

THAILAND DOG HANDLERS

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

(03/15/10)

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 twenty-four (24) deployed Air Force, Army, and Navy teams as of March 15, 2010. March 2010 brings us to four years and seven 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, FOB Falcon, Camp Cropper, Joint Base Balad, Iraq; Bagram Air Base and FOB Salerno 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

Joint Base Balad, Iraq: SSgt MacKenzie & Eukay have rotated back to Vance AFB, Oklahoma; they were supported by Karl Niemeyer (NKP). SSgt William Booker & Kebek are heading back to McConnell AFB, Kansas; They were supported by J D Jones (Udorn). SSgt David Simpson & Robson are packing for Spangdahlem, Germany; They were supported by Richard and Joan Gear (NKP). SSgt Mark Delcambre and Kim are headed for Maxwell AFB, Alabama; This team was supported by Tommy Gannon (NKP) and Janet Wise (FoK). SSgt David Bieck and Marco are also packing for Maxwell; They were supported by Donald Shaw (NKP) and Janet Wise (FoK).

FOB Warrior, Iraq: SSgt Martin Ducos & MWD Dandy and SSgt Eric Wakeland & MWD JJackson are heading back to Andrews AFB, Maryland; the teams were supported by Jim Stastny (Korat) and Joshua Forster (FoK). SrA Anthony Richison & MWD Ate are back at Holloman AFB, New Mexico; they were supported by Chuck and Holly Meaders (U-Tapao).

FOB Falcon, Iraq: SrA Torbert Jefferies & MWD Rex are heading back to the 355th SFS, Davis-Monthan AFB, Arizona; they were supported by Ken Smerecki (U-Tapao & Pleiku).

Bagram, Afghanistan: SSgt Steven Gonzalez & MWD Bruno have their bags packed to return to Davis-Monthan AFB, Arizona; they were supported by Dave Broeker (U-Tapao).

Manas Air Base, Kyrgyzstan: SSgt Ben Vasquez & MWD Erik are heading back to Hill AFB, Utah. They were supported by Rich Vivio (U-Tapao).

Pups arriving in the AOR

Bagram Air Base, Afghanistan: TSgt Tracey Booth, Kennel Master, deployed from the 355th SFS, Davis-Monthan AFB, Arizona. He is teamed up with Bill Cummings (U-Tapao).

Joint Base Balad, Iraq: SSgt Wendy Montellese & MWD Jimmy, deployed from the 9th SFS, Beale AFB, California; the team is supported by Patsy Perrotto (NKP).

Pups arriving in the AOR - Continued

Al Udeid Air Base, Qatar: SSgt Christopher Hinds & MWD Ajax deployed from the 75th SFS, Misawa AB, Japan; the team is supported by Bob Curnick (NKP).

FOB Salerno, Afghanistan: SSgt Jerod Schley and MWD Baddy are deployed from the 436th SFS, Dover AFB, Delaware; the team is supported by Larry Zacker (U-Tapao & Takhli)

Profiles and Photographs of members of Old Dawgs & Pups



Bob Curnick (NKP)



Tommy Gannon (NKP)

Many of us met Bob Curnick for the first time at the VSPA reunion at Luke AFB last year. I must say, when Bob met up with the rest of the guys from NKP – it was like he was still walking post in northern Thailand! Bob served at Nakhon Phanom Thailand in 1973-74 where he was teamed with Sentry Dog Rex. He also served at Malmstrom and Wurtsmith AFBs.

In 1974 he returned stateside to the 379th SPS at Wurtsmith AFB in Michigan until he got out of the Air Force in 1976. Bob worked in a local furniture factory, raised a family, went to college, and then went to the Police Academy and then joined went the local Sheriff's Department. He's been with the Sheriff's Department for 27 years and he is planning on retiring in 2011. Bob and his family live in Holland, Michigan. After what we saw in Phoenix something tells me we are going to be seeing a lot more of Bob in the future. He is currently paired with SSgt Christopher Hinds & MWD Ajax who are deployed from the 75th SFS, Misawa AB, Japan.

Tommy Gannon completing K-9 Patrol Dog School with re-trainee Satan, and then transferred to Nakhon Phanom Thailand "70-71" and handled Major. On return to states he was assigned to the 91st Missile Maintenance Squadron, Minot AFB. After his discharge he returned to Louisiana and worked security at a New Orleans hospital for a short time and then worked off shore in the oil fields for a few years. He enrolled in a community college and ended up working for 31 years in the maintenance department before retiring. He now works very part time as a marine surveyor. He is from New Orleans, but now lives in Springfield, La. Tommy is currently supporting SSgt Mark DelCambre & MWD Kim who are deployed from 42nd SFS, Maxwell AFB, Alabama. In case you haven't noticed – Tommy's a BIG LSU fan!

506th ESFS – FOB Warrior, Iraq – January 2010

TSgt Luke Darche, Kennel Master, has advised us that they are still “gearing up” and we will be receiving more information on their handlers once everyone gets settled in. There’s a lot going on with replacements and we are looking forward to hearing more from Warrior very soon.

SSgt Lance Quilty & MWD Sida are now supported by our loyal supporter Dixie Whitman (FoK).

455th ESFS – Bagram, Afghanistan gearing back up!

Kennel Master Tracey Booth, from the 355th SFS, Davis-Monthan AFB, Arizona is now putting together his teams at Bagram Air Base. We’ve had several messages from him and he assures that good news about new handlers is just down the road. Stand by for more information on this kennel. We are going to need some help supporting these teams so get ready for some serious pairing up for these troops.

