

K-9 Supply Program

THAILAND DOG HANDLERS

USAF Dog Handlers Stationed in Thailand Supporting the Vietnam War

(06/15/07)

Hello everyone! Well, it looks like our guys at FOB Warrior are pretty well settled in now, but they still have a lot of work ahead of them. This sure seems like a great group and I think we are going to have a great relationship with them during their tour.

June 2007 brings us to 22 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.

Paired up again – Old Dawg & Pup Reunion!

During the Memorial Day holiday weekend Mike Diercks (Korat 75-76) put the final touches on one of his adoptions as he got to meet SSgt Dan McClain of Whiteman AFB, Missouri, who he had been paired with during Dan’s deployment at FOB Warrior. The two had a great time sharing stories and getting to know each other after communicating for over six months. Old Dawgs & Pups strikes again! Here are Mike’s comments on the project and what it means to him.



Mike Diercks and SSgt Dan McClain at Whiteman AFB, Missouri

On Memorial Day weekend 2007, my son Matt and I were going to see relatives in Southern Illinois. I had decided to route my trip through Whiteman AFB. I wanted to surprise one of my pups, SSgt. Dan McClain, who had just returned from Iraq. We talked by email almost every day while during his tour so it was like family when we finally met in person.

The first words out of his mouth were "I feel like I've known you for ever". And it did feel a little strange to finally meet after all those emails. We were given a tour of the kennel; things hadn't changed much since I was there in the middle 70's. I got to catch a dog on the wrap again. I got to visit the kennel run where I used to put my dog Shandi for 2 years - that brought back some memories. I would like to thank Bill Cummings for getting and keeping the Old Dawgs and Pups program going. It meant a lot to me being part of the war effort and to spend time with our dog handlers. It meant even more when they tell you thank you for spending time with them and helping them get through some bad times. It makes the program SO worth while! – Mike Diercks

Area of Operation Status

We've some troops on the ground at Camp Bucca now, but they are just getting settled in and we have been told that hopefully we can get "hooked up" in the very near future. Some of you may have heard that the Camp took mortar first last weekend – it sure scared the hell out of me, but I have been assured that now of our deployed troops were injured. Stay tuned for me information as it becomes available.

The guys at FOB Warrior are in the final stages of reconstructing the kennel facilities and the training area as of June 4, 2007. TSgt Chris Beavers has assured me that that the dogs are "set up great for now" and they have some minor work to do, but for the most part they are "Good to go" for now.

Here are some shots of the process that took place and all I can say is "WOW"!

Remember – this is how it started - MWD Rex on the concrete finisher



New Kennel Facility



Erecting the structure



Cleaning the structure



Assembling the kennel runs (1)



Assembling the kennel runs (2)



Finished kennel runs



New Kennel Facility



Training Area



New Occupants – Arena & Dasty



New Occupants – Hhero & Rex



PFC Deborah Rush – Vet Tech
248th Medical Detach – Veterinary Services
Deployed from Ft. Bragg, North Carolina
She is being adopted by our OD&P group as we speak!

Other Happenings at FOB Warrior



TSgt Chris Beavers and Commander's Demonstration



Memorial Service for a Friend at FOB Warrior



TSgt Jose Ochoa & MWD Arek - Arek found the bomb!



TSgt Paul Rasmussen and TSgt Jose Ochoa on a BIG GUN!

OK – that's what's happening at FOB Warrior this month – from what we hear our troops and dogs are in pretty good shape and the mission is going very well. Thank you TSgt Chris Beavers for keeping us in the loop and thank you and all the troops for the job you are doing.

Other Donations

Our fundraiser involving the “In Memorial” and “Air Force – Thailand K-9” decals for the Thailand Dog Handlers and the Old Dawgs & Pups/K-9 Supply is going well – thank you to everyone who is participating.

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 8 handlers and a Vet Tech at one kennel/assignment.

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 358 pieces of equipment has been delivered to our K-9 troops serving in Iraq from August 21, 2005 to June 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

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**

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| 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 |
| 22 | Doggles (10 Pairs were donated) |
| 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!