

Handling Instructions for CALL Electronic Media and Paper Products

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Foreword

“A dog is not a dog is not a dog.” You will see this phrase again in the following chapters. All military working dogs (MWD) are not the same. They share common traits with all dogs, but by breed and training, some dogs have unique skills. This handbook will enable the commander to match the unit’s tactical needs with the skill set of a particular type of MWD. That matchup will effectively employ the scarce MWD resource and provide the commander his best chance for tactical mission success. The Center for Army Lessons Learned prepared this handbook in coordination and cooperation with representatives of the U.S. Army Military Police School and the U.S. Army Engineer School, as well as input from Army MWD handlers currently in Iraq or Afghanistan or with in-theater experience. This handbook reflects the following issues MWD handlers and tactical commanders face in theater:

- Selecting the correct MWD for the tactical mission.
- Maximizing the impact of using MWDs through effective tactics, techniques, and procedures.
- Providing the necessary logistical support to the MWD team.

Military working dog handlers are subject matter experts in employing MWDs. This handbook will assist the tactical commander to understand what MWD is best for his unit’s mission, and how he can effectively employ the MWD team.

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Commanding

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Introduction

The capability they [military working dogs] bring to the fight cannot be replicated by man or machine. By all measures of performance, their yield outperforms any asset we have in our inventory. Our Army would be remiss if we failed to invest more in this incredibly valuable resource.

—General David H. Petraeus, February 9, 2008

Dogs have a long history in war, dating back to ancient times. The first-recorded American use of military dogs was during the Seminole War of 1835 when the Army used Cuban-bred bloodhounds for tracking. In more modern times, military working dog (MWD) numbers and uses have greatly expanded. The Army established a “War Dog” program in the Quartermaster Corps in 1942. By the end of the war, more than 10,000 dogs were employed in both the European and Pacific theaters of operations. While most dogs were employed for sentry duty at fixed installations for force protection, they also performed scout duties in combat.

In 1951 during the Korean Conflict, responsibility for military dogs was transferred to the Military Police Corps. Dogs were employed in Korea for sentry duty and in support of combat patrols. More than 4,000 dogs were employed in the Vietnam War, performing a wide variety of tasks such as combat patrol, critical site security, narcotics and explosives detection, and riot control. Dogs were also used extensively as a critical element of combat tracker teams. This team’s primary mission was to conduct reconnaissance in order to fix the enemy’s position or to reestablish contact. The U.S. Army Infantry School played a prominent role in developing MWDs for combat operations. This role included operating scout dog training programs at Fort Benning, GA, and in Vietnam and establishing infantry-manned, scout dog platoons employed in support of combat operations.

The MWD program endured four decades of peace and brief contingency operations from the end of the Vietnam era to the current Global War on Terrorism. The program remained firmly embedded in the Military Police Corps combat support, law and order, and force protection missions. In late 2001, the onset of military operations in Afghanistan provided the impetus to expand MWD capabilities in support of commanders in the field. In 2002, as a direct result of an immediate operational need in Afghanistan, Army leadership directed the establishment of an Army mine detection dog unit and embedded it in the Corps of Engineers. In 2004, as a result of cooperation between the U.S. Army Engineer School and the U.S. Army Military Police School, the Army added a non-aggressive, specialized search dog (explosives detection dog) to the MWD inventory. Combat tracker dogs are returning to Army use as well, along with a very limited number of human remains detector or cadaver search dogs.

Two constants emerge in the 60-plus-year history of Army MWD use: working dogs are used in a variety of units for a wide range of missions, and the size of the MWD program has expanded and contracted over time based on the needs of the Army. In the current and projected future operating environment, the MWD program will undoubtedly expand once again.

With such a broad array of MWDs available to the tactical commander, many in the MWD community felt commanders needed a users’ guide. This handbook describes the types of MWDs that are currently available for tactical use; offers some tactics,

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techniques, and procedures for their use in common tactical missions; lays out many issues for the tactical commander to consider in the use of MWD teams; and suggests logistic support required for MWD use. Appendices describe cultural considerations for the use of MWDs, explain how to obtain MWD team support in both Iraq and Afghanistan, and relate how one Army division established its own MWD capability in Iraq. In addition, there are a few cautionary remarks about the use of contract working dogs.

Insights gained from reading this handbook will assist tactical commanders in selecting the appropriate MWD for a mission, thus maximizing both the possibility of mission success and the effective use of an important enabler.

Chapter 1

Introduction to Military Working Dog Teams

A military working dog (MWD) team consists of one dog and one handler trained and certified as an entity. An Army MWD handler will normally be a military police, engineer, or special forces Soldier, qualified in his or her primary military occupational specialty. Marine, Navy, and Air Force MWD handlers are all military police by specialty.

Mine detection dogs (MDDs) are trained at the U.S. Army Engineer School, Fort Leonard Wood, MO; U.S. Marine Corps combat tracker dogs (CTDs) are trained at Yuma Proving Grounds, Yuma, AZ; and all other MWDs are trained at the Department of Defense Dog School, 341st Training Squadron, Lackland Air Force Base, TX. Army graduates of the 11-week MWD handler course receive the additional skill identifier Z6 and are assigned a dog at their home stations. Graduates of the 18-week MWD handler course receive the project development skill identifier E8B and are assigned a specialized search dog (SSD). After initial certification, recertification is an annual requirement for all MWD teams and also required under the following conditions:

- MWD is assigned to another handler.
- Handler and MWD were separated or have not conducted sustainment training for 35 or more consecutive days.
- Team failed to achieve specific detection rates based on type of MWD for two or more consecutive months.

Key Personnel in Military Working Dog Units

A commander should be familiar with the personnel in the MWD community and their basic duties.

Program manager

The program manager (PM) is normally a sergeant first class or master sergeant. The PM executes Army command (ACOM)-level responsibilities for the MWD program. His responsibilities resemble those of an operations noncommissioned officer (NCO). The PM is an appointed, certification authority whose duties include the following:

- Conducts MWD team patrol and detection certifications.
- Requisitions personnel and MWDs.
- Provides policy and guidelines for the ACOM regarding MWD utilization.

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- Coordinates MWD support for other U.S. government agencies such as the Secret Service, Customs Service, and Department of State.
- Serves as the advisor for the ACOM commander regarding the employment of MWDs in contingency operations, force protection, antiterrorism support, and homeland defense.

Kennel master

The kennel master (KM) is normally a sergeant first class. His duties are similar to those of a platoon sergeant. The KM performs the following duties:

- Monitors all training to ensure MWD teams are ready for annual certifications and worldwide deployment.
- Advises the commander on the employment of MWD teams.
- Ensures teams maintain proficiency.
- Manages the daily maintenance and upkeep of kennel facilities.
- Monitors MWD health and welfare.
- Supervises storage and accountability of narcotic and explosive training aids, as well as all other assigned equipment.
- Prepares for all inspections.
- Executes traditional NCO-leadership responsibilities.

Plans noncommissioned officer

The plans NCO normally holds the rank of staff sergeant. The plans NCO performs the following functions:

- Develops training plans.
- Coordinates and plans unit mission essential task list.
- Supervises execution and tracking of deployment plan.
- Tracks movement of MWD teams while they are deployed.
- Validates and supervises proficiency training.
- Executes traditional NCO-leadership responsibilities.

Senior military working dog handler

The senior MWD handler is also normally a staff sergeant. He is the senior NCO of an MWD team and functions as a squad leader. In addition to traditional leadership responsibilities, he ensures:

- Unit conducts annual certification training.
- MWD teams are deployment-ready.
- MWD teams maintain proficiency.
- Handlers maintain proficiency with their assigned MWDs.

MWD handler

Normally a sergeant or junior Soldier, the MWD handler provides daily care and grooming for his assigned MWD. He ensures that his assigned MWD maintains required proficiency skills. The handler also:

- Fills out training records daily.
- Grooms assigned MWD daily.
- Trains assigned MWD daily.
- Maintains MWD kennel daily.
- Performs additional kennel duties.

When an MWD handler arrives at a supported unit with his dog, he should be considered a subject matter expert in the tactical employment of that dog.

Military Working Dog Capabilities

Regardless of specific type, MWDs share general capabilities and characteristics. Compared to humans, they have enhanced senses of smell and hearing. Their sense of sight is also superior to humans at detecting movement. When afforded adequate rest, MWDs can work seven days a week. The actual continuous working time of a particular dog depends on the individual animal's training, stamina, health, the working environment, and weather conditions.

Dogs can work day or night. In hot climates, MWD teams train and work best at night. The ambient air temperature is normally lower, affording the dog better ability to maintain normal body temperature. Dogs are more capable of detecting movement in limited visibility conditions. The dark appears to increase their interest in their environment.

In moderate climates, dogs can live in quarters and be transported in vehicles that are not air conditioned. Even so, current U.S. Central Command policies require that MWDs be transported in air-conditioned vehicles. Like humans, they need time to acclimate to a new environment. Because he is extremely familiar with his own

animal, the handler is the best judge of when the MWD has reached the limit of its effective performance.

Military Working Dog Limitations

MWDs have the following limitations:

- They are not a stand-alone system for conducting search operations.
- They may activate devices while searching.
- Extreme weather conditions may reduce their performance.
- They may be reluctant to negotiate terrain or areas that are physically harmful, such as unstable rubble piles and broken glass.
- Excessive distracting elements such as trash, stray animals, or excrement within or close to the search area may reduce their performance.
- They must be trained to find the type and quantity of odor.
- They require continuous training to maintain proficiency and reliability.
- They may not be socialized and may bite when placed in close proximity to other Soldiers or civilians.
- They are not trained to search people.
- They do not share cover and concealment well with people other than their handlers.
- They may bark at inconvenient times.
- They may become protective if handlers are seriously wounded or killed.
- When working off-leash, they can become involved in fighting with feral dogs and other animals (for example, donkeys and deer) and can be endangered by heavy-volume, high-speed vehicle traffic.
- Although some types of MWD are not trained to bite and hold, these dogs still have an inherent nature to bite—if they have teeth, they bite.

Military Working Dog Capabilities by Type

“A dog is not a dog is not a dog.” MWDs come in several shapes, sizes, and capabilities. Selecting the correct MWD for the mission is essential in order to maximize the utility of the MWD team. The supported tactical commander through consultation with the KM should select the MWD that best supports his mission. The following MWDs are generally available:

Patrol dogs

In addition to their specific-task capabilities, patrol dogs (PDs) provide a psychological deterrent, are a force multiplier, and are a show of additional force. This dog works primarily on-leash but can be worked off-leash, if needed. In either case, the PD always works close to his handler. All MWDs with “patrol” in their name are trained to bite and hold, with or without command. They are trained to detect people, not narcotics or explosives. However, contributing to the PD’s deterrent value is the belief that it is also a detector dog. This deterrent value is preserved so long as the PD’s lack of narcotics- or explosive-detection capability is not revealed. All PD teams can be used for the following tasks:

- Force protection
- Walking and mobile patrols
- Building and vehicle checks
- Searches to locate hidden persons
- Apprehension or chase of individuals in buildings, vehicles, and open areas
- Open-area searches
- Perimeter security
- Access control point support
- Civil disturbance control with nonlethal force
- Internment or resettlement operations

Patrol narcotic detector dogs

Patrol narcotic detector dogs (PNDDs) or patrol drug detection dogs (PDDDs) are trained to recognize the scent of certain illegal substances and drugs through a program of practice and reward. The dog gives a response to trained odors and works on-leash. In addition to PD missions, PNDD teams can be used for the following tasks:

- Health and welfare inspections
- Barracks and workplace searches
- Random gate inspections
- Area searches
- Vehicle searches
- Postal inspections

- Internment or resettlement operations
- Aircraft and luggage searches
- Predeployment and redeployment equipment and baggage searches

Patrol explosive detector dogs

Patrol explosive detector dogs (PEDDs) are useful in many searches or investigations involving explosives. This dog is used to detect explosives based on his response to the presence of trained odors. They work on- or off-leash. In addition to PD missions, PEDD teams can be used for the following tasks:

- Detect explosive substances in suspicious or unattended packages.
- Access control point searches.
- Checkpoint searches.
- Random gate searches.
- Building and area searches.
- Postal inspections.
- Aircraft and luggage searches.
- Predeployment and redeployment equipment and baggage searches.

Notes:

1. An issue to be addressed is whether units should use PEDDs for improvised explosive device (IED) sweeps. While on-leash, an MWD is useful in IED sweeps, but its use is accompanied by greater danger for both the dog and handler. Any device detonation may result in grievous or mortal injury to both dog and handler. With that caution in mind, PEDDs and explosives detection dogs (EDDs) can be used for IED sweeps.

