulate their interest and to verify their proficiency.

c. Another important consideration is that whenever possible the same scout dog team should work with

the same unit or patrol on different missions. The reason for this is because performance improves as the team becomes more familiar with the personnel.

d. The presence of a scout dog causes varied reactions among personnel unfamiliar with scout dogs. Some men may feel an exaggerated sense of security while others may become agitated and apprehensive. To prevent these extremes the handler should brief the patrol on the team's purpose, capabilities and limitations, and methods of operation.

e. In order to do this the team joins the patrol in time for the patrol order and to take part in the actual planning and preparation of the patrol. At this time the handler gives his recommendations to the patrol leader as to the proper employment of the team.

f. Integration of the team into the patrol also includes allowing the handler and dog to take part in rehearsals. In this way the patrol members become familiar with the team's method of operation and the dog becomes familiar with the scents of individual patrol members and with the noises and motions of a patrol on the move.

4. DEPLOYMENT OF SCOUT DOGS DURING MOVEMENT.

a. Generally the best position for the scout dog team is directly in front of the patrol. The team precedes the patrol or screening element, keeping

generally on the assigned direction of movement. Wind conditions may dictate that the team move on the windward side of the route of advance to take maximum advantage of the dog's senses of smell and hearing.

b. It may become necessary at times to place the team in the rear of the patrol if the wind is blowing from the rear or when speed is imminent (as in the approach march) since it is best to conserve the dog's energies whenever possible; this particularly applicable whenever scout dogs are employed as part of a screening force for a larger body of troops moving to an assembly area (fig 1).

c. On a reconnaissance or combat patrol where infiltration of hostile lines is desired the scout dog can be extremely useful in alerting friendly forces to locations of enemy outposts. In these instances the team, when alerting on one outpost, can move to its right or left to find the location of the other, thus enabling the patrol to slip between them (fig. 1).

d. On all patrol actions one member of the patrol should be assigned the mission of protecting the handler and dog. The reason for this is that when a scout dog is following a scent, the handler needs both hands to control it and therefore is helpless should fire be brought upon him.

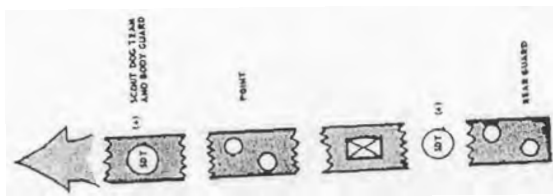
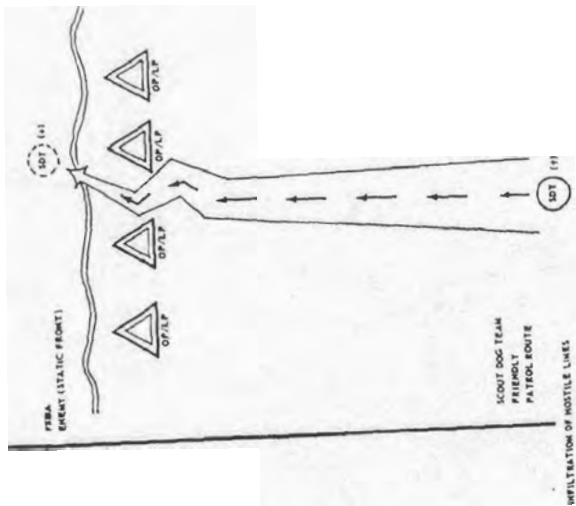


Figure 1. Infiltration of Hostile Lines.

