

K-9 Supply Program

THAILAND DOG HANDLERS

USAF Dog Handlers Stationed in Thailand Supporting the Vietnam War

(04/15/09)

This edition of K-9 Supply is dedicated to the memory of United States Army Military Working Dog Handler SSG Raphael Futrell, Ali Al Salem, Kuwait.

Schofield Barracks Soldier dies in Iraq



It is with great sadness that we report the following release from the Department of Defense



8th TSC Public Affairs Office

SCHOFIELD BARRACKS, Hawaii (March 27, 2009) -- The Department of Defense announced today the death of a Schofield Barracks Soldier who was supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Staff Sgt. Raphael A. Futrell, 26, of Anderson, S.C., died Wednesday in Baghdad, Iraq, from injuries sustained from a non-combat related incident. Staff Sgt. Futrell was assigned to the 13th Military Police Detachment, 728th Military Police Battalion, 8th Military Police Brigade, 8th Theater Sustainment Command. He was serving as an Explosive Detector Dog Handler.

He joined the Army in July of 2001 and was assigned to Schofield Barracks in July of 2008. His Awards and decorations include the Army Commendation Medal, six Army Achievement Medals, two Army Good Conduct Medals, National Defense Service Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Afghanistan Campaign Medal w/Campaign Star, Iraq Campaign Medal w/Campaign Star, Non-Commissioned Officer Professional Development Ribbon w/numeral 2, Army Service Ribbon, two Overseas Service Ribbons, Air Assault Badge and Driver Badge.

We were contacted by SFC Barak Taylor, the Casualty Assistance NCO assigned to the Futrell family and who further advised that SSG Futrell arrived home in Anderson, South Carolina, at 1028 hours on April 2, 2009.

A viewing was held at 1000 hours with the funeral service following the viewing at 1100 hours at the Anderson County Civic Center on April 4, 2009. A motorcade, with the assistance of the Patriot Guard, transported SSG Futrell for interment, with full Military Honors, at the New Holy Light Baptist Church cemetery.

SSG Raphael Futrell was supported by Doug McCoy, MWD Handler, Wolf X548, 1970-71, U. S. Army 47th Infantry Platoon Scout Dogs (LZ Sally & Phu Bai), Republic of Vietnam. We would also like to thank SSG Audra Rose for her assistance during the tragic event – she was a very close friend of Raphael's. Our hearts are broken and SSG Futrell and his family will be in our thoughts and prayers. God bless you dog handler.

OVER THREE YEARS OF SUPPORTING OUR K-9 TROOPS!

Hello everyone! We are currently supporting six (6) kennels and twenty-seven (27) deployed Air Force and Army teams as of April 15, 2009. March 2009 brings us to three years and eight months of operation for our “Old Dawgs & Pups and K-9 Supply” program. 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 - K-9 Teams Arriving in the AOR

We are currently supporting troops at FOB Warrior, Camp Cropper, FOB O’Ryan, Joint Base Balad, and Camp Basra, Iraq; and Al Udeid Air Base, Qatar. In addition, we’ve picked up four (4) new K-9 teams this month. Here are our new “Pups” that were adopted on April 4, 2009:

Camp Basra – Iraq: SSG Lee Martin & MWD Balto – Kennel Master, from the 148th MP Det., Schofield Barracks, Hawaii. He is supported by Scotty Baker (Safeside), Dean Kennard (Kentucky Fish & Wildlife), and Mary Hall-Rutherford (FOK).

SSG James Duff & MWD Llewls from the 148th MP Det., Ft. Carson, Colorado. He is supported by Nate Foreman (U-Tapao), Tim Pheabus (Kentucky Fish & Wildlife), and Peggy Finzgar (FOK).

Sgt James Hazelton & MWD Bart from the 34th MP Det., Ft. Knox, Kentucky. He is supported by John & Joan Smith (U-Tapao), Lora Lacefield, and Rick Mehlbauer (Kentucky Fish & Wildlife).

Sgt Leslie Langford & MWD Foxy from the 6th MP Det., Ft. Rucker, Alabama. He is supported by Doug McCoy (47th IPSP), Rich Waite (Kentucky Fish & Wildlife), and Virginia Gilliam (FOK).

Camp Basra, Iraq - Kentucky Fish & Wildlife Handlers join OD&P

As you might remember we just recently sent out a call for help to support our new Army kennel that is now in place at Camp Basra, Iraq. When we received the word from Kennel Master SSG Lee Martin that they were in place - we had our ducks in a row! With the help of the handlers from the Kentucky Fish & Wildlife and our Old Dawgs we were able to assign eleven of our people to support this new kennel.

