

# 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



(09/15/2012)

**OVER SEVEN 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 nine (9) kennels and twenty-five (25) deployed Air Force, Army, and Navy teams as of September 15, 2012. September 2012 brings us to **seven years** 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, Camp Nathan Smith, and FOB Salerno, Afghanistan; Undisclosed Location in Southwest Asia; Al Udeid Air Base, Qatar; and Camp Lemonnier, Djibouti, Africa; Manas Transit Center, Kyrgyzstan; Eskan Village, Saudi Arabia, and Ali Al Salem, Kuwait. We have five (5) new Pups to introduce this month.

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

**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**

**Eskan Village, Saudi Arabia:** SSgt Tanner Grutz & MWD Pajk deployed from the 99<sup>th</sup> SFS, Nellis AFB, Nevada. Karl Niemeyer (NKP) supports the team.

**FOB Salerno, Afghanistan:** SSgt Richard Lynn IV & MWD Tomy deployed from the 627<sup>th</sup> SFS, Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Washington. The team is supported by Steve & Lise Gattis (CRB).

**Al Udeid Air Base, Qatar:** SSgt Bobbie Ohms & MWD Nero deployed from the 99<sup>th</sup> SFS, Nellis AFB, Nevada. They are supported by Scotty Baker (Safeside).

TSgt Brandon Cummiford & MWD Kato deployed from the 19<sup>th</sup> SFS, Little Rock AFB, Arkansas. The team is supported by Rick Matott (Ubon).

SSgt Christopher Darrow & MWD Tali deployed from the 28<sup>th</sup> SFS, Ellsworth AFB, South Dakota. They are supported by Danny Brusseau (Ubon).

## Camp Nathan Smith – Afghanistan



TSgt Jason Morton is deployed from the 11<sup>th</sup> Security Forces Group, Joint Base Andrews, Maryland and he is supported by Jim Stastny (Korat). The photograph at the top is the “logo” from the obstacle course at Davis-Monthan AFB, Arizona, where TSgt Morton was responsible for the bridging the history of the 355<sup>th</sup> SPS (Takhli) and the 355<sup>th</sup> SFS (DMAFB). The dog and handler depicted in the logo are Sgt Alex Liverano and his Sentry Dog Dante 632M, circa 1970. TSgt Morton has taken that history down range – this is what our program is all about. Sgt Phil Carroll took the original photograph on the perimeter at Takhli in 1970.

The bottom two photographs are of Jason during a pre-OTW deployment and on patrol in his AOR for Camp Nathan Smith. Thanks Sarge for carrying on our “K-9 tradition”. Damn, that sure is a lot of gear to tote – they sure look young – we couldn’t have ever been that young!

## **379<sup>th</sup> ESFS – Al Udeid Air Base, Qatar**

As you can see from the photographs below, our “Signature Thailand Handler Gifts” have arrived at Al Udeid Air Base for our new pups. It also looks like everyone has gotten in the act to say thank you. Leatherman Surges, Serac S3 Flashlights, Thailand handler patches and challenge coins sure make a splash for these new troops. You can’t help but appreciate the smiles that we’re seeing from all of our troops! This is one of the great parts of our program – and YOU Old Dawgs & Friends make it happen.

A special “Thank You” has to go out to Kennel Master, TSgt Uilani Bio, deployed from the 802<sup>nd</sup> SFS, Joint Base San Antonio, Texas, for all of the hard work and commitment to our Old Dawgs & Pups program. She has just been one of our best “recruiters”. Lani is supported by Ernie Childers (Udon) and Kelly Bateman (Ubon). TSgt Bio has been involved with our programs (Nemo’s Heroes War Dog Memorial) and OD&P since 2005. She was one of the MWD Honor Guard teams at the dedication of the Nemo Memorial in November 2005. Thank you Lani for everything you have done and continue to do for our veteran’s programs.



