

# 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



(11/15/11)

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

**More than \$67,000 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 fourteen (14) deployed Air Force, Army, and Navy teams as of November 15, 2011. November 2011 brings us to six years and two month 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.

### **U. S. announced Troop pull out of Iraq by the end of 2011**

On October 21, 2011 President Obama announced that approximately 39,000 troops will withdraw from Iraq by December 31, 2011. We are currently supporting two bases in Iraq, Joint Base Balad and Sather Air Base. We expect to hear more from our K-9 troops concerning their departure as the events unfold in the coming months.

We have supported 189 K-9 personnel from the US Air Force, US Army, and the US Navy serving as MWD teams, Kennel Masters, Trainers, and Vet Techs, and civilians since August of 2005.

In addition, we have supported sixteen (16) kennels at Ali Air Base, Camp Tallil, Kirkuk, FOB Warrior, FOB Speicher, FOB O'Ryan, FOB Delta, FOB Falcon, Camp Diamondback, Camp Bucca, Camp Cropper, Camp Victory, Camp Rustamiyah, Camp Basra, Joint Base Balad, and Sather Air Base, Iraq.

### **Area of Operation Status - K-9 Teams Arriving/Departing**

We are currently supporting troops at Joint Base Balad, and Sather Air Base (BIAP) Iraq; Bagram Air Base, FOB Lagman, FOB Shank and FOB Howe-Z-Madad, Afghanistan; and Ali Al Salem, Kuwait. We have five (5) new Pups to introduce this month.

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

**Joint Base Balad, Iraq:** TSgt Angelo Reategui, Kennel Master, is safely back at the 820<sup>th</sup> Group at Moody AFB, Georgia. Thanks again Angelo – you have been a great help tour program during your deployments. TSgt Reategui's departure from JBB ends our four year support role for the 332nd ESFG. We have supported 36 MWD teams, including Kennel Masters and Trainers.

TSgt Paul Badlwin & MWD Dexter are now back at the confines of Davis-Monthan AFB, Arizona.

## **Pups arriving in the AOR**

**Bagram Air Base, Afghanistan:** SSgt David Bieck & MWD Artis, deployed from the 52<sup>nd</sup> SFS, Spangdahlem Air Base, Germany. This is SSgt Bieck's second tour with OD&P – he was teamed with Donald Shaw (NKP) and Janet Wise (FoK) during his tour at Joint Base Balad, Iraq in 2009-10. This tour he is supported by Joe Palmer (CRB).

SSgt John Makripodis & MWD Carlos, Deployed from the 4<sup>th</sup> SFS, Seymour-Johnson AFB, NC. The team is supported by John & Joan Smith & Dixie Whitman (FoK)

SSgt Jonathan Torocaloyeropoulos & MWD Ajax, Deployed from the 4<sup>th</sup> SFS, Seymour-Johnson AFB, NC. The team is supported by John & Joan Smith & Dixie Whitman (FoK)

**FOB Howe-Z-Madad, Afghanistan:** SSgt Phillip Kittelson & MWD Dyngo, deployed from the 56<sup>th</sup> SFS, Luke AFB, Arizona. Both Phil and Dyngo have deployed with us previously. They are supported by Phil Carroll (NKP/Takhli).

**Sather Air Base, Iraq:** TSgt Louis Smith, Kennel Master, deployed from the 9<sup>th</sup> SFS, Beale AFB, California. TSgt Smith is paired with Rich Vivio (U-Tapao).

## **Joint Base Balad K-9 Section Closes**

On November 5, 2011, TSgt Angelo Reategui, Kennel Master, at Joint Base Balad, Iraq closed down the K-9 section and headed stateside. Due to the “draw down” this marked the last tour of the 332<sup>nd</sup> ESFG. TSgt Reategui's departure from JBB ends our four year support role for the 332<sup>nd</sup> ESFG. We have supported 36 MWD teams, including Kennel Masters and Trainers.

Forty-six Old Dawgs & Friends of K-9 have supported those 36 teams since 2008.

OD& P has shipped 82 pieces of equipment to Joint Base Balad. The equipment included 12 Guardian Pet Cots, 12 2/1 food bowls, 12 water bowls, 22 PSI water bowls for Outside the Wire (OTW) use, 2 50 foot water hoses, 2 water hose portable reels, 2 “Y” water connectors, 10 Udder Tugs, and 8 rolls of window tint for their vehicles at a cost of \$1,122.67.