Thank you again – “Doc” Hodges (Ubon/Korat) for falling back into that old Kennel Master slot and taking charge of this new and great assignment. I think our group and the Army teams at Camp Basra will benefit greatly from this new project. Next month we hope to have photographs of the handlers that are training with Doc – I’ve already seen some of them and let me tell you – these are some beautiful dogs. We are so proud to have all of you in our program. That being said – get to work and show us what you got!

We have eleven members of Old Dawgs & Pups supporting the four handlers at Camp Basra. Thank you to everyone who volunteered to take on this new kennel – you guys are just great!

I know it took us a while to get this new kennel lined up and it really think it is going to be worth the effort. This has enable us to take in six professional law enforcement K-9 handlers who can share experiences of handling canine partners, as well as our supports – is this a great country or what?

OK Army – lets get some photographs of your dog teams – we’re waiting to hear and see more of you guys! Welcome to the Old Dawgs & Pups program. Next month we’re going to publish some photographs of our “Kentucky Crew” – you are going to see some beautiful dogs!

Al Udeid, Qatar – There’s a lot happening here!

She’s not just protecting Al Udeid – she’s working a program that is near and dear to her heart! Check out the program that SSgt Brandi Throgmorton is spending real quality time with at her base in Qatar. This is a program that she has wrapped her arms around and is pure dedication – you go girl!

“With the help of my husband Joe, we found that Wilford Hall Medical Center was using prior MWDs and other K9 as therapy dogs for injured soldiers. As the dogs have been proven to help improve quality of life for these fallen heroes in many aspects.

In Qatar and a few undisclosed locations, they have an "In Theater Care Program"(ITCP) where they assist patients recovering from minor surgeries or other medical problems. I'd talked to a various number of people to spring the idea that although we have active MWDs, most of which would not be able to do any type of therapeutic work, we did however have two MWDs that I'm sure could improve the morale and attitude for the injured, that once they recovered would be headed back to their prospective AOR.

With the "Okay", Myself and SSgt. Blair visited some of these soldiers on the 24th March with our MWDs, Argo and Midas. The trip was very appreciated, and although the soldiers did not need anything material. The warm welcome of our fuzzy companions was a taste of home that most have missed”. Brandi is deployed from Hill AFB, Utah and is supported by Mike Diercks (Korat).

Theater Care Program - Who Let the Dogs Out?

3/25/2009 - Argo, a military working dog with the 379th Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron, plays with Private 1st Class Beverly King, from the 172nd Support Battalion, March 24, 2009, in an undisclosed location in Southwest Asia. Private King is enrolled in the In Theater Care Program which uses various events and services like this to assist patients recovering from minor surgeries or other medical problems. Private King is native to Elkhart, Ind. and deployed from Conn Barracks, Germany and Argo is handled by SSgt Brandi Throgmorton, both are deployed from Hill Air Force Base, Utah, in support of Operations Iraqi and Enduring Freedom and Combined Joint Task Force - Horn of Africa. (U.S. Air Force Photo by Staff Sgt. Joshua Garcia/released)

Here are a few more photos taken during the visit



Argo and Private 1st Class Beverly King



Argo taking a break



MWD Midas



Staff Sgt. Randall Blair & MWD Midas

Staff Sgt. Randall Blair, a K-9 Handler with the 379th Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron, briefs Army Staff Sgt. Kaviraz German, from Fort War Horse, Iraq, on his Military Working Dog, Midas, March 24, 2009. Sergeant Blair is originally from Richmond, Va. and is deployed out of Shaw Air Force Base, S.C., with Midas. Sergeant German is native to Fairbanks, Alaska and is deployed out of Fort Wayne-Wright, Alaska, all of them in support of Operations Iraqi and Enduring Freedom and Combined Joint Task Force - Horn of Africa. (U.S. Air Force Photo by Staff Sgt. Joshua Garcia/released)

Chillin' with the tools – What does the sign in the background say?



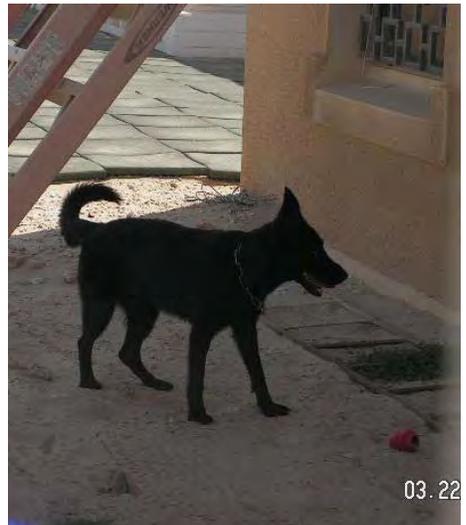
Staff Sergeants German Lechuga & MWD Liska (Left) (supported by Jennifer Dietrich); Dennis Luczak & MWD Kris (Center); and Sanford “Gish” Gschwend & MWD Pixi (Right) in front of the Kennels at the 379th MWD Section. Oh, did I mention the Leatherman tools each have in their hands?

