

## K-9 Supply Program



(03/15/08)

Hello everyone! Well, it looks like our guys at FOB Warrior are getting in place as we paired up six teams on March 5, 2008. March 2008 brings us to two years and seven months 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.

### Area of Operation Status

Our new groups of handlers' are under the command of TSgt Andrew Esparza from Davis-Monthan AFB, Tucson, Arizona. So far he is joined with handlers from Hill, Moody, Nellis, Mountain Home, and Holloman Air Force Bases. SSgt Elizabeth Blanchford and SSgt Gish Gschwend should now be back in the states and that closes out the previous deployment.

It's getting ready to get really busy for us as we have established footholds at Ali Al Salem (386<sup>th</sup> ESFS), Kuwait, under the command of TSgt Matt Rebholz from the 1<sup>st</sup> SFS, Langley AFB, Virginia, with 12 teams serving two locations; Manus Air Base (376<sup>th</sup> ESFS), Kyrgyzstan, under the command of TSgt Randy Fontenot from the 824<sup>th</sup> SFS, Moody AFB, Georgia, with six teams, and Saudi Arabia, with two NCO's from Davis-Monthan, AFB, Tucson, Arizona.

In addition, we have also picking up an OD&P graduate, SSgt Zachary Burt who is now under the command of an Army detachment, 4th ID in support of 4th BDE 10th Mountain Division deployed from the 374<sup>th</sup> SFS out of Yokota AB Japan, FOB Rustamiyah, Baghdad, Iraq. The Rustamiyah Kennel Master is SSG Eric Hooker. John Risse, OD&P (Pleiku) is going to coordinate this effort for us during their deployment. Welcome aboard guys!

### NEWS FLASH – Camp Victory, Iraq Now On Board!

SSgt Clayton Tebbetts deployed out of Moody AFB, also an OD&P graduate, is in the process of hooking us up with over a dozen Air Force and Army handlers at Camp Victory, Iraq. It sure was great hearing from Clayton. We're still in the process of getting all of the handlers in the system.

**As you can see – we are going to need most of you to be prepared to be teamed up in within the next month or so. This is one of our largest deployments/pairings since we started Old Dawgs & Pups. If you are interest in hooking up with our new handles – PLEASE E-MAIL ME TO SAY THAT YOU ARE READY FOR A NEW PUP – THIS WILL BE A GREAT HELP TO ME!**

As soon as I get the information on where all of these troops are deployed from stateside, along with their home towns, I will be contacting those in those areas to start the pairing process. So get ready guys – we're rollin'.

We've already had requests for Kongs, squeegees, and "Toilet Paper" – man, it's a "S^\*&()\* job" – but someone has to do it! Most of our kennels are in pretty good shape, but of course, we have offered our assistance in helping with items that are outside of their supply lines.

### Our New Pups at FOB Warrior

We just received these photographs from our new pups at FOB Warrior. They appear to be settling in now and we have them paired up and the program is rolling. This week we're sending them some squeegees and cleaning equipment and hopefully we'll have a few more surprises for them in the very near future.



**TSgt Andrew Esparza – Kennel Master  
Davis-Monthan AFB, Arizona**



**SSgt Kevin Nelson – Trainer/Supervisor  
Hill AFB, Utah**



**SSgt Stephanie Finch & MWD Ate  
Holloman AFB, New Mexico**



**SSgt Joshua Harrison & MWD Vvictor  
Mountain Home AFB, Idaho**



**SSgt James Parkis & MWD JP  
Moody AFB, Georgia**



**SrA Mark Bush & MWD Chukky  
Nellis AFB, Nevada**

**Old Dawgs return home - Continued!**

As a follow-up to Phil Carroll and Bill Cummings visit with the 355<sup>th</sup> SFS at Davis-Monthan, AFB, Tucson, Arizona, we are in the process of presenting Major Kit Johnson with a historic photographic of the Titan II missile locations that has been (only until now) displayed at the Titan II Museum located in Green Valley, Arizona.

Phil Carroll photographed the display and had it reproduced for the presentation. This is really cool. This will be presented to the squadron for their HQ building and it will help to ensure that the history of the 803<sup>rd</sup>/355<sup>th</sup> is displayed to honor their heritage. Thanks Phil for your fantastic work on this project. Stay tuned for more details.



Due to the size of the photograph, I could not perfectly scan it – but here is a “snapshot”.

