

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



(11/15/10)

OVER FIVE YEARS OF SUPPORTING OUR K-9 TROOPS!

More than \$52,000 of supplies shipped down range!

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

Hello everyone! We are currently supporting seven (7) kennels and twenty-four (24) deployed Air Force, Army, and Navy teams as of November 15, 2010. November 2010 brings us to five years and three 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.

Al Dhafra, United Arab Emirates: TSgt Jim Parkis, Kennel Master, should be pulling chocks and heading back to Ramstein Air Base, Germany.

Manus Air Base, Kyrgyzstan: SSgt Steven Bruner and MWD Rex should be departing for home, Luke AFB, Arizona, any day now – rumor has it that his relief is “BOG”.

Pups arriving in the AOR

Al Dhafra Air Base, United Arab Emirates: SSgt Eric Hoffman & MWD Pita just arrived at the 380th ESFS. They are deployed from the 22nd SFS, McConnell AFB, Kansas and they are supported by J. D. Jones (Udorn).

SrA Kyle Majorana & MWD Erik are deployed from the 75th SFS, Hill AFB, Utah. This is the team’s first deployment and we are looking forward to hearing from them during their tour. They are supported by David Priest (Korat).

Sather Air Base, Iraq: SSgt Dedrick Callahan, MWD Trainer, deployed from the 99th SFS, Nellis AFB, Nevada has joined the team at Sather. Many of you may have met SSgt Callahan at the VDHA reunion in Riverside. The team is supported by Jon Hemp (TSN).

447th ESFS – Sather Air Base, Iraq



SSgt Dedrick Callahan displays his new Leatherman “Surge”, his Thailand handler patch, and challenge coin that was presented on our behalf by SSgt Jason Hanisko. SSgt Callahan is deployed from Nellis AFB and is supported by Jon Hemp (TSN).



SrA James Worley & MWD Olix in front of the 447th Unit Logo at Sather Air Base, Iraq.

OK, Olix has had enough today – he’s taking a break. “Would someone close the door – PLEASE?”

455th ESFS – Bagram Air Base, Afghanistan



Above – SSgt Kim Harting presents SSgt Teri Messina her new Leatherman “Surge”, Thailand handler patch, and new challenge coin on our behalf. Below - SSgts Messina and Harting show off their gifts from OD&P. SSgt Harting received a Serac S3 LED flashlight due to her numerous deployments. We’re running out of products to send her – she deploys so much!

SSgt Messina is supported by Jon Hemp (TSN) and SSgt Harting is supported by John & Joan Smith (U-Tapao), Juli Werner (FoK) and Peggy Finzgar (FoK). Thanks again Kimmie for making the presentation for us!



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



380th ESFS – Al Dhafra Air Base, United Arab Emirate – November 2010

Front row – Left to Right: SSgt David Garver & Uudensi, SSgt John Houston & Ootto, SSgt Eric Hoffman & Pita and SSgt Jeremy O’Dell & Ajax

Bottom row – Left to Right: SSgt Kelly & Nero, SrA Kyle Majorana & Erik, Kennel Master Jim Parkis, Trainer Mr. Charles Busha, SSgt Noe Gutierrez & Jannie, and SSgt Jesus Gonzalez & Goro

Guardian pet beds arrive at 380th ESFS - Al Dhafra Air Base, UAE



SSgt John Houston and MWD Otto

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



SSgt John Houston and MWD Otto are deployed from Meldenhall Air Base, England. It was great to receive these photographs with the team and especially seeing how Otto is enjoying his Guardian Pet Bed from Pet Edge. These beds are four months old and certainly appear to be holding up very well – I think Otto would endorse this product? That would be a great commercial.

SSgt Houston and Otto are paired up with Dave Broeker (U-Tapao). All I can say is “ZZZZZZ!”



SSgt David Garver and MWD Uudensi are deployed from Langley AFB, Virginia.

Left – Uudensi sure is getting comfortable in the new bed – man, I wish I could get that comfortable!

Right – SSgt Garver is being “heavily quizzed” by Uudensi about the whereabouts of his tennis ball! “Come on boss – where’s the ball”?

This team is supported by John and Joan Smith (U-Tapao)

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



Above – MWD Goro is making use of available cover and concealment techniques.

“OK, wonder if SSgt Gonzalez can see me now”?

Another Generous Donation From the Leatherman Tool Group



Leatherman has donated another 46 of their amazing tiny – but powerful – Serac S3 LED flashlights for us to send to our Pups downrange. We’ve had these lights before, and they’ve been well received by the troops. They have three power settings: 7 lumens on low, 43 lumens on medium, and an astounding 100 lumens on high. For comparison, a 6.5-inch long 2AA Mini-Mag flashlight with a bulb puts out 15 lumens, and a 3D Maglite with a bulb puts out about 77 lumens. So this little dude is BRIGHT!

It’s also got a reversible clip on the barrel, so you can have it hang down into a pocket for safe carry, or turn it around so the light will clip on to your hat brim and shine forward – very handy!

It’s got a hard-anodized aluminum body and stainless steel bezel; it’s water, humidity, corrosion and shock resistant, and includes a 10-year warranty. Just the kind of durability a dog handler in a war zone demands.

Quality tools from quality people – thanks for helping us equip and support our troops down range!

