

## K-9 Supply Program



(09/15/09)

### **OVER FOUR YEARS OF SUPPORTING OUR K-9 TROOPS!**

Hello everyone! We are currently supporting eight (8) kennels and thirty-six (35) deployed Air Force, Army, and Navy teams as of September 15, 2009. September 2009 brings us to four years and one month 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 deployed down range. Our program now supports Air Force, Army, and Navy K-9 teams – it just keeps getting better!

### **Area of Operation Status - K-9 Teams Arriving/Departing**

We are currently supporting troops at FOB Warrior, Camp Cropper, Joint Base Balad, FOB Delta, FOB O’Ryan, Bagram, Afghanistan, Al Udeid Air Base, Qatar, and Al Dhafra Air Base, United Arab Emirates (UAE). We have nine (9) new Pups to introduce this month.

**Heading home:** At the time of this report the following are either home or seriously packing: TSgt Andrew Bedell, TSgt Gary Smith, SSgt Christopher Reynolds, SSgt Roger Martin, SSgt Charles Dalton, and SSgt Daniel Wilson. Have a safe trip home guys!

**Al Udeid Air Base, Qatar:** SSgt Kristopher Hall & MWD Hhart from the 37<sup>th</sup> SFS, Lackland AFB, TX. He is supported by Ernie Childers (Udon).

SrA Nichole Jensen & MWD Rex from the 17<sup>th</sup> SFS, Goodfellow FB, TX. She is supported by Mike Diercks (Korat).

SSgt Dustin Vigil & MWD Rocky from the 17<sup>th</sup> SFS, Goodfellow FB, TX. He is supported by Rick Matott (Ubon).

SrA Lauren Frey & MWD Zico from the 37<sup>th</sup> SFS, Lackland AFB, TX. She is supported by Mike Diercks (Korat).

SSgt Jason Adams & MWD Sinda from the 37<sup>th</sup> SFS, Lackland AFB, TX. He is supported by James Hazelton (Korat).

SrA Carrie Dowdy & Ciro from the 325<sup>th</sup> SFS, Tyndall AFB, FL. She is supported by Mike Diercks (Korat).

**Al Dhafra Air Base (UAE):** SrA Manuel Rodriguez & MWD Diesel from the 355<sup>th</sup> SFS, Davis-Monthan AFB, AZ. He is supported by Dale & Debbie Burton (U-Tapao).

**Camp Cropper, Iraq:** SSgt Chad Phillips & MWD Golf from the 375<sup>th</sup> SFS - Scott AFB, IL. He is supported by John Grammer (Korat).

**Joint Base Balad, Iraq:** SSgt Chad O’Neil & MWD Karin from the 17<sup>th</sup> SFS, Goodfellow AFB, TX. He is supported by Danny Bowlin (Ubon/Udon).

## Profiles and Photographs of members of Old Dawgs & Pups



**Julie Warner – Our “Angel” from Leatherman Tool Group! She has supported us every step of the way since we purchased our first Leatherman tool – and she has supported two troops down range! You talk about a supporter of Old Dawgs & Pups – She’s one of the best.**



**Well Dale Burton – I told you I’d put this photograph in the report – You said I wouldn’t! Yes, that’s the Alaskan flag that Dale is proudly flying – As Dale says “I summer in Alaska and winter in Arizona”. If we ever had a wild card – THIS IS HIM! Dale and his wife Debbie have supported eight troops and they are always ready to say “We’ll take them – just set us up” when it comes to new pups. When you get to meet Dale – Ask him about “those Safeway Boys”?**

## **Deployed defender's dog days – Bagram Air Field Afghanistan**

*Posted 8/13/2009*

by Staff Sgt. J.G. Buzanowski - AFCENT Combat Camera Team

**BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan -- This deployment is for the dogs. German shepherds, to be exact. A handful of Airmen and their canine companions are deployed here as part of the 455th Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron, the largest squadron of defenders in Southwest Asia. This past spring security forces Airmen inherited the base defense mission for Bagram and the K-9 units play an essential role. The dogs search thousands people and hundreds of vehicles on a daily basis. They've found thousands of pounds of bomb-making materials, drugs and other illegal items. When the handlers first arrived, their Army K-9 counterparts didn't have enough room to adequately accommodate the Airmen and their dogs. So the NCO-in-charge, Tech. Sgt. Drew Odell found a small piece of land that wasn't being used. He talked it over with all the right people and founded Camp Kujo. "Once we had a place to house and train the dogs, we needed to build the stuff to actually house and train them," said Sergeant Odell, who's deployed from Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, Ariz.**

