

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



(08/15/2012)

**OVER SIX YEARS OF SUPPORTING OUR K-9 TROOPS!
MORE THAN 325 MILITARY WORKING DOG TEAMS SUPPORTED!**

More than \$74,000 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 (23) deployed Air Force, Army, and Navy teams as of August 15, 2012. August 2012 brings us to six years and eleven 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 Bagram Air Base, and Camp Nathan Smith, Afghanistan; Undisclosed Locations in Southwest Asia; Al Udeid Air Base, Qatar; and Camp Lemonnier, Djibouti, Africa; Manas Transit Center, Kyrgyzstan; and Ali Al Salem, Kuwait. We have eight (8) new Pups to introduce this month.

Pups heading home from the AOR

Al Udeid Air Base, Qatar: SSgt Carey Tignor & MWD Szultan has rotated to Jt. Base McGuire, New Jersey.

SSgt Billy DeLeon & MWD Roky are back at Peterson AFB, Colorado enjoying those Rocky Mountains!

SSgt Melissa Burns & MWD Cherry are now stateside enjoying some of that great southern cooking at Columbus AFB, Mississippi.

SSgt Jared Jared Johnson & MWD Diego are now back at Misawa AFB, Japan and enjoying some leave.

SrA Tyrell Richardson & MWD Hugo should be enjoying leave on the east coast after retuning to Goodfellow AFB, Texas.

Bagram Air Base, Afghanistan: We reported that SSgt Otto Yan & MWD Jaso should be heading back to Ellsworth AFB, South Dakota by the time this newsletter hits the street last month – he had airflow issues! It's official – he's heading home.

SSgt Bryan Klein should be heading west to Davis-Monthan AFB, Arizona – Welcome back to the heat Bryan! At least you can get some great Mexican food!

Camp Lemonnier, Djibouti, Africa: PO3 Robert Blanton & MWD Rudy should be heading back to NAS Mayport, Florida for some "shore (sure) leave"!

Pups arriving in the AOR

Camp Nathan Smith, Afghanistan: TSgt Jason Morton, deployed from the 11th SFG, Jt. Base Andrews, Maryland. Jason is supported by Jim Stastny (Korat).

Ali Al Salem, Kuwait: TSgt Charles Dalton & MWD Benga deployed from the 10th SFS, United States Air Force Academy, Colorado. This is TSgt Dalton's second tour with us and he is again supported by Peggy Finzgar (FoK).

Manas Transit Center, Kyrgyzstan: SSgt Robert Beaudoin & MWD Celo are deployed from the 355th SFS, Davis-Monthan AFB, Arizona. They are supported by Bill Cummings (U-Tapao).

Bagram Air Base, Afghanistan: SrA Pricilla Saenz & MWD Mayo deployed from the 56th SFS, Luke AFB, Arizona. The team is supported by Ken Neal (Ubon/Udorn) & Steve and Lise Gattis (CRB).

TSgt Raymond Castro & MWD Fritz has been forward deployed to Bagram Air Base, Afghanistan from AL Udeid Air Base, Qatar. He is supported by Jon Hemp (TSN).

Al Udeid Air Base, Qatar: SrA Brett Jones & MWD Rex deployed from the 72nd SFS, Tinker AFB, Oklahoma. They are supported by Danny Bowlin (Udorn/Ubon).

SSgt Jeremy Hayes & MWD Toki deployed from the 81st SFS, Keesler AFB, Mississippi. The team is supported by Doc Hodges (Ubon/Korat).

SSgt Ryan Pe'Vey & MWD Mega deployed from the 97th SFS, Altus AFB, Oklahoma. This is Ryan's second deployment with OD&P and he is once again supported by Mike Regan (NKP).

Undisclosed Location Southwest Asia: SSgt Jennifer Franco & MWD deployed from the 1st SOSFS, Hurlburt Field, Florida. This is Jenny second tour with us and she is once again supported by Steve & Lise Gattis (CRB).

455th ESFS – Bagram Air Field, Afghanistan



We just received this photo of one of our newest "Pups" SSgt Timothy Castillo & MWD Nero. The team is deployed from the 7th SFS, Dyess AFB, Texas. The team is supported by Kelly Bateman (Ubon) and Ernie Childers (Udorn) – You know we have to keep these Texans together or they go rouge on us!

455th ESFS – Bagram Air Field, Afghanistan – Continued

Signature OD&P gifts arrive at Bagram Air Field



This is why we send our “Signature” gifts down range – they put smiles on our troops faces!

