

# 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



(06/15/11)

**OVER FIVE YEARS OF SUPPORTING OUR K-9 TROOPS!**

**More than \$65,000 of supplies shipped down range!**

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

Hello everyone! We are currently supporting five (5) kennels and fifteen (15) deployed Air Force, Army, and Navy teams as of June 15, 2011. June 2011 brings us to five years and nine 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, Iraq; Bagram Air Base, FOB ACS-2/Kandahar, Afghanistan; and Ali Al Salem, Kuwait; and Manas Transit Center, Kyrgyzstan.

### **Pups heading home from the AOR**

**Ali Al Salem, Kuwait:** SSgt Kyle Alltop & MWD Chrach should be heading out of the AOR and on their way home to Luke AFB, Arizona.

**Joint Base Balad, Iraq:** SSgt Todge Smith is now back in the world after returning to Moody AFB, Georgia.

Kennel Master TSgt Tim Kaluza, SSgt Ted Carlson & Rambo, and SSgt Phillip Mendoza & Rico should be back at the 824<sup>th</sup> and heading for some well deserved leave!

### **Pups arriving in the AOR**

We have pups coming into the AOR and we are making contact with them on a daily basis. As soon as they get straight we will have them assigned to our "Old Dawgs".

### **332<sup>th</sup> ESFS – Joint Base Balad, Iraq**

The "Red Dragon" Returns! TSgt Angelo Reategui (last with us in Feb 2009) and three other teams from Moody have arrived and hopefully we will hear from them soon.



## **332<sup>th</sup> ESFS – Joint Base Balad, Iraq**

**New Pup at Joint Base Balad home front! On 27 May 2011 at 1550 hours, TSgt Tim Kaluza and his wife welcomed their third daughter, Alaina Johanna Kaluza. Congratulations Sarge - Now you even have more reason to get your butt home!**



## **Heading home to Moody AFB, Georgia**



**SSgt Phillip Mendoza & MWD Rico, TSgt Tim Kaluza, and SSgt Ted Carlson & Rambo pose for a parting “shot” at Joint Base Balad before leaving for home. Thank you Dixie Whitman, Rich Vivio, Ken Smerecki, Bill Gunter, and Pete Villarreal for supporting these troops during their deployment.**

## 332<sup>th</sup> ESFS – Joint Base Balad, Iraq - Continued

### Military working dogs take a bite out of opposition

by Senior Airman Tong Duong - 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing Public Affairs

5/23/2011 - JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq -- Some dogs' barks are louder than their bites, but in the case of military working dogs, you would have to be on the wrong side of the law to find out. Canine (K9) handlers in each branch of service are deployed to help protect fellow members. With 42 sharp incisors and teeth, MWDs can exert 400 to 700 pounds of force, helping to take a 'bite' out of any opposition.

"Our mission here is to provide JBB with military working dogs capable of explosive and narcotics detection, as well as explosive detection for off-base quick reaction forces and dismounted outside-the-wire patrols," said Tech. Sgt. Kaluza, 332nd Expeditionary Security Forces Group kennel master. Military working dogs also provide support to the Office of Special Investigation and sister services, for apprehension of fleeing suspects, Sergeant Kaluza, who is deployed from Moody Air Force Base, Ga., said.

The first MWDs entered the Army's K-9 Corps in 1942. While many types of dogs were used in the initial program, the breeds today are only of a select few. German Sheppard and Belgian Malinois dogs are commonly used as they are considered aggressive, smart and loyal, Sergeant Kaluza, a native of Loomis, Calif., said. Staff Sgt. Travis Dulworth, 332nd ESFG K9 handler, said working with Andor, a 5-year-old German Sheppard explosive detector dog on its first deployment, is a constant challenge. This means Sergeant Dulworth, who is deployed from McConnell AFB, Kan., and Andor must always be on their "A" game.

"If I'm having a bad day and miss something, someone could die," Sergeant Dulworth, a native of Frederick, Md., said. "In the past four months, three fellow K9 handlers have either been hit by an improvised explosive device, were shot while clearing a path for his teammates or have stepped on a pressure plate that luckily malfunctioned."

The sergeant said, despite the challenges, he loves protecting and saving lives and providing a sense of security for those he works with. "People feel a lot safer having us up front as point during dismounted patrols," Sergeant Dulworth said. "Most local nationals seem very hesitant to approach us. This helps keep possible threats to a minimum."



