

## K-9 Supply Program

# THAILAND DOG HANDLERS

USAF Dog Handlers Stationed in Thailand Supporting the Vietnam War

(04/15/07)

Hello everyone! Well, it looks like we are still in the middle of a new rotation cycle for our “Pups”.

April 2007 brings us to 20 months of operation for our “Old Dawgs & Pups/K-9 Supply” programs. Once again, I’d just like to say thank you to all of you that have supported our awesome programs and especially our troops and their canine partners.

### Area of Operation Status

We’re still up and running at FOB Warrior! We have established contact with Kirkuk thanks to TSgt Brian Hoglen and his replacement, TSgt Chris Beavers. As of this moment – we have 7 troops who have volunteered to be part of ODP! We are still working on another kennel – so stay tuned and be prepared to “Re-Up” and to start communicating with our new pups.

Here is a photo of our “pups” from FOB Warrior



**SSgt Ryan Wade & Rex – Deployed from Davis-Monthan AFB, AZ - Arizona**

We are also in the process of re-establishing contact with the handlers at Kirkuk and hopefully we will have about 7 more pups to pair up very soon – please be patient with us – they are just getting “boots on the ground” and are in the change over process.

I will do my best to pair them up with our “Old Dawgs & Friends” when we see where they are deployed from and where they call home. We do know that they know about our programs – that means that our “Pups” have given us the “Good to Go” to their replacements.

There has also been a reassignment of some of our troops to the Falliejah area, but that mission is a little on the “quiet side” for now and they should be “Outta there” very, very soon!

Our troops at Manus AB, Camp Cropper, Camp Bucca, and the rotation at Kirkuk, and LSA Diamondback have either safely rotated stateside or they are in a “packing stage” for the “Freedom Bird”. I’ve heard from several of them and they are on leave with their family and friends – so expect communications to be a little slow for a while.

We will also have a group deploying in May/June, so please bear with us and we will make hook ups as soon as things get settled down.

## **Leatherman Company Store Opening & Donation to K-9 Supply**

On April 5th Phil Carroll (NKP & Takhli) attended the grand opening of the new Leatherman Company Store at corporate headquarters in Portland, Oregon, to represent our “Old Dawgs & Pups” and “K-9 Supply” programs. Well as you can see below – Phil lucked out again!

Leatherman took the opportunity to give our program another donation of five new Leatherman Surge multi-tools for us to send to our deployed canine handlers. That makes a total of 41 Surges that the company has donated for our troops, in addition to the ones we've purchased at a discount with your generous donations.

As a token of our appreciation, we presented Juli Warner, our primary contact at the company, with one of our “very special K-9 hats” and I have been told that it didn’t leave her head during the entire corporate event. Matter of fact, I received an e-mail from her this morning and I think she still had it on her head!

For those who don't know, a guy named Tim Leatherman invented the first multi-tool in 1975, got it patented in 1980 and formed today's Leatherman Tool Group in 1983. Today the company has a full line of different sized and equipped multi-tools and knives. Their website still has the story of their first donation to our troops, at <http://www.leatherman.com/about-leatherman/community-outreach>



## **Tribute to Military Working Dog Killed in Action in Iraq Tinker Air Base Oklahoma**

**(Trainer David A. Ortiz, SSgt, USAF – “Pup” -72d SFS/S30K)**

The 72d Security Forces Squadron/Military Working Dog Section will be holding a Vigil for MWD Marco (tattoo D108) at the kennels. Marco's remains were escorted to Tinker Air Force Base, Oklahoma by his handler SSgt Alissa B. Jones, on 4 April, 2007. The vigil will be held at Building 1089, the TSgt Norton Military Working Dog Facility. We will be on duty from 0730 hours to 1630 hour Monday to Friday, for all who may want to come to pay their respect. We will be holding the Vigil until the day of his memorial service during the week of the 23<sup>rd</sup> April, 2007. Following the memorial service, Marco's remains will then be presented to his last handler SSgt Alissa B. Jones, during the ceremony.

