

# 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



(10/15/2012)

**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-seven (27) deployed Air Force, Army, and Navy teams as of October 15, 2012. October 2012 brings us to seven years and one 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.

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

We are currently supporting troops at Bagram Air Base, Camp Nathan Smith, and FOB Salerno, FOB Masum Ghar, Afghanistan; Undisclosed Location in Southwest Asia; Al Udeid Air Base, Qatar; and Manas Transit Center, Kyrgyzstan; Eskan Village, Saudi Arabia, and Ali Al Salem, Kuwait. We have three (3) new Pups to introduce this month.

### Pups heading home from the AOR

**Al Udeid, Qatar:** TSgt Uilani Bio, Kennel Master, will be heading home and retiring from the Air Force in the very near future. Here first stop will be to say “farewell” to her home kennels at Joint Base San Antonio. Lani – we will miss you very much – You have been a true warrior!

SSgt James Campana & MWD Makoy will be heading home to Little Rock AFB, Arkansas before our next edition hits the streets.

SSgt Terry Pasko & MWD Guero are heading back to Joint Base Andrews, Maryland. Thanks again for being with us for multiple tours – DC is great this time of year!

**Ali Al Salem:** TSgt Charles Dalton & MWD Benga are packing to head back to the beautiful mountains of Colorado Springs, Colorado and the USAF Academy.

### Pups arriving in the AOR

**FOB Masum Ghar, Afghanistan:** SSgt Billy Taulbee & MWD Arko, deployed from the 96<sup>th</sup> SFS, Eglin AFB, Florida. This team is supported by Ken Smerecki (U-Tapao/Pleiku).

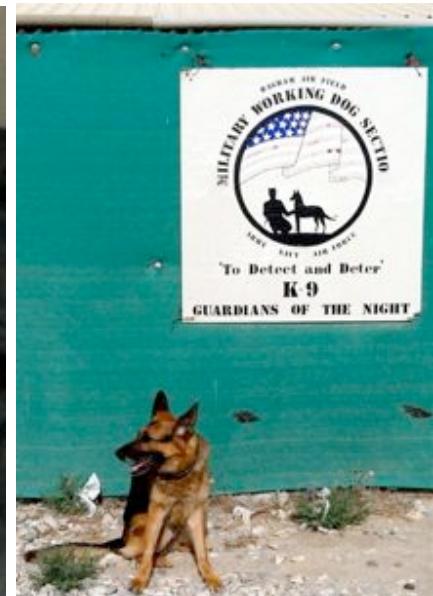
SSgt Travis Dulworth & MWD Dyngo, deployed from the 56<sup>th</sup> SFS, Arizona. This is Travis’ second tour with us and he is once again supported by Jay D. Jones (Udorn).

**Eskan Village, Saudi Arabia:** SSgt Daniel Sayarot & MWD Figo, deployed from the 355<sup>th</sup> SFS, Davis-Monthan AFB, Arizona. They are supported by Jon Hemp (TSN).

## FOB Salerno, Afghanistan



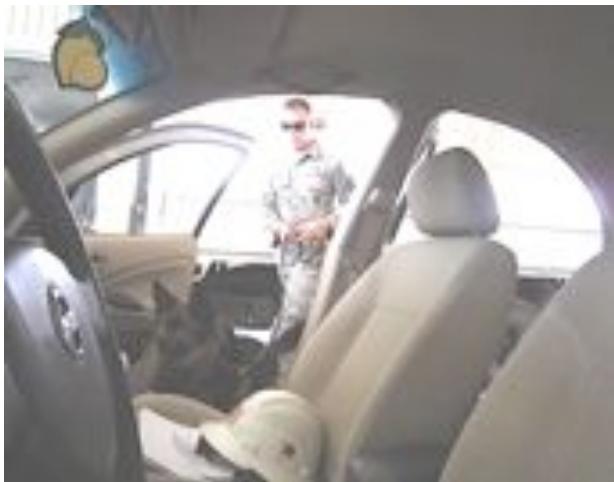
**SSgt Dick Lynn IV and MWD Tomy take a moment to enjoy a little down time at FOB Salerno, Afghanistan.** As most of you know, the environment has been a “little testy” of late in the region and this team took advantage of the post mission time to share some quality time together. Tomy sure is giving that kong a work out! They had just received a “care package” from their sponsors, Steve and Lise Gattis. ‘It is a relief to eat real food over the same 4 things from our BBQ hut at Salerno. Were doing good out here our days are filled with a lot of helicopter rides filled with even more walking as of late’. The team is deployed from the 627<sup>th</sup> SFS, Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Washington.



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



SSgt Jeremy Hayes & MWD Toki search a vehicle during route patrol and then they “unload” on SSgt Travis Beatty during muzzle controlled aggression training. The team is supported by Doc Hodges.



SrA Terry Pasko & MWD Guero and SSgt James Campana & MWD Makoy spend a little time on the confidence course. Are these some great looking dog teams or what? Training, that's the name of the game – you play like you practice.