**SSgt Jeremy Hayes & MWD Toki**  
81<sup>st</sup> SFS Keesler AFB - (Doc Hodges)



**SrA Brett Jones & Rex**  
72<sup>nd</sup> SFS Tinker AFB - (Danny Bowlin)



**TSgt Brandon Cumiford Hayes**  
19<sup>th</sup> SFS Little Rock AFB - (Rick Matott)



**SrA Terry Pasko**  
11<sup>th</sup> SFS, JB Andrews – Charlie Blood

## **379<sup>th</sup> ESFS – Al Udeid Air Base, Qatar – Continued**

Al Udeid Air Base has been one of our largest sponsored kennels since we started the Old Dawgs & Pups program. Currently we are supporting ten (10) pups during this deployment cycle.

Three of the teams are second time deplorers with us. TSgt Raymond Castro, deployed from the 374<sup>th</sup> SFS, Yokota, Japan (who has been forward deployed to Bagram Air Base, Afghanistan); SSgt Ryan Pe’Vey, deployed from the 97<sup>th</sup> SFS, Altus Air Force Base, Oklahoma; and SSgt James Campana, deployed from the 19<sup>th</sup> SFS, Little Rock AFB, Arkansas. Jon Hemp (TSN), Mike Regan (NKP), and Mike Fink (FoK) support these teams respectively.

As of this report, Old Dawgs & Pups has supported forty (40) MWD dog teams and Supervisory personnel since our first involvement in 2006. We have supported ten (10) kennel rotations at Al Udeid Air Base, Qatar.



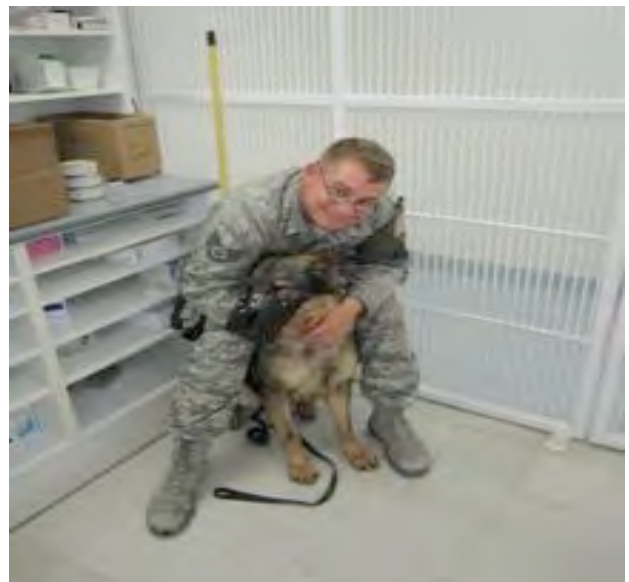
**SSgt Bobbie Ohm & Nero**  
**99<sup>th</sup> SFS, Nellis AFB – (Scotty Baker)**



**SSgt Ryan PeVey & Mega**  
**97<sup>th</sup> SFS Altus AFB – (Mike Regan)**



**SSgt Adam Bearden & Sam**  
**42<sup>nd</sup> SFS, Maxwell AFB**



**SSgt Christopher Darrow & Tali**  
**28<sup>th</sup> SFS, Ellsworth AFB – Danny Brusseau**

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

**U. S. Navy PO3 Robert Blanton and MA3 Chris Coolahan take a break during some “Utilization Training” at Camp Lemonnier, Djibouti. That’s Robert on the right! Hopefully, but the time this edition hits the streets PO3 Blanton will be back in “the world” enjoying some much earned leave. The team is supported by Bill Cummings (U-Tapao). Thank you Robert for allowing us to be part of your deployment.**



**PO3 Blanton and MWD Rudy continued their training – Don’t you love the black and white photographs? Did you notice the hand signals that Robert is utilizing? Great dog team!**



## Undisclosed Location in Southwest Asia



We'd like to introduce you to MWD Ziko, SSgt Jenny Franco's new partner. This is Jenny's second tour with us and Ziko just wants to make sure he gets credit for this deployment. As you can see on the left, he's letting you know "he's cool" and in the middle he's putting everyone on notice that the "toy is all his", and on the right he's made it clear that MWD also get breaks. The team is deployed out of the 1st Special Operations Security Forces Squadron, Hurlburt Field, Florida, and Steve and Lise Gattis (CRB) support them.

