Military Working Dogs

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Military Working Dogs

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Military Working Dogs

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Preface

The last Army dog field manual (FM) was published in 1977. It reflected military working dog (MWD) doctrine developed during the Vietnam era. Although useful at that time, much of the information has since become obsolete. Today, MWD teams are employed in dynamic ways never before imagined.

Today's MWD team is a highly deployable capability that commanders have used around the world from Afghanistan to Africa and from the Balkans to Iraq. These specialized teams aid commanders in stability and support operations as well as in warfighting. Being modular and mobile makes these teams very agile. As situations dictate, MWD teams are quick to arrive and able to conduct various operations. Their versatility allows for effective transformation at all echelons among readiness for deployment and operations on the ground, through redeployment and back to readiness.

The highly aggressive dog tactics of the 1960s and 1970s are long gone. Today's MWD program effectively employs expertly trained and motivated handlers coupled with highly intelligent breeds of dogs. These teams are continuously rotating between their assigned duties and deployments worldwide to perform joint operations, multiechelon tasks, and interagency missions.

This FM addresses the current capabilities of the Military Police Working Dog Program as well as the potential for future applications. As technology and world situations change, the MWD team will continue the transformation process and give commanders the full-spectrum capabilities needed to be combat multipliers on the battlefield as well as persuasive force protection and antiterrorism assets.

Appendix A complies with current Army directives, which state that the metric system will be incorporated into all new publications.

This publication applies to the Active Army, the Army National Guard (ARNG)/the Army National Guard of the United States (ARNGUS), and the United States Army Reserve (USAR).

The proponent of this publication is United States Army Training and Doctrine Command (TRADOC). Send comments and recommendations on *Department of the Army (DA) Form 2028 (Recommended Changes to Publications and Blank Forms)* directly to Commandant, United States Army Military Police School, ATTN: ATSJ-DD, 401 MANSCEN Loop, Suite 2060, Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri 65473-8926.

Unless otherwise stated, masculine pronouns do not refer exclusively to men.

Note: For the purposes of this manual, a dog team refers to one handler and one MWD unless specified otherwise.

Chapter 1 The Military Working Dog Program

Dogs have been used for the protection of life and property since ancient times. From these beginnings, dog training and employment has been continuously refined to produce a highly sophisticated and versatile extension of the soldier's own senses. Even the most complex machines remain unable to duplicate the operational effectiveness of a properly trained MWD team.

THE ROLE OF THE MILITARY WORKING DOG

1-1. MWDs provide a valuable asset to military police, infantry, special forces, the Department of Defense (DOD), and other government agencies. The MWD's senses of sight, smell, and hearing enhance his detection capabilities and provide commanders with a physical and psychological deterrent to criminal activity. Properly trained MWDs can prevent an intruder or suspect from escaping. When necessary, the MWD provides an added dimension of physical force as an alternative to the use of deadly force. Public knowledge of MWD team capabilities provides military police and various security forces with a formidable deterrent wherever the MWD team is employed.

1-2. MWDs are key resources for use in the military police combat support role. MWDs are trained for scouting, patrolling, and performing building and area searches. Commanders can use *Table 1-1* to determine what MWD type best suits their needs. Some MWDs have also been trained to track although this is not a required area of expertise. All of these skills contribute to the successful completion of the five military police functions across the full spectrum of military operations.

	Mission	MWD Type			
		PEDD	PNDD	PD	
Α.	Area Security Operations				
	(1) Area and reconnaissance	Х	Х	Х	
	(2) Screening and surveillance	Х	Х	Х	
	(3) Base/air-base defense	Х	Х	Х	
	(4) Cordon and search	Х			
	(5) Checkpoints	Х	Х	Х	
	(6) Roadblocks	Х	Х	Х	
	(7) Response force	Х	Х	Х	
	(8) Critical site, asset, HRP security	X ¹	Х	Х	
В.	B. Maneuver and Mobility Support Operations				
	(1) Maneuver support	Х	Х	Х	
	(2) Mobility support	Х	Х	Х	
C.	C. I/R Operations				
	(1) EPW and CI	X ²	X ²	X ²	
	(2) Evacuation	Х	Х	Х	
D.	D. Law and Order Operations				
	(1) Force protection	Х	Х	Х	
	(2) Military police investigations		Х		

Mission		MWD Type		
	PEDD	PNDD	PD	
(3) Customs support	Х	Х		
(4) Redeployment operations	Х	Х		
(5) Suspicious/unattended packages	X ³			
(6) Health and welfare inspections	Х	Х		
(7) Crowd control	X ⁴	X ⁴	X ⁴	
(8) Alarm responses	Х	Х	Х	
(9) Bomb threats	Х			
(10) Public MWD demonstrations	Х	Х	Х	
PIO	Х	Х	Х	

Table 1-1	. MWD	Mission-to-Type	Matrix	(Continued)
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the ASP will detract from the MWD's detection ability and may distract the MWD from his patrol function.

2 MWDs will not be used in a correction/detention facility to ensure custody of prisoners.

3 PEDDs can be used to search the area around a suspicious/unattended package for secondary devices. At no time will a PEDD or handler be used to search the package itself.

Direct confrontation with demonstrators is not recommended, but is authorized with the commander's approval when lesser means of force have been unsuccessful.

1-3. MWDs are a unique item; they are the only living item in the Army supply system. Like other highly specialized equipment, MWDs complement and enhance the capabilities of the military police. MWD teams enable the military police to perform its mission more effectively and with significant savings of manpower, time, and money.

HISTORICAL OVERVIEW OF THE MILITARY WORKING DOG

1-4. Dogs have served in active service at the sides of their handlers for decades. They have been heroes, showing bravery under fire, saving lives (often losing their own), and bringing comfort to the injured and infirmed. The first recorded American use of military dogs was during the Seminole War of 1835 and again in 1842. In Florida and Louisiana, the Army used Cuban bred bloodhounds for tracking. During the US Civil War, dogs were used as messengers, guards, and unit mascots.

1-5. The Army Quartermaster Corps began the US Armed Forces' first war dog training during World War II. By 1945, they had trained almost 10,000 war dogs for the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard. Fifteen war dog platoons served overseas in World War II. Seven platoons saw service in Europe and eight in the Pacific.

1-6. MWDs were trained at Fort Carson, Colorado, organized into scout dog platoons, and used in the Korean conflict for sentry duty and support of combat patrols. In 1957, MWD training moved to Lackland Air Force base (LAFB), Texas, with the Air Force managing the program.

1-7. Throughout the Vietnam Conflict, the Military Police Corps used dogs with considerable success. Most of these were sentry dogs used to safeguard critical installations such as ports and airfields. A new dimension in canine utilization was realized when marijuana detector dog teams were trained and deployed to assist military police in suppressing illicit drug traffic. Sentry and marijuana detector dog teams were then deployed worldwide in support of military police. An important outgrowth of the conflict was the development of canine research and development efforts. These ongoing efforts were able to initiate the first steps toward developing a more intelligent and stronger military dog, training dogs to detect specific drugs and explosives, developing multiple-purpose dogs, and employing tactical dogs by electronic remote control

1-8. In the 1990s and early 2000s, MWDs were deployed around the globe in military operations such as Just Cause, Desert Shield and Desert Storm, Uphold Democracy, and Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom. These teams were effectively utilized to enhance the security of critical facilities and areas, as well as bolster force protection and antiterrorism missions, allowing commanders to use military police