

K-9 Supply Program



(07/19/07)

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.

July 2007 brings us to 23 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.

Vet Tech at FOB Warrior welcomed into Old Dawg & Pup Program

Well, we’ve adopted our first Vet Tech – we introduced her last month with a photograph, but she is now officially adopted by Doc Hodges (Ubon & Korat)& Virginia Gilliam. Here is a little about our ARMY Vet Technician – PFC Deborah Rush.

She grew up in Kentucky, but calls Anna Maria Island, Florida her home. “Before going into the Army, she worked at a hospital, and is a licensed massage therapist, certified in neuromuscular and sports massage. My intensions were to take my knowledge in massage and become certified in equine massage and work with race horses. "Life happens" and I didn't get to follow through with that. I knew there was something else for me to do. I needed a challenge.

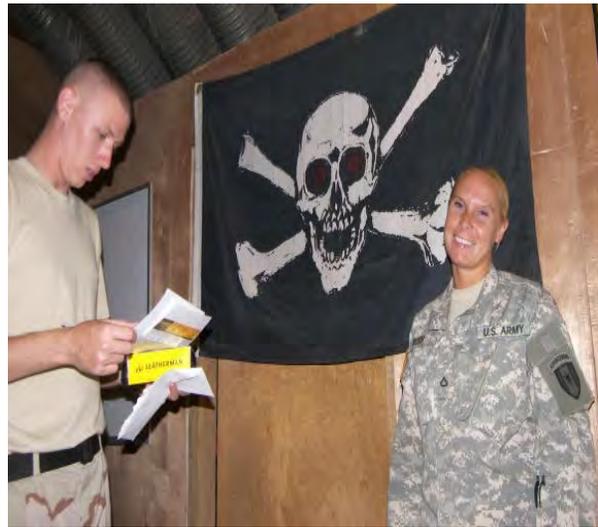
With still wanting to work with animals and my knowledge in the medical field, I enlisted in the Army to become a Vet Tech. On my 27th birthday I started basic training at Ft Leonard Wood, MO. I loved it! I had a blast. Then, for AIT, I arrived in the beautiful city of San Antonio, TX!!! Man, I loved it there! School was awesome.

Everyday was a challenge, but fun. I was honor graduate in my class.

After AIT, I was sent to Ft Bragg, NC. Not even a month later, I was deployed to Kirkuk, Iraq. I’ve been in Iraq and only in the military 6 months. Not too bad, huh? As crazy as it may sound, I love it here, too. I make the best of it and enjoy the people I meet and the opportunities I've been given. I take care of the 9 dogs here, 3 at McHenry, 5 in Mosul, 2 in Rabiya, and 2 in Sykes. I get to travel, which is great! I've been to Baghdad also. The K-9 guys here are great! They take care of me. It's like having all these over-protective big brothers...

My real brother is over here, too and I should get to see him next month. I'm pretty excited about that! He's in Special Forces and gets to do all the cool, fun stuff I don't get to do. I've been extended, so I'll have been here through TSgt Hoglen's rotation, TSgt Beavers' rotation and half of the new, upcoming rotation”.

She is assigned to the 248th MED DETACHMENT. Here’s another sign that this was meant to happen – Doc Hodges knows PFC Rush’s family and the area that she hails from – small world isn’t it. The next series of photographs shows Deborah receiving her Leatherman Surge from TSgt Chris Beavers – Deb, welcome aboard and thanks for taking care of our airmen and their canine partners!



TSgt Chris Beavers, Kennel Master FOB Warrior, presents PFC Deborah Rush with her Leatherman Surge, Thailand Handler Challenge Coin, and Thailand Patch



PFC Rush shows off her Leatherman tool and her Thailand Handler Challenge Coin

**PFC Deborah Rush – Vet Tech
248th Medical Detach – Veterinary Services
Deployed from Ft. Bragg, North Carolina**

She has been adopted by Doc Hodges (Ubon & Korat) and Virginia Gilliam (Friend of K-9)

Area of Operation Status

We now have three teams on the ground at Camp Bucca and they have been adopted and things appear to be going well. SSgt Doug Harriman, who has been in our program previously, is our contact on the ground. Stay tuned for more happenings at Camp Bucca, Iraq.