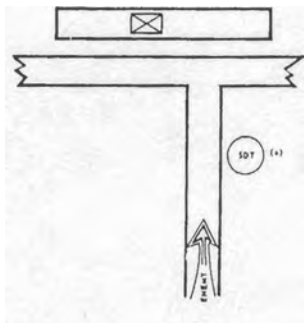


Figure 2. Deployment of Scout Dog Team on Ambush and/or Outpost Sites.

e. The distance at which the dog may alert depends on the weather and terrain. It may be 300 meters or it may be 30 meters. But once the dog alerts, the handler should signal the patrol to halt, having the patrol leader move up on the side opposite the dog to receive information of the enemy. If contact is to be made, the handler, instead of moving to the patrol's rear, should remain in place to allow the patrol to pass through his position then fall in behind. **This procedure eliminates unnecessary movement and hence risk to the team. In the event a firefight develops and the team is at the point position it should remain in**

place, and when possible it should move to the center of the patrol or to a position which would least interfere with the patrol's fire.

HORSESHOE
Ambush

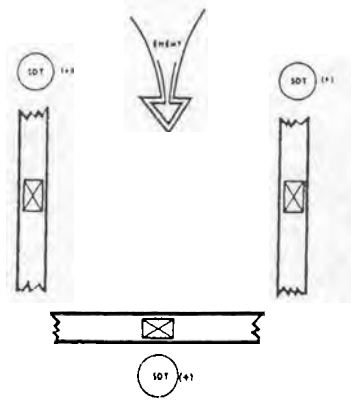


Figure 2-1. Continued.

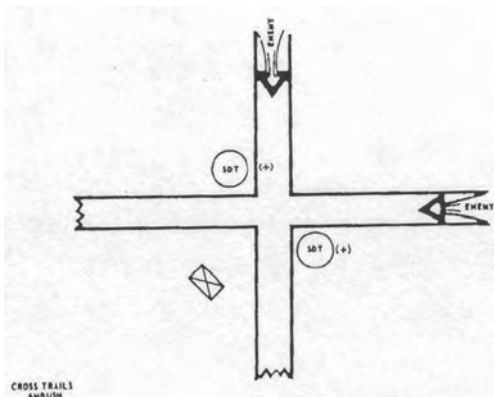


Figure 2-2. Continued.

ENEMY PERA

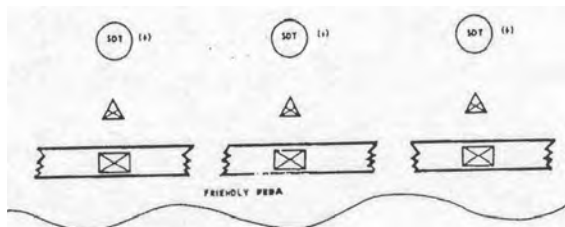
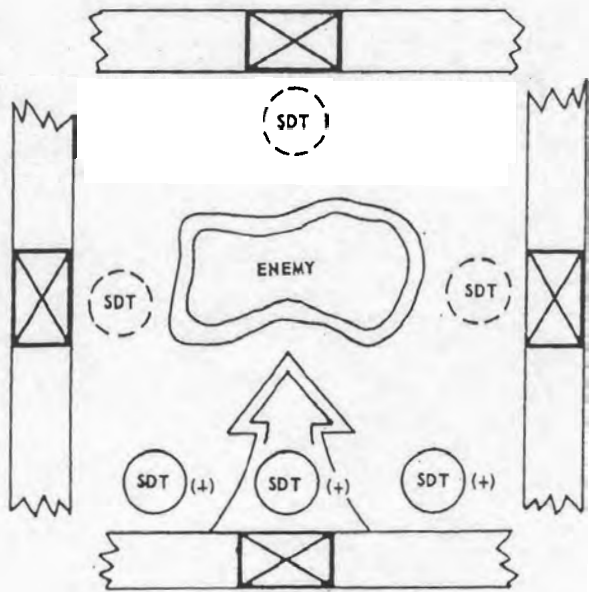


Figure 2-3. Continued.



SDT (+) SCOUT DOG TEAM WITH BODY GUARD

SDT SHOULD BE USED WHEN AVAILABLE

Figure 3. Search, Clear, Destroy Operations.

5. THE PURPOSE OF PATROL DEBRIEFINGS, It is important that the handler attend all debriefings. For at this time he can determine the faults and successes contributed by the team as well as instruct patrol members on ways to improve future utilization of dogs on patrol.

