

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



(10/15/10)

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 October 15, 2010. September 2010 brings us to five years and two 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 Joint Base Balad, Sather Air Base, Iraq; Bagram Air Base, Afghanistan; Al Udeid Air Base, Qatar; Manas Air Base, Kyrgyzstan; Al Dhafra, UAE, and a base at an “Undisclosed location in the AOR”. We have three (3) new Pups to introduce this month.

Pups heading home from the AOR

Sather Air Base, Iraq: SSgt Charles Messer & MWD Elza have returned to Maxwell AFB, Alabama. They are looking forward to a rest and some fantastic southern cooking!

Undisclosed Location SW Asia: SSgt Ryan Pe’Vey and MWD Becky have departed for the “world” and should be back home at Altus AFB, Oklahoma.

Pups arriving in the AOR

Joint Base Balad, Iraq: SSgt Joshua Aleprete & MWD Boy deployed from the 316th SFS, Andrews AFB, Maryland. The team is supported by Jim Stastny (Korat).

SSgt Kyle Richards & MWD Omega deployed from the 86th SFS, Ramstein Air Base, Germany. The team is supported by John & Carolyn Risse (Pleiku).

SSgt Teri Messina & Rico deployed from the 30th SFS, Vandenberg AFB, California. The team is supported by Jon Hemp (TSN).

Al Dhafra Air Base, United Arab Emirates: We just received word that there are two new handlers at the 380th ESFS and they are getting squared away as we speak. As soon as information is available on them we will get them adopted and assigned to Old Dawgs.

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



OK, we’ve all had these kinda’ days! As you can see, Cezar is just plain tucker out! But if you had to caption this photograph – how would you do it? That is the spirit we just love to see – Cezar just isn’t giving up on the toy! If everyone remembers – we had a contest to caption the above photograph. VSPA Past President Steve Gattis is our winner! **“You think I’m at the end of my rope? Come on, make my day. Give it a pull!”** Steve won a “Thailand Dog Handlers/OD&P” challenge coin for his efforts and making Cezar famous!

447th ESFS – Sather Air Base, Iraq

SSgt Jason Hanisko, Kennel Master at the 447th sent us some “training day shots” and they are just fantastic! SSgt Wilkerson works out Olix while SrA Worley takes in the action. Nice bit Olix!!! I don’t know what is worse - the bite or just working in the heat in that suit? It think the elbow action on the bite has it!



447th ESFS – Sather Air Base, Iraq – Training Day Continued



SSgt Hipp releases and MWD Veruse takes a crack at the decoy – Veruse 1 – Decoy 0!



SSgt Wilkerson is escorted by MWD Rocky – Don't you just love this new training?

Thanks guys for sharing your “training day” with us. Keep up the great work and keep those photographs coming please

455th ESFS – Bagram Air Base, Afghanistan

SSgt Kim Harting sent us a few “candid shots” from Bagram – take a quick tour of the facility



Above Left – Danger K-9 Sign



Above Right – “Nap Time”!



Above Left – “Holiday Inn Bagram”?



Above Right – “Come on baby light my fire”!

Other News concerning OD&P Graduates!

On October 7, 2010 many of us had the honor of visiting the 802nd Security Forces Squadron and the 341st Training Squadron at Lackland during the Vietnam Security Police Association Reunion. We won't be able to cover everything we did in this month's issue, but we will continue to cover the event next month when more photographs are received from those in attendance.

We would like to thank TSgt Brian Hoglen and TSgt Jason Adams from the 802nd Security Forces Squadron for a fantastic demonstration and tour of the Nemo Memorial. Thanks also for all of the hard work you completed to making sure we passed all of the checks and balances at Pass & ID. Thanks also for assisting our group in visiting SSgt Brent Olson at Brooks Medical Center.

We would also like to thank Major Bill Roberts, Commander, 341st Training Squadron for meeting with us on the day before our tour to make sure everything was “good to go” and for taking the time to cover the other events that we have for the future involving the squadron.

Other News concerning OD&P Graduates - Continued

You talk about leading by example!!!! Major Roberts and his staff have committed to continuing their efforts in honoring our history and have stepped forward to ensure that we have the best trained troops down range. This group is the point of the sword in their training of dogs and troops – all we can say is WOW!

The luncheon and demonstrations that followed made all of us proud to be dog handlers and showed us why we are supporting K-9 teams in the AOR.

We also had the pleasure of meeting CPO Ronnie Holland (Chief-Kennel Master Course), Mr. Orlando Nunez (SSD), SFC Regina Johnson (Operations Superintendent/SNCO), SSgt Crista Quam (Unit Training Manager/Unit Deployment Manager - see below), and TSgt Joel Burton (NCOIC MWD Inventory Management) and several other staff members of the squadron. What a class act they are – just the cream of the crop. Major Roberts – please thank all of your personnel for a job so very well done!!!