Other News concerning OD&P Graduates

‘Old Dawgs’ renew bonds with their ‘Pups’

OCTOBER 22, 2010 TALESPIINNER PAGE 13 - By Mike Joseph - Staff Writer

When former Vietnam Security Police Association military working dog handlers and the 341st Training Squadron gathered for a picnic Oct. 7, one of the veterans said the common denominator was dogs. But the real common bonds were the respect and admiration between the two groups. It flows with equal force both ways that only the Vietnam dog handlers’ support moniker – Old Dawgs and Pups – seems to separate them. While the idea of the picnic was for current 341st TRS handlers to honor their Vietnam counterparts during their annual Lackland visit, many of the 60-plus visitors felt vice versa might be more appropriate. “We love these guys – they’re our heroes and they don’t even know it,” said Bill Cummings, a former VSPA kennel master, surrounded by handlers past and present. “That’s what is so amazing. They don’t know how much they mean to us.” And just as quickly as Mr. Cummings and others are to praise today’s handlers, that admiration comes bouncing back twofold.

“It’s paramount to make our new guys understand really why we’re here,” said Navy Chief Petty Officer Ronnie Holland, MWD kennel master course chief. “We need to let the veterans know we appreciate what they did for us.” The “Old Dawgs” – veteran Vietnam working dog handlers – banded together in 2005 to support their “Pups” – active duty working dog handlers. Their selfless purpose is to provide moral support and equipment for today’s handlers around the world.

“When we came back from Southeast Asia, we hid for 30 years,” Mr. Cummings said. “We just stayed in the underbrush. Then we found out about (the handlers) down range, what they were doing and what they needed.” The veterans have spent nearly \$50,000 out of pocket to send home comforts to active-duty handlers and their working dogs.

It’s an all-encompassing range of support, from any need or want for the dogs to filling a handler’s sweet tooth. They also recruited the Leatherman Tool Company to join the supply chain by donating tools, knives and flashlights to the handlers. While those deployed handlers and their dogs have benefited from the veterans’ generosity, moral support has also played a key role. “What meant the most to me was the emotional support,” said Tech. Sgt. Dominic Burt, 341st TRS MWD handler course instructor, about the frequent e-mail communication, shared deployment experiences, equipment and care packages during his first tour in Iraq.

Phil Carroll, who served at Takhli and Nakhon Phanom in 1970-71, said today’s training, dog care and missions go beyond their imagination. “It’s like Star Trek or something with a dog,” Mr. Carroll said. “When we communicate with them and hear them say it’s because of all the ground we laid, it’s like ‘what did we do?’ That kind of feed- back just blows our mind.” Talk about the working dogs overcame any language or age differences as the two groups interacted at the picnic, concluded by an MWD demonstration and more mingling.

“We thought we’d take this a step further, make it more personal and have an environment for them to sit down and talk,” Chief Holland said about adding the picnic to the group’s annual tour. “The connection between (these two groups) is vital.”

Army Staff Sgt. Randy Jensen, a 341st TRS MWD handler course supervisor and instructor, said the veterans’ support was not only important to him but to all dog handlers down range. “(Their support) means a lot to all the Soldiers, Airmen, Marines and Sailors,” Sergeant Jensen said. “It helps keep us going. (Those) serving do realize there are people at home who support us.”

Other News concerning OD&P Graduates – Continued



During our VSPA Reunion K-9 tour at the 802nd SFS Kennel at Joint Base San Antonio, Bill Cummings ran into some “Old friends of Old Dawgs & Pups”. On the left is SSgt Chad Ditch (Aaslan) who we supported at Camp Cropper, Iraq in 2008 – Chad was supported by Kelly Bateman. On the right is SSgt Lauren Frey (Zico) who we supported at Al Udeid Air Base, Qatar in 2009. Lauren was supported by Mike Diercks. It was such a great time getting to meet these young warriors and to tell you the truth – we believe that they enjoyed meeting all of us!



Dixie Whitman, a long, long time supporter of OD&P pulled off a great surprise at the VSPA reunion when she “delivered” Navy handler/now Kennel Master MA3 Robert Pennington to the hospitality room. Things got exciting in a hurry! Robert and his family joined us for a few adult beverages and lots of fun. We supported Robert & MWD Cindy at FOB Warrior Iraq in 2006 and he was supported by Dixie and Terry Strickland. We all had a great time and got to meet so many of the troops we supported down range – it was a BLAST! Now we all understand why we support this program – it’s the troops and their dogs – it’s that simple!!!!

Left – Ernie Childers, Kelly Bateman, Dixie Whitman, Robert’s wife and daughter, and Robert.

Right – Dixie Whitman, Robert Pennington, Robert’s wife and daughter, and Bill Cummings.

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

At the time of this report we have **30** members of the "Old Dawgs & Pups" program actively supporting **24** 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 **1,329** pieces of equipment has been delivered to our K-9 troops serving in the AOR from August 21, 2005 to November 15, 2010. Over **300** "Old Dawgs and Friends" have supported **59** kennels and **249** 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 **\$16,271.00** of supplies for the **59** kennels solely via your personal donations. Including the Leatherman corporate and Helping Udders donations, the total is **\$52,436.00!**

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 **\$32,745.00**
- 148 Thailand Challenge Coins (Donated & Purchased)
- 91 * Leatherman Serac S3 Leatherman Flashlights
- 91 Guardian Pet Beds (Pet Edge)
- 90 Thailand Historical Base Patches
- 75 * Leatherman Knives (Models: c33T, e55, e55B, e33L)
- 52 Kongs (Assorted sizes)
- 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)**