TSgts Chris Beavers and Paul Rasmussen, the Kennel Master and Trainer/Supervisor at FOB Warrior are now on their way home to RAF Lakenheath, England, after being relieved by TSgt Jerry Glynn and TSgt Tony Potter of Vandenberg AFB, who will now head up the kennels at FOB Warrior. We are in the process of hooking up the new KM and T/S and have welcomed them to our programs.



TSgt Paul Rasmussen



TSgt Jerry Glynn

Flash! Here is a parting shot of TSgt Paul Rasmussen as he is pulling training aids (Synthetic TNT) to plant for some joint training I set up for the Dyn Corp contract State Department Regional Embassy Office K9 Squad. According to TSgt Rasmussen, "Our new Vet Tech (PFC Rush) threw the hat on my head, and also on our new Kennel Master TSgt Glynn (welcome TSgt Glynn) as well. It stayed there for a good while on all of us. I don't know why...must be the fog of war needing some well deserved comedy relief!"

FOB Warrior – Diamond Sharp Award Winner – 506th ESFS



(Editors Note to our gentle readers: The following news item was submitted by dog handlers and a vet-tech that work with and for TSgt Beavers in the middle of a war zone. As you can probably imagine, it required a subtle translation from the original "language." We hope that enough of the intended ... um ... "flavor" made it past the censors ... uh, translators, to get the point across. And TSgt Beavers, those ceremonial kneepads your folks ordered for you are on the way!)

Congratulations to our Kennel Master!

"TSgt Chris Beavers of the 506th Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron, the "Pride of the Pack", the "Top Dog", the "Cream of the Crop", etcetera, etcetera...has honored his kennels, "The Grundle", by winning a STIFF competition of merit and distinction called the "Diamond Sharp Award"!

This award is presented to the absolute tip-top, supremely rated Enlisted Person of the 506th Air Expeditionary Group known as "The Tuskegee Airman Red Tails"! The Senior Enlisted Staff led by CMSgt Craig Weddle and CMSgt Tammy Brennon had but one choice when presented sharp

packages from the likes of guys who drive the "FOLLOW ME" truck on the flight line, those Combat Communications telephone operators, the fellow who makes the Colonel's coffee, and those grease monkeys from Transportation Squadron. Chris did his men and mutts proud by increasing detection and deterrent with his working dog teams all while telling nearly every junior officer on the base to stick his head where the sun don't shine!

This award duly recognizes his professional merit mixed with the grizzly NCO determination we K-9 folk have become well known for (without nary a scuff on his boot or a stain on his knee). It's the stuff of legend! Congratulations TSgt Beavers! We are proud to be lead by such a shark of a Kennel Master!

Sincerely....The Grundle Bundle

506th ESFS K-9 Section – FOB Warrior



Left/Right

**SrA Ronald Harden & MWD Arno, TSgt Jose Ochoa & MWD Arek,
SSgt Dennis Luczak & MWD Rex, SSgt Ryan Wade & MWD Rex,
SSgt Jay Christy & MWD Rico, SrA Michael Marks & MWD Dasty**

Front

TSgt Chris Beavers / Kennel Master & TSgt Paul Rasmussen / Trainer Supervisor

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

At the time of this report we have 24 members of the "Old Dawgs & Pups" program actively supporting 14 handlers and a Vet Tech at two kennels.

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 371 pieces of equipment has been delivered to our K-9 troops serving in Iraq from August 21, 2005 to July 15, 2007. Over seventy-five "Old Dawgs and Friends" have supported over eighty-nine 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 **\$5,325.00** of supplies for the 17 kennels solely via your personal donations. Including the Leatherman corporate donation, the total is **\$10,499.00!** **That's RIGHT – OVER \$10,000.00!**

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**

- 67 Leatherman "Surge" Tools (41 Donated by Leatherman) *
- 60 Thailand Challenge Coins (Donated & Purchased)
- 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!