6. DEPLOYMENT AND ACTIONS OF TEAM ON OUTPOST AND AMBUSH PATROLS.

a. Scout dog teams can be very effective at static positions such as observation posts, outposts, listening posts, and for executing an ambush (fig. 2-3).

b. When employed in support of an outpost or listening post scout dogs should be placed in front of the main outpost line far enough in advance of these posts to reduce distractions to the dog yet close enough so that contact can be maintained at all times and the team's position is not placed in jeopardy in case of an enemy attack or infiltration (fig. 2-2).

c. When manning an outpost and the dog gives silent warning of hostile presence the team should immediately withdraw to the rear of the post so that they do not mask the friendly forces' fire. In this regard the handler should always have a prearranged route of withdrawal before going on outpost (figs. 2, 2-1, 2-2, 2-3).

d. There are several methods by which a scout dog handler can alert the outpost commander of enemy approach, but the most simple and most often used is a simple string affair which is strung between the two points of communication. Individuals on either end may signal the other by having a prearranged signal of one, two, or three jerks to indicate "be on the alert," or "enemy in sight."

e. The procedures for withdrawal and stationing of scout dog teams on an ambush patrol are the same as for outposts, except that where the sector to be covered is too wide for one dog to screen effectively then two dogs or more should be employed, posting one at each end of the horseshoe (fig. 2-1).

f. Scout dogs can be successfully employed for detecting and locating hostile positions for purposes of avoiding or making contact, and are quite effective when the patrol mission calls for infiltrating enemy lines (fig. 1).

g. As a warning and detection device, scout dog teams are not limited to just ground operations but can also be employed from small water craft in swampy regions for screening canal banks for hidden enemy.

h. While scout dogs are primarily used at night due to the handicaps of darkness on human abilities, they may also be used during daylight where terrain and weather conditions limit human visibility and where enemy devices are apt to evade their detection; i. e. ,

jungles, high grassy areas, rice paddies, and areas which encourage the use of underground hiding places due to absence of cover.

i. Working a scout dog in a village or hamlet, however, is conducive to the working abilities of the dog. A good example of this is where scout dogs have been used in support of search and seizure type operations against the enemy. In these instances the villagers are assembled at certain locations to minimize any distractions to the scout dogs while they searched houses for hidden enemy (fig. 4).

j. The most ideal conditions for working a scout dog are found in those areas sparsely inhabited with few distractions. It must be remembered that a scout dog is unable to distinguish between friend or foe and if through repeated contact with indigenous personnel the dog is constantly taken off the alert, it will soon lose interest in its task.

7. MAINTAINING TACTICAL PROFICIENCY.

a. Dogs in rear areas need refresher training and must be kept in training, and daily work of short duration is recommended.

b. A scout dog should not be used on both outposts and patrols in one night. If both an outpost and a patrol are needed, two dogs should be utilized. Experience has proven that a scout dog's most valuable function is that of patrolling.

c. Dogs which have not made contact during two successive patrols should be encouraged by patrolling against a staged ambush. This may be done on a very small scale, but sufficient to maintain the dog's interest in its mission.

d. A scout dog can work at maximum efficiency for 2 or 3 hours at a time; less in some tropical climates. On long operations demanding the use of a single dog at the point element for longer periods of time, two dogs should be used, keeping one in the rear as a reserve element (fig. 1).

8. CASUALTY.

a. Should a handler become a casualty he will be treated under the patrol's casualty plan:

(1) If the handler is wounded and is to be left for later evacuation, the dog will remain with the handler.

(2) If the handler is to be evacuated by the patrol then the dog may either be turned loose, as most dogs will follow their handler, or if this is not possible, then a member of the patrol will have to be detailed to lead the dog by the leash.

