

THAILAND DOG HANDLERS

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

OLD DAWGS and PUPS

Dog Handlers of the Vietnam War Supporting US Operations in Iraq and Afghanistan

Sponsored by Thailand Dog Handlers at combat Air Bases during the Vietnam War



(08/15/10)

OVER FIVE YEARS OF SUPPORTING OUR K-9 TROOPS!

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

Hello everyone! We are currently supporting seven (7) kennels and twenty-three (23) deployed Air Force, Army, and Navy teams as of August 15, 2010. August 2010 brings us to five years 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 Joint Base Balad, Sather Air Base, Iraq; Bagram Air Base, Afghanistan; Al Udeid Air Base, Qatar; Manas Air Base, Kyrgyzstan; Al Dahfra, UAE, and a base at an “Undisclosed location in the AOR”. We have six (6) new Pups to introduce this month.

Pups heading home from the AOR

Al Udeid Air Base, Qatar: SSgt Brandi Throgmorton & MWD Argo are back at Hill AFB, Utah. SSgt Christopher Hinds & Ajax are relaxing in Japan and SSgt David Duritsky & Buddy should be packing for Buckley AFB, Colorado by the time our next report is published.

Undisclosed Location AOR: (T)Sgt Benjamin Thomas and MWD Rex are returning to Pope AFB, North Carolina due to a medical problem with Rex. Hopefully Rex’s next stop is Fort Living Room. The team was supported by Jim Stastny (Korat) and John & Joan Smith (U-Tapao).

Pups arriving in the AOR

Joint Base Balad, Iraq: TSgt Kristopher Carroll (KM) deployed from the 60th SFS, Travis AFB, Washington. He is supported by Bill Cummings (U-Tapao).

Al Dahfra, UAE: TSgt Jim Parkis deployed from the 86th SFS, Ramstein AB, Germany is the new Kennel Master at the 380th ESFS. This is Jim’s second tour with us – he served at FOB Warrior while stationed at Moody AFB, Georgia. Of course, Jim is sponsored by Dixie Whitman (FoK) our “Moody Mom”!

SSgt Noe Gutierrez & MWD Jannie deployed from the 49th SFS, Holloman AFB, New Mexico. The team is supported by Ernie Childers (Udorn).

SSgt Jeremy O’Dell & MWD Ajax deployed from the 100th SFS, RAF Mildenhall, England. The team is supported by Karl Niemeyer (NKP).

SSgt John Houston & MWD Ootto deployed from the 100th SFS, RAF Mildenhall, England. The team is supported by Dave Broeker (U-Tapao)

SSgt David Garver & MWD Uudensi deployed from the 633rd SFS, Langley AFB, Virginia. The team is supported by John and Joan Smith (U-Tapao).

The “Thailand Dog Handlers - Old Dawgs & Pups” Challenge Coin

“Beware the Dogs of War”



One side of this coin displays the heritage of the Thailand Dog Handlers - U.S. Air Force sentry dog and patrol dog handlers who guarded America’s front-line combat air bases in Thailand throughout the Vietnam War. It features the 3-D head of an attacking German Shepherd dog in the aggressive posture of these outstandingly courageous and intelligent animals. Around the circumference of the coin are the names of the seven Royal Thai Air Force Bases that were used by U.S. forces and guarded by the American K-9 teams. Also shown are the years this Thailand service took place, 1968-1976, and the initials “USAF.”

The reverse of the coin celebrates the connection of the Vietnam War “Old Dawgs” with their “Pups” - the U.S. Military Working Dog handlers of the Twenty First Century. This side bears the Latin wording “Cave Canes Pugnaces,” or “Beware the Dogs of War.”

This side of the coin also features color reproductions of two official U.S. military ribbons denoting award of the Vietnam Service Medal and the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal. The VSM was awarded for service in the Vietnam War between

1965 and 1973 (and in reality should have been extended to include wartime Thailand service until 1976). The GWOT-E medal is awarded today for service in, or in support of, Operation Enduring Freedom or Operation Iraqi Freedom, in parts or all of 68 countries or regions. It is never awarded for service in the U.S. Hundreds of U.S. Air Force, Army and Navy dog handlers have been supported by the Old Dawgs & Pups program since 2005 in Iraq, Afghanistan, Kyrgyzstan, Qatar, United Arab Emirates, Djibouti, Honduras, Korea and locations which must remain undisclosed for operational security.

The tradition of challenge coins is said to have started in the U.S. Army Air Service, the first ancestor of the U.S. Air Force, during World War I. Legend has it that one wealthy young volunteer pilot had small gold-plated medallions made of his squadron insignia which he gave to his fellow pilots for camaraderie and good luck. One of the pilots carried his in a leather pouch worn around his neck. This pilot’s aircraft was damaged in combat, forcing him to land behind enemy lines where he was captured by German troops who confiscated everything he carried but missed the leather pouch. On his way to a POW camp he was held in a French village which was bombarded by the British, creating enough confusion to allow his escape.