Top Left: JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq--Andor, 332nd Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron military working dog, receives a toy from his handler Staff Sgt. Travis Dulworth. Andor specializes in explosives detection and sergeant Dulworth is deployed from McConnell Air Force Base, Kan.

Top Right: JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq--Staff Sgt. Travis Dulworth, 332nd Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron K9 handler, takes his dog, Andor, for a walk May 12, 2011. Sergeant Dulworth is a native of Frederick, MD., and is deployed from McConnell Air Force Base, Kan. (U.S. Air Force photo/Staff Sgt. Keyonna Fennell) SSgt Dulworth & Andor are supported by J. D. Jones (Udorn)

## **FOB ACS-2/Kandahar, Afghanistan:**

SSgt Jessica Keller & MWD Oscar are deployed from the 56<sup>th</sup> SFS, Luke AFB, Arizona. They are just getting settled in and we can expect to hear more from them in the near future. From the photograph on the left – it sure didn't take Oscar long to get comfortable in the military vehicle of his choice!helicopter! It's still true after all these years – Dogs love to get into anything that rolls or flies! They are supported by Ken Neal (Ubon/Udorn) and Steve & Lise Gattis (CRB).



Left – MWD Oscar calls shot gun in the vehicle – who would have thought?

Right – Jessie and Oscar take a moment – not many of those to go around during this tour.

## **376<sup>th</sup> ESFS – Manas Transit Center – Kyrgyzstan**

We just received these photographs from Kennel Master, TSgt Andrew Esparza and it looks like they are good to go at Manas. Some are the handlers with their Surges, a few are with MWD Astor (SSgt Sanez) wearing his Thailand Dog handlers patch. They also put on a demo for the cast of the TV show “Army Wives”.



## 376<sup>th</sup> ESFS – Manas Transit Center – Kyrgyzstan



SSgt Jamie Wright is the decoy and SSgt Paris Carman & MWD Diesel show their visitors how a search and escort is performed. TSgt Drew Esparza narrates the demonstration for the visitors.



One of the actors gets an “arm on experience” as SSgt Paris Carman & MWD Diesel show the effects of a bite. The photograph on the right seems to punctuate the meaning of “Do not resist”!



The casts and our troops pose for a photograph after the demonstration. Looks like everyone had a great time and you can tell the guests enjoyed spending time with our troops at Manas.

## **386<sup>th</sup> ESFS Ali Al Salem, Kuwait**

The handlers at Ali Al Salem participated in a 5K run and from what we heard – they stole the show. As usual – K-9 was out in front leading the pack!

Left to right: SSgt Stephanie Nunez/MWD Buddy, SSgt Matthew Zantene/MWD JANY, SSgt Wendy Montellese/MWD Jimmy, SSgt Chris Maziarka/MWD Guero, SSgt Chad McCord/MWD Brutus and SSgt Kyle Alltop/MWD Chrach



### **Cooling Down**

Left to right: SSgt Stephanie Nunez/MWD Buddy, SSgt Chad McCord/MWD Brutus and SSgt Matthew Zantene/MWD Jany. Looks to us like they are ready to do it again?



## **386<sup>th</sup> ESFS Ali Al Salem, Kuwait - Continued**

### **Pups spent time with Top Copy General McMillian**

Rumor has it that SrA Kyle Tredway was chosen to “break bread” with General Jimmy McMillian during his stop over at Ali Al Salem. Dinner conversation centered on “K-9 issues and the career field” and it was a great experience being able to sit, eat, and talk with “the boss” and to check on how things were going back in states. These opportunities don’t come along that often.

SrA Tredway and MWD Rakker and SSgt Kyle Alltop and MWD Chrach did a demo for the General and he was very impressed – they even got coined for the event with General McMillian.

### **Catching up on the news from the home front!**



SSgt Lindsay Thompson & MWD Mayo visit SSgt Kyle Alltop and MWD Chrach as they pass through the AOR enroute to another assignment. They are kennel mates at Luke AFB, Phoenix, Arizona. It’s always great to spend time with friends and especially in a war zone.