More photos from Al Udeid, Qatar



Staff Sergeants Luczak & Kris (Left), Gish & Pixi (Center), and Brandi Throgmorton & Argo (Right) show off their new Leatherman gear - Oh, did I mention the bright red kong in Argo's mouth? Argo got a new toy also! See the Leatherman report page for the gear that we sent down range – this is some great stuff. SSgt Luczak, Gschwend, and Throgmorton are supported by Dale & Debbie Burton, Rick Matott, and Mike Direcks, respectively.

We told you there was a lot going on at Al Udeid, Qatar – Here's more!



A few shots of Argo working out with his new kong as he checks out the Leatherman gear – It's really Argo's kong!

A MWD “demo” at Al Udeid, Qatar – The saga continues!



How about a “demo” at Al Udied? SSgt Ron Harden (supported by Ken Smerecki) prepares the equipment for our “demo”. SSgt “Gish” and Pixi do their part as the “hostile” is spotted – “Not on my turf” according to Pixi! The challenge, the warning, and the release as Pixi takes command of this situation. Below – The final result – the bite and the hold! Not bad for an internet demo?

If you are keeping score, it’s – Pixi 1 – Hostile 0



Training at Camp Cropper Iraq

Staff Sergeant Chad Ditch and MWD Aaslan preparing to conduct training at an old Iraqi school house outside of FOB Cropper. This team is deployed out of the 37th SFS, Lackland and they are supported by Kelly Bateman (Ubon)



Joint Base Balad Kennel, Iraq – April 2009



**SrA Ted Carlson & MWD Dutchy on patrol – is this a great photograph or what?
This team is supported by Greg Gines (Ubon) and Dixie Whitman (FOK)**

OK – It's not all work – it's a Moustache Race!



**We've been asked to judge the "Moustache Race" – OK gang who's the winner?
Vote now - SSgt Busha on the left or SSgt Jeff Mastin on the right?
SSgt Mastin is supported by Mike Clunis (Safeside)
Cast your vote at 1-800-K9Broom – The lines are now open and operators are standing by!**

New Guardian pet cots are on the ground at Joint Base Balad



Here are a few photographs of the new Guardian pet cots that we supplied JBB – just in case you are wondering – on the left is MWD Ffella (SSgt Jeff Mastin’s dog) and on the right is MWD Rico (SSgt Philip Mendoza’s dog). Yeah, I think they like them! Ruffin’ it in the desert – good dog. We’re also going to receive photographs of the other equipment that we shipped later – but, we’re running out of room in this report to show everything this month.

A few more shots from Joint Base Balad



SSgt Philip “Nighthawk” Mendoza and MWD Rico out in the field with their new Leatherman Surge and patrol gear. See what I mean about dogs and trucks – here’s Rico inside one of the new MRAPs. That is one cool looking truck – sure makes our duece and a half look like a covered wagon doesn’t it?

SSgt Mendoza and Rico are deployed out of the 824th SFS, Moody AFB, Georgia. The team is supported by Dixie Whitman (FOK) and Kelly Bateman (Ubon).

SSgt Charles Dalton & MWD Nero – FOB Warrior, Iraq



Next to helicopters and hats, dogs love trucks the best! SSgt Charles Dalton and MWD Nero take a moment to check out the hummer. Do you think Nero would ride with his head out the window and his tongue just a waggin'? You bet he would. SSgt Dalton and Nero are deployed from Buckley AFB, Colorado and are supported by John Risse (Pleiku).

Leatherman's Latest Donation, Laser Engraved Surges and a Lot More!

Leatherman has come through for us yet again! This time it's a donation of 10 heavy-duty laser-engraved black oxide Surge multi-tools with sheaths, 10 of their tiny top-line LED flashlights, and 10 really cool folding knives. The engraving on the Surges looks really sharp on the black oxide finish, it comes out sort of gold in color, and still says "Thailand K-9." Feedback from the troops tells us these are a bit of a status symbol both downrange and back home. We even heard from Kelly Bateman that a soldier he met in a barber shop in Wimberly Texas was carrying a Surge and credited an Air Force dog handler in Iraq with showing off his own Thailand K-9 Surge and convincing this Army guy he had to get one of his own! Ya gotta love it!