(3) At times some dogs will try to protect their handlers; in this case every attempt should be made to get the dog away from the handler so that the

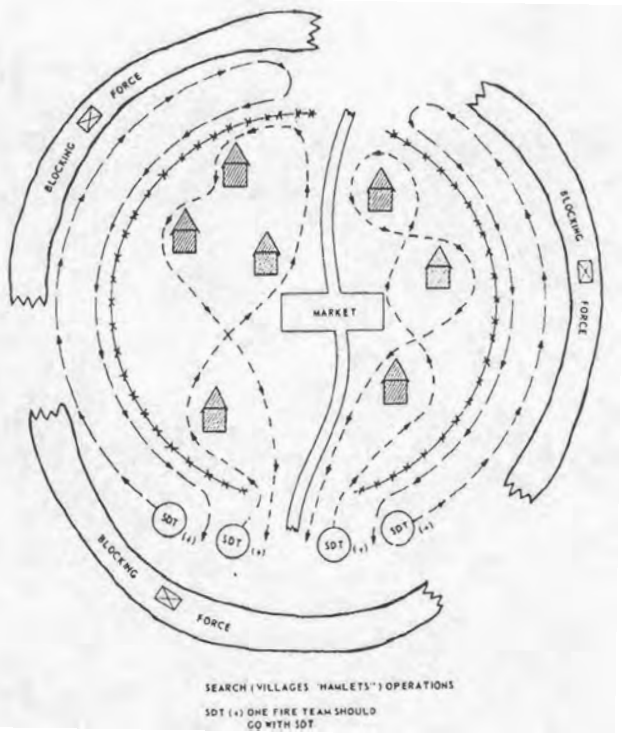


Figure 4. Search Operations: Villages, Hamlets

latter can be treated and/or evacuated. If this fails, then the dog should be destroyed in order that the handler's life may be saved.

b. If the handler is known to be dead and the dog cannot be recovered by members of the patrol, then the dog will be destroyed rather than left behind with the handler's body. It is possible for the enemy to recover the dog and in due time utilize it against friendly forces.

9. FOOD AND NOURISHMENT

a. A supply of fresh water carried on patrol is more vital than food.

b. If fresh water is not available then locally procured water should be either boiled or treated with purification tablets.

c. Just prior to going on patrol a scout dog should not be fed, as this has the same effect as a man working right after eating a big meal. However, a plentiful supply of field rations should be taken by the handler to feed the dog during operations. **While the** dog may be able to go a couple of days without food, it cannot go for long without water. This is particularly true in Southeast Asia due to the heat and humidity which will cause a dog to dehydrate faster than in cooler climates.

10. VETERINARY SUPPORT. Veterinary support is essential to the continued effectiveness of dogs on a tactical operation. In counterinsurgency operations there are many things that can happen to limit or render a dog ineffective. There is always the possibility of a dog drinking disease-ridden water, stepping in a mantrap, or suffering from heat exhaustion. In most instances where a veterinary technician is present, minor illnesses and injuries can be treated on the spot thus permitting the dog to continue its mission. If the opposite is true, then there is usually no other alternative but to evacuate the dog to the rear to stave off infection or to prevent aggravating the illness. One "vet tech" is assigned to a scout dog platoon.

CHAPTER 2

SCOUT DOG CAPABILITIES, LIMITATIONS

11. GENERAL.

a. Dogs are possessed of certain keen senses which make them an invaluable tool in counterinsurgency operations. Like other specialized items of equipment, you must be thoroughly familiar with its operation before you can fully realize its benefits. Such is the case with scout dogs.

b. The handler must understand the capabilities and limitations of scout dogs---what they are capable of doing, and how wind, weather, terrain, and environment affect them.

c. Scout dogs have proven themselves effective in every theater of operations where they have been employed. (In Southeast Asia they have done well.) The handler is responsible for their care, training, and utilization in the field. Therefore, it is imperative for the handler to know as much as possible about the capabilities and limitations of scout dogs, for this knowledge may possibly save lives if employed correctly.