## Old Dawg Visits Wounded Warrior



Megan, SSgt Ben Seekell, Jim & Linda Stastny & SSgt Russell Logan and Jim Stastny

Earlier this week I got news that two USAF Security Force members, serving in Afghanistan, were injured. On May 8th, while on patrol, MWD [K-9] handler SSgt Ben Seekell stepped on a land mine -- it blew off his left foot, injured his K-9 partner Charlie, and SSgt Russell Logan.

The two airmen were sent to the Walter Reed Army Medical Center, just a few miles from here [where I live]. Charlie [the K-9 dog] not only received shrapnel wounds but the explosion blew out his eardrums. He's still overseas awaiting transportation back to the states. Once Charlie undergoes de-programming, the Seekell family will adopt him.

As a result of this news, Linda and I decided to pay them a visit and present them with letters of appreciation from The Vietnam Security Police Association and the Old Dawgs and Pups program. We first went to visit SSgt Logan in the hospital. Unfortunately, when we got to his room the nurse told us he had checked out for the weekend. So, I'll return sometime next week to see him.

We went to SSgt Seekell's apartment where his wife and children are able to stay with him. The attendant on duty told us they were at a picnic just around the corner. So, we traipsed over to the picnic. When I spotted a one-footed, young man in a wheelchair I asked if he knew SSgt Seekell. He said, "It's me." Recognizing the patches on my vest he said, "It's K9." We agreed there's a bond between K9 that transcends age, once a K9 handler always a K9 handler.

We then sat around and had a great chat with the SSgt and his wife Meagan for at least forty-five minutes. We also got to see their three beautiful children Kayla, Matthew, and Caiden. I cannot begin to tell you how much SSgt Seekell impressed me. Here's a young man, with his foot blown off, sitting in a wheelchair, and he has the most upbeat, positive attitude one could imagine. Instead of bemoaning his loss, or complaining about a missing appendage, he kept talking about getting his prosthesis and going back to duty. In fact, as we visited, the band played the Star Spangled Banner. Being the true American he is, the SSgt didn't remain seated, which would have been proper, but, on his one leg ... stood at attention to honor this great country.

To think that we have such men carrying on the tradition of the USAF Security Forces, and especially K9 -- with a tear in my eye I must say -- he makes me proud. What a grand way to celebrate Memorial Day Weekend. Jim Stastny, VSPA Kennel Master



## We have new Master Sergeants



### Congratulations go out to our pups that were recently promoted to Master Sergeant:

TSgt Chris Beavers	FOB Warrior, Iraq – 2007	Sponsors - Ernie Childers & Janet Wise
TSgt Andrew Bedell	Bagram, Afghanistan – 2009	Sponsors - J D Jones & Danny Bowlin
TSgt John Danser	Ali Air Base, Iraq – 2006	Sponsors - Bill Cummings
TSgt Bradley Stem	FOB Warrior, Iraq – 2007	Sponsors - Rick Matott/ & Jim Stastny
TSgt Ben Jones	Ali Air Base, Iraq – 2006	Sponsor - Bill Cummings
	FOB Warrior, Iraq 2008	Sponsor - Bill Cummings

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

At the time of this report we have **18** members of the “Old Dawgs & Pups” program actively supporting **15** handlers assigned to five (5) 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 **1,401** pieces of equipment has been delivered to our K-9 troops serving in the AOR from August 21, 2005 to June 15, 2011. Over **327** “Old Dawgs and Friends” have supported **64** kennels and **270** K-9 personnel via our program. For additional information on the program please go to:

[http://www.pbase.com/635thk9/old\\_dawgs](http://www.pbase.com/635thk9/old_dawgs)

Please review the photos, press releases, and more about our ongoing programs.

We have purchased and shipped **\$17,677.00** of supplies for the **64** kennels solely via your personal donations. Including the Leatherman corporate and Helping Udders donations, the total is **\$65,576.00!**

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**

- 247 Leatherman “Surge” Tools (166) Donated by Leatherman) \*
- \* The Leatherman “Surge”/Muts/Flashlights/Knives donation is valued at approximately \$44,470.00
- 163 Thailand Challenge Coins (Donated & Purchased)
- 163 \* Leatherman Serac S3 Leatherman Flashlights
- 105 Thailand Historical Base Patches
- 91 Guardian Pet Beds (Pet Edge)
- 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 \* Leatherman MUT Tools
- 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)
- 6 Retractable Leashes (Dresslers)
- 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
- 2 \* Leatherman EOD MUT Tools
- 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)**