

THAILAND DOG HANDLERS

USAF Dog Handlers Who Defended Front-Line Combat Air Bases In Thailand Throughout The Vietnam War

(02/15/10)

OVER FOUR YEARS OF SUPPORTING OUR K-9 TROOPS!

<http://www.war-stories.com/odap/ws-odap-index.asp>

Hello everyone! We are currently supporting nine (9) kennels and thirty-four (34) deployed Air Force, Army, and Navy teams as of February 15, 2010. February 2010 brings us to four years and six months of operation for our “Old Dawgs & Pups” 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.

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

We are currently supporting troops at FOB Warrior, Camp Cropper, Joint Base Balad, and FOB Falcon; Camp Tallil/Joint Security Station Attack, Iraq; Bagram, Afghanistan; Al Udeid Air Base, Qatar; Al Dhafra Air Base, United Arab Emirates (UAE), and Manas Air Base, Kyrgyzstan. We have four (4) new Pups to introduce this month.

Pups heading home from the AOR

Al Udeid Air Base, Qatar: TSgt Andrew Esparza is now back at Davis-Monthan AFB, Arizona and Mr. Bob Kisner has deployed to another base in southwest Asia as a trainer. SSgt Taylor Rogal & MWD Teri should be stateside and back at Randolph AFB, Texas; SSgt Kristopher Hall & MWD Hhart are heading back to Lackland along with SSgt Jason Adams & MWD Sinda; and SSgt Dustin Vigil & MWD Rocky are headed home to Goodfellow AFB.

FOB Warrior, Iraq: Eric Rod & MWD Aron are heading back to Nellis AFB, Nevada.

Camp Tallil, Iraq: SSgt Justin Aycock and MWD Katya should be out the door for Spangdahlem Air Base before the next issue of our newsletter – Thanks Justin and Katya for a great tour – hope you find the beer cold back in Germany!

Bagram, Afghanistan: SSgt Daniel Flores & MWD “Dolla Bill” are heading home to Holloman AFB, New Mexico.

Manas Air Base, Kyrgyzstan: SSgt Patrick Meade (KM), SSgt Ben Vasquez & MWD Erik, and SrA Patrick Lau & MWD Arek are heading back to Hill AFB, Utah – Great tour guys!

Pups arriving in the AOR

Bagram Air Base, Afghanistan: SSgt Michael Gwin & MWD Rex deployed from the 7th SFS, Dyess AFB, Texas. This team is supported by Kelly Bateman (Ubon)

FOB Warrior, Iraq: SSgt Lance Quilty & MWD Sida, deployed from the 824th SFS, Moody AFB, Georgia; Supported by Dixie Whitman (FoK).

Al Udeid Air Base, Qatar: SSgt Brandi Throgmorton & MWD Argo deployed from the 75th SFS, Hill AFB, Utah; Supported by Mike Diercks (Korat).

Manas Air Base, Kyrgyzstan: SSgt Heath Hinton & MWD Vvictor deployed from the 366th SFS, Mountain Home AFB, Idaho; Supported by Ken Smerecki (U-Tapao/Pleiku).

Profiles and Photographs of members of Old Dawgs & Pups



Left – Mike Regan (NKP) one of our Texans and has a “Dawg man” resume that goes way back as a handler and an instructor. He is a retired Chief Master Sergeant who just loves our OD&P! Mike has been responsible for securing funding for our cooling vests for our deployed troops. Thanks Mike for a great job!

Right – Mary Hall-Rutherford and Miss Brenda – one of our great Friends of K-9 (FoK) who joined our program several years ago. “Miss Brenda” is Mary’s service dog and loyal companion. Mary carries a “bloodline” of USAF veterans and is one fantastic supporter of OD&P.

506th ESFS – FOB Warrior, Iraq – January 2010

TSgt Luke Darche, Kennel Master, deployed from the 82nd SFS, Sheppard AFB, Texas and SSgt Casey Ouellette, Trainer, deployed from the 36th SFS, Anderson AFB, Guam, are now “Boots on the ground” at FOB Warrior. They are supported by Scotty Baker (Safeside) & David Priest (Korat) respectively.

SSgt Lance Quilty & MWD Sida, have been on the ground less than a month and they have already made the “big time”. Click or copy and paste the link below and view a fantastic video from FOB Warrior concerning Lance and Sida. Thanks SSgt Ted Carlson for the heads up on this video.

<http://www.kirkuk.afcent.af.mil/news/video/avsearch.asp?searchtxt=a%20special%20bond>

380th ESFS – Al Dhafra, United Arab Emirates

SSgt Jose Valdez and MWD Figo from Davis-Monthan AFB, Arizona have arrived at Al Dhafra, UAE. The team graduated “Top Dog” during their RTC training at Phoenix Warrior at Fort Dix, New Jersey - this is a big deal – way to Jose and Figo! The team is supported by Ernie Childers (Udorn) and Kelly Bateman (Ubon). This is a unique deployment – Jose, Kelly, and Ernie all know each other very well. They met when they transported Jose’s MWD partner from Korea, Bony, from Lackland AFB to Davis-Monthan back in November after Jose adopted Bony. More on that story later!