12. CANINE SENSES.

a. The most important defense mechanisms of a scout dog to the military are its senses of smell, sound, and sight.

b. Properly trained, and employed under ideal conditions, the average scout dog is capable of alerting on airborne human scent at a great distance. However, even an alert of 30 meters is a life saver under the most adverse conditions of human visibility.

c. But a scout dog's value is not limited only to its keen sense of smell. It is also capable of hearing sounds 40 times better than man. Calculated in terms of tactical value this means that a dog can foil an enemy trying to infiltrate a position by detecting sounds too faint for human ears---the scraping of clothing against brush, harsh breathing, the rasp of a sandal against a rock, the accidental clicking of a bolt; and even more remarkable is its ability to detect the presence of a tripwire in total darkness by the faintest of all sounds---sound waves by the vibration of the wire, plus its ability to scent the boobytrap and associated human odor.

d. A scout dog is also capable of detecting a foreign presence below and above ground level by---

(1) Giving early silent warning of enemy hiding in caves, canal banks, foxholes, trees (jungles, forests), rice paddies, and even on occasion alert on the presence of a well-concealed mantrap.

(2) Alerting on dead scent: positions recently vacated by the enemy, disclosing the direction and approximate strength of the enemy in terms of

individuals or groups, and if the situation warrants, leading a friendly force to the exact location of a hostile force.

e. It is not intended, however, to imply that scout dogs are infallible, incapable of error, or devoid of limitations. They have their limitations, but these limitations are harmful only when the handler is unaware of what they are and what influence they have on the dog's sensory and physical activities.

13. TRAINING AND PHYSICAL CONDITIONING.

a. A scout dog doesn't enter military life with a so-called "nose" for working on human scent. This is something that the dog must be trained to do.

b. The scout dog must be trained to work on airborne scent alone. The dog must be broken from any attempt to "track" its human quarry. A scout dog that is prone to track may lead you into an ambush. Even a dog that only occasionally puts its nose to the ground will, during this interval, be subject to missing an alert.

c. A dog must also be discouraged from paying attention to animal scents. You cannot break a dog from alerting on animals, but it should not be allowed to go in pursuit or pay more than momentary attention to these scents.

d. A scout dog must also be in top physical condition in order to withstand the rigors of traversing mountainous jungle terrain over extended periods of time and in tropical heat. It must also be subjected to continuous training in the field as well as in garrison. This should include regular scheduled hours of obedience, obstacles, road marches, and scouting problems. **The obstacles that it should be trained to overcome are those common to the terrain it will be encountering, e.g., swinging bridges, monkey bridges, deep ravines, canals, and rivers.**

14. AFFECTS OF WIND AND TERRAIN.

a. Wind

(1) Wind is the most important single factor to be considered when employing scout dogs. For it is the wind that carries hostile scent and sounds to the dog. Denied the advantages of wind, no matter how slight, the effectiveness of a scout dog is greatly diminished.

(2) In this regard a scout dog should be employed at the point or on the windward flank of a tactical element in order to take advantage of the wind (fig. 1),

(3) The handler should be able to feel or sense what direction the wind is blowing at any time without having to rely on such expedients as dropping dust or bits of hair from his dog's back and noting its

direction of drift. A reliable indicator is the dog itself; observe it and the direction in which its nose is pointing.

(4) Wind produces what is known as a scent cone. Due to the difference in wind velocity, strong wind will produce a scent cone that is narrow in width compared to a moderate, steady wind that produces a wider scent cone. A light wind, such as a breeze, due to its lack of force, will cause the scent to drift (fig. 5) weakly. Strong, gusty winds, on the other hand, will create ever changing scent patterns depending on the wind's velocity at that particular moment.

b. Terrain.

(1) The effect of terrain on the travel of scent is also a variable factor, and one which also deserves the handler's consideration.