**Civil engineer and other construction units were already committed to different projects, so Sergeant Odell designed the compound and when the handlers weren't on other missions, they were building it themselves. Units all over the installation "graciously donated" what they could.**

**Within a couple of weeks, Sergeant Odell and his team had the facility up and running. The dogs had an obstacle course and the Airmen had a place to sleep. But they had to share it with their four-legged friends, so that became the next project. "Even though we expected this to be a temporary facility, we put a lot of forethought into it when we started building it, especially the dogs' building," said Sergeant Odell, a Mesa, Ariz., native. "The floors (of the dogs' building) had to support the six kennels, which weigh about 3,100 pounds each, as well as the dogs and anyone coming in here." Sergeant Odell also designed the dogs' building with a slight slope so it would be easier to wash out each day.**

**The camp requires constant maintenance. Couple that with normal mission requirements, and there are no "off days" for the K-9 units. When they're not on patrols, they're searching people, vehicles, buildings, mail and luggage for drugs and explosives. And when they're not on missions, they're training. The dogs and their handlers have to stay in shape physically, so they run several miles a day, carrying their dogs the last half mile or so - practice in case their companion is ever injured. The K-9 teams also have to run the obstacle course and perform other drills to keep their dogs disciplined and mentally focused. All the training ensures the dogs and their handlers are ready for any situation, whether it's one of their routine missions or augmenting other security forces Airmen, said Staff Sgt. Chris Reynolds, deployed with his dog, Baiky, from Vandenberg AFB, Calif.**

**One evening a few weeks ago, about a thousand people on foot were all trying to exit a gate at the same time. The restless crowd jammed the turnstiles, but once Sergeant Reynolds brought Baiky out, the people instantly formed lines and the defenders were able to maintain order. Everyone stayed protected and the people trying to leave got off base safely. "When Baiky barks, everyone minds their manners," said Sergeant Reynolds, who grew up in Visalia, about 200 miles away from Vandenberg. "Having the dogs here makes a big difference,"**

**For Staff Sgt. Scott Carpenter, a Clarksburg, Mass., native, having his dog, Kane, on the job means fewer people have to be assigned to a particular mission. "One dog can search an entire room when it might take ten people to clear the same room," said Sergeant Carpenter, who's deployed from Peterson AFB, Colo. "What these dogs can do is just amazing."**

## Deployed defenders' dog days - Continued

Although the K-9 Airmen are fond of their little corner of the base, a new, permanent facility is under construction. The new location will house more Airmen and their dogs, as well as an improved training area. Sergeant Odell helped design the new compound. "We were the first Air Force dog team to come out for the force protection mission," Sergeant Odell said. "When we leave here, we'll have left it better for the next team, which is the goal. But we can't complain; we really do have the best job in the Air Force: we get to train and play with dogs all day. What's more fun than that?"

**BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan - Staff Sgt. Chris Reynolds runs his German shepherd, Baiky, through a training obstacle course Aug. 7. Sergeant Reynolds, an eight-year Air Force veteran, is a dog handler with the 455th Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron and is deployed from Vandenberg Air Force Base, Calif. He and his dog patrol the base and inspect mail, luggage, and vehicles for narcotics. (U.S. Air Force photo/Staff Sgt. J.G. Buzanowski)**



**SSgt Chris Reynolds is supported by Chuck Meaders (U-Tapao) and Ron & Gerri Carlton (Pleiku)**

## 506<sup>th</sup> ESFS – FOB Warrior, Iraq



The “New” Pups at Joint Base Balad - SSgt Martin Ducos & MWD Dandy (316<sup>th</sup> SFS - Andrews AFB); Kennel Master, TSgt Paul Gambrell (1<sup>st</sup> Spec Ops Force Support - Hurburt Field); Trainer, SSgt Jessica Sonnier (45<sup>th</sup> SFS -Patrick AFB); and SrA Eric Wakeland & MWD JJackson (316<sup>th</sup> SFS - Andrews). SSgt Sonnier is supported by Doc Hodges (Ubon/Udorn).