2. An MWD can be either a NDD or an EDD, but can never be both.

Mine detection dogs

Mine detection dogs (MDDs) are trained to perform military mine-detection missions in a hostile environment. Their handlers are exclusively engineer Soldiers, and the MDDs work on short lead or long line. MDDs can perform the following missions:

- Find but not confirm land mines; unexploded explosive ordnance; and other buried, explosive hazards.
- Exhibit a passive response, such as sitting, to trained odors.

- When sufficient time is allowed, perform area clearance, minefield extractions, and route clearance.

MDDs are not recommended for entry control point or vehicle control point checks.

Specialized search dogs

Specialized search dogs (SSDs) are used in all types of area searches. They are trained to detect explosives, weapons, and ammunition. They work primarily off-leash. The handler, who may be a military police, engineer, or special forces Soldier, controls his SSD using a multitude of command methods. These signals may be electronic, visual, and audible only to the dog. Their general capabilities include the following:

- Have enhanced, off-leash explosive detection capabilities at significant distances away from handlers.
- Work from voice or radio commands.
- Demonstrate a passive response, such as sitting or lying down, to trained odors.
- Can be employed for cache searches.
- Are excellent for searching occupied, vacant, or derelict buildings for explosives and for searching the surrounding area.
- Are able to search woodlands or open areas when used for area clearance.
- Can search caves, unimproved roads, and roadside areas.
- Can execute searches of private and commercial vehicles, trains, aircraft, or ships.
- Can be used at entry control points, static vehicle control point checks, and snap checkpoints, although not recommended.

Combat tracker dogs

Combat tracker dogs (CTDs) are trained to track single or multiple quarries over varied terrain. These dogs work on foot and require a dedicated security team. Their general capabilities include the following:

- Locate enemy personnel from a known location, such as IED trigger point, sniper hide site, ambush site, or observation post.
- Locate missing, lost, or captured friendly personnel.

Because this dog tracks human scent, time is a factor. Because scent dissipates or becomes contaminated over time, the CTD should be brought to the scene as soon as possible and should only be requested when the mission requires it, not in anticipation of a potential mission.

Summary

A broad range of MWDs are trained and available to perform a variety of missions. Selecting the most appropriate MWD is crucial to effectively using this scarce resource and achieving mission success. The KM should know all his dog teams and their capabilities, and he will assist the supported commander in identifying the right MWD team for the mission. See the following table for additional guidance.

Table 1	Service Branch	Mission	Capabilities
	Specialized Search Dog (SSD)	Army, Navy, Air Force, and Marines Detect firearms, ammunition, and explosives	Under the direct control of the handler, can work off-leash or wearing a harness
	Patrol Explosive Detection Dog (PEDD)	Army, Navy, Air Force, and Marines Dual certified to perform patrols and detect explosives	Under the direct control of the handler, can work on- and off-leash or wearing a harness
	Explosive Detection Dog (EDD)	Army, Navy, Air Force, and Marines Explosives detection only	Under the direct control of the handler, can work on-leash or wearing a harness
	Narcotic Detection Dog (NDD/DDDD)	Army, Navy, Air Force, and Marines Narcotics detection only	Under the direct control of the handler, can work on-leash or wearing a harness
	Patrol Narcotic Detection Dog (PNDD/PDDDD)	Army, Navy, Air Force, and Marines Dual certified to perform patrols and to detect narcotics	Under the direct control of the handler, can work on-leash or wearing a harness
	Combat Tracker Dog (CTD)	Marines Track people, such as high-value targets or lost or missing U.S. military personnel	Under the direct control of the handler, can work on-leash or wearing a harness
	Mine Detection Dog (MDD)	Army (Corps of Engineers) Detect land mines, unexploded ordnance (UXO), and other casualty-producing devices	Under the direct control of the handler, can work on-leash or wearing a harness

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Table 1	SSD	PEDD	EDD	NDD/DDD	PNDD/PDDD	CTD	MDD
Capabilities	Can work 7 days a week, provided it is allowed a minimum of 6 hours of undisturbed rest in every 24-hour period	Can work 7 days a week, provided it is allowed a minimum of 6 hours of undisturbed rest in every 24-hour period	Can work 7 days a week, provided it is allowed a minimum of 6 hours of undisturbed rest in every 24-hour period	Can work 7 days a week, provided it is allowed a minimum of 6 hours of undisturbed rest in every 24-hour period	Can work 7 days a week, provided it is allowed a minimum of 6 hours of undisturbed rest in every 24-hour period	Can work 7 days a week, provided it is allowed a minimum of 6 hours of undisturbed rest in every 24-hour period	Can work 7 days a week, provided it is allowed a minimum of 6 hours of undisturbed rest in every 24-hour period
	Can be transported by any climate-controlled means with seats for both MWD and handler	Can be transported by any climate-controlled means with seats for both MWD and handler	Can be transported by any climate-controlled means with seats for both MWD and handler	Can be transported by any climate-controlled means with seats for both MWD and handler	Can be transported by any climate-controlled means with seats for both MWD and handler	Can be transported by any climate-controlled means with seats for both MWD and handler	Can be transported by any climate-controlled means with seats for both MWD and handler
	Can work day or night, although a sufficient form of artificial lighting must be provided if used during the hours of darkness	Can work day or night, although a sufficient form of artificial lighting must be provided if used during the hours of darkness	Can work day or night, although a sufficient form of artificial lighting must be provided if used during the hours of darkness	Can work day or night, although a sufficient form of artificial lighting must be provided if used during the hours of darkness	Can work day or night, although a sufficient form of artificial lighting must be provided if used during the hours of darkness	Can work day or night, although a sufficient form of artificial lighting must be provided if used during the hours of darkness	Can work day or night, although a sufficient form of artificial lighting must be provided if used during the hours of darkness
	Can carry out venue searches prior to the arrival of a very important person (VIP)	Can carry out venue searches prior to the arrival of a VIP	Can carry out venue searches prior to the arrival of a VIP	Can carry out venue searches prior to the arrival of a VIP	Can carry out venue searches prior to the arrival of a VIP	N/A	Can carry out searches to reduce areas that need to be manually cleared of land mines

Table 1	SSD	PEDD	EDD	NDD/DDD	PNDD/PDDD	CTD	MDD
Capabilities	Bold, but not aggressive	Trained to attack and be aggressive	Bold, but not aggressive	Bold, but not aggressive	Trained to attack and be aggressive	Bold, but not aggressive	Bold, but not aggressive
	Steady under gunfire	Steady under gunfire	Steady under gunfire	Steady under gunfire	Steady under gunfire	Steady under gunfire	Steady under gunfire
	Agile enough to negotiate any reasonable obstacle	Agile enough to negotiate any reasonable obstacle	Agile enough to negotiate any reasonable obstacle	Agile enough to negotiate any reasonable obstacle	Agile enough to negotiate any reasonable obstacle	Agile enough to negotiate any reasonable obstacle	Agile enough to negotiate any reasonable obstacle
	Can carry out searches as a useful means of deterrence	Can carry out searches as a useful means of deterrence	Can carry out searches as a useful means of deterrence	Can carry out searches as a useful means of deterrence	Can carry out searches as a useful means of deterrence	Can track over most surfaces depending on the weather and age of tracks	Can carry out searches as a means for rapid casualty extraction
Detects	Domestic and foreign explosive materials and ammunition	Domestic and foreign explosive materials and ammunition	Domestic and foreign explosive materials and ammunition	Narcotic and non-narcotic contraband substances	Narcotic and non-narcotic contraband substances	People	Theater-specific land mines and explosive substances
	Buildings (occupied, vacant, and derelict), open vehicles, open areas, routes, and personal and household possessions	Buildings (occupied, vacant, and derelict), open vehicles, open areas, routes, and personal and household possessions	Buildings (occupied, vacant, and derelict), open vehicles, open areas, routes, and personal and household possessions	Buildings (occupied, vacant, and derelict), open vehicles, open areas, routes, and personal and household possessions	Buildings (occupied, vacant, and derelict), open vehicles, open areas, routes, and personal and household possessions	All environments	Area clearance, route clearance, and mine field extraction

Table 1	SSD	PEDD	EDD	NDD/DDDD	PNDD/PDDDD	CTD	MDD
Limitations	May be limited in ability to detect hidden objects and substances above heights encountered during training	May be limited in ability to detect odors at heights or depths not encountered during training	May be limited in ability to detect odors at heights or depths not encountered during training	May be limited in ability to detect odors at heights or depths not encountered during training	May be limited in ability to detect odors at heights or depths not encountered during training	Weather and age of scent affect the dog's tracking ability	May be limited in ability to detect odors at heights or depths not encountered during training
	May accidentally set off booby traps	May accidentally set off booby traps	May accidentally set off booby traps	May accidentally set off booby traps	May accidentally set off booby traps	May accidentally set off booby traps	May accidentally set off booby traps or trip wires
	Extreme weather conditions may lower performance	Extreme weather conditions may lower performance	Extreme weather conditions may lower performance	Extreme weather conditions may lower performance	Extreme weather conditions may lower performance	Extreme weather conditions may lower performance	Extreme weather conditions may lower performance
	If excessive, distracting elements are within or close to the search area, performance may decrease	If excessive, distracting elements are within or close to the search area, performance may decrease	If excessive, distracting elements are within or close to search area, performance may decrease	If excessive, distracting elements are within or close to search area, performance may decrease	If excessive, distracting elements are within or close to search area, performance may decrease	If excessive, distracting elements are within or close to search area, performance may decrease	If excessive, distracting elements are within or close to search area, performance may decrease
	Reluctance to negotiate potentially physically-harmful areas	Reluctance to negotiate potentially physically-harmful areas	Reluctance to negotiate potentially physically-harmful areas	Reluctance to negotiate potentially physically-harmful areas	Reluctance to negotiate potentially physically-harmful areas	Reluctance to negotiate potentially physically-harmful areas	Reluctance to negotiate potentially physically-harmful areas

Table 1	SSD	PEDD	EDD	NDD/DDD	PNDD/PDDD	CTD	MDD
Planning Factors	Administrative, logistic, and operational support	Administrative, logistic, and operational support	Administrative, logistic, and operational support	Administrative, logistic, and operational support	Administrative, logistic, and operational support	Administrative, logistic, and operational support	Administrative, logistic, and operational support
	Veterinary support throughout deployment	Veterinary support throughout deployment	Veterinary support throughout deployment	Veterinary support throughout deployment	Veterinary support throughout deployment	Veterinary support throughout deployment	Veterinary support throughout deployment
	Access to theater-specific firearms, and explosives required to maintain proficiency	Access to theater-specific firearms, ammunition, and explosives required to maintain proficiency	Access to theater-specific firearms, ammunition, and explosives required to maintain proficiency	Narcotic training aids required to maintain proficiency	Narcotic training aids required to maintain proficiency	Areas large enough to train the team for the environment and conditions to be encountered during tracking	Theater-specific explosive threats and a large, secure area to simulate legacy mine fields
	Team requires two seats for transportation in a climate-controlled vehicle	Team requires two seats for transportation in a climate-controlled vehicle	Team requires two seats for transportation in a climate-controlled vehicle	Team requires two seats for transportation in a climate-controlled vehicle	Team requires two seats for transportation in a climate-controlled vehicle	Team requires two seats for transportation in a climate-controlled vehicle	Team requires two seats for transportation in a climate-controlled vehicle
	Supporting unit must supply water for the dog	Supporting unit must supply water for the dog	Supporting unit must supply water for the dog	Supporting unit must supply water for the dog	Supporting unit must supply water for the dog	Supporting unit must supply water for the dog	Supporting unit must supply water for the dog

Table 1	SSD	PEDD	EDD	NDD/DDD	PNDD/PDDDD	CTD	MDD
Planning Factors	Designated element must search for obvious improvised explosive devices (IEDs) prior to team conducting a search in a vacant or derelict building	Designated element must search for obvious IEDs prior to team conducting a search in a vacant or derelict building	Designated element must search for obvious IEDs prior to team conducting a search in a vacant or derelict building	Provost marshal's office (PMO) or other law enforcement personnel should be available to process any evidence found	PMO or other law enforcement personnel should be available to process any evidence found	During tracking, the CTD team needs a dismounted patrol to act as its security element	Environmental factors have a severe impact on mine-clearing capabilities
	Team works within the range or cover of electronic countermeasures (ECM)	Team works within the range or cover of ECM	Team works within the range or cover of ECM	If utilized as a combat asset, team works within the range or cover of ECM	If utilized as a combat asset, team works within the range or cover of ECM	Team works within the range or cover of ECM	Team works within appropriate security and transport control protocols

Table 1	SSD	PEDD	EDD	NDD/DDDD	PNDD/PDDDD	CTD	MDD
Planning Factors	Team never checks a suspected device or item, but at a safe distance, may search up to and around the device or item	Team never checks a suspected device or item, but may search for secondary devices up to and around the device or item	Team never checks a suspected device or item, but may search for secondary devices up to and around the device or item	Team is never used as field-test kit or to verify a substance in lieu of laboratory test	Team is never used as field-test kit or to verify a substance in lieu of laboratory test	Team cannot locate explosives or narcotics but can be used to link an object to a person	Team is never used to investigate a suspected UXO
	Team is never used to check a suspect vehicle, unless the vehicle's owner is present						

Table 1-1. Types of MWDs

Chapter 2

Patrol, Narcotics Detector, and Explosive Detector Dogs

This chapter describes a broad array of tactics, techniques, and procedures (TTP) for the employment of patrol, narcotics detector, and explosive detector dogs in common tactical situations.