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

### **Keeping canine protectors safe . . .**

**KADENA AIR BASE, Japan (AFPN) — Staff Sgt. John Grice, a dog handler with the 18th Security Forces Squadron at Kadena Air Base, Japan, responds to a simulated protest during a local operational readiness exercise. The exercise tested the ability of base Airmen to respond to contingency situations. (Nellis Bulls Eye – Feb 22, 2008)**



**I spoke with SSgt Grice and he said to say hello to everyone. John was team with Don Graham and Jim Stastny during his tour at Camp Bucca. He's heading for Aviano Air Base, Italy for the next 4 years – Who does John know to pull off a “plum assignment” like this? Must be Ernie Childers?**

### **FOB Warriors team up with Damascus High School – Update!**

**The following was written by a young lady at Damascus High School. A while ago she started emailing TSgt Brad Stem in Iraq (FOB Warrior).**

**I am a senior at Damascus High School. My 5th period student leadership class had the opportunity to make someone's day, and simply write a letter. My pen pal is Mr. Bradley Stem. I have never had a pen pal before; this was a pretty awesome experience. I did not really know what to expect, so I just sort of decided to accept any kind of response I could get. About a week after I sent out my letter to Stem, he e-mailed me. I was so surprised!!! From then on we kept in touch. We have a lot in common, football (not the teams), party (just kidding), and we both made a new friend. It's awesome that I can talk to him with him being in Iraq. But that subject doesn't come up. As much as Stem would like to be back home in Japan with his wife, Tina, he doesn't complain. We talk about everything from favorites to daily routines, weekend events to life changing experiences. I am having so much fun with keeping in touch, Stem definitely keeps our conversations alive, and I am truly grateful to have such a successful experience.**

**Thank you,  
Marie Jonas  
Damascus High School**

## **Leatherman Donation – March 2008 – 20 Engraved “Thailand K-9” Surges**

Leatherman has come through for us again! This time it's a donation of 20 laser-engraved, heavy-duty Surge multi-tools with sheaths. At the suggested retail price of \$117.00 each, plus \$5.00 each for engraving, this represents a \$2,440.00 donation to Old Dawgs & Pups / K-9 Supply. Every one of those amazing tools is headed “down range” to the hands of one of our active duty Military Working Dog handlers in harm's way.

We selected the Leatherman Surge for our adopted troops for a number of reasons, including remembering how hard it was in Vietnam or Thailand to find any tools at all when something needed fixing. Most often things didn't get fixed, unless one of us figured out how to appropriately apply an M-7 bayonet, a P-38 can opener, the pointy end of a 5.56 round, or a rock to the problem - these were usually all a guy could find. The Leatherman Surge is all stainless steel and all of its massive blades lock open. It was named the “Best of the Test” last summer by Field & Stream Magazine.

Leatherman management listened to our story in 2006, and has been supporting our efforts ever since. The company has donated tools repeatedly, and also given us the ability to buy more tools at wholesale prices (with YOUR donations) to fill the needs of our adopted troops.

Several of our members have been privileged to meet with Air Force dog handlers, after tours in Iraq, who still wear their Surge constantly. These young men and women can hardly find words to express their appreciation for our gifts and our efforts to communicate with them while they're standing up for our country. Thank you Leatherman Tool Group, and thank you supporters of Old Dawgs & Pups / K-9 Supply.



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

At the time of this report we have 9 members of the “Old Dawgs & Pups” program actively supporting 11 handlers in transition at two kennels. We are working on two additional kennels and as soon as we get the information more OD&P and Friends of K-9 will be paired up to support three kennels through out Southwest Asia.

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 460 pieces of equipment has been delivered to our K-9 troops serving in Iraq from August 21, 2005 to March 15, 2008. Over seventy-seven “Old Dawgs and Friends” have supported over ninety nine K-9 personnel via our program. For additional information on the program please go to:

[http://www.pbase.com/635thk9/old\\_dawgs](http://www.pbase.com/635thk9/old_dawgs)

Please review the photos, press releases, and more about our ongoing programs.

We have purchased and shipped **\$7,080.00** of supplies for the 18 kennels solely via your personal donations. Including the Leatherman corporate donation, the total is **\$15,714.00!**

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!

- 112 Leatherman “Surge” Tools (71 Donated by Leatherman) \*
- \* The Leatherman “Surge” donation is valued at approximately **\$8,634.00**
- 75 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
- 15 Thailand Historical Base Patches
- 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!*