## **Feed the Dawgs Project 2011 – Final Project for 2011**



The *Feed the Dawgs* Project is a culmination of United States Military Vietnam Veterans, Active Duty Military Working Dog Personnel, and patriotic citizens joining together to support and recognize the dedication and patriotism of today's Military Working Dog Teams around the globe. The United States Air Force, Army, Coast Guard, Marines, and Navy deploy Military Working. We feed steak barbecues to active military dog handlers in all branches of United States service as they return from or "ship out" for "deployment" to the front lines on the War on Terror.

If you are interested in assisting in one of the projects or need more information about “*Feed the Dawgs*” please contact Jon Hemp at [jmhemp@feedthedawgs.com](mailto:jmhemp@feedthedawgs.com)

Here is the Feed the Dawgs schedule for the remainder of 2011 – Get Involved!

## ACS-2/Kandahar, Afghanistan

SSgt Jessie Keller returned home recently but we received these photos too late for the last issue.

Below she is taking a break during a mission where she partnered with US Army Specialist Jarred Palmer and his don Zzazu. The two teams worked together on many missions and Oscar and Zzazu worked great together. Jessie and Oscar were supported by Ken Neal (Ubon/Udorn) and Steve and Lise Gattis (CRB). The team is now home on leave from the 56<sup>th</sup> SFS, Luke AFB, AZ.



**Jessie & MWD Oscar arriving home at Phoenix International Airport**

**As you can see - it's always great to get home!**



## FOB Lagman, Afghanistan

SSgt Martin Ratkowski & MWD Tosca on patrol. Team Tosca is supported by Bill Gunter (NKP).

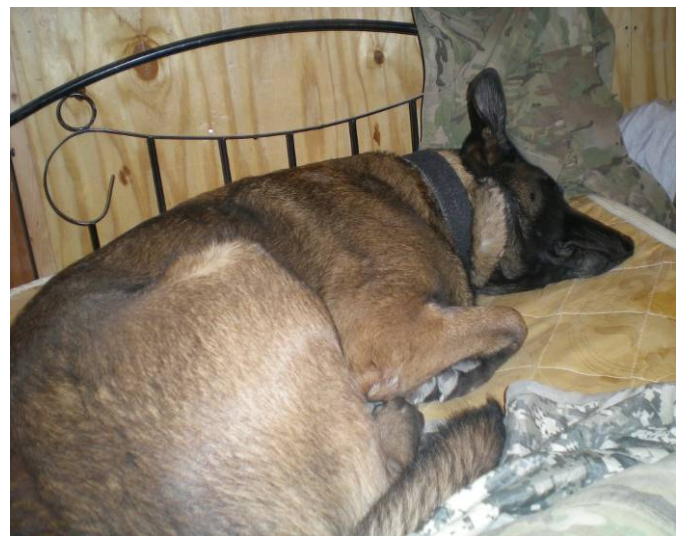




## FOB Shank, Afghanistan



**SSgt Ian Porter & MWD Bruno enjoy the “first class accommodations” aboard a C-130 enroute to another FOB for training. Is this anyway to run an airline – you bet it is!**



**A classis American photograph – “A boy and his dog” – SSgt Ian Porter and MWD Bruno.**

**Following a full day of travel and training, MWD Bruno takes a well deserved rest. Do you think this dog is going to get a Guardian Pet bed from Pet Edge?**

**You bet he is – it’s already been ordered and on it’s way to Afghanistan! Thanks again Mary Lou for the great service again from Pet Edge.**

**SSgt Porter and MWD Bruno are deployed from 355<sup>th</sup> SFS, Davis-Monthan AFB, Arizona and they are supported by Ernie Childers (Udorn).**

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

### Military Working Dog Receives On-the-Spot Promotion From Tech Sergeant to Four Star General!

SRA Melissa Schmalhorst (SSgt select) and her MWD Partner, Glen, are deployed to Ali Al Salem Air Base, Kuwait. Melissa and Glen recently shared a moment in history that can only be described as a dream come true for a military working dog team.

General Duncan J. McNabb, USAF, the 9th and current Commander of the U.S. Transportation Command, recently traveled to Kuwait to visit our troops and deployed military working dog teams. General McNabb will be retiring November 30, 2011, but rather than packing his bags, he demonstrated his devotion to our troops and great leadership when he suited-up and volunteered to take a bite during a K-9 demo.