Checkpoint Operations

Checkpoint operations allow the unit to control its area of responsibility by denying the enemy freedom of movement, establishing safe areas, developing situational awareness, and contributing to the security of military units and the civilian population. The two categories of checkpoint operations are vehicle checkpoints (VCPs) and personnel checkpoints. The three types of checkpoints are deliberate, hasty, and snap.

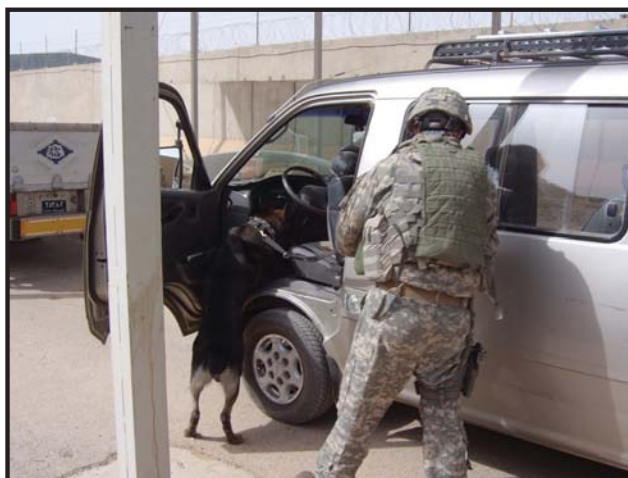


Figure 2-1. An MWD searches a vehicle at an entry control point.

Deliberate vehicle checkpoint

This type of mission is common for a patrol dog (PD), patrol explosive detector dog (PEDD), or explosive detector dog (EDD) managed on-leash. Because the PD and PEDD are trained to bite and hold, they must be managed to minimize cultural issues. Because of their enhanced sense of smell, MWDs have a high probability of success. MWDs are able to detect substances without moving cargo or interior materials; however, removing cargo can increase the MWDs' opportunity to detect suspect materials. Use the following TTP for employing MWD teams at a deliberate VCP:

- Provide security for the MWD team. Brief the security team to maintain its outward focus and avoid focusing on the MWD's actions.
- Because the MWD's nose is one of his key sensors, position the MWD on the downwind side of the search area whenever possible.

- To the degree possible, eliminate excessive distracters from the search area to isolate the target for the MWD.
- Prior to relocating vehicle occupants to a safe location, ensure the vehicle's engine is shut off and the transmission is in park or in gear for a manual transmission; the doors, internal compartments, and trunk are open; the windows are down; and the vehicle's hood is open.
- The handler will ensure the MWD conducts a systematic search. The MWD will try to go directly to the location if it detects an odor.
- When the handler determines that the MWD demonstrates a positive response, he will notify the person in charge and follow standing operating procedures (SOPs).
- If the handler confirms a positive response, the MWD team's work is complete, and the on-scene commander must take appropriate actions in accordance with the unit SOP.

A dual-certified PEDD or patrol narcotics detector dog (PNDD) can provide the following additional capabilities while employed at a deliberate VCP:

- Crowd control
- Guard detainees or suspects
- Subdue fleeing subjects

Caution

All patrol dogs (PD, PEDD, and PNDD) are trained to be aggressive. They are trained to bite and hold. Keep this in mind when assigning PDs a mission that will bring them into direct contact with civilians.

Hasty vehicle checkpoint

The TPP for this employment are very similar to those for the deliberate VCP. However, transportation for the MWD team must be planned if the team is not already traveling with the patrol.

The MWD team conducts an initial sweep of the hasty VCP area prior to establishing the checkpoint. Because of the impromptu nature of both hasty and snap VCPs, a specialized search dog (SSD) is a good candidate for this generally open-area search. See Chapter 3.

Snap vehicle checkpoint

The MWD team can be employed for this mission only if they are with a patrol when an order is issued to execute a snap VCP. The TTP are the same as for the hasty VCP.

Improvised Explosive Device Search Operations

Generally speaking, the best dog for conducting an improvised explosive device (IED) sweep is the off-leash, SSD. The use of SSDs is discussed in Chapter 3. On-leash, an EDD is also useful in IED sweeps, but its use is accompanied by greater danger for both the dog and handler. PEDDs and EDDs can also be used for IED sweeps. Use the following TTP:

- Small unit leader halts the convoy or patrol, and the unit dismounts.
- All dismounting personnel conduct 5- and 25-meter checks.
- The MWD team moves to the front of the convoy or patrol.
- Small unit leader orients the MWD handler with the area to be searched.
- Covered by local security, the MWD handler begins the sweep with his dog.
- Secondary to his assigned task, the MWD can also be used to conduct immediate sweeps around vehicles. Be careful not to overwork the MWD with this secondary task.
- Handler controls the MWD using a 30-foot leash:
 - Although this method provides limited standoff, the MWD handler and security element are highly vulnerable to the explosive effects of any IEDs that may be detonated in their presence.
 - When the handler determines that the MWD has demonstrated a positive response to a trained odor, he will notify the person in charge and follow SOPs.

Upon confirmation of the MWD's positive response, the MWD team's work is complete. The small unit leader is then responsible for taking appropriate actions according to the unit's SOP.



Figure 2-2. An MWD searching for an improvised explosive device.

Cordon and Knock Search

The cordon and knock mission involves isolating a predetermined populated area by cordoning it off and systematically searching it for enemy personnel, weapons, communications equipment, military supplies, and explosives. A key objective for Soldiers when conducting such a search is to carry it out with limited inconvenience to the population. The goal is to inconvenience the populace to the degree that it will discourage them from supporting insurgents but below the threshold that would cause them to willingly assist the enemy.



Figure 2-3. During a cordon and search operation, an off-leash MWD performs an urban-area search.

Organization of a cordon and knock search

The unit that conducts a cordon and knock search will be split into the following three groups:

- Outer cordon—encircles the area to prevent entrance or exit, namely escape or reinforcement.
- Search element—the teams that actually move from building to building and conduct the searches. If present, an MWD team will normally operate with this or the outer cordon element.
- Reserve or reaction force—Soldiers prepared to move to assist either the outer cordon or search element.

Cordon and knock search TTP for on-leash PEDD and EDD

The PEDD/EDD is dual-certified to find humans and explosives and is considered an excellent MWD for these missions. The on-leash MWD performs a more systematic search, as the handler directs the search pattern and controls the MWD

in the confines of a building. If the mission is to search for explosives or materials only, the SSD team is better suited. Always bear in mind that cultural issues are associated with the use of MWDs in residential buildings, particularly so with PDs trained to be aggressive.



Figure 2-4. A handler prepares to conduct a search with his MWD during a cordon and search operation.

In the cordon area, a PEDD/EDD may be used to:

- Execute a sweep of the inner cordon for personnel and explosives caches.
- Assist with crowd control.
- Apprehend any individuals attempting to escape from the search site.

At the search site, a PEDD/EDD may be used to guard detainees or building occupants while search teams enter and search the site.

At the target site search and after the initial search, an on-leash MWD (PEDD/EDD) team enters the structure with a security team to begin searching:

- If hostile contact is expected, a detector team should enter the building first, using the clear-as-you-go approach.
- If building occupants are to be removed before the search elements enter, then MWD teams should enter after this process is complete.

At the target site search a PEDD/EDD can be used to help clear the building of personnel who may be hiding: PDs search for people on- or off-leash. The decision to go in on-leash or off-leash is normally based on building size, the suspected number of personnel in the structure, and the handler's assessment of his individual dog's capability. The commander and handler should make a joint decision and announce the selected method to all personnel as a matter of safety to both the MWD and personnel.

Target site search techniques:

- Limit distractions by not having the search area inundated with search team members.
- Search team conducts a detailed search of areas previously cleared by the on-leash MWD.
- Handler uses the leash at its maximum length to allow the MWD free movement and standoff for handler and security personnel.
- MWD should only search for one thing at a time, for example, either people or weapons or explosives.
- Normally the MWD team will search for humans first; they are the greatest threat.
- On completion of the human search, the MWD can be commanded to search for the other odor—explosives.
- When the MWD handler determines that the MWD demonstrates a positive response, he will notify the person in charge and follow SOPs.



Figure 2-5. A handler prepares his MWD to begin a search during a cordon and search operation.

Building Search in Conjunction with a Raid

There are times when units must enter a building quickly, clear it, and set up security for follow-on forces or establish an overwatch position. If an MWD is available, it can assist in clearing or sweeping the building.



Figure 2-6. A PEDD team on patrol en route to a raid location.

The best MWD for this mission is the PEDD because it is trained to find both explosives and people. Use the following TTP:

- Place MWD at the front of the formation to search the route up to and at the entry point to detect explosives.
- If nothing is detected, the breaching team enters the building according to the unit's SOP.
- Commence on-leash search for people first and then for explosives.
- For a single- or multiple-story building:
 - Ensure all friendly personnel are to the rear of the handler.
 - Handler determines if the MWD will be employed on- or off-leash, based upon the team's training and proficiency.
 - MWD alone or the MWD team moves down the hallway or into rooms to sweep for people. Because of cultural concerns, this sweep is dependent on the mission and rules of engagement.
 - When the off-leash dog returns to the handler, unit continues to clear the building and set up security positions.



Figure 2-7. During a raid, an MWD searches an urban structure.

- For a multiple-story building:
 - Ensure all friendly personnel are to the rear of or a floor below the handler.
 - MWD can be commanded to proceed to the highest point possible.
 - The dog can either provide a distraction to a barricaded enemy combatant so that he can be dealt with, or the dog can move to the top of the stairs and be commanded to sweep or clear the hallways once the security team reaches the top.
- When an MWD has returned to on-leash, and the handler has completed his portion of the sweep, the MWD team either remains with the security team or rejoins the supporting forces to rest the MWD.



Figure 2-8. An MWD searches an earthen floor.

Summary

PDs and dual-trained PEDDs are excellent MWDs for several tactical missions. Bear in mind that they are military police-trained MWD teams, so access to them may be constrained in your area of operations for a variety of reasons. There are other, engineer-trained, explosive detector dogs that can also perform these missions to the same high standard, and they are discussed in the next chapter. In all cases, if you are not sure which is the best dog for your specific mission, consult with the kennel master. Selecting the correct MWD for the mission is essential in order to maximize the utility of the MWD team. In addition, when the MWD team arrives at your unit, consult with the handler for additional TTP that he uses with his dog.



Figure 2-9. An MWD conducts an on-leash, open area search.

Chapter 3

Specialized Search, Mine Detection, and Combat Tracker Dogs

Three of the lesser-known dogs in the military working dog (MWD) inventory are the specialized search dog (SSD), the mine detection dog (MDD), and the combat tracker dog (CTD). This chapter highlights these dogs' capabilities and limitations and some considerations for the tactical unit commander regarding their employment.



Figure 3-1. An on-leash MWD receives instructions from its handler.

Specialized Search Dogs

The SSD is frequently a family-friendly or sporting breed of dog such as the German shorthaired pointer, Labrador retriever, golden retriever, or German shepherd. The SSD is not trained to be aggressive and is, therefore, unsuited to patrol dog missions. SSDs specialize in searching for firearms, ammunition, and explosives and are reliable and proven assets that have many advantages when employed correctly. The SSD is a single-purpose dog and should not be confused with the patrol explosive detection dog (PEDD) or MDD.

The SSD is one of the most effective and efficient detectors of buried and surface-laid explosives. Because it works off-leash, it enables a standoff distance between its handler and other personnel. SSDs increase the speed of a search and decrease the number of personnel required for the search.

Specific areas that SSD teams are capable of searching include:

- Occupied, vacant, or derelict buildings and surrounding outside areas.
- Rural and urban open areas.
- Rural or urban routes.
- Private and commercial vehicles, trains, aircraft, or ships.
- Woodlands and hedgerows.

