

## K-9 Supply Program

# THAILAND DOG HANDLERS

USAF Dog Handlers Stationed in Thailand Supporting the Vietnam War

(10/15/07)

Hello everyone! 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 our new troops.

October 2007 brings us to two years and two 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.

### Area of Operation Status

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.

To help you get to know some of our new troops at Warrior I’d like to introduce two new handlers



**SSgt Elizabeth Blanchford & MWD Urik  
Deployed from Nellis AFB, Nevada**



**SrA Robin Campos & MWD Badis  
Deployed from Nellis AFB, Nevada**

### Guardian Cots to FOB Warrior

On August 29<sup>th</sup>, 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.

## **FOB Warriors team up with Damascus High School**

Jim Stastny (Korat 70-71) reports on a new program that the FOB Warriors have agreed to participate in with students from Damascus High School, Damascus, Maryland. Here's how Jim related the program to me.

As a regular, substitute teacher at the local high school I'm familiar with many of the students, regular teachers, and the various courses taught. One teacher, with whom I have regular contact, teaches a class on leadership. In that class the students must create various projects and then accomplish their goals. Currently the class is working on a project to encourage the military in Iraq. Upon hearing of this mission I asked the teacher if she would like names of K-9 handlers in Iraq that the students might correspond with them.

When she Okayed the idea I contacted several of our MWD handlers and asked if they would correspond with these high school students. Most enthusiastically said yes! One handler even sent two pictures of herself and her dog. Once I passed the names, addresses, and pictures to the teacher she told me that the class was very excited about the project and couldn't wait to make contact with the handlers. The following handlers are those involved in this project: TSgt Bradley Stem, SSgt Tony Potter, SSgt Elizabeth Blanchford, SSgt Rojen Richards, SrA Robin Campos, and SrA Kimberly Harting.

Jim will keep us updated on the program as it continues.

## **K-9 Badges Awarded to OD&P Volunteers**

One of our OD&P volunteers has graciously purchased and asked that the following be awarded to two OD&P volunteers who he has felt have contributed above and beyond the call of duty since our programs started. It is with great pleasure that I announce that the K-9 ceremonial badges have been presented to Ben Cox (U-Tapao 67-68) and Mike Diercks (Korat 75-76). For those of you who have not seen the badge – here is what Ben and Mike received. Once again – great job Ben and Mike, and a special thank you to our secret member who purchased and donated the badges.



## **Other News concerning OD&P Graduates!**

### **Don Muang Handler now serving in Iraq**

**In 1975 A1C John Probst and MWD Shep (80M3) departed Clark Air Base for a TDY assignment at Don Muang Airport, Bangkok, Thailand. At Don Muang A1C Probst handled Shep (80M3), who hated everyone equally and had no favorites and Rebel (8M12) who always wanted to please his handler no matter the chore!**

**There have been other assignments before and after Don Muang for this dog handler, like Goose Bay AB, Newfoundland, Canada; Fairchild AFB, Spokane, Washington; Clark AB, Philippines; Kadena AB, Okinawa, Japan; Don Muang Airport, Thailand; and Lackland AFB, San Antonio. It has been the combination of all these bases that have brought this dog handler full circle while serving over 30 years active duty.**

**Let's not forget what John has described as the highlight of his career, when he had the opportunity to return to the dog school, then called the 341<sup>st</sup> Technical Training Squadron, as the commander. "The Assumption of Command Ceremony had all four services, 20 plus dogs in formation and MSgt John Pearce handing me a dog on leash as I took command ... my heart was in my throat and racing with pride. How lucky could one guy get?"**

**On March 23, 2007 John Probst was promoted to Colonel. Three days later he was on his way to Baghdad, Iraq. His new job, Director, Police Forces Team, entails leading and directing 3 teams of Joint Service and Coalition Forces (CF) staff charged with developing essential Iraqi capabilities to manage manning, training, equipping, and basing of more than 235,000 Iraqi Police Service forces throughout all 18 Iraq provinces. They implement Multi-National Security Transition Command-Iraq, Civilian Police Assistance and Training Team intent in preparing Ministry of the Interior for transition from CF-led/CF-assisted to Iraqi-led/independent operations. Through Iraq's Ministry of Interior they coordinate and help formulate national policy for planning, administration, logistics, inspections, internal staff coordination and security force development. He travels throughout Iraq coordinating force generation activities with coalition Police Transition Teams**

**John explains his duties this way "While my duties have me traveling a lot I typically work in an office and I am NOT risking my life daily like many of our young Army, Air Force, Navy and Marine services members. So I ask that you continue to keep every one of them in your prayers ... they are our heroes".**

**"Our primary effort is to help the Iraqi people plan, build, and develop strong national security through national police forces. We assist them in the training, equipping, basing and replenishing of their police forces throughout all 18 provinces. We also engage with and mentor their Deputy Ministers of the Interior".**

**"The work is the most challenging and fastest paced work I have ever encountered. What typically takes 1 to 2 months anywhere else in the world is sometimes done in 24 hours here! The conference, meeting and staff work makes your mind spin not to mention learning how to operate in a true joint environment -- Army, Navy, Air Force and Marine".**

**"And don't let the media tell you anything but, our Airmen, Soldiers, Seamen, and Marines are a true inspiration and perform professionally every day in a harsh and chaotic environment. God bless each and every one of them!"**

**Colonel Probst works and lives in the GREEN (International) ZONE. He also advises that "There are plenty of dog teams over here -- more contractor teams than military, and Iraq is growing their own military/police dog program".**

John related this simple sentence to me and I believe that it shows how much he appreciates where he came from. “Well Bill, my beginnings were simple and thoroughly blessed by the great NCOs and SNCOs that raised me. I am just a product of their work ... and I appreciate it and need to honor it”.

During the annual reunion of the Air Force Security Police Association, held at Lackland AFB, Texas, October 4-6, 2007, Colonel John Probst was sworn in as their President. Following the reunion John will head back to finish his tour in Iraq.

It's been a long time since he worked a dog, but John is still very proudly serving our country. Way to go dog handler – you've done well, and you've made the rest of us “puppy pushers” very proud of one of our own.

If all goes well, many of us will have the pleasure of meeting “Our Colonel” at the VSPA reunion in Albuquerque, New Mexico next year. I know I'm not speaking for only myself, but, I will be honored to shake this dog handlers' hand – to tell you the truth – I think a hand salute will be in order!



A1C John Probst and MWD Diablo 79M8  
Goose Bay, Newfoundland, Canada – 1971-72



Colonel John Probst – Joint/Coalition  
HQ – Iraq - 2007

## **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 October 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.pbases.com/635thk9/old\\_dawgs](http://www.pbases.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!***