We also had the pleasure of meeting with the following personnel that we have supported during deployments over the last five years: More photographs to come next month.

TSgt Brian Hoglen
SSgt David Daniels
Sgt Randy Jensen
MA3 Robert Pennington

TSgt Jason Adams
SSgt Matthew Hemeon
TSgt Ben Jones
SSgt Chad Ditch

SSgt Dominic Burt
SSgt Christa Hofman Quam
SrA Lauren Frey



SSgt Christa Hofman Quam



Sgt Randy Jensen & Cantor



TSgt Ben Jones & Jannine



SSgt Dave Daniels & Kimba



Sgt Dominic Burt & Kelly



TSgts Brian Hoglen & Matthew Hemoen

Other News concerning OD&P Graduates - Continued



MA3 Chad Pennington & Family



SSgt Lauren Frey & Zico



SSgt Chad Ditch & Aaslan



TSgt Jason Adams & Sinda

Several of the “Old Dawgs” and “Pups” were interviewed by a reporter from the Lackland Tailspinner during our luncheon with the 341st personnel. If the article is published we will reprint what we can.

Regardless, those of us that spent time with our pups during the reunion just have trouble explaining what it means to have finally met them in person. We laughed and exchanged stories and caught up on what each are doing now – it was just a great time and a great pleasure to meet these young men and women who are serving our country. These guys are the best of the best in the dog world – keep up the great work and keep sending quality products and trained personnel down range.

Other News concerning OD&P Graduates - Continued



Our gracious hosts from the 802nd Security Forces Squadron following the MWD demonstration
SSgt Orozco, TSgt Brock, TSgt Hoglen, TSgt Adams, and SSgt Ditch
Thanks for a great job and for your service to our country



Much to her surprise, Ms. Juli Warner, Leatherman Tool Group, was recognized for her exemplary service and continued support to the Old Dawgs & Pups Program and the Vietnam Security Police Association at this year's reunion. She became the 10th person to receive the honor of an Associate Membership for her "big heart, hard work and tremendous support for the Old Dawgs & Pups Program supporting active duty K-9 troops in today's war zones and other VSPA initiatives. Way to go Juli and congratulations from all of us!

Other News concerning OD&P Graduates - Continued



It was a great to recently hear from Sergeant Chantel Razack & MWD Pindo, U. S. Army – Narcotic NCOIC – Fort Gordon, Georgia. Chantel was our Kennel Master at Camp Cropper in the fall of 2009. SGT Razack ask to say hello to everyone who supported her and the troops at Camp Cropper. She was supported by Bill Cummings (U-Tapao) and Dixie Whitman (FoK).



Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 6441 – Oldham-Cummings Post - Wimberley, Texas

Once again the VFW Post in Wimberley, Texas is supporting our “Pups” through the efforts of Kelly Bateman and all of our veteran friends at the post. Through their efforts, monthly packages are being sent to SSgt Brian Klein (Joint Base Balad, Iraq), SrA James Worley (Sather Air Base, Iraq), SSgt Aaron Escalante, and SSgt Robert Beaudoin (both at Al Udeid Air Base, Qatar). It’s always nice to receive packages from home – and it’s especially nice to receive packages from veterans back home “who have been there and done that”!

Those Texans – there are just hard to beat!!! Kelly – Please express our appreciation to the post.

379th ESFS – Al Udeid Air Base, Qatar



SSgt Aaron Escalante and MWD Rex strike a pose during a little down time at Al Udeid Air Base, Qatar. As you might notice, Rex is quite the veteran – he’s deployed to Southwest Asia more than six times with six handlers. Rumor has it that Rex will be heading for a career with a local police department at the conclusion of this tour. On a personal note, we know this team very well, they are just perfect together and prior to their leaving Davis-Monthan we assured Aaron that Rex would make him a star! If every there was a team that respected each other – it would be Rex and Aaron.

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 **1,249** pieces of equipment has been delivered to our K-9 troops serving in the AOR from August 21, 2005 to September 15, 2010. Over **300** “Old Dawgs and Friends” have supported **59** kennels and **243** 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 **\$15,806.00** of supplies for the **59** kennels solely via your personal donations. Including the Leatherman corporate and Helping Udders donations, the total is **\$48,291.00!**

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**

- 130 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
- 40 PSI Water Holes (Dressler's)
- 33 Kygen Port-A-Bowls (Dressler's)
- 25 Doggles (10 Pairs were donated)
- 24 Kygen 2-In-1 Food/Water Bowls (Dressler's)
- 24 Rolls 26"x78" 20% Dark Limo Window Tint (Checker Auto Supply)
- 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
- 6 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)