On January 20, 2007, MWD Marco D108 was Killed in Action (KIA) while on patrol in Baghdad in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Marco, a seven year old Belgian Malinois, an Explosive Detector and Patrol Dog (EDD), died while doing what he loved. Marco and SSgt Alissa Jones were attached to the 2D Brigade Combat Team, working in support of C-5/20 Infantry in Baghdad, Iraq when Marco suffered from acute cardio respiratory arrest secondary to electrocution.

The MWD team was assisting with a Cordon and Search, looking for weapon's caches, explosives and materials used to make improvised explosive devices (IED's). During this tour in Iraq, Marco assisted me and the US Army in locating numerous finds, allowing coalition forces to seize and destroy potentially deadly materials. Along with explosive detection, Marco also served as a physical and psychological deterrent to Iraqi Nationals while conducting missions in downtown Baghdad.

Marco was whelped March 1, 2000, and entered the United States Air Force in March of 2001. After completing training at Lackland Air Force Base, TX, he became a member of the 72D Security Forces Squadron K-9 family at Tinker Air Force Base, OK in January 2003. While serving at Tinker, Marco had been deployed to California, Missouri, New York, Michigan, Wisconsin, Texas, Nevada, South West Asia and Iraq (for the third time).

MWD Marco was more than a dog, he was a free spirited, loving companion and partner. We often described Marco as a small child with four legs, 42 teeth and hair. He would be running around playing one minute and fast asleep the next. He was the kind of partner that would love and nurture, but the minute he or someone around him was threatened, it was all business. He was one of the smallest dogs stationed at Tinker, but had one of the largest personalities; he loved the spotlight, and could not get enough attention from man or canine.



## Here's this month's update on the K-9 Supply Program

At the time of this report we have 18 members of the "Old Dawgs & Pups" program actively supporting 9 handlers at four kennels/assignments.

Our K-9 Supply program has been coordinated and funded by the "Old Dawgs & Pups". The supporters are members of the VSPA, VDHA, and friends of K-9. A total of 348 pieces of equipment has been delivered to our K-9 troops serving in Iraq from August 21, 2005 to April 15, 2007. Over seventy-five "Old Dawgs and Friends" have supported over Eighty K-9 personnel via our program. For additional information on the program please go to:

[http://www.pbase.com/635thk9/old\\_dawgs](http://www.pbase.com/635thk9/old_dawgs)

Please review the photos, press releases, and more about our ongoing programs.

We have purchased and shipped **\$4,754.00** of supplies for the 16 kennels solely via your personal donations. Including the Leatherman corporate donation, the total is **\$9,928.00!**

Please note that this figure does not include all the goodies some of you have sent directly, or which came from other organizations we've been involved with but who shipped their donations independently. **WAY TO GO K-9 SUPPLY!**

\* The Leatherman "Surge" donation is valued at approximately **\$5,174.00**

60	Thailand Challenge Coins (Donated & Purchased)
57	Leatherman "Surge" Tools (41 Donated by Leatherman) *
47	Guardian Pet Beds
16	Coastal Medium Firm Shedding Blades
16	Classic Long Tooth Undercoat rakes
13	VSPA Challenge Coins (Donated)
12	Coastal Large Slickers
12	Doggles
12	Heavy Guard Handled Water Pails
8	K9 Bluelight Supplement (2 pound bags)
8	Muzzles
8	Kygen Port-A-Bowls
8	Cooling Wraps
8	PSI Water Holes
8	Cooldanna Cooling Mats
8	Sets of Flood Light Bulbs
7	Digital Thermometers
5	Classic HG Food Dishes
4	Kygen 2-In-1 Food/Water Bowls
4	Large Kongs
3	100' Foot Water Hoses
3	Nozzles
3	24" Heavy Duty Floor Squeegees
3	20" Heavy Duty Cleaning Brushes
3	12" Heavy Duty Cleaning Brushes
3	5" Heavy Duty Cleaning Brushes
2	Spray Bottles & Sprayers
1	Drink Mixes & Snacks (Large Box)

*Note: Some of you may receive this twice. I apologize - it's a data base thing!*