**BEFORE THE BITE:** The general has a nervous smile as he suits up, while Melissa and Glen are both smiling and thinking, “Watch this!” Yes, our military working dogs really do smile before they bite!



**AFTER THE BITE:** The general on the run and then rolling in the dust as Glen takes him down.

General McNabb gave Melissa his challenge coin and then Glen received an on-the-spot promotion from TSgt to FOUR STAR General when General McNabb gave up his rank and presented his four stars to Glen as shown in the photo below. The before and after photos are priceless and the general is a great sport for taking care of his own in such a special way. Melissa and Glen are supported by Steve and Lise Gattis (Cam Ranh Bay, RVN).



## 455<sup>th</sup> ESFS - Bagram Air Field, Afghanistan



**SSgt Manuel Rodriguez & MWD**



**SSgt David Bieck & MWD Artis**

The troops at Bagram Air Field just received their OD&P gifts that included their Leatherman Surges, Serac S3 Flashlight, Thailand Handlers Patch and Challenge Coins. Here is the message we received from their Kennel Master, TSgt Tom Henzl.

“We received your very generous gift. It is awesome, the Leatherman Surge is one of the toughest Leatherman tools I think I've every handled, and the mollie webbing on the back of the carrier case is perfect! The flashlights are pretty cool too, it came in very handy already since we lost power the same night that he package arrived. Attached are a couple photos for SSgt Rodriguez and SSgt Bieck receiving their flashlights.

These gifts are very handy and welcomed by our teams especially now that our mission with the 455 ESFS is in a transition. My predecessors were relegated to only ECP operations and the perimeter; but not anymore. We've worked up the chain of command and have successfully had all of the forthcoming UTCs changed to provide more capabilities, and we are now actively patrolling several miles around Bagram, to include searching through local villages, snap TCPs on civilian highways, hidden LP/Ops, and actively chasing down the insurgents on their own turf.

We've placed a much larger expectation on these handlers than what they came here expecting and they are certainly embracing it and kicking ass! The added support of you and your organization means a lot to these guys, thank you so much”

TSgt Henzl is deployed from Holloman AFB and is supported by Bill Cummings (U-Tapao), SSgt Rodriguez is deployed from Davis-Monthan AFB and is supported by Scotty Baker (Safeside), and SSgt Bieck is deployed from Spangdahlem AFB and is supported by Joe Palmer (CRB).

## **Old Dawgs Learn New Tricks**

### **Bringing dog soldiers home, Western Union Elementary fourth grader bakes her heart out in support of military dogs**

by Virginia Franco Union County Weekly – Charlotte, North Carolina October 21, 2011



**Bill Cummings, director of Old Dawgs and Pups receives a check that Western Union Elementary student Carol Jeffcoat raised, to save the lives of several military service dogs. Carol's great uncle Dale Miller, pictured in the tan jacket, gives over the check. (Photo courtesy of Lisa Jeffcoat)**

**The story of Duchess, a dog euthanized during the Vietnam war, weighed heavily on the mind and heart of Western Union Elementary fourth grader Carol Jeffcoat.**

**Carol's great-uncle Dave Miller served in the Vietnam war as a military dog handler. Soldiers euthanized his dog Duchess rather than sending her home for budgetary reasons. When Carol learned the same practice goes on in current wars, her wheels began to turn, according to her mother Lisa Jeffcoat.**

**A visit to a neighboring church got Carol started on the notion of filling up a jar of savings to "help bring dogs soldiers home," Lisa Jeffcoat said. When saving on her own wasn't filling up her jar quite quickly enough, Carol got the idea of a bake sale.**

**In January, Carol began saving her \$3-a-week allowance, along with every penny she earned. By July, she had raised \$150. "We took her money, bought the supplies with coupons, and then Carol baked her heart out," said Lisa. The bake sale that ensued on September 11 surpassed everyone's expectations.**

**Carol used her funds to make flyers passed around in school, and received a lot of support from teachers and students at her school. Her mother's Facebook posting encouraged people to come and eat for a good cause. "Everyone began to repost and the word got out," Lisa exclaimed. At the end of the event, Carol raised \$1,145.75 courtesy of the bake sale and subsequent donations.**

**"I baked over 300 cupcakes and 300 rolls," Carol said. "It took about three weeks to bake, and one day to sell." "We sold everything on the table!" her mother noted.**

**Miller presented the funds during the Vietnam Security Police Association annual reunion on Oct. 6 in Dayton, Ohio, in honor of Old Dawgs and Pups, an organization that supports new handlers.**



## Old Dawgs Learn New Tricks - Continued

Upon receiving Carol's check, the 250 in attendance gave her a standing ovation for all her efforts and passion on behalf of K-9 soldiers and their dogs.