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



We just received these photographs from TSgt Raymond Castro, deployed from the 374<sup>th</sup> SFS, Yokota Air Base, Japan. TSgt Castro & MWD Fritz were originally deployed to Al Udeid Air Base, Qatar and they were just recently forward deployed to Bagram Air Base, Afghanistan. This is TSgt Castro's second deployment with OD&P and Jon Hemp (TSN) supports them. TSgt Castro was first with us during his deployment to Camp Victory, Iraq in 2008 and he was supported by Ken Smerecki (U-Tapao/Pleiku).

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

TSgt Charles Dalton & MWD Benga deployed from the 10<sup>th</sup> SFS, United States Air Force Academy, Colorado “stretched it out” in the recently completed “Fallen Defenders 5K Run” held on August 25, 2012, at Ali Al Salem, Kuwait. TSgt Dalton advised us “Since the war in Iraq and Afghanistan began, nine “Defenders” have made the ultimate sacrifice that this event was held to honor and remember them”. It looks like Benga is finally giving TSgt Dalton a chance to be the “lead”! This is Chuck’s second deployment with OD&P and the team is supported by Peggy Finzgar (FoK).



## **320<sup>th</sup> ESFS – Eskan Village – Saudi Arabia**



SSgt Tanner Grutz and MWD Pajk deployed from the 99<sup>th</sup> SFS, Nellis AFB, Nevada are our first team deployed to Eskan Village, Saudi Arabia. SSgt Grutz and his sponsor Karl Niemeyer (NKP), both call Iowa their home. These two “Iowa Boys” should have a great time during this deployment! Is that one beautiful dog or what?

## 320<sup>th</sup> ESFS – Eskan Village – Saudi Arabia – Continued

“PJ” got a new patch!



It's official – the Thailand Handler Group gifts just arrived at Eskan Village and Pajk (Officially known as “PJ”) is pretty proud of his new Thailand Dog Handler signature patch. It doesn't get any better than this! Isn't great how our pups display the gifts we send them – It seems as though we're doing it right!



At left “PJ” sits anxiously waiting to get his turn at the bad guy. On the right - “Finally” it's my turn to play” as Pajk gets the reward during this training session. This is the first time that “PJ” has worn his new “patch” and he just wanted to show it off to everyone!



## Other News concerning OD&P Graduates

Special Report from Sea World, San Antonio, Texas – Steve & Lise Gattis – On scene reporters!

The photos below were taken at Sea World, San Antonio, on August 25, 2012 with MWD handlers who were attending a behind-the-scenes seminar that provided a comparison of sea animal and MWD training techniques. Ten USAF and two Army MWD handlers were attending MWD Supervisors Training at Lackland AFB. Steve and Lise Gattis were invited to attend with SSgt Mary Boyer whom they supported on her previous deployment with MWD Tomy. It was a very inspiring day for Steve and Lise who were able to visit with handlers from all over the United States and Aviano AB, Italy. Lunch was at Rudy's BBQ in San Antonio, Texas.



Steve Gattis (Sponsor) and SSgt Mary Boyers



SSgt Ian Porter – Supported by Bill Cummings



Left: Steve Gattis, SSgt Ian Porter, Lise Gattis, and SSgt Mary Boyers take a moment to share lunch and some fellowship after the “training session” at Sea World San Antonio.



Right: Pretty good crowd – “Where’s the Beef”? Thanks Steve and Lise for representing OD&P and taking the time to be with our pups. Great job and it looks like everyone had a great time.

## **Pups start up on line home base business!**



Many of you may remember seeing SSgt Victor Sanz & MWD Astor in our newsletter back in 2011 while they were deployed at Manas Transit Center, Kyrgyzstan. Jon Hemp supported them during their tour. Victor just contacted us with this great opportunity – please check it out and support these handlers.

**ALLK9Stuff.com** was inspired by Active Duty K-9 Handlers and is currently run by the wife of an Active Duty K-9 Handler. “Our goal as a small Home Based Company has two main missions. Our first goal was to create a central location for those K-9 handlers and supporters globally who are in search of those unique K-9 items and memorabilia. Our second goal is to assist non-profit organization with product and portion out of our sales”.