332nd ESFS – Joint Base Balad, Iraq

Much like Warrior and Bagram, Joint Base Balad is transitioning troops. SSgt Wendy Montellese & MWD Jimmy, deployed from the 9th SFS, Beale AFB, California, just arrived and they are teamed with Patsy Perrotto (NKP). Kennel Master TSgt Christopher Manning has advised that as soon as everyone gets settled in we will be supporting this kennel. Once again, stand by for more information as it become available.

Old Dawg becomes a Pup!

As we mentioned in our January’s news, one of our Old Dawgs is now deployed at Sharana, Afghanistan. Master Sergeant Hugo Nunez is the NCOIC of Law Operations and he’s still looking out for “Pups”. He wrote us and asked us to support SSgt Jerod Schley and his MWD Baddy. See more on this team on the next page!

Hugo just received his Leatherman Surge and from the looks of the photograph – he’s pretty darn pleased with our signature gift. Man, we just love these types of photographs and information.



FOB Salerno – Afghanistan

As we mention on the previous page, SSgt Jerod Schley and MWD Baddy are deployed from the 436th SFS, Dover AFB, Delaware and the team is supported by Larry Zacker (U-Tapao & Takhli)

MSgt Hugo Nunez and SSgt Jerod Schley and MWD Baddy share a minute together at FOB Sharana. This is one of the rare moments that SSgt Schley and Baddy get a little down time as they split their time between several Forward Operating Bases. Stand by for more on this dog team. Thanks again Master Sergeant for continuing to watch out for these young troops!



SSgt Jerod Schley and MWD Baddy are deployed from the 436th SFS, Dover AFB, Delaware.

379th ESFS – Al Udeid Air Base, Qatar

Thank you to everyone who ordered Shirts and Coins to support the 379th fundraiser. Mike Diercks has informed me that we have about 7 shirts (2XL & 3 XL) and a few coins left for sale. Please contact Mike if you are interested in either of the items. **LAST CALL!**



As we mentioned last month, SSgt Brandi Throgmorton and Argo are back at Al Udeid and she has agreed to be our POC. The team is once again supported by Mike Diercks (Korat). There's a lot going as the kennel is going through a complete change over – look for some great “stuff” coming!

Left - SSgt John Beirbach & MWD Deni, deployed from the 316th SFS Andrews AFB, Maryland strike a pose for us! Right - SSgt Christopher Hinds & MWD Ajax for the 35th SFS Misawa, Japan. I'm not sure, but I think someone has made Ajax very angry! This team is supported by Bob Curnick (NKP).



Training Day at the 379th ESFS – Al Udeid Air Base, Qatar

Training, training, training – that’s the name of the game. The change over has brought new personnel, and some new training tools and techniques. TSgt Joel Ewing, Kennel Master, deployed from the 75th SFS, Hill AFB, Utah, takes his place behind the “Wall” to introduce and observe the upcoming training. Thanks to Mr. Jeremy Hall, the new DTS trainer, it looks like the troops have a new “toy” to play with – “THE WALL”!



KM Ewing and Mr. Jeremy Hall, Trainer, introduces the teams to “The Wall” as a practical problem. SSgt John Beirbach & MWD Deni, deployed from Andrews AFB, Maryland approach the training area and are briefed on the training problem and new “tool” for the first time.



Training Day continues at the 379th ESFS – Al Udeid

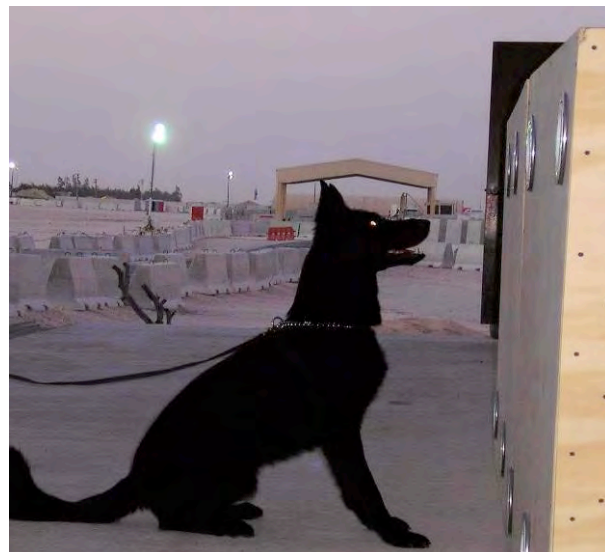
Left - Trainer Jeremy Hall introduces Deni to the scent. Right – The team are now introduced to the different scents of the wall as part of the training problem. This is cool stuff!



Mr. Hall and TSgt Ewing continue to work Deni on the wall!



Argo is satisfied – there's something in there!!!! And, it's mind.



Military Working Dogs Retiring at Luke AFB!

We have just received word that three Military Working Dogs from Luke AFB will be retiring on April 2, 2010. If everything goes as planned we will have a full report on the ceremony in next month's edition.

Right now we know that SSgt John Pillarella has adopted MWD Jampy (C115), SSgt Phillip Kittelson has adopted MWD Kisma (B266) and SSgt Kyle Alltop has adopted MWD Roc (D246).

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

At the time of this report we have **23** members of the "Old Dawgs & Pups" program actively supporting **24** 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 March 15, 2010. Over **235** "Old Dawgs and Friends" have supported **208** 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!**