

(09/15/07)

This month's Supply update is dedicated to the memory of our good friend SSgt Mike Long.

Memorial
SSgt Charles M. (Mike) Shorty Long
United States Air Force
824th SFS – Moody AFB, Georgia



**SSgt Mike Long – Nemo Memorial headstone
Dedication – Lackland AFB – 2005**



**SSgt Mike Long and SSD Rambo
Dedication – Lackland AFB – 2005**

TSgt Sherrie Conkwright reported the tragedy to us by saying “I am deeply saddened to inform you that one of our fellow AIRMAN has passed away. The good lord upstairs gracefully took him from us on 3 September 2007 due to injuries sustained in a motorcycle accident. The member was SSgt Charles M. Long A.K.A. “Shorty”. Shorty was a former K9 handler with the 822d SFS and then transferred to the 824th SFS. He has a son (Trip) that is on the way and the mother (Erin) is doing fine”.

Several of us first met Mike in the summer of 2005 while he was attending training at Lackland. He was the Team Leader of Specialized Search Dog (SSD) Team #2. As part of his leadership role, he spearheaded the effort to research Sentry Dog Nemo. Many of our group worked with him and Team #2 as they raised funds for the memorial headstone that is now a part of the Nemo Memorial at Lackland. Mike and his team believed that our studying our canine history would pave the way for dog teams in the future.

Many of us spent time with Mike and members of the 822nd SFS/K-9 section at the 2005 VSPA reunion at Valdosta, Georgia. Mike's laugh was contagious as we all enjoyed each others company. What a great reunion we had – Old and new dog handlers!

During the winter of 2006 Mike and the 822nd were deployed to the 506th SFS at Kirkuk, Iraq. During that deployment he volunteered to participate in our Old Dawgs & Pups Program and he was team with Ernie Childers (Udorn) and Dixie Whitman (Friend of K-9) and the three became quite the trio. We are so fortunate that Mike, Ernie, and Dixie did in fact have the opportunity to know each other personally, along with being able to communicate with each other during and after the Iraq deployment. This was real success story for our program.

Learning of Mike's death was devastating to all of us – how in the world could this happen? After being notified of the events of the accident, members of the OD&P, the Safeside Association, and the SFS at Moody worked as a team to help Mike's family and friends put together as we all grieved the lost of a great friends. Telephone calls and e-mails rang out from Georgia, Texas, Arizona, California, Oregon, and Alaska and many places in between to ensure that notifications and arrangements were completed to assist Mike's family, both civilian and military.

The local obituary was posted as follows: CUYAHOGA FALLS

Staff Sgt. Charles Michael "Shorty" Long, Jr., 30, passed away on September 3, 2007. Michael was currently serving in the 824th Security Force of the United States Air Force Group, K-9, and was stationed at Moody Air Force Base in Valdosta, Ga. Michael is survived by his loving father, Charles Michael Long, Sr.; his beloved stepmother, Donna D. Long; his mother, Jackie Anderson; his cherished brothers, sisters, fiancée and sons, Nicholas and one that will soon be arriving to be named Charles Michael Long III and by many other loving family and friends.

Michael bravely served our country exemplifying the quiet honor, strength, and courage that lie in the heart of every hero. He loved motorcycles and dogs and worked to raise awareness for the National War Dog Memorial he wanted to see built. He was a man that touched countless lives and his passion for living was evident in everything that he did. Michael never knew a stranger and comforted us all with his warm smile and the simple phrase, "No worries."

The family received friends on Monday, September 10th from 2 to 4 and 6 to 9 p.m. at Clifford-Shoemaker Funeral Home, 1930 Front St., Cuyahoga Falls, OH 44221. The funeral service was conducted at 11 a.m. Tuesday, September 11th. Interment will be at the Ohio Western Reserve National Cemetery in Rittman, Ohio.

Cards of condolence may be sent to: The Long Family, 1054 N. Main St. Akron OH 44310

This is a post made by Rick Adams, 823rd CSPA (Safeside) who attend the funeral service.

Funeral of SSGT Charles Michael Long Jr. -- [Rick Adams, 823rd CSPA](#), *Wed, Sep 12 2007, 4:58:34 PDT (net166-102.xu.edu/205.133.166.102)*

The services for SSGT Charles Michael Long Jr. were attended by many, many friends and family. The Patriot Guard Riders provided an Honor Guard at the funeral home and an escort to the grave site. At the grave site, in the lush and beautiful Ohio Western Reserve National Cemetery, full military honors were carried out by a bugler, a rifle squad, pall bearers, Honor Guard and a military Chaplain. Many of Mike's fellow SFS members were in attendance, from Moody AFB, including our Secretary TSGT Sherrie Conkright. Safesider Bob Gainok, his wife, Becky, and I were very honored to be at this service, also. I presented Mike's mother, Jackie, with one of our new challenge coins and Sherrie's husband, Ken will present one to his brother. May he rest in peace and be remembered, always. Rick

Dixie Whitman, one of Mike's partner's from our program attended the service and these are her words.