**Use the Promo Code:** ODAP at the end of checkout for 15% off your total order.

Check out our store at [www.ALLK9Stuff.com](http://www.ALLK9Stuff.com) and

Like our Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/ALLK9Stuff](http://www.facebook.com/ALLK9Stuff)

Thank you Victor and good luck with the business. Here’s a handler that wants to pay back for all he has received from groups like Old Dawgs & Pups. K-9 UP!

## **Thailand Dog Handler Group Fundraiser**

Win a unique USAF camouflage shirt with proto type Air Police badge or, an in country (Thailand) made jacket with Security Police badge or, current day Security Forces / Security Police brassards with a Security Police badge. Thailand Dog Handlers attending the Vietnam Security Police Association Reunion in October, in Destin, Florida, will be holding a donation fundraiser for these three unique Security Police memorabilia items during the reunion. You do not have to be a VSPA member to donate or be present to win one of these incredible items.

All donated funds raised by this project will go to two proven charitable funds, “The Nemo’s War Dog Hero’s Memorial Project.” <http://635thk9.com/tdhnemo.htm> and, “Feed The Dawgs,” <http://thedawgsproject.com>

VSPA members are encouraged to donate to this fundraiser. These two organizations are particularly in need of funds this year to support current day troops, veterans, and Military Working Dogs past and present.

If you are not able to attend the reunion you may still donate for a chance to win by sending in your check or money order donation (PLEASE, NO CASH!), to be received by September 24th. See details below. After that date we cannot guarantee your chances will be placed into the drawing. Make checks payable to JOHN HOMA.

See next page for “Fundraiser Prizes”

**First Prize: Valued at \$500.00**

- **USAF Security Police Camouflage Shirt with in country made Security Police crossed pistols patch, and Harry J's Commandos tab. Included with the shirt will be an Air Police proto type badge with white and blue enamel inlay.**

**Second Prize: Valued at \$200.00**

- **A jacket made of a GI wool blanket with the US stamp on the back in the middle. It was made in 1969 in Udorn, Thailand. The lining is Thailand Camo and never been worn. The participant patch was also made at Udorn in 1969. Labeled under the pocket is 423rd Security Police Squadron – K9 Sec. Included with the jacket will be a Security Police badge. Jacket is donated by Jay Jones,**

**Third Prize: Valued at \$150.00**

- **Current day SF Sather Air Base Baghdad, Iraq and SP brassards and a Security Police badge. Brassards donated by Bill Cummings and Jim Stastny.**

**For a \$5 donation you will receive 3 chances to win one of the prizes. Donate \$20 and you will receive 15 chances to win. VSPA members are encouraged to donate \$20 for 15 chances to win and to support this project. For \$50.00 you will receive 39 chances to win. You do not have to be a VSPA member to donate. Remember, you do not have to be present to win! Tickets will also be sold during the VSPA reunion.**

**If you mail in a donation, after your donation is received, we will return to you your portion of the ticket and copies of your stub chances that will be placed into the drawing with your name and phone number.**

**First Prize Picture**



**Second Prize Picture**



**Third Prize Picture**



**Send in your check or money order donation (PLEASE, NO CASH!), to be received by September 24th for the drawing at the VSPA reunion in October. Send donations with name, return address, and phone number printed clearly on a sheet of paper to: John Homa, 151 CR 556, Athens, TN 37303**

## 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](mailto:jmhemp@feedthedawgs.com)

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

September	15	Edwards AFB – 95 <sup>th</sup> SFS MWD Section - U. S. Air Force
October	5	Eglin AFB 96 <sup>th</sup> SFS & Hurlburt Field /1 <sup>st</sup> Special Operations Wing – Combined Kennels – U. S. Air Force <b>Check out next month's edition of K9 Supply for photographs and details of the event held during the VSPA Reunion held at Eglin Air Force Base, Florida</b>
October	27	Fort Huachuca, AZ – 18 <sup>th</sup> MP Detachment – U. S. Army

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

At the time of this report we have **25** members of the "Old Dawgs & Pups" program actively supporting **25** handlers assigned to nine (9) 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 September 15, 2012. Over **406** "Old Dawgs and Friends" have supported **91** kennels and **338** 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 **\$20,791.00** of supplies for the **91** 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)