455th ESFS – Bagram, Afghanistan gearing back up!

SSgt Michael Gwin & MWD Rex deployed from the 7th SFS, Dyess AFB, Texas is now part of our program at Bagram. This team is supported by Kelly Bateman (Ubon) who also served at Dyess – but it was a LONG time ago.



SSgt Daniel Flores and “Dolla Bill” mug it up before they start packing! On the right, SSgt Flores and “Bill” are joined by MWD Jack, who is partnered with SSgt Lealofi Lealofi. Daniel, you are in pretty good company here my friend. SSgt Flores and Bill were supported by Mike Regan (NKP).

Camp Tallil Air Base & Joint Security Station (JSS) Attack – Iraq

SSgt Justin Aycock and MWD Katya are just all over the place! This is what the country side looks like in the AOR in Iraq. Justin and Katya are supported by Joan & John Smith (U-Tapao).



The photograph on the left was taken Christmas Day 2009 with US Army Special Forces ODA 0231 from the 10th SFG (Army).

On the right is an unknown location while on a cache recovery mission with 2-69 AR, from the 3rd HBCT/3rd Inf. Division in Karbala, Iraq.

376th ESFS - Manas Air Base – Krygyzstan

We have new boots on the ground at Manas as SSgt Heath Hinton and MWD Vvictor arrived from Mountain Home AFB, Idaho. SSgt Hinton was referred to us by SrA James Worley who many of us met at Luke AFB, during the VSPA reunion last October. Thanks James for the hook up! SSgt Hinton and Vvictor (Do you remember what the double first letter means?) are supported by Ken Smerecki (U-Tapao/Pleiku).

The Redskinettes from the NFL Washington Redskins football team visited our troops at Manas during Christmas. As you can see, SSgt Ben Vasquez, SSgt Patrick Meade, and SSgt Patrick Lau & MWD Arek certainly enjoyed the show and the visit! Cheerleaders just loooooooooooooove dogs!



Here's an example of some winter training at Manas Air Base – snow, can you believe it? SSgt Ben Vasquez and MWD Erik take a turn on the confidence course. SSgt Patrick Lau participates as the decoy as SSgt Ben Vasquez and Erik participate in six phases of aggression training. Man, this had to be a blast in the snow? At the far right, SSgt Fall is the decoy as he takes on SSgt Lau's dog, Arek and SSgt Vasquez's dog Erik.



SSgt Patrick Meade (supported by Bill Cummings- U-Tapao) and SrA Patrick Lau (supported by supported by Jim Coggins - Takhli) have returned to Hill AFB earlier this month. SSgt Ben Vasquez and Erik (supported by Rick Vivio – U-Tapao) are packing to return Hill AFB later in the month. Thanks guys for a great tour and for participating in OD&P.

379th ESFS – Al Udeid Air Base, Qatar

The USO came to town and SSgt Taylor Rogal and MWD Teri were right in the middle of the activities. Top left Taylor and Teri check out Jessie James, Carlos Mencia, and Kid Rock as they toured Al Udeid during the holiday tour for our troops. Can those MWDs spot the girls or what?

Following an exhausting “security detail” Teri takes a break on a well-positioned picnic table! SSgt Rogal and Teri are supported by John and Carolyn Risse during this deployment.



Thank you to everyone who ordered Shirts and Coins to support the 379th fundraiser. Mike Diercks has informed me that we “sold them out”! Way to go guys for supporting this effort. Thank you again Mike for taking the lead on this project. There was a “little SNAFU” with the mailings, but Mike says he has a handle on it now.

OK, we have new troops hitting the ground at Al Udeid Air Base! We’ll have more information as the rotation continues. It sure is nice to say that we have a returnee to Al Udeid that we really enjoyed during her first tour – SSgt Brandi Thorgmorton and Argo are back for more. SSgt Thorgmorton will be our POC and she is actively engaging the incoming troops about our program. Once again they are supported by Mike Diercks (Korat)

Heartland Chapter – Air Force Security Forces Association Donation



Thanks to our dear friend Pete Piazza of the VSPA & AFSFA we received a very generous donation for our Pups down range from the Heartland Chapter – Air Force Security Forces Association, Del City, Oklahoma. Thank you Pete and all of the members of the Heartland Chapter – AFSFA.

332nd ESFS - Joint Base Balad, Iraq

SrA Felipe Alvarado and MWD Pike are one of our many teams at JBB who constantly monitors ground activities in the area Joint Base Balad, Iraq. Pictured below the team participates in an "OTW" (Outside the wire) operation as part of their daily duties. OTW operations are a way of life and training is the key here guys! SrA Alvarado and Pike are deployed from the 99th SFS at Nellis AFB, Nevada, and they are supported by Jon Hemp (TSN).