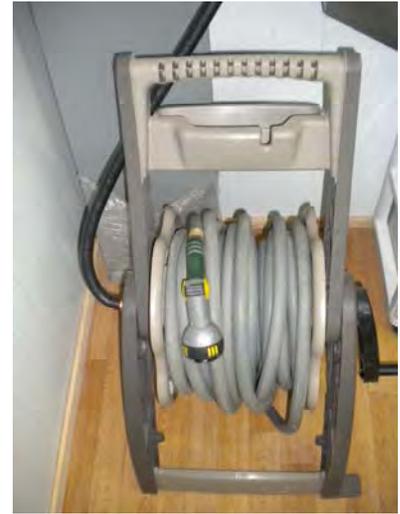


Left - Sgt Martin Ducos & Dandy just having a ball! The team is supported by Jim Stastny (Korat) and Josh Forster (FoK).

Middle – SrA Eric Wakeland & JJackson and SSgt Martin Ducos & Dandy explaining just exactly who’s territory this is – Are there any questions? Both teams are supported by Jim Stastny (Korat) and Josh Forster (FoK).

Right – SrA Eric Wakeland & JJackson getting some “facetime” at FOB Warrior. The team is supported by Jim Stastny (Korat) and Josh Forster (FoK).

## 506<sup>th</sup> ESFS – FOB Warrior, Iraq – Supplies Arrived



SSgt Aaron DeMarte (31<sup>st</sup> SFS - Aviano AFB) gathers up hoses and nozes and secures them to the hose reels that we just shipped to Joint Base Balad. Looks like the Sarge can handle “heavy equipment”! SSgt DeMarte & MWD Arco (Not Shown) are supported by Ernie Childers (Udorn). Ernie also served at Aviano – maybe his left his “hose skills at Aviano to be passed on to future airman”?



Left - SSgt Aaron DeMarte (31<sup>st</sup> SFS - Aviano AFB) finishes up the kennel sanitation with the gear that we sent Joint Base Balad.

Right – Kennel Master TSgt Mark Ochoa (319<sup>th</sup> SFS - Grand Forks AFB) does some outside clean up with the new equipment. It looks like SSgt Kenneth Fresquez (31<sup>st</sup> SFS – Aviano AFB) is heading out to relieve the Kennel Master – or he might just be giving him some hints – I think we’d believe the first scenario! TSgt Ochoa is supported by Bill Cummings (U-Tapao).

We understand that the equipment was greatly appreciated by the incoming personnel as the new kennels are standing up very well. These hose reels are a “bear” to ship!

### 332<sup>nd</sup> ESFS – Joint Base Balad, Iraq



SSgt Aaron DeMarte and MWD Arco photographed following a mission outside the wire searching for IED’s and weapon’s caches just north of Balad. They assisted the 532<sup>nd</sup> ESFS Quick Reaction Force (QRF) as part of their daily mission. SSgt DeMarte is supported by Ernie Childers (Udorn).

### Camp Cropper – Iraq

SGT Chantel Razack, the Kennel Master at Camp Cropper has a “whole handful” of Air Force troops and from what we understand she is keeping those “dudes” in line. Seriously, she advised us that the heat has been taking a toll on them. So, we put the wheels in motion and shipped them “booties” purchased from Ray Allen (thank you Chawntell for the price break and getting them out so quickly – we really appreciate your help!), window tint from Checkers for their patrol vehicles, and a few squeegees for their kennels. We just heard that the equipment is now on the ground and being used by our pups. Also, welcome aboard SGT Razack!





## Helping Udders!

September 15, 2009

It is with great pleasure that the Thailand Dog Handlers announce a new partnership with “Helping Udders” to provide cooling vest for our deployed Airmen, Soldiers, Sailors, and Marines down range! Through the generosity of “Helping Udders” we have shipped five more cooling vests and extra cooling packs to our troops at Qatar and Bagram, Afghanistan. That’s a total of **fifteen** vests down range! Thanks Helping Udders and thank you for being part of Old Dawgs & Pups!

### **New vests have been shipped to:**

SSgt Dustin Vigil, SSgt Jason Adams, SSgt Taylor Rogal, Sra Nichole Jensen, and SrA Lauren.

