

K-9 Supply Program



(01/15/08)

In honor of Al "Sarge" Matthews

This month's issue of K-9 Supply is dedicated to Al "Sarge" Matthews, father of Janet Wise, who passed away on January 4, 2008. MSgt (Ret) Al Matthews served at Cam Ranh Bay, RVN in 1971-1972. Sarge Matthews was always there to help Janet in her quest to support our deployed canine teams – they were always there – first in line, to take on any project that would help our program. Sarge – I know you can see this – We all miss you so very much and as always – thanks for the help!

Hello everyone! Well, it looks like our guys at FOB Warrior are preparing to rotate in the near future and that is great news. January 2008 brings us to two years and five month of operation for our "Old Dawgs & Pups and 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.

Our Vet Tech has rotated!

PFC Deborah Rush, the Vet Tech that has taken care of the dogs at FOB Warrior for the last two deployments has finally rotated home! With the help of our "Warriors" we tracked her down while she was on leave and this is what she had to say.

"Hey!! It's so good to hear from you. Yes, I rotated back to Ft Bragg. I apologize for not writing, but I've been busy. Ft Bragg makes their soldiers go through a 21 day "lockdown" period before we can even take any leave. It's for briefings, classes, and learning how to live in "the real world." And I'm on my block leave now. When I get back and settled in, I'll let you know what's going on and how it is. I do miss Kirkuk, the handlers, and my dogs! I hope you had an excellent Christmas and New Year. For Christmas, I was laying out, getting some sun on the beautiful, white sandy beaches of Anna Maria Island, FL. (My "home") And, I want you to also know that the Leatherman still comes in handy and I love to show it off! Thank you all for everything you do for the K-9 teams. Take care – Deborah"

Of course, we are proud of her – even is she is an Army Vet Tech! - Seriously, PFC Rush has just been great to our deployed K-9 teams – we just wish that every base had someone this dedicated. Thanks again Deborah for all that you have done.

Area of Operation Status

Things are pretty quiet now at FOB Warrior as our troops prepare for the holidays and hopefully soon they will be packing their bags and waiting for the "Freedom Bird". Those of us that have been deployed during this time of year know exactly what they are thinking right now. Lets try to keep them in our thoughts and prayers to get through the remaining days of their deployment.

I'm sure many of you have sent packages or cards to our troops and many others – thanks for thinking about our men and women – I'm sure they greatly appreciate your efforts. Hopefully in the next few months we will be connected with the new arrivals at Warrior and we can get a lot more of our group involved in our pairings.

Winter at FOB Warrior - 2008

According to the news this week, it's been more than one hundred – that's right, 100 years since it snowed in Baghdad – well last week it happened and we have some photos to prove it. FOB Warrior was caught up in that cold front and as you can see from the pictures on the next page – it really looks cold in that desert! It's just hard for me to imagine this condition, but then again, Southwest Asia is one deployment that I never made – thank goodness.

A special thank you goes out to SSgt Elizabeth Blanchford for providing us with these photos. I think you will find them very interesting and entertaining – SNOW in Iraq – who would have thought?



Tech Sergeants Jerry Glynn & Bradley Stem – Is this two Air Force snow bunnies?



**Top – SSgt Elizabeth Blanchford and MWD Urik just hanging out in the snow!
Bottom – MWD Urik let’s everyone know that it’s “My snow and my toy”!**

A little training at FOB Warrior – MWD Urik strikes again!



During a demonstration for FOB Warrior personnel, MWD Urik puts on his own little show. Do you note a touch of enthusiasm on Urik's part – Looks like he's head, neck, and ears into this attack training – don't you just love it!

**In the works!
We're trying something new!**

We now have our first pre-deployment pairing as Charlie Blood (Udorn 70-71) and TSgt Randy Fontenot (824th Moody AFB, Georgia) have kicked off our try at further supporting our deployed troopers. Both Randy and Charlie are Louisiana boys – now this should be something. Stay tuned for more pairing as they become available.

In addition, we have several other groups headed out and when they are on the ground and settled we will be able to start pairing up more teams again really soon. On behalf of the group, we'd like to say "Thank You" to everyone who has supported our teams at FOB Warrior and Camp Bucca. It's been a busy and rough time.

Please be patient with us – we are going to have more teams going out in the first quarter of the year and we will do our best to get many of you teamed up with a deployed team.

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

At the time of this report we have 21 members of the "Old Dawgs & Pups" program actively supporting 8 handlers at one kennel.

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 394 pieces of equipment has been delivered to our K-9 troops serving in Iraq from August 21, 2005 to January 15, 2008. 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 **\$5,903.00** of supplies for the 17 kennels solely via your personal donations. Including the Leatherman corporate donation, the total is **\$12,097.00!**

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
5	Nozzles
4	Kygen 2-In-1 Food/Water Bowls
4	Large Kongs
3	100 Foot Water Hoses
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	50 Foot Water Hoses
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!