Specialized search dog capabilities

An SSD is always under the direct control of its handler and is capable of:

- Working seven days a week with adequate, daily rest. The actual continuous working time and number of assigned tasks will depend on the dog's ability and character, the working environment, and the prevailing weather conditions (for outdoor searches).
- Working off-leash out ahead of its handler and wearing a harness.
- Searching for and indicating to his handler the presence of firearms, ammunition, or explosives.

An SSD team can carry out a venue search for explosive devices or materials in locations such as buildings at or near vehicle checkpoints and helicopter landing sites. The SSD team will travel to an incident scene by any form of ground or air transportation.

Specialized search dog limitations

SSDs share the same general MWD limitations noted in Chapter 1. Bearing these capabilities and limitations in mind, commanders should consider using the SSD for several missions.

Improvised Explosive Device Sweeps

Ground-vehicle convoys or patrols are the primary means of movement between forward operating bases and combat outposts or joint security sites. The primary threat to friendly forces en route to these facilities is improvised explosive devices (IEDs). An MWD team can be a valuable asset to conduct sweeps along the routes used by friendly forces. There are two types of IED sweeps—area and point. In order to support this activity, suspected areas of interest are identified through intelligence preparation of the battlefield, historical data, friendly force and civilian informant reports, and visual recognition.



Figure 3-2. An MWD with IED components it located.

Improvised explosive device area sweep

The most useful MWD for the IED area sweep is an off-leash SSD. An SSD team in an area IED sweep can use the following tactics, techniques, and procedures (TTP):

- Small unit leader halts the convoy or patrol and unit dismounts.
- All personnel conduct 5- and 25-meter checks.
- SSD team moves to the front of the convoy or patrol.
- Small unit leader orients the handler on the area to be searched.
- Covered by local security and within the range or coverage of electronic countermeasures equipment, the handler begins the sweep. He sends the dog forward along the route to be cleared.
- The SSD team uses the bump and clear technique to clear a box:
 - The SSD sweeps one side of the route, out to a distance that is within the handler's span of control.
 - The SSD crosses the road and continues the search on the opposite side of the route as it returns to the handler.
 - The handler controls the SSD using radio, visual, or audible means.
 - After clearing this box, the MWD team bumps up to the last swept position and repeats the sweep technique in the same manner.
 - When the handler determines the SSD is demonstrating a positive response to a trained odor, he will recall the SSD, notify the person in charge, and then follow standing operating procedures (SOPs).
- If traffic is heavy, the SSD team may also use the verge technique:
 - The handler sends the SSD down the left-hand side of the road—the verge—and then recalls the SSD back up the same side.
 - The SSD team crosses over and executes the same technique on the right-hand side of the road.
 - When both sides of the road are cleared, the SSD team advances into the area that was cleared, stopping short within the safety margin.
 - When coordination is made with security elements, the SSD team continues clearing forward in the same manner.

When the SSD demonstrates a positive response, and the handler confirms the response, the SSD team has completed its work. The small unit leader is then responsible for taking appropriate actions according to his unit's SOP.

An SSD team should never be directed to search suspected devices, including suspected vehicle-borne IEDs. However, the SSD can be used to search areas surrounding or near suspect devices, including safe lanes up to and around devices.

Improvised explosive device point sweeps

A point sweep focuses on a specific area of interest, for example, a bridge, abandoned vehicle, intersection, or previous IED location. The execution of the point sweep by an SSD team is similar to an area sweep but differs in the following ways:

- The SSD team should be positioned in the convoy to allow rapid movement to the unit leader's location.
- The handler controls the SSD to the designated target.
- The SSD conducts a sweep at the target site.
- In the event a decoy IED was emplaced to halt the convoy in a particular spot, the handler may also employ the SSD to conduct security sweeps in the immediate vicinity of halted vehicles.



Figure 3-3 Another MWD with the IED components it located.

Employing SSD Teams in Cordon and Knock Searches

The SSD is well-suited for this type of search. He can be employed off-leash in the cordon area and either off- or on-leash in building searches. While cultural concerns may be associated with MWD use in searching residential dwellings, the SSD is generally not as aggressive as a patrol-trained dog; thus, an SSD can be used

in this mission with less risk to inhabitants. In the cordon area, an SSD may be used to:

- Conduct off-leash sweeps for weapons and explosives caches.
- Assist with crowd control; however, this dog is not trained to be aggressive or to attack. His presence is only a deterrent so long as the local population fears MWDs.

At the target site, the SSD should search the area up to entry points and halt locations. After a search team completes the initial search of the building, the SSD is permitted to enter the building and work on- or off-leash. The handler uses the leash at its maximum length to allow the SSD to move freely and for standoff for the handler and security personnel.



Figure 3-4. An MWD with its discovery of military munitions.



Figure 3-5. Items from a cache discovered by an MWD prepared for demolition.

The SSD is trained to search for firearms, ammunition, and explosives, but may react to hidden personnel. The SSD's reaction will not be the same as for explosives, unless the hidden personnel have explosives or residual odor on them. When the handler observes an SSD's positive response, he will notify the person in charge and follow SOP.

Once an area is cleared by the SSD, the search team can begin a detailed search of it.

Small unit leader considerations:

- Realize that excessive search team personnel in the area will distract the MWD.
- Discuss with the handler how well an off-leash MWD will work in an on-leash environment.
- Identify cultural issues that may arise if indigenous personnel are present during the search.

Building Searches

The off-leash SSD is not trained for this mission. If the dog finds a person, it may or may not give an alert. Several TTP should be discussed with the SSD handler before executing this task:

- When will the SSD be called forward to conduct a preliminary search of the routes leading up to and including the building entrance?
- Where is the SSD located in the entrance formation?
- Where will the SSD team be positioned after security is established or the building is cleared?
- What are the immediate-action drills for the SSD team if the entrance element is attacked inside the building?

Mine Detection Dogs

Mine detection dog types

The preferred breeds for MDDs are sporting dogs such as German shorthaired pointers, Labrador retrievers, golden retrievers, German shepherds, Belgian malinois, and border collies. Upon arrival in theater, all MDDs are permitted a four-week period of acclimatization. During this time, the dogs become acquainted with the ambient odors present in the local soil and also train on the odors of specific explosives being used in the area of operations. The MDD team is required to successfully complete a theater-validation program prior to employment. A normal deployment for an MDD team is 12 months. The MDD and handler rotate out of theater together.

Mine detection dog teams tasks

MDD teams are mobile and can easily be transported to and from the task site. Under the direct control of the handler, the MDD can work on a short or long leash. MDD teams are capable of performing the following specific tasks:

- Area reduction and delineation of minefield boundaries
- Route clearance
- Clearance verification, including the rapid proofing of cleared areas following manual or mechanical mine clearance
- Detecting mines, unexploded explosive ordnance (UXO), and other casualty-producing devices in pockets of land unreachable by mechanical clearance devices
- Clearing railway roadbeds
- Creating safe lanes for clearance start points
- Minefield extraction

Mine detection dog capabilities

A typical MDD has the following physical capabilities:

- Can work 7 days a week, provided it is allowed a minimum of 6 hours of undisturbed rest in every 24-hour period. The actual, continuous working time and number of tasks that can be assigned to an MDD will depend on the ability and character of the individual dog, the working environment, and the prevailing weather conditions.
- Can work day or night. If used in areas with limited visibility, a sufficient form of artificial lighting must be provided to enable the handler to observe the MDD and the immediate surrounding area.
- Can search for and indicate to his handler the presence of mines, UXO, or other casualty-producing devices it has been trained to detect, both surface-laid and buried.

A typical MDD has the following physical limitations:

- Cannot be handed off to another handler without formal training and certification.
- May suffer a decrease in performance in extreme weather conditions such as intense heat, heavy rain, snow, or low temperatures.
- May be reluctant to negotiate areas that prove physically harmful, for example, thick bramble, unstable rubble/scrap, or where there may be broken or crushed glass.

- May be distracted by other animals, people, or food.
- May tire, get sick, or have inexplicable “off” days.

With intelligent handling and use, many of these limitations can be mitigated.

The handler is the subject matter expert in all matters regarding the suitability and fitness of a particular MDD for a specific tactical mission. He knows his dog and can best judge his dog’s ability to work.

A standard MDD handler’s briefing is shown at Appendix D.

Combat Tracker Dogs

CTDs are currently trained in a contractor-operated course. They are available in theater. Soldiers trained to handle CTDs hold military police, engineer, and infantry military occupational specialties. The three breeds currently in use as CTDs are the German shepherd, Dutch shepherd, and Belgian malinois.

Combat tracker dog mission

The general mission of CTDs is to track people to reestablish contact. Specific missions include the following:

- Track enemy personnel after engagements.
- Track enemy personnel from point-of-origin (POO) sites, for example, enemy rocket or mortar crews after attacks on friendly units or installations.
- Determine enemy standoff distances from kill zones to POO sites.
- Track from IED find sites, detonation sites, or detonation command sites.
- Track friendly forces who are duty status whereabouts unknown (DUSTWUN), missing, or captured.
- Recapture detainees escaping from detention facilities.
- Track small, enemy elements observed by ground forces or air observers.
- Gain intelligence information, such as age of track, direction of travel, and size and composition of the enemy. This information can be used in an attempt to block or intercept the enemy using ground or air forces.
- Using a scent article, identify a specific individual or individuals out of a group. Consult the handler for this capability because not all CTDs are trained for this task.

Employment considerations for combat tracker dogs

Consider the following capabilities when contemplating the use of a CTD:

- CTDs are trained to work on both soft and hard surfaces.
- Rapid deployment of the CTD is essential. CTDs must have a good starting point—a reasonably strong scent—for tracking:
 - The destruction of enemy sign or excrement will make establishing the track difficult. If you think you might request a CTD, keep friendly troops away from the possible starting point or area.
 - Every hour that passes results in increased dissipation of the human scent.
- To achieve economy of force, the CTD must be held in reserve until a mission develops.
- The CTD can locate the enemy but does not normally engage him. The handler should be accompanied by a dismounted platoon with fire support available.
- The CTD is not trained to detect explosives and, thus, may be accompanied by an explosive detector dog.



Figure 3-6. An MWD assists in a cave search.

Advantages of utilizing combat tracker dogs

CTDs bring special capabilities to the fight. Here are five good reasons to employ this resource. The CTD:

- Can track with greater speed and efficiency than a human tracker.
- Is able to track where no visible sign is detectable.
- Can eliminate or diminish the IED threat by eliminating its perpetrators.
- Diminishes the ability of enemy personnel to run and hide.
- Serves as a significant psychological deterrent.

Limitations of the combat tracker dog

Consider the following limitations when contemplating use of a CTD:

- The combat tracking team (CTT) consists of one handler and one dog. The supported unit must provide security.
- The dog's alert advantage is diminished in heavily populated areas.
- Extreme wind and rain can dissipate human scent, making tracking extremely difficult.
- Extreme heat can diminish the dog's effectiveness. The handler will report when his CTD is no longer effective.
- Enemy egress via vehicle will affect tracking effectiveness, but direction of travel can be established.
- The CTD can be only be handled by one person.

Mission Sequence of Events

Because CTDs are held in reserve, they do not normally accompany a unit on routine missions. They arrive only when their skills are needed. Here is the general sequence of events upon arrival of the CTD at the scene.

- When the CTT arrives at the crisis site, the on-scene commander will brief the CTD handler on all known enemy information.
- The CTD handler establishes a starting point by visual observation.
- When the CTD establishes a track, noise and light discipline must be strictly observed.
- Under ideal conditions, the CTD handler will track until the dog indicates the enemy is near.

- Upon notification by the CTD handler that the enemy is nearby, the supporting force will pass the CTD and close with the enemy.
- If contact occurs, the CTD team will break contact using a contact drill, and the supporting force will engage the enemy.

Tactical Formations

Three basic tactical formations are used with a CTD:

- The “Y” formation is used in open areas such as fields, roads, and unobstructed desert.
- The wedge formation provides maximum firepower support and is used in open areas when contact is likely.
- The ranger file is used in urban areas or along tree lines.



Figure 3-7. An on-leash MWD contributes to venue security by conducting an open area search.

Summary

The three types of dogs— SSDs, MDDs, and CTDs—briefly discussed in this chapter, are not all-purpose dogs. None of them are patrol trained or certified. They are not generally aggressive dogs, nor will they bite on command. All of them may aggressively defend their handlers if they are killed or wounded. They were trained for very specific tasks. Selecting the correct MWD for the mission is essential in order to maximize the utility of the MWD team.