We selected the engraved Leatherman Surge for our Thailand Dog Handlers signature gift to our adopted troops, remembering how it was impossible to find any tools AT ALL when something needed fixing during our deployments to Vietnam or Thailand. Do you remember using your M-7 bayonet or K-Bar for a hammer, screwdriver, Phillips head and punch? And cussing a lot if you needed pliers or a wrench? And a file or scissors or a saw? Fuggedaboutit! Well, the troops in the Sandbox tell us it's just the same over there today. Thanks to you, we're helping.

But, we're not getting carried away. When a K-9 troop signs up for the Old Dawgs & Pups program, we send them a Surge. That's the only one they get, and that's becoming more important as more and more of our "graduates" have been going back for second and third tours in those bad places. Thanks to Leatherman's generosity on top of yours, we've been given quite an array of other fantastic items to give to the troops on their subsequent tours. Since these are usually brand-new items from the company, they're interested in getting the stuff into users' hands ASAP, and hearing some feedback about how the equipment works under field conditions. I guess they realize that a dog handler is likely to test ANY piece of equipment to its limits. Not to mention a whole kennel full of dog handlers!

The last batch we shipped out went to Joint Base Balad, Iraq, Al Udeid Air Base, Qatar, and Camp Cropper, Iraq. There were 10 K-9 troops in those shipments; six first-tour folks who got Surges plus a knife or flashlight or both, and four retreads who got a knife or flashlight or both.

The items below, all of which OD&P has regularly been sending to Iraq and Afghanistan and Qatar and elsewhere downrange, are helping these troops out. Pictured are:

- two views of the laser engraved Tactical Black Surge multi-tool, in different stages of unfolding all its parts;
- the Expanse e55B knife with four interchangeable screwdriver bits;
- the Expanse e55 knife (which is just like the one we sell in the VSPA BX, but ours is engraved with the VSPA Security Police memorial message);
- the tiny three-level variable Serac S3 LED flashlight;
- the MOLLE-gear-compatible Surge sheath, and
- the shorter-bladed Expanse e33T knife with its screwdriver bits (p.s. for stateside use, the retractable carabiner on all of these knives will open a beer bottle very nicely – much easier than a P-38 can opener ever did!).



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

At the time of this report we have **32** members of the "Old Dawgs & Pups" program actively supporting **27** handlers assigned to six (6) kennels in 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 743 pieces of equipment has been delivered to our K-9 troops serving in the AOR from August 21, 2005 to April 15, 2009. Over **105** "Old Dawgs and Friends" have supported over **142** 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 **\$8,278.00** of supplies for the 29 kennels solely via your personal donations. Including the Leatherman corporate donation, the total is **\$29,392.00!**

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!

List of Supplies Shipped by Old Dawgs & Pups

- 149 Leatherman "Surge" Tools (102) Donated by Leatherman) *
* The Leatherman "Surge"/Flashlights/Knives donation is valued at approximately **\$21,114.00**
- 75 Thailand Challenge Coins (Donated & Purchased)
- 69 Guardian Pet Beds
- 40 Sponges
- 40 Cleaning/Scouring Pads
- 39 Thailand Historical Base Patches
- 34 Kongs
- 30 * Serac S3 Leatherman Flashlights
- 22 Doggles (10 Pairs were donated)
- 20 * c33T "Crater" Leatherman Knives
- 20 * e55 "Expanse" Leatherman Knives
- 20 Kygen Port-A-Bowls
- 20 PSI Water Holes
- 19 VSPA Challenge Coins (Donated & Purchased)
- 18 Large Kongs
- 16 Coastal Medium Firm Shedding Blades
- 16 Classic Long Tooth Undercoat rakes
- 14 Kygen 2-In-1 Food/Water Bowls
- 12 Coastal Large Slickers
- 12 Heavy Guard Handled Water Pails
- 10 Muzzles
- 10 * e55B "Expanse" Leatherman Knives
- 8 K9 Bluelight Supplement (2 pound bags)
- 8 Cooling Wraps
- 8 Cooldanna Cooling Mats
- 8 Sets of Flood Light Bulbs
- 7 Digital Thermometers
- 6 24" Heavy Duty Floor Squeegees

- 5 **Classic HG Food Dishes**
- 5 **Nozzles**
- 3 **100 Foot Water Hoses**
- 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**
- 2 **150 Foot Enclosed Hose Reels**
- 1 **Drink Mixes & Snacks (Large Box)**
- 1 **Case Toilet Paper (30 Rolls)**
- 1 **Set of four Ruff Wear Bark'n Boots Grip Trex**

Note: Some of you may receive this twice. I apologize - it's a data base thing!