The pilot avoided German patrols by wearing civvies, crept across no-man’s land and made contact with a French patrol who mistook the him for a German spy and prepared to immediately execute him. Without any identification, the pilot pulled out the coin from his leather pouch and showed it to his French captors, who recognized the unit insignia on the coin and delayed the execution long enough to verify his identity.

Once the pilot returned to his squadron and his story spread, it became a tradition for every squadron member to carry his coin everywhere. To ensure this, the pilots would challenge each other to produce the coin. If one couldn’t, he was required to buy a drink for the challenger; if he could, the challenger had to buy the drink.

Another version of this story comes from the Vietnam War, when a soldier would carry a piece of “lucky” ordnance that had hit or nearly hit him, or saved his life. At first it was shrapnel or small-arms ammunition, but grew to include bigger and more dangerous items over time. Eventually commanders banned it, and instead gave away metal coins emblazoned with the unit crest. The purpose of the piece of ordnance had been that when going into a bar you had to have your lucky piece or you had to buy drinks for everyone who had theirs. The coins took over this tradition, which goes on to this day. Other uses of challenge coins have evolved; for example they are often left at the funeral of an airman, soldier or sailor killed in action as tokens of respect and condolence from military personnel in attendance, for the family of the deceased.

Contact Phil Carroll if you are interested in purchasing

a Thailand Dog Handler – Old Dawgs & Pups Coin - K9nightfighter@msn.com

405th ESFS – “Undisclosed Location in the AOR”



TSgt Donald Elliston (KM) just sent us this photograph of some of his dog handlers at the 405th ESFS.

That is TSgt Ellison in the back row left. SSgt Ryan Pe'vey is in the middle right end, SSgt Benjamin Thomas & MWD Rex is second from the left in the front row, and SSgt Allison Price & MWD Rudy anchor the photograph on the front row far right.

TSgt Ellison, SSgt Pe'vey, and SSgt Thomas are supported by Phil Carroll (NKP/Takhli), John Risse (Pleiku) and Mike Regan (NKP) and Jim Stastny (Korat) and John & Joan Smth (U-Tapao), Rich Matott (Ubon) and Bob Curnick (NKP), respectively.

Ms. Sharon Schultz and members of the Ohio/Red Oak United Methodist churches have also been teamed up with the 405th ESFS. They have been supporting deploy service members from more than five years. They have much like Old Dawgs & Pups, just been growing and growing and this is the second year that they have been supporting deployed MWD teams.

A special thank you goes out to Major Kathy Jordan (former Commander, 341st Training Squadron, Joint Base San Antonio, Texas) for making sure that Sharon's group teamed up with us.

We can't wait to see how this project goes – something tells me that it's going to be a great hook up!

More 405th ESFS – “Undisclosed Location in the AOR”



We just received these photographs from SSgt Ryan Pe'vey please take a close look – this is training at its best! Here's how Ryan explains the training.

“Here are some pictures of me and my MWD Becky N543. We are doing some detection training and she has found and alerted on two training aids. The new response I have trained her in causes her to focus on odor source. I will try and get you some more soon. Have a great day”.

Don't you just love seeing these dog works?

447th ESFS – Sather Air Base, Iraq



SSgt Gabriel Bravo, deployed from the 56th SFS, Luke AFB, Arizona, and MWD Mayo display their new Leatherman Surge and the new Thailand Handler's Patch. Many of you might remember Gabe from the VSPA tour at Luke last year. Gabe was our “MC” and the handler that met us at the door of the new 56th. Gabe and Mayo are supported by Phil Carroll from the Old 56th NKP!

736th ESFS – Manas Air Base, Kyrgyzstan



SSgt Steven Bruner and MWD Rex are deployed from the 56th SFS, Luke AFB, Phoenix, Arizona. We just heard from Steven and his tour is going well – this photograph was taken at a search pit at Manas Air Base, Kyrgyzstan. Many of us have had the pleasure of meeting Steven and this is one great dog team. This is probably going to be Rex’s last deployment – his next stop might be “Fort Living Room”. Steven and Rex are supported by Jon Hemp (TSN).

Other troops deploying in the near future!

There is currently lots of troops moving to the AOR in the next reporting period. We just received word that SrA James Worley (many of you might remember him from our trip to Luke AFB during the last VSPA reunion) is heading down range – Bob Citrano will be teamed up with James and his MWD once they are in theater.

We have troops deploying to Sather Air Base, Iraq; Bagram, Afghanistan, Al Udeid, Qatar, Al Dahfra, United Arab Emirates, and several other locations in the AOR.

We have teams from Hill AFB, Utah; Patrick AFB, Florida; Davis-Monthan AFB, Arizona; Tinker AFB, Oklahoma; and Lackland AFB, Texas, just to name a few. September is going to be a very, very busy month for our program.