Chapter 4

Military Working Dog Employment Considerations

Based on information presented in the previous chapters, it is understood “a dog is not a dog is not a dog.” There are many different dogs with varying skill sets. Every military working dog (MWD) is a unique creature with specific capabilities and limitations. MWD teams come with baggage, both literally and figuratively. This chapter outlines many of the issues a commander should consider when contemplating the use of an MWD.

Potential Missions

The list of missions that an MWD can perform or support is long and varied. In tactical terms, MWDs can detect, deter, raid, interdict, and secure. The following list of specific missions for MWDs should not be considered exhaustive:

- Cordon and knock search to locate explosives, caches, and personnel
- Raid
- Combat tracking of enemy personnel
- Force protection sweeps around forward operating bases (FOBs), combat outposts (COPs), and joint security sites (JSSs)
- Cache searches in both urban and rural settings
- Traffic and entry control point operations
- Riverbank, swamp, and palm grove searches
- Searching vehicles along a route
- Occupied and vacant building sweeps
- Open-area searches
- Cave searches
- Mine, unexploded explosive device, or buried hazard detection
- Riot and crowd control
- Sweeps of areas and buildings in advance of very important person visits
- Customs inspections
- Health and welfare inspections
- Combat stress reducer

Integrating Military Working Dogs into Tactical Operations

Issues that commanders should examine when contemplating the use of an MWD include:

- MWDs have an exploitable, psychological effect upon conventional enemy forces and indigenous populations, particularly where there is a cultural aversion to dogs.
- MWDs visible at checkpoint operations provide both detection and deterrence capabilities.
- MWD teams are valuable, combat enablers in both defensive and offensive operations. MWD teams are also an important element in force-protection activities around FOBs, COPs, and JSSs.
- Different cultures have varying opinions about dogs. North American and European cultures tend to favor dogs. In contrast, many Asian and Middle Eastern cultures have an aversion to dogs. Appendix A provides a brief summary of the prevailing cultural view of dogs in Iraq and Afghanistan.
- Some environmental situations severely restrict or rule out the use of MWDs. Environmental factors to be considered include the following:
 - MWD employment near petroleum, oil, and lubricants (POL) must be infrequent and brief. POL residue can damage a dog's paws and sense of smell.
 - MWDs cannot be used in areas contaminated with nuclear, biological, or chemical agents because there are no protective devices for dogs in these conditions.
 - If the wind velocity is normal, MWDs may work in open areas where riot control agents are in use. However, they should be closely monitored and taken to a veterinarian if they show signs of distress.
- MWDs have many applications for internment or resettlement (I®) operations:
 - They may be used:
 - * To detect contraband explosives or narcotics.
 - * To provide perimeter or work detail security.
 - * To be a psychological and actual deterrent against physical threats to friendly personnel.
 - * To be a less-than-lethal force when preventing disturbances or escapes by detainees.

- Commanders and MWD handlers will not use MWDs:
 - * To guard prisoners in detainee holding facilities.
 - * To degrade, torture, injure, or mistreat enemy prisoners of war, detained personnel, civilian internees, or other detainees in U.S. custody.
 - * To facilitate interrogation.

Inappropriate Tasks for an MWD Team

This is a short, but important list of tasks commanders should not ask MWD teams to perform:

- MWD teams should not search people.
- MWD teams should not be requested to confirm any form of suspected or known improvised explosive device (IED). MWDs do not confirm or verify IEDs, nor do they have any capability to render safe any suspected device. Those operations are the function of explosive ordnance disposal personnel.
- If an MWD has alerted its handler to an object or area, do not ask another MWD team to confirm the same object or area.
- Do not ask an MWD to search a kill zone where an explosive has just detonated.
- MWD teams should not be transported in the same vehicle with detainees.

Commander's Responsibilities

If you have used MWDs in the past, some of this information will likely be familiar. However, if you have never used MWDs in tactical operations, discuss the following issues in a meeting with the MWD handler. In some cases, these points will also be shared with the unit. There are also considerations for incorporating the MWD team into the unit's operations:

- Tell the handler if your unit has used MWDs and, if so, provide an assessment.
- Ensure the proposed use effectively exploits the skills of the selected MWD.
- Require the handler to give his briefing and ask any questions before sending the MWD team out to perform its mission.

- Ensure the unit staff provides the MWD team a current intelligence briefing for the area of operations. This briefing will enable the handler to consider the information provided in light of his team's capabilities and make necessary adjustments to tactics, techniques, and procedures. Weather conditions are an important element of this briefing. In particular, wind, temperature, and humidity can affect the dog's performance.
- An MWD team requires transportation, medical, and services support. Appendix B contains a detailed discussion of logistic support requirements.
- Talk to the MWD handler about his dog's disposition. Discuss the likely reaction of the MWD if the handler should become a casualty. Determine the handler's skill level in providing first aid to his dog. Ascertain if the handler has a special medical kit to treat the MWD.
- An MWD handler is armed with a sidearm and a rifle. While he will be qualified to use both of these weapons, he is not a rifleman. His primary duty is to control his dog, direct its activities, and observe its responses to external stimuli. His ability to rapidly and effectively employ his weapon when in contact with the enemy is severely constrained. Therefore, you should consider assigning a security team of at least two, experienced Soldiers to provide direct, security support to the MWD team. The security team should have procedures to follow for using weapons to defend the MWD team against indigenous personnel and feral animals.
- Brief unit personnel on MWD presence and convey precautions regarding feeding, handling, and close interaction with MWDs. Use the handler's description of his dog's disposition.
- Request a capabilities demonstration. Ask the handler to demonstrate his dog's specific skills in its working environment. If your unit has never used this type of dog before, consider including subordinate leaders or all affected personnel in this demonstration.
- If it is not too late, require the MWD handler to attend your warning order (WARNO) to enable him to prepare for supporting your mission. Also, include the MWD handler in any precombat checks and inspections that your unit conducts before launching an operation.
- A dog is not a Soldier. It does not know Army values. It will not function on two hours of sleep or work effectively when tired or stressed. It has no sense of duty, just loyalty to its handler. The MWD works for a reward, not for a cause.
- Unit commanders always outrank dog handlers. Nonetheless, it is very important that commanders give due regard to the dog handler's subject matter expertise. The handler knows his dog's capabilities and limitations. He knows his dog's disposition and work habits. He knows his dog's alert response. He also knows when his dog has become ineffective due to environmental or other factors. Listen to the handler.

Mission Briefing

It is very important that the MWD handler and, if possible, the kennel master (KM) attend the mission briefing. The commander should provide the following information during this briefing:

- Type and duration of the mission; specific tasks for MWD team; time of day mission activities will be conducted; and size of the objective, such as the number of buildings, vehicles, or open areas.
- Recent enemy activity specific to the objective area and intelligence driving the mission such as source, age, historical data, and prior or anticipated use of unmanned aircraft systems.
- Any potential hazards, for example, terrain, anticipated temperature and weather conditions during the mission, and density of stray or feral animals in the area.
- Infiltration and extraction methods, whether mounted or dismounted, and the type of transportation the unit will use.
- Rules of engagement and escalation-of-force procedures that will be in effect during the mission.
- The type of search to be conducted, such as open area, route, or occupied or derelict buildings and:
 - Whether the area was previously searched and, if so, whether anything was found.
 - Whether the area was cleared of obvious booby traps, personnel, or other hazards.
 - Whether friendly forces are in the vicinity.
- The actions to be taken if a find is made during a search. The actions to be taken upon enemy contact such as direct or indirect fire.
- Solicit suggestions from the MWD handler or KM on how best to employ the MWD to support the mission.

Supporting the MWD Handler's Responsibilities

When an MWD team arrives at the unit, the handler should have the following capabilities:

Skills:

- Proficient with his assigned weapon(s).

Note:

Unless the unit is in danger of being overrun, during enemy contact the handler will be focused on protecting his MWD.

- Able to brief the unit on his MWD's capabilities and limitations, temperament, and any other special qualities.
- Able to explain and demonstrate the various MWD team standing operating procedures.
- Able to provide a capabilities demonstration.

Equipment:

- M9 pistol and an M4 carbine.
- Kennel crate (the type and size commonly seen in an airport) to provide an area to safely secure the MWD.
- All necessary MWD equipment, including leashes, collars, muzzle, grooming devices, veterinary first aid kit, and dog food.
- Bullet-resistant, stab-proof vest; cooling vest and pads; dog booties; and dog goggles.

Commander's Checklist

The handler should provide the commander the following information. If the handler does not address a particular topic, the commander should inquire about the matter.

- Types of missions the MWD has performed.
- Odors the MWD is trained to detect.
- Endurance level of the MWD—how long it will work in the prevailing weather conditions.
- Ability of MWD to work off-leash, including the MWD's maximum effective off-leash distance.

The handler should be able to answer the following questions:

- Is the MWD aggressive toward Soldiers or civilians?
- Under what circumstances will the MWD bite?
- How well does the MWD travel in vehicles, including enclosed wheeled and tracked vehicles and helicopters?
- How well does the MWD work at night?
- What type of action does the MWD take upon finding a suspected target, namely a person or a substance?
- What is the MWD's current medical condition?
- How much water and food does the MWD consume in a 24-hour period?
- What is the MWD's reaction to gunfire or explosions?
- How is the MWD rewarded?
- How will the MWD react if his handler is wounded or killed?

Night Operations with Military Working Dogs

Night operations are very similar to day operations with some specific considerations for the off-leash MWD:

- Control of the MWD is more challenging during night operations. Try to limit distractions in the search area.
- The handler of an MWD working off-leash needs a night vision device or night vision goggles. He may not arrive at the unit with this equipment.
- The distance the MWD is capable of working off-leash is reduced, depending on the individual dog.
- The MWD handler's ability to interpret the MWD's responses is diminished. Binoculars may mitigate this problem.
- The handler must allow time for the MWD to adapt to working in low-light conditions.
- The unit should brief all friendly personnel of the presence of an MWD in the area. This is for their safety, as well as the dog's safety.

Heat Risk

A problem common to all types of MWD, whether they are deployed to Iraq or Afghanistan, is heat. Dogs have fewer sweat glands than humans, and they are primarily located in their feet. By panting, a dog can cool the mouth and tongue, along with the blood that is circulated through the head. Up to a point, this keeps its

body temperature at a safe and normal level. Factors that determine heat-injury risk to an MWD are shown at Table 4-1.

Military Working Dog Physical Factors	Environmental Factors	Mission Factors
Acclimation to heat	Decreased ventilation or air circulation	Activity level
Age	Temperatures above 90° F	Duration of search
Obesity	Direct sunlight	Items to be searched such as open area, structure, swamp, or forest
Prior heat injury		Surface of mission location, for example, hardstand, sand, or dirt
Coat length and thickness		

Table 4-1. Heat risk factors

Socialization Issues

Generally speaking, socialization is a good idea. However, it is not always possible to accomplish for any number of reasons: time constraints, operational tempo of the unit, and individual MWD disposition. Here are some considerations for the commander:

- The MWD should be socialized with anyone providing security for the MWD team in the event of injury to the handler. This security element should interact with the MWD team as often as possible, including off-duty time and during training. If the medic is available, he should also participate in this process.
- Before a mission, the MWD team with the dog muzzled for safety should interact with the unit. Interacting with the dog can be accomplished during rock drills, mission briefings, and visits to the unit. Depending on the MWD’s disposition, handlers can also socialize their MWDs with unit personnel by involving Soldiers in MWD training or play time.
- The MWD teams should train with the units they support. This training will enable the unit to see how the MWD team functions, and allow the handler to observe how the unit responds to different scenarios. This training-based socialization will enable the MWD team to function as a member of a particular unit, not simply as an attachment.

Additional Considerations for the Commander

When MWD teams are employed with units that have not previously used them, the personnel of these units should be briefed on the team’s capabilities and limitations.

This briefing is essential to the success of the teams in combat. Some unit considerations include the following:

- MWDs require time to acclimate to a theater of operations. The amount of time depends largely on the degree of climatic change but should be at least 30 days. An MWD that moves from an air-conditioned kennel or vehicle into an extremely warm working environment may require time to adjust to the immediate temperature change. During this time, the dog becomes accustomed to local ambient smells and sounds. Explosive detector dogs, specialized search dogs, and mine detection dogs (MDD) train using samples of locally found explosives. Before employment, MWD teams will undergo a validation process in-theater. The handler can best determine when the dog is ready to work.
- To support acclimation, commanders must ensure that exposure to air-conditioned vehicles is limited and not the standard for everyday use. Just like people, dogs would prefer to remain in a more comfortable environment.
- MWDs are normally attached on a mission basis. Before being assigned to any operation, the dog-handler leader, similar to the senior dog handler in a multi-team mission, is carefully briefed on planned missions as far in advance as possible. This briefing allows him time to select teams that have previously worked with the unit and to select teams that will be the most effective for a particular mission. It also allows the handlers time to prepare themselves and their dogs.
- Ensure that Soldiers know and strictly observe the following precautions in their association with MWD teams. Soldiers must not:
 - Feed the dog. Feeding by the handler is part of the dog's care.
 - Play with or pet the dog except for familiarization and then only under the handler's direct supervision. A handler's petting of and playing with his MWD is a part of the dog's training.
 - Make any move or gesture that the dog may interpret as a threat to his handler. This is extremely hazardous with patrol-trained dogs.
- Available MDDs should be familiar with every known land mine, unexploded explosive ordnance (UXO), and other casualty-producing device that the unit may encounter. Although the dogs receive continuation training when not on missions, the handler's access to these items is limited. When possible, supported units should provide samples of any new or different devices encountered in the field so that the MDD can become familiar with them.