As you can see, the new Leatherman “Muts” multi-tool, Leatherman Serac S3 Flashlights, Thailand Handlers Challenge Coins, and Thailand Handler Patches just arrived at Bagram Air Field. From left to right in the photograph above are SSgt Timothy Castillo and MWD Nero, SSgt Lisa Drodny (Trainer), and Kennel Master SSgt Kristen McKay.

How do you like the multi- cams? From the feedback we’ve heard, they are the most liked uniforms in the AOR. That Mut blends right into this uniform – and we know our troops “Don’t go anywhere without their Muts.” This is why OD&P support helped “supply” Camp Kujo back in May of 2009! We’ve sent nearly \$2,000.00 worth of supplies to the Bagram Air Field MWD section to date.

SSgt Castillo & MWD Nero are supported by Kelly Bateman (Ubon) and Ernie Childers (Udorn), SSgt Drodny is supported by Doc Hodges (Ubon/Korat) and SSgt McKay is supported by Jim Stastny (Korat).

379th ESFS – Al Udeid Air Base, Qatar

The K-9 Section recently put on a demonstration for 379th Medical Group – here’s a overview.



Left & Right: KM TSgt Uilani Bio and SSgt Jared Johnson get ready to “fire up the crowd” – that’s them on the right – a rowdy looking bunch of Medical Group personnel – wouldn’t you say?



Left – Center – Right: First they sent in the Senior Airman for a decoy (that’s SrA David Schultz)! OK, then the dog team (that’s SSgt James Campana & MWD Makoy getting ready for the attack). Finally, SrA David Schultz is the rookie – let’s give him another chance – two dogs attacking. SSgt Bobbie Ohm & MWD Nero on the left side, and SSgt Carey Tignor & MWD Szultan on the right side – that should take care of the “bad guy” this time.



Left & Right: Now that the crowd is all excited, SSgt Jared Johnson give SrA Schultz a break in the suit. TSgt Raymond Castro & MWD Fritz make sure the demo closes out right with a take down of SSgt Johnson. All is well and the Medical Group joins in with the K-9 Section for a group photograph. Looks to us that everyone had a great time and that somebody is going to get a great big letter of appreciation for this event!

379th ESFS – Al Udeid Air Base, Qatar - Continued



Members of the 379th ESFS, Al Udeid Air Base and their canine partners line up in the sand for this photograph. It's not a close up – but it sure shows some great dog teams!



SSgt Bobbie Ohm and MWD Nero reported to the Dental Clinic for a routine dental check up and also an appointment to have his hindquarters x-rayed. TSgt Uilani Bio, Kennel Master, of course went to assist with the procedures and to lend support for this dog team. The vet was kind enough to allow her to "try" to put in the IV. "I felt so bad... I couldn't get it. Shows you how much that when you don't get to continually practice a skill, you lose it."

That's what a good K-9 trooper does – regardless where they go, they try to keep up with their skills. Way to support that dog team TSgt Bio!

Camp Lemonnier, Djibouti, Africa – U. S. Navy Kennel



PO3 Robert Blanton & MWD Rudy take a minute to relax and sent us a photograph – It looks like something that the Navy could use as a “recruiting poster”. The team is deployed from Naval Air Station Mayport, Florida. The team is supported by Bill Cummings (U-Tapao). Great looking dog team!



**MWD Rudy – United States Navy – Camp Lemonnier, Djibouti, Africa
Handler - PO3 Robert Blanton - Naval Air Station Mayport, Florida.**

FOB Lagman, Afghanistan – The Journey Home!

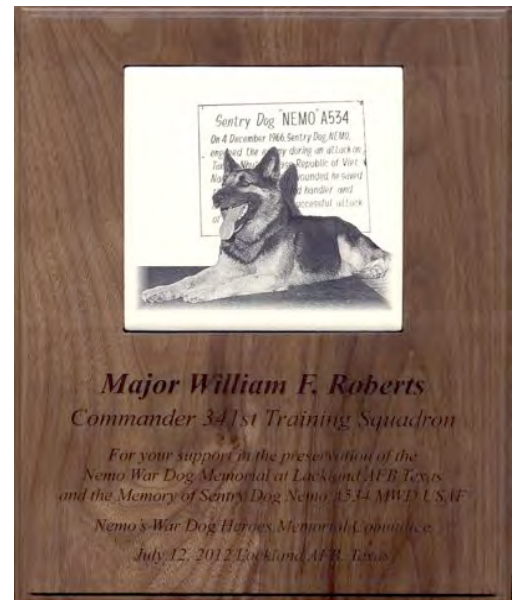


One of the rewards to going Outside-The-Wire (OTW) is the decompression stop in Germany on the way home! As you can see from above, SSgt Ted Carlson shows some of the “spoils” of the brief stop over as he headed back to Moody AFB, Georgia. Ted going to make every effort to join those of us that will be attending the VSPA reunion at Eglin AFB, Florida, in October. I remember Ted saying something to the effect of “The first one is on me at the reunion.” Please when you meet Ted – try to remember his words!