To date, we have shipped vests to FOB Delta, FOB Warrior, Joint Base Balad, and Camp Victory, Iraq; Bagram, Afghanistan; Al Udeid Air Base, Qatar; and Al Dahfra, United Arab Emirates.

These vests have been purchased and shipped through the generous donations to Helping Udders. To date Helping Udders has shipped **298** to the AOR – way to go Mikel & Helping Udders!

Mikel gets very excited when she calls me to tell me that donations have been received. Thanks also go out to President Pam O’Day and the members of the Talcott Mountain Agility Club of Connecticut. Check their site <http://www.tmacagility.org/>. They donated four vests to OD&P!

**Helping Udders, through their donations have donated (15) Cooling vests and extra cooling packs to our OD&P Program! CHECK THEIR WEBSITE: <http://www.helpingudders.com/> AND <http://www.helpingudders.com/MWD.htm> - They sell “cool dog stuff” – Check them out!**

We’ve heard nothing but great comments about these vests by the handlers that have received them. We’ll have some photographs posted now and then of the dogs, handlers, and their new vests. The vest and extra cooling packs are \$228.00 each. Now that our program is up and running – please watch for our continual updates. Stay tuned for more details on this one! **The total value of the donation is now \$3,420.00.**



**SrA Tolbert Jefferies & MWD Rex show off their new vest and booties during a training exercise at 355<sup>th</sup> Security Forces Squadron, Davis-Monthan AFB, Arizona. The team will deploy to Camp Victory, Iraq in the near future. This is another team that can also use their vests when they return home from their deployment due to the extended heat in Arizona.**

**Cooling Vests at the 379<sup>th</sup> ESFS – Al Udeid Air Base, Qatar**



**SSgt Kristopher Hall & MWD Hhart taking a break and then searching a vehicle at Al Udeid, Qatar. This team is deployed from the 37<sup>th</sup> SFS, Lackland & supported by Ernie Childers (Udorn)**



**SrA Carrie Dowdy & MWD Ciro during an exercise in explosive detection; Ciro and Dowdy lead a team into a building with a suicide bomber for a base-wide exercise. The team is deployed from the 325<sup>th</sup> SFS, Tyndall AFB, Florida. Ciro doesn't look like he's pleased about this situation!**



Sra Nicole Jensen and Rex show off their new Cooling Vests during their turn in the search pit. The team is deployed from the 17<sup>th</sup> SFS, Goodfellow AFB, Texas. Is that a big dog or what? Mike Diercks (Korat) is supporting both SrA Dowdy & Ciro and SrA Nicole Jensen and Rex.

### **FOB Delta, Iraq**

SSG Lee Martin and the guys at FOB Delta are finally getting caught up! All of the equipment that we shipped has finally arrived; the Leatherman Surges, the feed and water pans, and the portable feed and water containers, the window tint, and the cooling vests. The sand storms have held up deliveries for some time but we have supplies on the ground. They were using plastic water bottles (cut in half) to hydrate the dogs on missions – those days are over. The Leatherman tools have been used to put together new kennel equipment and to install the window tint for their vehicle. According to SSG Martin, the cooling vests are fantastic and I quote “I have used vests like these before, but I love the design of these vests.”

Due to circumstances beyond their control their internet access has been limited at best. Here are a few photographs of what’s happening at FOB Delta.



The guys used their new Surges to install the window tint that we just sent on their patrol vehicles. This should really help to keep down the heat inside the vehicle while they are on patrol.



**SSG Martin's MWD Balto shows off his new cooling vests that just arrived from Helping Udders/Old Dawgs & Pups. The vests have been quite the hit down range!**

### **Homecoming for our Pups**



**SSgt Charles Dalton, completing his tour of duty at Joint Base Balad, Iraq, returned home on August 20, 2009. His wife Amanda, and their 10 month old son Noah, met him at the Denver airport – If this doesn't show you what a deployment means – then we certainly can't explain it! Thanks for sharing "our" first home coming event Chuck! Hooah! SSgt Dalton was supported by Peggy Finzgar (FoK) and John Risse (U-Tapao).**



**TSgt Drew O'Dell is welcomed home by Bill Cummings at Davis-Monthan AFB, Tucson, Arizona. TSgt O'Dell recently returned home from his tour as Kennel Master at Bagram Air Base, Afghanistan. Bill Cummings presented TSgt O'Dell with one of the last Thailand Handler coins as they met at the 355<sup>th</sup> Mobility Section where Drew turned in his deployment equipment. It sure was great getting to greet Drew as he returned home. Drew was supported by Phil Carroll (Takhli/NKP) and Bill Cummings (U-Tapao) during his deployment in Afghanistan**