- In the case of MDDs, the commander should obtain dog support for missions when other mine detection means are unavailable or unsuited for the mission. On reaching the decision that MDD support is both desirable and practical, the commander should do the following:
 - Determine the number of teams desired including reserve support if periodic rotation is required.
 - Seek to obtain teams that have previously worked with the unit and arrange for the teams to join the unit in time to hear the WARNO.
 - Obtain the handlers' recommendations for the most effective employment of the teams.
 - Include a detailed plan in the operation order for employing the team.
 - Ensure Soldiers know that MDD support is only one available tool when searching for land mines, UXO, and other buried casualty-producing devices. MDDs are a supplement to mine-clearance operations. They are not a substitute for doctrine-based techniques.
 - Although not specifically trained to defend their handlers, most MDDs develop a protective attitude toward them. When taking cover, Soldiers must never jump on top of or get too close to the dog or its handler because the dog may react defensively.

Final Thoughts on Using Military Working Dogs

If you asked for MWD support to conduct a building or site search, do not occupy the building or site before the MWD search is conducted. The presence of Soldiers in the building or on the site will only complicate the MWD's work.

Be clear in stipulating the MWD team and unit link-up times and places and execute link-ups in a timely manner.

Be prepared to transport the MWD team back to its home FOB. If for some reason you will not be able to do this, tell the MWD team in a timely manner so the handler can make other plans or bring additional dog food. Remember, the MWD team does not have its own transportation.

Ensure that at least one experienced, responsible Soldier is tasked to remain with the MWD team throughout its entire stay with the unit. He will provide security for the MWD team while it is performing the mission, and act as liaison with the unit to obtain necessary support when the MWD team is not being utilized.

Respect the MWD handler's judgment as to his dog's capabilities and suitability for work at any given time. If he says his dog needs rest, accept it.

Understand and utilize the different capabilities of different MWDs.

Chapter 5

Logistic Support for Military Working Dog Teams

Because they deploy individually or in very small groups, military working dog (MWD) teams are totally dependent on others for administrative and logistic support. It is the responsibility of the unit to which the MWD team is assigned or attached. This chapter will highlight administrative support issues for tactical commanders.

For purposes of this handbook, logistic support is the support provided to an MWD team when it is dispatched or assigned to work under the control of a unit. A commander should be prepared to provide the MWD team logistic support, such as housing and kenneling, transportation, veterinary services and medical evacuation, and limited equipment items.

Administrative Support

Military police and engineer dog handlers typically do not deploy to Iraq or Afghanistan with units. They arrive as individuals or in very small elements. The administrative system that pays, promotes, and awards these handlers remains in the continental United States, Germany, Korea, or the handler's original Army command. In discussions with experienced MWD handlers, both engineer and military police by background, three issues surfaced:

- A typical handler is an E-4 or E-5 and not very well equipped to cope with an administrative umbilical cord that is thousands of miles long. When dealing with administrative issues that emanate from or circulate back to their home units, handlers need local help, not the runaround from their supported unit.
- Because of kennel responsibilities, handlers need flexible daily work schedules. Handlers must regularly attend to the dogs, clean kennels, train the dogs during the cooler times of the day, and take the dogs to veterinary assets when the dogs are ill or injured; therefore, handlers may not make the same formations or work calls as other Soldiers. Given the unique nature of their dog-related duties, commanders should determine what training and work schedules the handlers can reasonably maintain and hold them to it.
- MWD handlers should not be assigned duties that do not optimally utilize the MWD. For example, a dog handler should not routinely stand watch in a guard tower while his dog remains in a kennel elsewhere on the forward operating base. If a commander or first sergeant feels it necessary to place dog handlers in the rotation for guard duty, let them perform some form of guard duty that will also utilize the MWD within its trained capability.

Logistic Support

Housing and kenneling

If an MWD team will spend more than a duty day in your unit, you will have to provide a place for the handler and dog to sleep. It is beneficial if the handler brings his portable kennel. At all times, keep the handler and dog together. This may mean providing a separate billeting space for the team, at least 50 feet away from other troops. This separation ensures the safety of the MWD and the safety of other troops. Separate billeting can be a tent or trailer, a room at the end of the hall, or a stand-alone facility. If no separate kenneling area is available, the handler and his MWD will sleep together. Agree with the handler on a place for the dog to eliminate body waste and mark the area for the convenience of all Soldiers. Require the handler to maintain good hygiene of whatever space you allocate to him for both himself and his dog.

In a situation where bunkers are available for protection during indirect-fire attacks, designate a bunker for the MWD team, a sole-use bunker if possible. The handler will know how his dog responds to explosions and can advise on this issue. This is for the dog's safety as well as the safety of other Soldiers.

In regard to food and water, the handler is responsible for feeding his dog, but he may need assistance in obtaining resupplies of dog food. If you know the MWD team will be with your unit for an extended period of time, be sure to discuss this with the handler early so the dog food supply will not be interrupted. To prevent sickness, the MWD should drink the same water that your Soldiers are drinking, including bottled water. The MWD will require approximately two gallons of water per day, for both drinking and cooling. Higher temperatures may increase this requirement.

Transportation

When an MWD team arrives at a unit, it comes without any means of transportation. It is the unit's responsibility to move the MWD team and all its gear around the battlefield. Regardless of its size, the dog requires its own seat in any conveyance. Do not expect the dog to sit on the handler's lap. It is unfair to the dog and handler, as well as a safety hazard to the other passengers in the vehicle. For example, an MWD crammed into the back of a high-mobility, multi-purpose, wheeled vehicle has been known to bite the gunner if the vehicle is struck by an improvised explosive device or RPG rocket.

In extremely hot weather conditions, the MWD must have conditioned air or, at the very least, circulating air. Currently, Central Command regulations require that MWDs be provided air-conditioned transportation. It cannot maintain normal body temperature in an overheated, tightly sealed, hot metal box such as a Stryker, Bradley, or armored security vehicle. Transport the MWD team in an air-conditioned vehicle with reasonable space to accommodate both handler and dog.

Similar precautions apply to fixed-wing and rotary-wing transport of MWDs. The handler should know how his dog will act around aircraft and will safely move or carry his dog into the aircraft. He may muzzle the dog. The dog will normally sit on the floor between the handler's legs. The handler will hold the dog's collar and

prevent it from moving laterally with his legs. The handler will secure himself with the seat belt. Plan for the space a handler needs for himself and his dog when allocating aircraft seats.

Medical evacuation and veterinary support

The MWD handler is trained to provide first aid to his dog and should have a special medical kit for that purpose. If wounded or killed, an MWD should be evacuated using the same assets and should receive the same consideration as a Soldier in the same circumstances. In theater, medical-evacuation personnel and units have transported many MWDs to veterinary facilities, and the concept should not be new to them. If the MWD is evacuated for any reason, the handler will go with the dog.

Should the MWD handler become a casualty, there must be a plan for treating or evacuating the handler, while at the same time caring for the MWD. During the handler's briefing, be sure to inquire about this issue and the dog's probable response to handler disablement. Some dogs may be extremely aggressive to other members of the unit and medical staff when their handlers are wounded or killed. Though such instances should be very rare, you should be prepared to destroy the dog if that is necessary in order to provide medical care to the handler. A human will always take precedence over an animal. However, all efforts should be made to preclude killing the MWD in such circumstances. An MWD is an expensive asset to replace.

It is important to know where the nearest veterinary facility is located and how to access its services. Kennels may frequently be at locations where there is no veterinary unit, and, therefore, it will be more difficult and time consuming to acquire necessary veterinary care for the dog. However, ensuring such care is received must not be ignored simply because it is inconvenient.

Equipment issues

Three items frequently surface in any discussion of equipment support for MWD teams: night vision goggles (NVGs), radios, and weapons.

For reasons beyond the scope of this handbook, many MWD handlers deploy without NVGs. If you expect your MWD team to operate at night, be prepared to provide functioning NVGs to your handler. Handlers prefer the AN/PVS-14 to the AN/PVS-7.

If the unit uses radio as a primary means of communication among dismounted elements, do not neglect the MWD handler. Either issue him a communications device or ensure the Soldier assigned as security for the MWD team has a communications device. If you are operating with a specialized search dog, the handler may be using a small, lightweight, handheld radio to control his dog. This radio uses a rechargeable lithium-ion battery, with a recharge time of one to three hours. Your unit should be prepared to provide this handler a means to recharge the batteries.

Many MWD handlers deploy with an M16 rifle, in addition to a M9 pistol. If an M4 carbine or a shotgun with less-than-lethal rounds can be spared by the unit, it will make the handler's life easier. He needs to focus on controlling his dog and having

an M4 carbine will make that primary task much easier. The MWD handler or his security detail can use a shotgun with less-than-lethal rounds to ward off feral or stray animals that pose a risk to the mission or the dog.

Appendix A

Cultural Issues to Consider When Employing Military Working Dogs

Islamic peoples share a cultural aversion to dogs. The Koran contains a single, vague reference to a tribe owning dogs. In contrast, the Hadith, the sayings of the prophet's contemporaries that are the basis for much Islamic law, contains some 430 references to dogs. These few examples illustrate the long-standing basis of this aversion:

- Whoever keeps a dog, his good deeds will decrease every day by one *qeeraat* (a unit of measure) unless it is a dog for herding sheep, farming, or hunting.
- Whoever keeps a dog in his house is denied the blessing of the angels' presence.
- The angels do not enter a house in which there is a dog.

Some of these references are positive, referring to a dog's loyalty or its herding ability. Herding, hunting, and guard dogs are religiously permitted. However, in modern Islamic society, dogs as household pets meet with wide public and official disapproval.

Although Islam generally maintains that dogs are impure, it does not profess that dogs should be mistreated. It maintains respect for all of God's creatures and says to keep the ones that are impure out of homes. Here is a summary of narrations from Islamist jurists pertaining to dogs:

- A black dog is considered especially impure.
- It is unnatural behavior for a dog to depend on a human for affection.
- The saliva of a dog is impure.
 - If saliva touches the clothes or body, that portion also becomes impure and must be washed.
 - Utensils licked by dogs should be washed seven times and the eighth time rubbed with earth.
- Stray dogs are a nuisance and health hazard, especially when allowed to lick children's hands or utensils.

In many Islamic countries, municipal authorities routinely round up and euthanize stray dogs.



Figure A-1. This interior search by an MWD will have an adverse cultural impact on the resident family.

Military working dog (MWD) handlers will likely face cultural aversion to their teammate, the MWD, when deployed to countries like Iraq and Afghanistan. Because of this, MWD handlers must be conscious of the following local perceptions and responses:

- Fear, even phobia, of dogs is common in Middle Eastern societies.
- Dogs are generally considered to be unclean. Hand and face licking are viewed as unclean, unhealthy, and repulsive activities.
- Dogs belonging to local nationals are generally not permitted to enter human dwellings.
- The entry of an MWD into a residential dwelling will be a significant emotional event for local nationals.



Figure A-2. An MWD employed as a psychological deterrent.

As a consequence of these deeply ingrained Islamic cultural imperatives, being in control of an MWD either on- or off-leash imparts significant coercive power to an MWD handler. Both handlers and commanders need to consider the effect of this perceived power:

- MWD handlers should carefully exercise this power, particularly when in close proximity to detainees and other civilians.
- Commanders using MWD teams must consider the cultural implications of MWD use in tactical operations.

Appendix B

Requesting a Military Working Dog

U.S. Army Area of Operations, Iraq

Military working dog (MWD) teams are deployed as individual units. MWD teams are assigned by deployment orders issued by Joint Forces Command. MWD teams arrive in Kuwait from a variety of different Army commands, service component commands, and direct reporting units.