Carol's efforts are in keeping with Western Union Principal Rita Webb's motto, who recognized Carol for her outstanding civic duty. Despite the six months of savings, and the weeks of baking—Carol may be up for a repeat performance. When asked, she replied, "I think I'll do this again!"

As a follow up to this story, Dale Miller (Ubon) and his wife traveled to the VSPA reunion at Wright Patterson AFB, Ohio to make this donation. In the photograph above, SSgt Chris Boeghman and MWD Seth and SSgt Kieran Gibson and MWD Ruth, helped OD&P accept the check for the donation following the dedication of the VSPA Memorial Bench at the Defender Statue at the Museum of the Air Force in Dayton, Ohio.

Old Dawgs & Pups can't begin to thank Carol and her project "Carol's K-9 Mission" for her hard work and dedication – do you know how many cookies it takes to make a donation like this? That's a lot of cookies.

## VSPA Supports OD&P at their Annual Reunion

WOW! That is just about all we can say concerning the support we received from our brothers and sisters at the Vietnam Security Police Association reunion at Wright Patterson AFB in October. A very special "Thank You" goes out to John Homa (Korat) and Ken Neal (Ubon/Udorn) for their exhaustive efforts and personal commitments on the raffles they conducted on our behalf. Once again, their efforts were tireless. We also received additional donations of \$300.00 from individual VSPA members!

The raffle resulted in a \$1,000.00 donation to Old Dawgs & Pups Program and an additional \$1,000.00 for the Nemo's War Dog Heroes Memorial Project. Congratulations go out to Steve Gattis for winning the brassard and badges raffle and to Tony Morris for winning the badge collection. Steve Gattis will be contacting the USAF Museum to donate badges that they might need for Security Forces displays in the future!

Once again – Great job Ken, John, and our friends at the VSPA for their support.



Winner – Steve Gattis



Winner – Tony Morris

## **Other News concerning OD&P Graduates**

### **Technical Sergeants Joe & Brandi Throgmorton**



**It's always great to hear from "OD&P Graduates" and the Throgmortons' are a great example of a military family staying in touch with us following their deployments.**

**Between Joe and Brandi they have completed three tours with OD&P. Joe served as the Kennel Master at Joint Base Balad, Iraq in 2009. Brandi deployed to Al Udeid, Qatar in 2009 and again in 2010.**

**Joe is now back in the sand – this time he's in the air as the part of an air crew boom operator handling refueling duties deployed from a major base in Afghanistan. He just can't stay out of southwest Asia. He's still keeping his eyes on our K-9 troops but is supporting them from above this time! That's Joe aboard the AC130 – you know – I think he shaved a little closer when he was a dog handler? Just kidding Joe – you look great to us and keep us the great work.**

**Now about Brandi! TSgt Brandi Throgmorton – that's right – Tech Sergeant as of October 1, 2011, is the Trainer at Hurlburt Field, Florida.**

**Congratulations Brandi and we will see you in October of next year during the VSPA tour at Eglin/Hurlburt Field – we can't wait to see both of you guys!**

**Mike Diercks (Korat) has been the sponsor of the Throgmorton family during each of their deployments.**



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

At the time of this report we have **17** members of the "Old Dawgs & Pups" program actively supporting **14** 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 **1,462** pieces of equipment has been delivered to our K-9 troops serving in the AOR from August 21, 2005 to November 15, 2011. Over **354** "Old Dawgs and Friends" have supported **71** kennels and **288** 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 **\$19,129.00** of supplies for the **70** kennels solely via your personal donations. Including the Leatherman corporate and Helping Udders donations, the total is **\$67,019.00!**

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

- 267 Leatherman "Surge" Tools (166 Donated by Leatherman) \*  
\* The Leatherman "Surge"/Muts/Flashlights/Knives donation is valued at approximately **\$44,470.00**
- 183 Thailand Challenge Coins (Donated & Purchased)
- 163 \* Leatherman Serac S3 Leatherman Flashlights
- 125 Thailand Historical Base Patches
- 92 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)**