**We have New Staff Sergeants!**

**Old Dawgs & Pups proudly announces that the following Senior Airmen have just been selected for the rank of Staff Sergeant:**

**SrA Lauren Frey (Al Udeid), S SrA Carrie Dowdy (Al Udeid), SrA Eric Wakeland (FOB Warrior), and SrA Manuel Rodriguez (Al Dahra)**

**Congratulations – we are very proud of you!**



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

**SSgt Dennis Luczak, just back from a tour at Al Udeid, Qatar, is heading for Eglin AFB, Florida as a K-9 instructor at Brave Defender – Regional Training Center. This is our “old” AZR training but you wouldn't believe what they are doing now! The K-9 training is just dynamite.**

**Dennis was partnered with us while he did tours at FOB Warrior, Iraq, and just recently at Al Udeid, Qatar. He was supported in 2007 while at FOB Warrior by Rick Matott (Ubon) and this**

year by Bill Cummings (U-Tapao). He was photographed below as he was turning in gear at Davis-Monthan AFB, Arizona, to process out for the PCS at Eglin. You just have to get to know Dennis – he is a piece of work! Congratulations Dennis – We know that you will do a great job training those K-9 troops!



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

At the time of this report we have **37** members of the “Old Dawgs & Pups” program actively supporting **35** handlers assigned to eight (8) 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 **1,041** pieces of equipment has been delivered to our K-9 troops serving in the AOR from August 21, 2005 to September 15, 2009. Over **215** “Old Dawgs and Friends” have supported **183** 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 **\$11,627.00** of supplies for the 43 kennels solely via your personal donations. Including the Leatherman corporate and Helping Udders donations, the total is **\$42,309.00!**

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**

- 181 Leatherman “Surge” Tools (125) Donated by Leatherman) \*  
\* The Leatherman “Surge”/Flashlights/Knives donation is valued at approximately **\$27,262.00**
- 75 Thailand Challenge Coins (Donated & Purchased)
- 75 Guardian Pet Beds (Pet Edge)
- 75 \* Leatherman Knives (Models: c33T, e55, e55B, e33L)

- 52 Kongs (Assorted sizes)
- 45 \* Leatherman Serac S3 Leatherman Flashlights
- 40 Sponges
- 40 Cleaning/Scouring Pads
- 39 Thailand Historical Base Patches
- 30 Kygen Port-A-Bowls (Dressler's)
- 30 PSI Water Holes (Dressler's)
- 24 Kygen 2-In-1 Food/Water Bowls (Dressler's)
- 24 Rolls 26"x78" 20% Dark Limo Window Tint (Checker Auto Supply)
- 22 Doggles (10 Pairs were donated)
- 19 VSPA Challenge Coins (Donated & Purchased)
- 16 Cooling Vests & Extra Cooling Packs (**Helping Udders - Valued at \$3,420.00**)
- 16 Coastal Medium Firm Shedding Blades (Dressler's)
- 16 Classic Long Tooth Undercoat rakes (Dressler's)
- 15 Classic HG Food Dishes (Dressler's)
- 12 Coastal Large Slickers (Dressler's)
- 12 Heavy Guard Handled Water Pails (Dressler's)
- 10 Muzzles (Dressler's)
- 10 Heavy Duty Handled Pails - 9 Qt. - (Pet Edge)
- 10 Stainless Steel - 3 Qt Dura-weight Bowls (Pet Edge)
- 9 Hose Nozzles
- 8 K9 Bluelight Supplement (2 pound bags) (Dressler's)
- 8 Cooling Wraps (Roshgo Corp)
- 8 Cooldanna Cooling Mats (Roshgo Corp)
- 8 Sets of Flood Light Bulbs
- 8 24" Heavy Duty Floor Squeegees
- 7 Digital Thermometers
- 5 Set of four Ruff Wear Bark'n Boots Grip Trex (Ray Allen)
- 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 Hose Reels - Wheels
- 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 Syntek Hidden Sleeve (Ray Allen)

\* **If you receive more than one copy – It's a data base thing!**