The Multi-National Corps–Iraq (MNC-I) Provost Marshal Office (PMO) is the MWD program manager for the U.S. Army in Iraq. Additionally, it has oversight on all MWD teams operating within the Central Command area of responsibility. MWD teams brought from Kuwait into Iraq are assigned to the PMOs of the three major supported division-level commands: Multi-National Division–Baghdad, Multi-National Force–West (MNF–W), and Multi-National Division–North.

Division headquarters either retain MWD teams or further assign them to brigade combat teams (BCTs) at forward operating bases, where they conduct the majority of their missions. At the time of this writing, MWD teams are available at 42 different locations throughout Iraq. Division PMO MWD managers retain the authority to shift MWD assets between subordinate BCTs, based on mission requirements. Commanders requesting MWD support for their operations should contact the operations officers of their BCT or division. An MWD request form for explosives detection dogs (EDD) or patrol explosives detection dogs (PEDD) is available on the MNC-I Secure Internet Protocol Router network Website. See Figure B-1 for a sample of this request form. Figure B-2 shows a sample request form for a combat tracker dog in Iraq.

CENTER FOR ARMY LESSONS LEARNED

Request for Military Working Dog Support						
<i>(For the purpose of this form, see MNC-I SOP OPORD 08-02 Appendix 3 to Annex T)</i>						
Administrative Data						
Date submitted:	Time submitted:	Kennel/Section location:		Due NLT 10 days prior to mission to MNC-I PMO		
Point of Contact for this request (POC)						
Rank:	Last name, first, MI	SSN:	Duty position:	Unit (include BN, BDE, DIV):		
E-mail:		VOIP:		DSN:		
Mission Information						
Unit mission:						
Mission purpose:						
MWD team task(s):						
Who						
What						
When						
Where						
Why						
How						
Amount of MWDs requested :		Will the handler be part of the planning :	No	Yes	Priority of support MNC-I level: MND-C level: BCT level: BN & below:	
Did the requesting unit read MWD SOP :	No	Yes	Will the handler be Part of the rehearsals :	No		Yes
Has unit ever used MWDs before :	No	Yes	Will adequate support be given :	No		Yes
Mission Synopsis						
<i>IAW MNC-I SOP OPORD 08-02 Appendix 3 to Annex T, MWD team usage will be IAW the following:</i>						
Authorized mission sets			Unauthorized mission sets:			
Track and close with enemy personnel who survive friendly ambushes; track from point of origin sites of enemy mortar crews, escaped EPWs or LPIOPs, IED layers, and triggermen. CTDs can track MISCAP/DUSTWUN, establish direction of movement of dismounted enemy elements, assist site exploitation teams by gathering critical data such as size and composition of the enemy and determining site radius, standoff distance of triggerman, and routes to and from the attack positions.			Any mission that will occur during a period of time when the temperature is at or above 120°F, unless specific approval is granted from a veterinarian; acting as an interior guard; detecting explosive odor; detecting buried mines or clearing a minefield; verifying an already identified suspicious device (i.e., IED, VBIED, etc.); personnel search; route clearance; scouting operations.			
NOTE: This list is not all inclusive. Commanders at all levels should work with individual handlers, the kennel masters, and the MND-C PMO in order to determine the capabilities of each specific MWD and how it can be best employed and exploited to benefit the mission and avoid a misutilization report.						

Figure B-1. Request for MWD (EDD or PEDD) support in Iraq

Request for Military Working Dog Support							
<i>(For the purpose of this form, see MNC-I SOP OPORD 08-02 Appendix 3 to Annex T)</i>							
Administrative Data							
Date submitted:	Time submitted:	Kennel/Section location:			Due NLT 10 days prior to mission to MNC-I PMO		
Point of Contact for this request (POC)							
Rank:	Last name, first, MI	SSN:	Duty position:	Unit (include BN, BDE, DIV):			
E-mail:	VOIP:			DSN:			
Mission Information							
Unit mission:							
Mission purpose:							
MWD team task(s):							
Who							
What							
When							
Where							
Why							
How							
Amount of MWDs requested :		Will the handler be part of the planning :	No	Yes	Priority of support		
Did the requesting unit read MWD SOP :	No	Yes	Will the handler be Part of the rehearsals :	No	Yes	MNC-I level:	
Has unit ever used MWDs before :	No	Yes	Will adequate support be given :	No	Yes	MND-C level:	
						BCT level:	
						BN & below:	
Mission Synopsis							
<i>IAW MNC-I SOP OPORD 08-02 Appendix 3 to Annex T, MWD team usage will be IAW the following:</i>							
<u>Authorized mission sets</u>				<u>Unauthorized mission sets:</u>			
Track and close with enemy personnel who survive friendly ambushes; track from point of origin sites of enemy mortar crews, escaped EPWs or LP/OPs, IED layers, and triggermen. CTDs can track MISCAP/DUSTWUN, establish direction of movement of dismounted enemy elements, assist site exploitation teams by gathering critical data such as size and composition of the enemy and determining site radius, standoff distance of triggerman, and routes to and from the attack positions.				Any mission that will occur during a period of time when the temperature is at or above 120°F, unless specific approval is granted from a veterinarian; acting as an interior guard; detecting explosive odor; detecting buried mines or clearing a minefield; verifying an already identified suspicious device (i.e., IED, VBIED, etc.); personnel search; route clearance; scouting operations.			
NOTE: This list is not all inclusive. Commanders at all levels should work with individual handlers, the kennel masters, and the MND-C PMO in order to determine the capabilities of each specific MWD and how it can be best employed and exploited to benefit the mission and avoid a misutilization report.							

Figure B-2. Request for MWD (CTD) support in Iraq

U.S. Marine Corps Area of Operations, Iraq

MWD assets available in MNF–W are under the control of Task Force Military Police (TFMP) and are a Marine Expeditionary Force asset. Tactical commanders in that area of operations requesting MWD support for their operations should contact MWD Operations directly or via the MNF–W Webpage.

When the request is received, TFMP MWD Operations will coordinate with the kennel masters (KMs) to verify the needs of the requesting unit. This request should contain as much information as possible to assist the KM and operations section personnel in providing appropriate MWD support. When the request has been verified, MWD teams will be assigned and the mission validated and sourced.

Afghanistan

Military working dog assets arrive in Afghanistan via Kuwait. Once there, they are controlled by the Combined Joint Task Force 101 (CJTF-101) PMO. The MWD teams are embedded in BCTs, where they conduct the majority of their missions. Requests for MWD support should be made using a request form found on the CJTF-101 Website, PMO law enforcement page. See Figure B-3 for a sample of this request form.

Military Working Dog Support Request Form	
Tracking #	Date:
Requesting unit:	
From: date/time	To: date/time
Point of contact: (contact number)	
Priority:	Three types of priority: Routine, sourced with six or more days lead time. Priority, sourced with a minimum of 24 hours lead time. Immediate, requirement must be sourced now. Please call the points of contact ASAP for all immediate and priority requests.
Type of mission:	
Mission location:	
Type & number of dogs requested:	
<p style="text-align: center;">Requesting unit support requirements for MWD teams:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Proper billeting for teams, to include air conditioning and heat. 2. MWD handlers will need night vision goggles if night operations will be conducted. 3. MWD teams will not be able to provide their own vehicles. Requesting unit must provide adequate space for dog teams in tactical vehicles. 4. Be advised that some MWD are very aggressive in tight places. 	
Clarifying instructions:	

Figure B-3. Request for MWD support in Afghanistan

Mine Detection Dog

The mine detection dog (MDD) teams in Afghanistan are normally attached to engineer battalions, their primary user. If another tactical unit believes it has a valid need for MDD teams, it should request them through engineer support channels.

Appendix C

Contract Working Dogs

While Army Regulation (AR) 190-12 discourages the use of contract working dogs (CWDs), there are a large number of CWDs present in Iraq and Afghanistan. The U.S. Central Command General Administration Military Working Dog Policy Business Rules prohibit the use of CWDs in combat operations. Consequently, CWDs typically are employed by contractors in force-protection settings.

Due in part to the paucity of military working dogs (MWDs) with certain skills, the mission list for CWDs is expanding into specific areas. These include the following:

- Cadaver search for both U.S. and local national human remains.
- Explosively formed penetrator (EFP)-related cache searches.
- Cordon and search to locate EFP materials, caches, and personnel.

Some cautions about the use of CWDs include:

- While CWDs are required to be certified, CWDs will not be classified as or referred to as MWDs (AR 190-12, paragraph 4-6).
- By regulation, CWDs cannot be kenneled with MWDs (AR 190-12, paragraph 5-1).
- CWD veterinary support is the responsibility of the contractor, but may be provided by military veterinarians on a reimbursable and space-available basis.

Commanders who employ the services of CWDs should require a capabilities demonstration by the CWD team. Commanders should also require a showing of the CWD's certification paperwork.

Appendix D

Military Working Dog Handler Briefings

Generic Military Working Dog Handler Briefing

The handler should provide the commander the following information. If the handler does not address a particular topic, the commander should inquire about the matter.

- Types of missions the MWD has performed.
- Odors the MWD is trained to detect.
- Endurance level of the MWD—how long it will work in the prevailing weather conditions.
- Ability of MWD to work off-leash, including the MWD's maximum effective off-leash distance.

The handler should be able to answer the following questions:

- Is the MWD aggressive toward Soldiers or civilians?
- Under what circumstances will the MWD bite?
- How well does the MWD travel in vehicles, including enclosed wheeled and tracked vehicles and helicopters?
- How well does the MWD work at night?
- What type of action does the MWD take upon finding a suspected target, namely a person or a substance?
- What is the MWD's current medical condition?
- How much water and food does the MWD consume in a 24-hour period?
- What is the MWD's reaction to gunfire or explosions?
- How is the MWD rewarded?
- How will the MWD react if his handler is wounded or killed?

Mine Detection Dog Handler's Briefing to the Commander

Before the start of any operation, the commander should answer the following questions to allow the mine detection dog (MDD) handler to effectively employ the MDD team. A prudent commander will have the answers to the following questions available at the time of this briefing:

- What are the number, sizes, and types of areas the MDD is intended to work?
- Is there a trip-wire threat?
- What types of explosive threats were deployed in the area, if known?
- When were the areas last searched? What type of search was conducted, and what was the outcome?
- How much time is allowed for this operation?
- Will this operation to be carried out at night or during daylight hours?

Note:

Artificial lighting may be required for the handler to see the surrounding area and the dog's reactions.

- What security is available and is it currently in position?
- In the event the MDD indicates a find, what standing operating procedures are in place?

Note:

Any indication should be anticipated as a find, the site of indication marked, and the occurrence reported immediately.

- What action will the unit take if enemy interdiction occurs?
- Are manual de-miner and medical support available?

Note:

If not available, the MDD asset cannot be utilized.

Combat Tracker Dog Handler's Briefing to the Commander

As is the case with all MWD teams, upon reporting to a unit for employment, the combat tracker dog (CTD) handler will present an informal briefing to the commander. Here is a generic example of that briefing:

Sir/Ma'am, I am _____ with MWD _____. We are a CTD team and are here to assist you in tracking. My dog can track human scent over various terrains. We will attempt to locate the person who left from the point of origin, the scent pad:

- Can you give me an idea of what the situation is on the ground?
- Can you show me the last known position of the person I am going to track?
- When were they last seen?
- In which direction did they go?
- Has anyone been forward of the point of origin, scent pad?
- If we are going to need equipment that I do not already have, will you be able to provide it?

Sir/Ma'am, my dog and I will attempt to locate the individual. Our likelihood of success goes down over time and in strong wind and high temperatures. That said, we will attempt to provide you with as much information as we can, such as the number of people traveling with the person being tracked; the direction of travel; and, if we can, the exact location of the person being tracked.

If we encounter the enemy, the security element will take over. I will protect my dog and myself. If we discover an improvised explosive device (IED) en route, we can attempt to find a safe way around and try to pick up the track on the other side or wait for an explosive ordnance disposal (EOD) detail to clear it. Keep in mind, the longer we wait, the more difficult it will be to find the person being tracked.

If another CTD team was requested or is already on scene for this track, they will need to be kept fresh and at the rear of the element.

Combat Tracker Dog Handler's Briefing to the Security Element Leader

Similarly, the CTD handler will need to meet with the security element leader to brief him. Here is a generic example of that briefing:

Sir/Ma'am/Sergeant, I need your help in order to do my job. My responsibility is tracking people over various terrains, and to do that I will need you to provide security for my dog and me.

Please do not stare at my dog; he will interpret this as an act of aggression and may get distracted from his job of tracking.

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Try to stay at least 15 feet behind me; it will make my dog's job harder if he has to smell your footprints along with the footprints of the person we are here to track.