Recognizing and honoring a “Great Friend of K-9”

The Nemo’s War Dog Heroes Memorial Committee honored Major William F. Roberts – Commander of 341st Training Squadron Joint Base San Antonio, Texas – during his Change of Command on July 12, 2012. He was presented a plaque and a certificate to recognize his continued support for all of our deployed handlers from all services. Ernest Childers (Udorn) & Kelly Bateman (Ubon) made the presentation to the Major. Thank you Major William F. Roberts from all of us “Old Dawg Handlers”.

Major Roberts has also spearheaded an effort to continue the squadron’s commitment to ensure that the Nemo Memorial at the 802nd SFS Kennel is on the front burner for historical recognition at Joint Base San Antonio. He has helped the committee to further the process to have the area and monument recognized as a “Historical Site” at Lackland. **YOU ARE THE MAN MAJOR!**



376th ESFS, Manas Transit Center, Kyrgyzstan



Left: SSgt Robert Beaudoin & MWD Celo and SSgt Nicki Leber & MWD Arco took a minute during training to send us this photograph. SSgt Beaudoin is deployed from the 355th SFS, Davis-Monthan AFB, Arizona and is supported by Bill Cummings (U-Tapao) and SSgt Leber is deployed from the 319th SFS, Grand Forks AFB, North Dakota and is supported by Joe Palmer (Cam Ranh Bay).

Right: SSgt Beaudoin, MWD Seth, and SSgt Christopher Baughman, deployed from the 88th SFS, Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio. Many of you probably met SSgt Baughman and MWD Seth during our tour at Wright Patterson during the VSPA reunion last year. Bob Curnick (NKP) supports SSgt Baughman.

Here is a message from SSgt Baughman concerning our “Signature Gifts” for our Pups at Manas Transit Center, Kyrgyzstan:

“I was just getting ready to email you but you made it easy so all I had to do was hit a reply button. I wanted to let you know that I received SSgt Leber's and my Leatherman Surge, Leatherman flashlight, patch and challenge coin. I presented her with hers on your behalf and informed her of the story behind it and we are both very grateful. I don't know how she is doing with hers but I can say mine is awesome. I have already had to use it and in a couple situations life would have been a lot harder without.

The Leatherman is a great tool and I wish I could give you ways to make it better but I haven't been put in a situation yet where I haven't been able to use it. The challenge coin got me free drinks the other night, all two of them ha ha!

Thank you for the generous contributions to make our lives easier over here. It's nice to know that there are people back home supporting us and doing what they can to help, and some day it'll be my turn to keep passing this tradition along. I am proud to serve in the small community we call K-9, and have such good mentors and people who led the way and walked in these boots with a leash before me. Thank you so much for the emails and gifts.”

**Christopher L. Baughman, SSgt, USAF
Military Working Dog Handler
376th ESFS/K-9
Transit Center at Manas, Kyrgyzstan**

386th ESFS – Ali Al Salem, Kuwait

Keep running – Don't look back

By Staff Sgt. Alexandra M. Boutte
386th Air Expeditionary Wing Public Affairs

8/2/2012 - SOUTHWEST ASIA -- Effective communication, training and hard work is required for a bond to form between canine and its handler. Additionally, extra time and effort helps prepare the dogs for real-world scenarios through various exercises. The Military Working Dogs in the 386th Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron work alongside their handlers searching buildings and sniffing for drugs, explosives and crime suspects. The primary mission for MWD is providing protection capabilities for base personnel and assets.

SOUTHWEST ASIA – Benga, 386th Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron military working dog, prepares to attack a mock victim during training. (U.S. Air Force photo/Staff Sgt. Alexandra M. Boutte)



SOUTHWEST ASIA – Tech. Sgt. Charles Dalton, 386th Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron military working dog handler, oversees his MWD Benga attack Col. Joseph Martin, 386th Expeditionary Mission Support Group commander, here July 11. Martin put on protective gear to become a mock victim to train the MWDs on procedures and obedience. (U.S. Air Force photo/Staff Sgt. Alexandra M. Boutte)

This is TSgt Dalton's second deployment with OD&P, first at FOB Warrior, Iraq, and now at Ali Al Salem, Kuwait. Peggy Finzgar (FoK) has supported him during both deployments.

Promotions! We have new Staff Sergeants and Technical Sergeant!