"For me, the trip was necessary. Even though I had met Mike only once in person, he was, as you know, one of my adoptees and we had developed a very close relationship. I needed to go for some time for open grieving. The Memorial Service was held at the Moody AFB chapel at 11:00 AM on September 14, 2007.

When I arrived around 10:30, the chapel was already packed and overflowing. It was obvious that I wasn't the only one who truly loved Mike. The family was seated in the first three rows and the rest were taken by AF personnel.

The program started with everyone standing in prayer. Mike's Commander got up and spoke about him and how devoted he was to the dog training program and gave us all of more complete history of Mike's dog handling resume, which included tours in Korea, Kosovo, Iraq, Turkey, Barksdale, SSD training and Moody AFB. He also talked about Mike dressing up as McGruff the Crime Dog to stress to kids the importance of avoiding drugs. He also mentioned that Mike was involved in the Big Brothers, Big Sisters program at one of the bases he was stationed.

Mike's former Kennelmaster, TSgt Jason Somers gave an emotional reading of the poem "Guardians of the Night" and talked about how much he enjoyed working with Mike and was an extraordinary handler he was. Jason talked for a while mostly about personal experiences with Mike.

Then Mike's father, Charles Long Sr., got up and spoke. He shared a couple of funny Mike stories with everyone. I have a couple of my own so I can certainly believe them all. Mike was an organ donor and his organs saved the lives of at least three strangers. Mike's father plans to work to do some fundraising for two purposes: to support the Nemo project at Lackland and to raise money for his grandchildren's college fund.

After that the chaplain spoke and he was beyond wonderful and really helped me with his words. The service lasted about an hour".

Following the chapel service, family and friends traveled to the 820th Group kennels for a K-9 demonstration by Mike's group mates. MSgt Bob Kisner, TSgt Jason Somers, TSgt John Masiello, and TSgt Randy Fontenot represent our Old Dawgs & Pups Program throughout the memorials.

Presentations of the newly created K-9 Ceremonial badges, lapel pins, and Thailand Handler Coins were presented to Mike's father and son Nicholas by the Senior Non-Commissioned Officers of the 820th Group on our behalf.

Additional details concerning contributions to a memorial fund will be distributed as soon as the details are available. Photographs of the memorials are not yet available. When we have photographs they will be posted on the Thailand Handler Website, under the Old Dawg & Pups page. You will be advised when the information is posted, along with other details as they become available.

If you are interested in contributing to a memorial fund, that information will also be passed along when it becomes available.

On a final note - Mike, our friend, we miss you so very much – you made us laugh, you made us cry, but mainly – you made us proud.

Area of Operation Status

Well, it looks like our guys at FOB Warrior and Camp Bucca are doing well and enjoying our support and I think we are going to have a great relationship with them during their tour.

September 2007 brings us to two years and one month 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.

We now have two 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.

We are getting to know our new FOB Warrior teams as they rotate in and out. The newest arrivals are SSgt Guy Gschwend of Nellis AFB, SrA Robin Campos of Nellis AFB, SSgt Brad Stem of Kadena AB, Japan, and Elizabeth Blanchford of Nellis AFB. So the new FOB Warrior are on the ground and up and running.

Guardian Cots to FOB Warrior

On August 29th, 10 Guardian Pet Cots arrived at FOB Warrior to get those dawgs off the concrete and safe and sound in the new kennels. It was like pulling teeth to get our troops to say they needed something. Once again Pet Edge gave us great pricing and service. The order was place, shipped, and arrived in nine days. I don’t care who you are – that is great service. We’ll have photographs of the cots in next months update.

More News concerning OD&P Graduates!