If we come to a choke point, a likely ambush site, or any other area that you or I think is a danger area, I will follow your directions. Keep in mind that every minute I spend away from tracking gives the person I am tracking time to set up for our arrival or a better chance to get away. If we encounter an IED along the way, we can get EOD support to find a way around or wait until it is cleared.

If I become injured and unable to move, there is a chance that my dog will become very protective and may attempt to bite anyone that approaches me. Do what you can to get the dog away from me so that I can be treated or taken for treatment by medical evacuation (MEDEVAC). The worst case scenario is to shoot my dog so I can be treated. If my dog becomes injured and I am unable to help, MEDEVAC the dog just like a Soldier. Please evacuate my dog to the nearest 43rd Veterinary Detachment treatment facility, at Grid 38S_____.

If we encounter indigenous dogs, cats, or other animals, there is a good chance they may have rabies or other potentially fatal diseases that would affect my dog. If the animal approaches within 50 meters of my dog, try to scare it away. If the animal is persistent and attempts to close the distance and attack my dog, use the necessary force required to prevent the animal from contacting my dog.

At some point, my dog may become too tired to track and will need a brief rest before continuing. In order to spend the least amount of time possible resting my dog, we can try to occupy a building or other hard structure that will at least provide cover and concealment while allowing my dog to drink some water and stop hyperventilating. Air conditioning is faster, but if unavailable, shade will suffice.

When we reach the point where I believe the person being tracked is located, my task is done, and I will help to secure the area. However, please remember that my dog is not trained to capture the enemy by biting. We can provide our own security until the person being tracked is captured or killed or the building they occupy is cleared.

If we make contact with the enemy, I will alert you and listen to your directions:

- What is the security plan for actions on the objective?
- In the event of an ambush?

Where do you want the MWD and me to fall in with the security element when we are not tracking?

Appendix E

A “Dog Face” Soldier’s Story

The Establishment of a Military Working Dog Program in Multi-National Division–Center, Task Force Marne, and the 3rd Infantry Division During Sustained Combat Operations

LTC Paul D. Heinlein and SGM Richard A. Gardner

Introduction

What does it take to run a division-level military working dog (MWD) program during combat operations? As a division provost marshal section, we were neither accustomed to nor organized for running an MWD program in peacetime or combat; however, we believed we were in a good position and had enough experience to assume control of an established program from the multi-national division we would replace. We were confident anything we did not know we would learn during the relief-in-place (RIP) process. Then came the surge and circumstances quickly changed.

The 3rd Infantry Division (3ID) was no longer replacing another multi-national division. It was deploying as the surge division headquarters to establish an additional multi-national division headquarters, Multi-National Division–Center (MND-C) in Iraq under the Multi-National Corps–Iraq (MNC-I). Our provost marshal section was no longer falling in on an established MWD program; we would be required to build our own.

This was not what we expected to happen, and we did not have the necessary training or skill sets. The concern quickly became, “how do you establish a division MWD program from the ground-up while simultaneously executing combat operations?” Like it or not, we were about to find out the hard way—through trial and error. Although it proved to be a difficult and demanding task, it ultimately proved to be beneficial to the division and a rewarding experience for the section.

Establishing the Program

The process of establishing our program quickly encountered many challenges and hurdles that were complex and difficult to conquer, proving that nothing is easy in Iraq. These challenges assisted us in understanding the true scope of what was required to establish an effective MWD program.

We quickly learned that we were not aware of the many issues that would influence the success of the program and give us key insights into the “dog” world. Items of particular interest were the need for a program manager (PM) with kennel master (KM) experience, the knowledge of housing and taking care of MWDs, veterinarian checks, understanding the nature of the dog handler, and recognizing the unique ways each service employs and trains its handlers.

Early during predeployment training, we realized we would need a noncommissioned officer (NCO) to work as the MWD PM. As we worked through staff shortfalls in the provost marshal’s office (PMO), we were able to fill one of our sergeant first class positions with an MWD handler-qualified NCO. He was not

an experienced KM but had worked as a handler for over a year before being promoted out of the program. We thought that filling this position would allow us time to get the new PM trained during the RIP process. However, as a result of the surge, there would be no RIP. Although this NCO worked hard, establishing a program proved to be as much of a learning process for him as it was for the rest of the section.

Once we identified the experience gap in our program, we immediately raised the issue and requested assistance from the corps. The corps PMs worked diligently to get an experienced KM for our program. Unfortunately, the time-consuming process of building a request for forces made filling this requirement difficult. After approximately 11 months, corps was able to assign us a senior handler with KM experience to fill the shortfall. The experience and knowledge that he brought to the program had an immediate positive impact and validated the need for an experienced PM at the division level.

Living Conditions and Kennel Establishment

In March 2007, there was only one kennel facility in the division's area of operations (AO), and it was far from ideal. Adding to the problem, MWD teams were competing with Soldiers for living space. Following new doctrine, the division quickly established patrol bases, combat outposts, and joint security stations throughout the AO. Soon there were over 50 possible locations from which MWD teams could operate and be housed, at least on a short-term basis. Maneuver brigade combat teams (BCTs) did not understand the safety requirement to lodge MWD teams separately from other Soldiers. The units' ability to lodge these teams was strained, as living space throughout their sectors was at a premium. In most cases, there was no room to house MWD teams separately from the rest of the Soldiers.

As we attacked the problem of adequate living space, we also went to work establishing kennel facilities. We realized there was a need for kennels in key locations in order to facilitate the rapid deployment of the MWD teams in support of the maneuver commanders' operations. This situation presented us with another obstacle—the lack of acceptable plans for a deployed kennel facility.

Housing solutions for MWDs deployed in combat and the conditions present in Iraq were not addressed in any regulation that we could find. The theater had matured a great deal since the invasion, leaving very little in the way of fixed structures that could be modified or turned into kennel facilities. Tents with built-in wooden rooms became a short-term solution for a long-term problem. These structures were effective, but crude and had several drawbacks. The biggest drawback was inadequate air flow, which resulted in higher than acceptable temperatures. Another drawback was wooden floors, which were difficult to keep clean and sanitary. A more acceptable solution was housing the MWD teams in containerized housing units (CHUs). Unfortunately, not every unit was able to provide these accommodations.

Regulations that failed to outline acceptable standards for deployed kennels added to our problems. We identified numerous solutions for building kennel facilities. However, nothing was developed that could be universally adapted throughout the theater. The types of kennels built were dependent on the capabilities of the BCT. Some BCTs were able to achieve the minimum standard, while others built

facilities specifically designed to house their MWD teams. In the end, the most common design was trailers positioned to create a compound with the dogs living in a room with their handlers. An additional shower trailer was added to provide a place for handlers to shower along with a place to bathe dogs. Although this did not meet the long-term solution outlined in regulations (meant for living areas and kennels in a garrison environment), it was a huge improvement over previous conditions.

One of the most common answers to shortfalls in MWD housing are commercial off-the-shelf (COTS) kennels readily available prior to deployment. The system we used was a great short-term (30–90 days) housing solution. However, any portable system is inadequate as a means of housing MWDs for any prolonged period, especially in the harsh climate of Iraq. Portable systems work well when integrated into existing structures, but this is not a plausible solution in most locations in our current operational environment. More improvements to the available COTS systems are required in order to make them a permanent solution to the MWD housing issue.

One additional problem with building kennel facilities was getting the plans approved by preventive medicine personnel and veterinarians. Again, regulations do not address the issue of long-term, non-permanent kennel structures in a combat environment. The housing of MWD teams in tents or CHUs met with very little resistance from preventive medicine personnel and veterinarians conducting inspections. However, as soon as a facility was labeled a kennel, we ran into problems passing inspections. The veterinarians failed every one of the facility plans that we developed. Additionally, there were often differences in what was acceptable depending on who conducted the inspections. These differences are to be expected, since regulations do not address the long-term, non-permanent kennel structure and personnel apply subjective, common-sense approaches to their inspection techniques.

The Military Working Dog Handlers

As we developed our MWD program, we received handlers from every branch of service, presenting both benefits and drawbacks. Every service (Army, Air Force, Navy, and Marines) manages its MWD programs differently. More importantly, each service employs handlers in its own unique method, requiring us to identify a common method that worked for all handlers. As we integrated the handlers, we had to deal with the fact that some handlers had never worked with other services. This fact required us to put tremendous effort into expectation management and assist handlers in dealing with the growing pains they encountered while operating within the BCTs.

One of the larger hurdles was establishing relationships with the handlers' parent services. Handlers from each service came with different command relationships and requirements imposed by their parent service. This required a great deal of effort in order to establish good working relationships and coordination with parent services to ensure that information flowed through the division PMO and not directly to the parent service. As the program matured, through experience and time, the handlers quickly adapted into the Army MWD program. Each handler brought his own unique experiences and capabilities, greatly improving the program overall.

Integration with BCTs

As soon as 3ID assumed responsibility for its AO, the BCTs immediately began to execute combat operations. Simultaneously, we were trying to increase the size of our program and get MWD assets to the brigades. The BCTs wanted the capabilities that the MWD teams provided, but as a result of a lack of prior experience and training, they were not familiar with how to employ the asset or how to integrate it into operations. This situation led to MWD assets being under-utilized and, in some cases, used only for force protection missions on the forward operating base.

An early challenge was educating commanders on the capabilities that MWDs brought to their units and how commanders could best employ these capabilities as combat multipliers. The KM at each location worked relentlessly to sell the capabilities of the MWD teams. Over time and with a great deal of persistence, the local KM's expertise proved to have a huge impact on MWD team employment.

Another challenge we faced was the unfounded belief that the cost in resources to sustain MWD teams outweighed the benefit the teams brought to the fight. Again, this challenge was overcome by the KM selling the program and allowing the commanders to become familiar with the capabilities of MWD teams. Over time, through the successful integration of the MWD teams into the units' operations, their value was proven in combat, and the demand for MWD support from the BCTs increased exponentially. At times, the demand for MWD teams was so great we were forced to shift MWD assets to support the division's main effort.

Working With Other Coalition Forces

As the MWD teams started to display value in combat operations, the demands for the MWD teams increased. Eventually, as MND-C, there came a time when these assets would execute missions with other coalition forces. At times, the MWD teams were the only U.S. forces working with other nations' forces. This situation created other learning opportunities as we integrated teams into units that did not operate like U.S. units and overcame cultural challenges that impacted the MWD teams' ability to support these units effectively.

The first challenge to work through was the language barrier. The language barrier made it extremely difficult for the teams to quickly integrate into the coalition forces' operations. MWD handlers had to spend countless hours working with the coalition force, going over and working through particular tactics, techniques, and procedures. MWD teams had to rehearse simple tasks, such as react-to-contact drills, over and over to get to the point where the unit and the MWD team felt comfortable in what actions each would take.

The cultural differences had an even more profound impact than we anticipated. These differences affected everything, from hygiene to living conditions. In addition, MWD teams still experienced the same issues as BCTs, such as the coalition forces' difficulty in understanding why MWD teams had so many support requirements. As with all the other challenges, it took hard work on the part of senior dog handlers and the KM to explain and emphasize the requirements and the reasons these requirements were necessary to ensure the MWD teams were best able to support the unit.

Summary of Key Lessons Learned

As we go through our transfer of authority, we are able to look back on this experience as one that has better prepared us for future deployments as a provost marshal section. At the same time, we are now able to pass along a functioning MWD program capable of performing at the highest level during sustained combat operations. Additionally, this experience has identified the following key lessons learned:

- The key to your MWD program's success is having an experienced MWD PM, especially if you are establishing a program versus assuming one that is already in place.
- Adequate living facilities for the MWD teams are essential for mission readiness. Austere conditions will quickly degrade the dogs' capabilities.
- Every MWD team comes with a different experience and skill set. In addition to the typical training they need for a deployment, they will require more training on integrating into your program and unit.
- The BCTs are typically not familiar with how to employ MWD teams. It will take time for them to understand the capabilities and how to employ the assets.
- MWD teams must be prepared to operate under all conditions on the battlefield, to include working with and alongside other coalition forces. They must be prepared to deal with these situations and be capable of coming up with solutions to the challenges they will face.

The MWD program is a success story for MND-C and Task Force Marne. Thanks to a lot of hard work and the help of our counterparts at MNC-I and the other MNDs, we have a full-up program that has maximized the MWDs' capabilities and supported all our commanders' requirements on the battlefield. Our teams are making great progress on the battlefield and continue a long history of great service provided to our forces in both peacetime and war. These MWD teams have become ingrained in the history of the Marne Division and can take great pride in what they have accomplished in support of the Global War on Terrorism. They will forever be known as the "Dog Face Soldiers" of the Marne Division, with skills proven in combat.

Rock of the Marne!

Appendix F

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