



Mine Detection Dog Alerts on Buried Mine



DOGS NEEDED FOR MINE DETECTION WORK IN AFGHANISTAN

German Shepherds and Belgian Malinois are urgently needed for mine detection work in Afghanistan. In 1989 the King of Thailand donated 14 trained mine detection dogs for use in finding buried mines in Afghanistan. An 8 man Thai instructor team taught Afghans how to use the dogs and in Sep 1989 the dogs went to Afghanistan. After 3 months work it was clear that the German Shepherds were very effective at finding buried mines. The United States Agency for International Development then decided to enlarge the mine detection dog project and more trained dogs were imported from the USA to be used by trained Afghan handlers.

Today 52 mine detection dogs are at work with 46 more due from US in 1992. The dogs have found 5,000 mines and are busy at work in Afghanistan. The dogs are able to smell buried mines and then alert their handler to the mine by sitting by the mine. The dog is then removed and the mine destroyed.

Afghan handlers spend 8 weeks learning how to use the dogs at Risalpur, Pakistan and then spend 2 months out of every 3 working at mine detection in Afghanistan. After 2 months the dog & handler return to Risalpur for refresher training. The dogs have proved on unqualified success at finding mines, some of which because they are plastic cannot be located with metal detectors.

Even with the 46 dogs coming into the program this year more are needed due to the tremendous number of mines to be found and destroyed.

Donors are asked to provide German Shepherds or Belgian Malinois 1-3 years of age to be trained as mine detection dogs. All instruction will be conducted by Afghans who have been trained by the US instructors. Training of the dogs takes 8-12 weeks and the dogs are assured of first class care and meaningful work after graduation. Donors who are interested in helping with this most worthwhile project may donate funds if dogs are not available. It cost \$ 1,000 US for an untrained dog. Trained dogs cost \$ 5,000 US.



Different views of dogs searching mines inside
Afghanistan