Military working dogs search and recover

by Senior Airman Brittany Y. Bateman
332nd Air Expeditionary Wing Public Affairs



1/30/2010 - JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq -- Staff Sgt. David Bieck, 332nd Expeditionary Security Forces Group military working dog handler, and his MWD Marco go through a detection exercise at Joint Base Balad, Jan. 26, 2010. Sergeant Bieck and Marco are deployed from Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala. (U.S. Air Force photo/Senior Airman Brittany Y. Bateman/Released)

Military Working Dog Team Support Association - MWDTSA

A tax-exempt organization under IRS code section 501(c)(3). All donations are tax-deductible.

Many of you know that Dixie Whitman has been with our program as a “Friend of K-9” supporter since day one! She has supported eleven handlers and is in line for two more this rotation. You might not know that Dixie also works very, very hard with the MWDTSA. She is also the newsletter editor, chief cook and bottle washer! If you would like to see a great newsletter and learn more about the MWDTSA please go to their website and just have a ball. It’s a great site. Here is the address <http://mwdtsa.org/memnews.html> This month’s issue highlights the Nemo’s War Dog Heroes Memorial dedication held on November 15, 2005. Thank you Dixie for including our Thailand Handlers Project in your newsletter. If any of you have any questions or would like to contact Dixie about MWDTSA please e-mail her at mwdtsa.dixie@yahoo.com

Rotated Pups - What are they doing now?

Misawa Air Base, Japan: Most of you remember SSgt Martin Campos who was with our program when he was deployed to Joint Base Balad, well we just receive this message from Martin. “How are you doing? Well, no new dog for me anymore. I got moved up and I am now the trainer here at Misawa. I already miss having a dog, but it’s a good move for me and I couldn’t pass it up”. It sounds like Martin is going to be fine – and it sure was great hearing from him. He’s also put us in touch of one of his handlers that is heading out the door next month for the sand box. SSgt Campos and Ikka were supported by Gordon Johnson (Takhli) during their deployment.

Moody Air AFB, Georgia: SSgt Ted Carlson (824th SFS) sent us this fantastic training photograph. “TSgt Kaluza was having a little fun decoying the other day. Thought you’d like to see the pictures. That’s Dutchy in the upper right, Rico in the upper left, Tara in the lower right, and Rambo in the lower left”. OK guys – this is a training day!



Here’s a little information on the dogs in this photograph. Dutchy is assigned to SSgt Carlson, Rico is SSgt Mendoza’s dog, Tara belongs to SSgt Reategui, and Rambo is SSgt RoDerick Taylor’s partner. TSgt Timothy Kaluza is the new Kennel Master who relieved TSgt (MSgt select) Randy Fontenot at the 824th. He moved from the 23rd SFS at Moody where he was their trainer.

SSgt Carlson when on to say “We were just doing a little ‘controlled aggression’. Our days here at Moody consist of training to prepare for our next deployment – detection and controlled aggression sessions all day. As you know, here at the 820th we don’t have a Law Enforcement mission – we train and deploy. After a little bit of bite work the other day, TSgt Kaluza decided to have a little fun with it and took on all four of our dogs at once”. This is one brave kennel master!

Vietnam Dog Handler Association Award & Feed the Dawgs Display

During the VDHA reunion in Ontario, California this weekend our “Old Dawgs & Pups” was recognized for our “Service and Dedication to both Old and New Handlers and the VDHA”. Ernie Childers and Bill Cummings accepted the award on behalf of all the “dawgs” of Old Dawgs & Pups.



Following the rededication of the War Dog Memorial at March Reserve Base on February 13, 2010 the members of the reunion and our families participated in “One great Feed the Dawgs” signature Bar-B-Ques. Thanks Jon Hemp and Gerry & Ron Carlton for a great time. Old and new dog handlers broken bread and exchanged “dog talk” – it was one great event. Prior to the event we visited the “New” K-9 Display at the March Air Base Museum. Here is just one of the panels that we found. In this display six of our handlers and five of our deployed dogs were highlighted. If you ever get in the Riverside, California area you owe it to yourself to make this stop – it sure will make you proud to be a dog handler! Way to go “Feed the Dawgs”!



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

At the time of this report we have **35** members of the "Old Dawgs & Pups" program actively supporting **34** handlers assigned to nine (9) 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 **1,079** pieces of equipment has been delivered to our K-9 troops serving in the AOR from August 21, 2005 to February 15, 2010. Over **220** "Old Dawgs and Friends" have supported **204** 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 **\$12,551.00** of supplies for the **44** kennels solely via your personal donations. Including the Leatherman corporate and Helping Udders donations, the total is **\$43,233.00!**

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

- 192 Leatherman "Surge" Tools (125) Donated by Leatherman) *
- * The Leatherman "Surge"/Flashlights/Knives donation is valued at approximately **\$27,909.00**
- 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)
- 40 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)
- 10 Helping Udder Reward Toys (Helping Udders)
- 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)
- 4 Carabiners
- 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 Large Patrol Harness
- 1 Medium Patrol Harness
- 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!**