(2) Wind hitting a hilltop or the crest of a hill is prone to break into two or three smaller streams of air current (fig. 6). **The effect is quite similar to that produced by water breaking around a boulder in the middle of a stream or river. Mountains, gorges, buttes, breaks, valleys, and timberlines will all cause the wind to sweep and swirl. Thus, a handler should study the terrain to analyze the best employment of his dog and to properly determine how the terrain will affect his dog's alerts (fig. 7).**

(3) The only wind that will blow with any steadiness is that which comes over a flat and even surface (fig. 8).

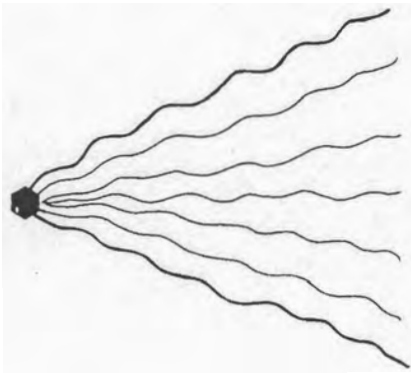
(4) A small land tabletop, or the top of a mesa, is probably the worst place for a dog to try to find a hidden man. Scents borne by the wind off a mesa may be scattered, blown aloft, or die before they come into contact with ground level. A dog may pick up a scent far from a mesa only to lose it once he comes close, because it is being blown over its head (fig. 9)..

(5) A handler on top of a terrain feature should be particularly alert. Wind blowing from open terrain and up over the hill, pass, cut, or mesa may carry a scent from the base or from some distance away (fig. 10), and the dog may show some confusion when arriving at the edge of such a terrain feature.

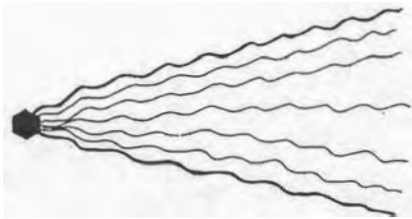
15. CAPABILITIES AND LIMITATIONS OF SCOUT DOGS OPERATING IN RICE PADDIES, MARSHES, SWAMPS, OR JUNGLE-TYPE TERRAIN.

a. The Use for and Purpose of This Training.

(1) For a scout dog team to be successful and accomplish its mission in support of infantry units, it must be conditioned to operate in mud, water, and swamps, and be capable of detecting enemy ambushes and other concealed hiding places (which may have previously provided a haven for the enemy to slip away and avoid detection).



LIGHT WIND



STRONG WIND

Figure 5. Scent Cones.

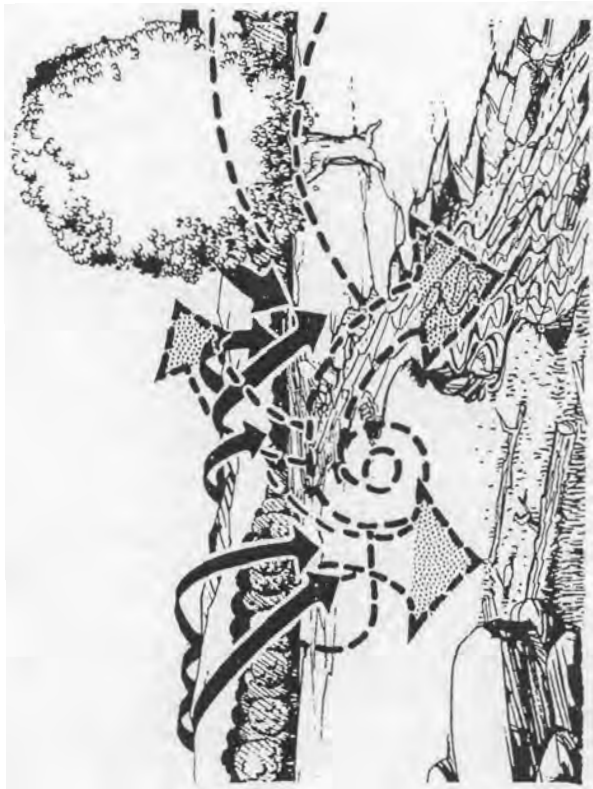


Figure 6. Effects of Wind on Terrain.

