

Commander's Guide to Military Working Dogs

Table 1	Specialized Search Dog (SSD)	Patrol Explosive Detection	Explosive Detection Dog (EDD)	Narcotic Detection Dog (NDD/DDD)	Patrol Narcotic Detection Dog (PNDD/PDD)	Combat Tracker Dog (CTD)	Mine Detection Dog (MDD)	
Service Branch	Army, Navy, Air Force and Marines	Army, Navy, Air Force and Marines	Army, Navy, Air Force and Marines	Narcotics detection only	Army, Navy, Air Force and Marines	Marines	Army (Corps of Engineers)	
Mission	Detect firearms, ammunition, and explosives	Dual certified to perform patrols and detect explosives	Explosives detection only	Army, Navy, Air Force and Marines	Dual certified to perform patrols and to detect narcotics	Track people such as high value targets or lost or missing U.S. military personnel	Detect land mines, unexploded explosive ordnance (UXO), and other casualty producing devices	
C a p a b i l i t i e s	Under the direct control of the handler, can work off-leash or wearing a harness	Under the direct control of the handler, can work on- and off-leash or wearing a harness	Under the direct control of the handler, can work on-leash or wearing a harness	Under the direct control of the handler, can work on-leash or wearing a harness	Under the direct control of the handler, can work on-leash or wearing a harness	Under the direct control of the handler, can work on-leash or wearing a harness	Under the direct control of the handler, can work on-leash or wearing a harness	
	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 very important person (VIP)	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 very important person (VIP)	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 very important person (VIP)	N/A	Can carry out searches to reduce areas that need to be manually cleared of land mines
	Bold, but not aggressive	Trained to attack and be aggressive	Bold, but not 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	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	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 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
Where Utilized	Buildings (occupied, vacant, and derelict), vehicles, open areas, routes, and personal and household possessions	Buildings (occupied, vacant, and derelict), vehicles, open areas, routes, and personal and household possessions	Buildings (occupied, vacant, and derelict), vehicles, open areas, routes, and personal and household possessions	Buildings (occupied, vacant, and derelict), vehicles, open areas, routes, and personal and household possessions	Buildings (occupied, vacant, and derelict), vehicles, open areas, routes, and personal and household possessions	All environments	Area clearance, route clearance, and mine field extraction	



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L i m i t a t i o n s	May be limited in ability to detect hidden objects and substances above heights encountered during training	May be limited in ability to detect hidden objects and substances above heights encountered during training	May be limited in ability to detect hidden objects and substances above heights encountered during training	May be limited in ability to detect hidden objects and substances above heights encountered during training	May be limited in ability to detect hidden objects and substances above heights encountered during training	Weather and age of scent affect the dog's tracking ability	May be limited in ability to detect hidden objects and substances above heights 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 area, performance may decrease	If excessive distracting elements are within or close to the area, performance may decrease	If excessive distracting elements are within or close to the area, performance may decrease	If excessive distracting elements are within or close to the area, performance may decrease	If excessive distracting elements are within or close to the area, performance may decrease	If excessive distracting elements are within or close to the area, performance may decrease	If excessive distracting elements are within or close to the 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
P l a n n i n g F a c t o r s	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, ammunition, 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	Access to 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
	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, foot 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
	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 at a safe distance, may search up to and around the device or item	Team never checks a suspected device or item, but at a safe distance, may search 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						