Congratulations go out to Staff Sergeant Select Pricilla Saenz and Technical Sergeant Select Steven Bruner – both from Luke AFB, Arizona. SrA Saenz is one of our newest “Pups” deployed to Bagram Air Base, Afghanistan, and Ken Neal (Ubon/Udorn) and Steve & Lise Gattis (CRB) support her.

SSgt Bruner was deployed to Manas Transit Center, Kyrgyzstan in June of 2010 and at FOB Parmikan & Camp Arena, Herat, Afghanistan in 2011 and was supported at all locations by Jon Hemp (TSN).

SrA Brett Jones and SrA Terry Pasko, deployed from Tinker AFB, Oklahoma and Jt. Base Andrews, Maryland to Al Udeid Air Base, Qatar, and they are supported by Danny Bowlin (Udorn/Ubon) and Charlie Blood, respectively.

Other News concerning OD&P Graduates

It's Official – We have two handlers off the market and now married!

TSgt Jason Adams, 802nd SFS, Joint Base San Antonio, Texas, and his wife Tina were married on June 23rd at La Fontana Springs near San Antonio, Texas. Jason was supported by Jim Hazelton (Korat) during his tour at Al Udeid, Qatar in 2009 and John & Carolyn Risse (Pleiku) during his last tour to an Undisclosed Location in Southwest Asia in 2012.



SSgt Jessica Keller, 56th SFS, Luke AFB, Arizona, and her husband, Ben Johnson (previously a member of the British Armed Forces) were married in England on July 30, 2012. Ken Neal (Ubon/Udon) and Steve and Lise Gattis (CRB) supported Jessica during her tour in Afghanistan in 2010.



You know, these dog handlers clean up pretty good! CONGRATULATIONS Jason and Tina and Jessica and Ben from all of us at Old Dawgs & Pups. May you all have many, many anniversaries!

Other News concerning OD&P Graduates



SrA Kathy Shih & MWD Luxi kept a check on the “Big Guy” during a “Christmas in April” program supported by the 49th SFS, Holloman AFB, New Mexico. Steve and Lise Gattis (CRB) supported SrA Shih during her last deployment down range! We heard that Kathy is “making a list and checking it twice”! Great plan SrA Shih!

Feed the Dawgs Project 2012 Schedule



<http://www.thedawgsproject.com>

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

Here is the Feed the Dawgs schedule for 2012 – Get Involved!

August	25	MCAS Miramar Marines – U. S. Marine Corp
September	15	Edwards AFB – 95 th SFS MWD Section - U. S. Air Force
October	5	Eglin AFB 96 th SFS & Hurlburt Field /1 st Special Operations Wing – Combined Kennels – U. S. Air Force

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

At the time of this report we have **28** 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 **1,624** pieces of equipment has been delivered to our K-9 troops serving in the AOR from August 21, 2005 to August 15, 2012. Over **406** "Old Dawgs and Friends" have supported **89** kennels and **333** 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 **\$20,791.00** of supplies for the **89** kennels solely via your personal donations. Including the Leatherman corporate and Helping Udders donations, the total is **\$74,118.00**

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.

List of Supplies Shipped by Old Dawgs & Pups

- 279 Leatherman "Surge" Tools (145) Donated by Leatherman
 - * The Leatherman "Surge"/Muts/Flashlights/Knives donation is valued at approximately **\$49,906.00**
- 236 Thailand Challenge Coins (Donated & Purchased)
- 175 Thailand Historical Base Patches
- 163 * Leatherman Serac S3 Leatherman Flashlights
- 100 Guardian Pet Beds (Pet Edge)
- 75 * Leatherman Knives (Models: c33T, e55, e55B, e33L)
- 56 Kongs (Assorted sizes)
- 46 Sponges
- 44 PSI Water Holes
- 40 Cleaning/Scouring Pads
- 34 * Leatherman MUT Tools
- 33 Kygen Port-A-Bowls
- 25 Doggles (10 Pairs were donated)
- 24 Kygen 2-In-1 Food/Water Bowls
- 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 -Value \$3,420.00**)
- 16 Coastal Medium Firm Shedding Blades
- 16 Classic Long Tooth Undercoat rakes
- 15 Classic HG Food Dishes
- 12 Coastal Large Slickers
- 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
- 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 lb)
- 8 Cooling Wraps (Roshgo Corp)
- 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 **Sets Ruff Wear Bark'n Boots Trex (Ray Allen)**
- 6 **Retractable Leashes**
- 4 **Carabiners**
- 4 **5" Heavy Duty Cleaning Brushes**
- 3 **100 Foot Water Hoses**
- 3 **20" Heavy Duty Cleaning Brushes**
- 3 **12" 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)**