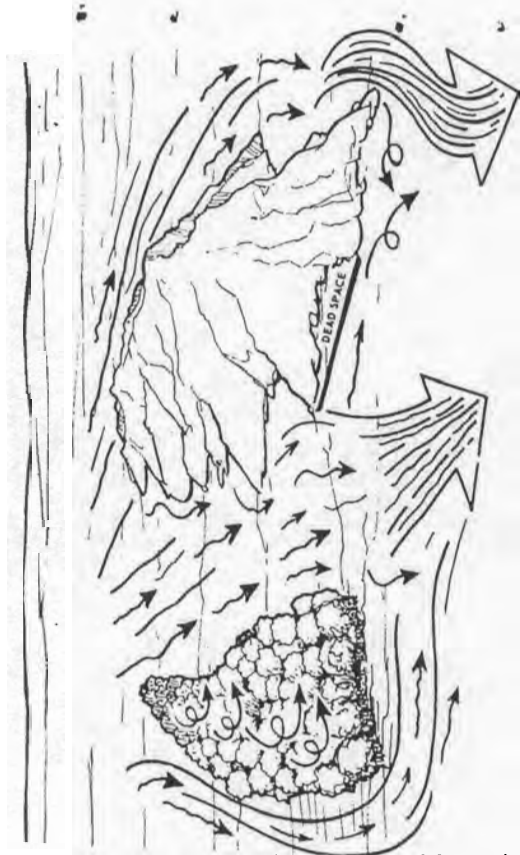


Figure 7. Wind Deflection by Natural Terrain.



Figure 8. Effect of Wind on Open Terrain.

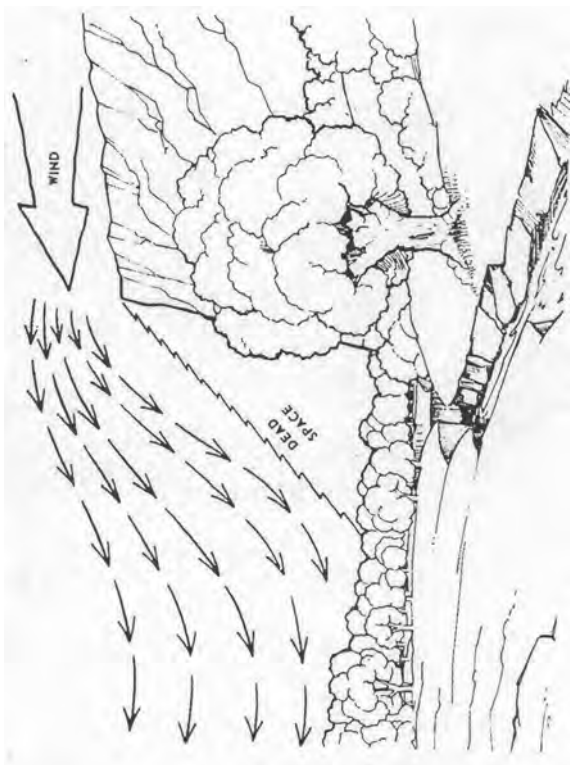


Figure 9. Effect of Wind Blowing from a Mesa.