(David Adams & TSgt Max Talley)

Fairchild dog handler returns after nearly 30 years



FAIRCHILD AIR FORCE BASE, Wash. -- David Adams and his Sentry Dog King 12M5 shortly after his arrival from technical school in June 1968. Mr. Adams was a member of the 92nd Bomb Wing Security Police Squadron from June 1968 until September 1969, when he was sent to Korat Royal Thai Air Force Base, Thailand. (Courtesy Photo)

by Tech. Sgt. Larry Carpenter, Jr.
92nd Air Refueling Wing Public Affairs
8/23/2007 - FAIRCHILD AIR FORCE BASE, Washington

David Adams, a former K-9 handler with the 92nd Bomb Wing, now the 92nd Air Refueling Wing, visited Fairchild Aug. 10 after almost 30 years. Mr. Adams was a member of the 92nd Security Police Squadron here from June 1968 through September 1969, and was given the opportunity to spend the day with Tech. Sgt. Max Talley, 92nd Security Forces Squadron kennel staff. Sergeant Talley gave Mr. Adams a tour of the base dog handling facilities, and the two had the chance to sit and talk about how dog handling has evolved over the years.

"We spent a lot of time talking about what the kennels were like in '68 and '69," said Sergeant Talley. "Mr. Adams was comparing the way the area was setup then versus the way its set up now." "At least the kennels are on the same grounds they were 30 years ago," said Mr. Adams.

Mr. Adams is quick to identify one major difference between the K-9 units of today and those of his generation. The simple fact is that each time period trained the dogs to accomplish different missions. During the Cold War and Vietnam eras, the major threat that concerned American forces was people getting too close to the alert areas and sabotage.

"When I graduated from dog school, the dogs were trained for sentry duty and were used only at night," said Mr. Adams. "Under ideal conditions, a sentry dog could pick up the scent of a person up to 1,000 yards away, and 250 yards in poor conditions."

Mr. Adams remembers how the threat in Vietnam and Thailand were sappers who would attack the base in teams of 12 or more at night, using stealth under the cover of darkness. Sappers were originally experts at demolishing or otherwise overcoming or bypassing fortification systems and in this case, American fortifications. K-9s still perform perimeter patrol duty but also focus on drug and explosive detection; it all depends on the base's mission.

"The K-9 unit mission varies depending on the location and what the specific threat is," said Sergeant Talley. "We will continue to be a psychological deterrent, because people just don't know what the dogs are capable of."

Mr. Adams also said the two eras of dog handlers differ in deployment and retirement procedures for the dogs. In Vietnam, after the first wave of handlers and dogs were deployed, the dogs would remain and the handlers would return home once their tours were over. "For those of us who worked with those dogs, it was like leaving a buddy behind with no hope of survival," he said. In contrast, the dogs and handlers of today's security forces K-9 units deploy together and return home together. This maximizes the amount of time a handler works with a dog.

"The longer a handler and dog work together, the stronger the bond between them becomes," said Mr. Adams. "It is that bond that makes for a strong and proficient K-9 team." During his time as a dog handler, Mr. Adams had several K-9s under his control to include: Sentry Dog Rex 7A98, Patrol Dog Blackie X850, Sarge and Sentry Dog King 12M5, his very first. "I trained King at the dog school at Lackland (Air Force Base, Texas) and brought him to Fairchild with me in 1968," he said.

In today's Air Force, security forces personnel have to put in time and dues in order to become a dog handler. That was not the case in Mr. Adams days in the Air Force; K-9 teams were in high demand, and the opportunity was only a volunteer away. "Those assigned to the Security Police School were provided an opportunity to volunteer for K-9 while still in tech school," he said. "The volunteers would move directly from SP school to dog school."

Mr. Adams and Sergeant Talley finished the day by taking one of the K-9s through the obstacle course, one last run for old times' sake. After reminiscing over the old days and a good story about Nemo, the hero dog from Vietnam, Mr. Adams headed back home. "I never cease to be impressed with the professionalism and pride exhibited by the men and women of the United States Air Force Security Forces and K-9 units of today," said Mr. Adams.

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

At the time of this report we have 22 members of the "Old Dawgs & Pups" program actively supporting 11 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 390 pieces of equipment has been delivered to our K-9 troops serving in Iraq from August 21, 2005 to September 15, 2007. Over seventy-seven "Old Dawgs and Friends" have supported over ninety seven 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 **\$5,839.00** of supplies for the 17 kennels solely via your personal donations. Including the Leatherman corporate donation, the total is **\$12,033.00!**

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 **\$6,194.00**

77	Leatherman "Surge" Tools (51 Donated by Leatherman) *
60	Thailand Challenge Coins (Donated & Purchased)
57	Guardian Pet Beds
22	Doggles (10 Pairs were donated)
19	VSPA Challenge Coins (Donated & Purchased)
16	Coastal Medium Firm Shedding Blades
16	Classic Long Tooth Undercoat rakes
12	Coastal Large Slickers
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
3	Ceremonial K-9 Badges (Memorial)
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!