We are really going to need some help sponsoring these teams – so those of you that have not had a team in a while – STAND BY! We all know when the call goes out that you will step up to the plate to support these deployed dog teams and WE THANK EACH AND EVERYONE OF YOU!

380th ESFS – Al Dhafra Air Base, United Arab Emirates

Thanks to Mary Lou Hodsdon, Pet Edge, we were able to order and ship ten (10) large Guardian Pet Cots to the 380th ESFS in less than 18 hours – I don't care who you are – that's customer service! Here's what they look like in case you have forgotten! Thanks again Pet Edge. TSgt Parkis has ensured us that we will have new handlers "enrolling" in OD&P in the very near future.



380th ESFS – Al Dhafra Air Base, United Arab Emirates



SSgt David Garver & MWD Uudensi deployed from the 633rd SFS, Langley AFB, Virginia. Looks like Uudensi is ready to go to work. On the right Uudensi taking a break in the kennels – on the right are the Guardian Pet Beds that we just sent the kennels. Here is a little about Uudensi "He is a 2 year old Belgian Malinois. He is part of the Puppy Program that is in the works at Lackland AFB. They pair the adult MWDs that they have in the program together and breed them. Uudensi is a very good dog but since he is a pup he likes to test me a lot and see if I will correct him. This job, in my opinion, is the best job in the Air Force or the Military. We get to work with dogs, training and fixing problems they have. The team is supported by John and Joan Smith (U-Tapao).

332nd ESFS – Joint Base Balad, Iraq

We have a “New Pup” at Joint Base Balad! We, actually, she’s back in the states. Here’s a great message that we just received from SSgt Khristopher Carroll. “I have let all my new handlers know about your program so hopefully they write to you soon. Also I have been compiling some pictures to send to you I just do not have that many right now but I will try to be better about taking more. Also, this is a little off topic but yesterday my wife Calli gave birth to my 3rd child. A baby girl named Miley. I am very excited and since I could not be there for her birth the only way I can show my excitement is by letting everyone see a picture of her”. Congratulations Kris and Callie – we absolutely love this kind of news. Is this a beautiful little girl or what?

Miley Carroll – Brand new pup!



Other News concerning OD&P Graduates!

She’s BACK! For the fourth time, we’d like to welcome back SSgt Kimberly Harting! She’s just completed her K-9 Region Training Center tour and is heading for the AOR in the very near future. Here are some photographs of her and MWD Gina at the Training Center. Juli and the Smith’s – If I were you I’d get my e-mails ready to adopt her! She’s like that Energizer Bunny – She just keeps on “going, and going, and going”!



Leatherman Tool Group News



Thanks once AGAIN to our “Leatherman Angel” Juli Warner, the Leatherman Tool Group of Portland Oregon has made yet another very generous donation to the Old Dawgs & Pups Program. This time it was another 20 of the amazing Tactical Black Surge Multi-Tools with MOLLE compatible sheaths. Of course, as usual, we had these laser-engraved with “Thailand K-9” in honor of our service many years ago.

Over the last five years the company has been incredibly generous with helping us support the “Boots and Paws on the Ground” in the war zones. As you can see by the number summary on the next page, Leatherman’s generosity and your fantastic donations have made it possible for us to ship 212 Surges to Military Working Dog Handlers in some very challenging locations. These rugged tools have been used for everything from opening dog food bags, to clearing jammed machine guns and adjusting sights on handlers’ personal weapons on K-9 missions outside the wire, and even to build a kennels, support section and living quarters for handlers at one base in Afghanistan.

Thank you Juli and Leatherman!

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

At the time of this report we have **31** members of the “Old Dawgs & Pups” program actively supporting **23** handlers assigned to seven (7) 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 **1,238** pieces of equipment has been delivered to our K-9 troops serving in the AOR from August 21, 2005 to August 15, 2010. Over **295** “Old Dawgs and Friends” have supported **58** kennels and **237** 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 **\$15,756.00** of supplies for the **59** kennels solely via your personal donations. Including the Leatherman corporate and Helping Udders donations, the total is **\$48,241.00!**

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

- 212 Leatherman "Surge" Tools (125) Donated by Leatherman) *
- * The Leatherman "Surge"/Flashlights/Knives donation is valued at approximately **\$29,065.00**
- 120 Thailand Challenge Coins (Donated & Purchased)
- 91 Guardian Pet Beds (Pet Edge)
- 75 * Leatherman Knives (Models: c33T, e55, e55B, e33L)
- 75 Thailand Historical Base Patches
- 52 Kongs (Assorted sizes)
- 45 * Leatherman Serac S3 Leatherman Flashlights
- 40 Sponges
- 40 Cleaning/Scouring Pads
- 33 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)
- 25 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 Retractable Leashes (Pet Edge)
- 12 Flat Sided Stainless Steel Water Pails (Pet Edge)
- 12 Bucket Clips (Pet Edge)
- 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!**