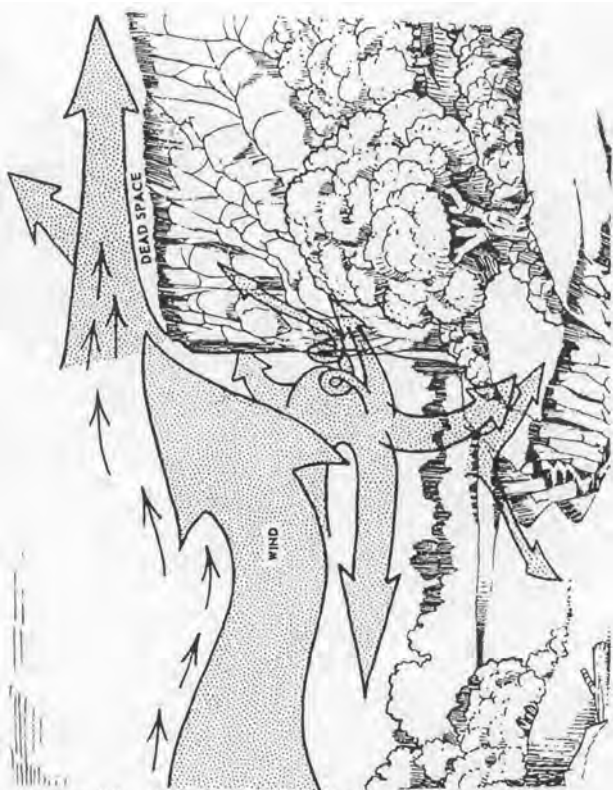


Figure 10. Effect of Wind Blowing Toward a Mesa.

(2) Marshes, swamps, and rice paddies are found throughout Asia. To effectively carry the war to the enemy in this region, patrols must travel through various types of terrain. Under these conditions, a patrol is extremely vulnerable to enemy ambush and sniper fire due to reduced visibility, cover, and concealment. With a highly trained scout dog the risk of the patrol being ambushed is reduced considerably.

(3) Recognizing this capability, scout dogs can effectively patrol at the point position to and from objective areas. A scout dog team must be capable of carrying out missions in water, mud, swampy areas, and on dry, clear, open terrain.

b. The Proper Employment of Scout Dog Teams in This Environment.

(1) The dog should be worked on point position.

(2) A minimum of one guard is assigned to protect the handler and dog.

(3) The number of reserve dogs with the patrol would depend on distances, mission, and terrain.

(4) Due to the necessary amount of noise caused by the patrol, the dog team should patrol ahead with the forward element, keeping eye contact with the main body. In this manner the dog can work more effectively and use its senses of scent, sound, and sight to better advantage.

(5) Because of irregular wind drifts caused by this terrain, the dog team should be permitted to zigzag if possible, using the wind to his dog's advantage.

(6) The handler should travel as light as possible, because excessive equipment will cause him to sink deeper in mud and swamp.

c. Dogs Should be Highly Trained and Controlled.

(1) Fighters, fast workers, nervous, energetic, or noisy dogs should be corrected of these undesired habits, and are not selected for patrols. Such a dog will not hold up in rugged terrain, and will only tire itself and the handler.

(2) Small dogs (40 - 60 lbs.) under voice and hand-signal control are ideal for point employment.

(3) Use of the 25-foot leash and off leash should be considered, if possible, to allow freedom of movement to the scout dog team, provided the dog is under control.

(4) Handlers patrolling in mud should take short steps to avoid sinking deep and constantly moving around.

(5) The command EASY should be used so that the dog sets a slow pace.

(6) Dogs are corrected for playing and jumping around in mud and water.

(7) The handler should take cover, when under fire, and control his dog during actions.

(8) When walking or working on top of rice paddies (dike walls), handlers should be cautious, as the enemy places mines or boobytraps in these areas. REMEMBER---the dog's weight may not set off a mine.

(9) Correct a dog of drinking excessive amounts of dirty water; this will cause the dog to become sick, cough, and create undesired noise.

d. Dense jungles will restrict the travel of scent considerably, causing it to drift aimlessly due to the general lack of circulation in such areas. An alert range of 15 to 30 meters is considered good under such conditions.

e. Human scents from foxholes become borne by the wind because scents rise as they evaporate. These scents are not as strong as those produced by men in the open.

f. Rice paddies will slow a dog's progress, which is often to the handler's advantage, but it will in no way affect the dog's effectiveness. Its ability to scent and detect a hostile force is every bit as good as when working on firm ground.

g. A mountainous environment will tax a dog's stamina, but if the dog is in good physical condition and its energies are conserved for those periods when actually needed, then there is no reason why it shouldn't be able to keep pace with the handler and the patrol.