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

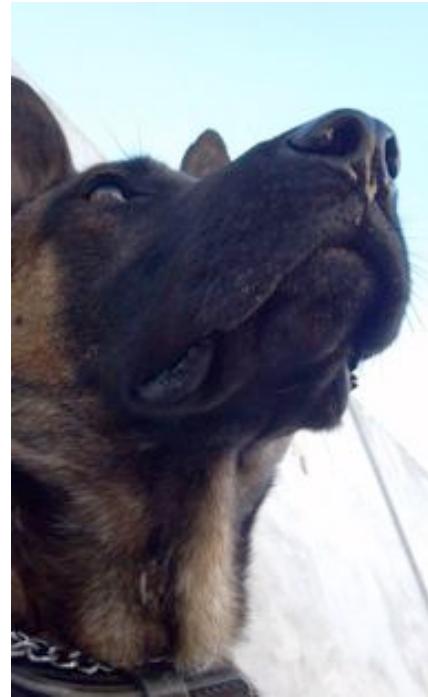


SSgt Bobbie Ohm & Nero search vehicle at a “control point” and SSgt Jeremy Hayes & MWD Toki get another “piece” of SSgt Travis Beatty. These troops at the “Deed” work and play hard!

Many of our “Deid” troops will be heading home in the near future and we’d like to thank them for being such an active part of OD&P. A special “Thank You” goes out to TSgt Uilani Bio, Kennel Master, for “recruiting” and being the “Morale Officer” during her tour at KM.

TSgt Bio, has been involved with our K-9 veterans since she served as one of the two “Honor Guards” when we dedicated the Nemo Memorial on November 11, 2005 at Lackland AFB, Texas. Even though this was her first deployment with us, she has acted on our behalf many, many times during our trips and visits to Lackland. She is one fantastic K-9 troop. Her boots will be very hard to fill and her path will be hard to follow.

## Undisclosed Location in Southwest Asia



We’d like to introduce you to MWD Ziko, SSgt Jenny Franco’s new partner. The team is deployed out of the 1st Special Operations Security Forces Squadron, Hurlburt Field, Florida, and Steve and Lise Gattis (CRB) support them. This young K-9 troop loves to deploy – and “shop” as we learned from our trip to the kennels at Hurlburt Field during our VSPA reunion trip! They told on you Jenny!

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

TSgt Raymond Castro and MWD Fritz had just completed an OTW mission at Bagram Air Field, Afghanistan when they found a care package from their sponsor, Jon Hemp (TSN). After breaking down their gear and a little down time, they were able to check out the care package. Oh, almost forgot – Fritz decided to strike a proud pose for us – is that a confident look or what? Fritz took control of the contents of the package (or as it is known in the business – leading by example) then they decided to take a few moments for a break – and he found one of his favorite spots on the couch! Thanks Sarge for the great photographs – and thanks for taking care of Fritz for us also. Great looking dog team aren't they?



## FOB Masum Ghar – Afghanistan



SSgt Billy Taulbee & MWD Arko, deployed from the 96<sup>th</sup> SFS, Eglin AFB, Florida are now “Boots on the Ground” and he sent us these great photos. Thanks to our visit to Eglin we were able to have SSgt Taulbee “sign up” for our OD&P program. This team is supported by Ken Smerecki (U-Tapao/Pleiku).

Dyngo (deployed from the 56<sup>th</sup> SFS, Luke AFB and assigned to SSgt Travis Dulworth who also just arrived at FOB Masum Ghar) and Arko strike a pose in front of the Army and Air Force flags.

This is SSgt Dulworth second tour with OD&P and he is supported by Jay D. Jones (Udorn).

## Other News concerning OD&P Graduates

**TSgt Justin Kitts has a new “gig”:** Well, we all have known him a just a raggedy old dog handler and now he's made it to the big time at the United States Air Force Academy. Justin and his family recently departed Luke AFB, Arizona for the exciting challenge of the Air Force Academy. According to the USAFA website “Since the Air Force Academy welcomed its first class in 1954, active-duty enlisted personnel have been an integral part of instructing cadets. A corps of enlisted men and women known as Military Training Leaders first appeared in 1996 and have evolved into today's Academy Military Training NCOs, or AMTs. An AMT's duties and responsibilities are as crucial to the development of tomorrow's leaders as any other aspect of a cadet's career. The AMT corps is a challenging and rewarding experience unlike any other in the Air Force. As NCOs, they have a unique opportunity to develop future leaders of the world's greatest air, space and cyberspace force”. One of his most recent “off duty adventures” was to travel to Ann Arbor, Michigan for the Michigan-USAFA football game on September 8, 2012. In the photograph below, that's Jason dead center cheering on the “Falcons” with his cadets. He swears it wasn't his fault that the Academy lost to Michigan by a score of Michigan 31-USAFA 25.



**Joint Base San Antonio, Kennels:** We just received some great news from Joint Base San Antonio, Texas. Here is TSgt Jason Adams message. “Hey Bill, loved the latest edition! Just wanted to let you know we got some good news this week--the 802 SFS kennel project is funded, and I'm expecting they will break ground for our new kennels in a few months! This is great news for our dogs, as they will soon be living in indoor kennels with heat and air conditioning! The bad news is we are moving to the Medina side of the base and will no longer be in the old compound to maintain the Nemo memorial.

All this has happened very suddenly. Obviously we will be staying in our current location until the new facility is built, so there is plenty of time to work something out. I just wanted to give you a heads up so there would be ample time to figure out what to do with the memorial. I still occasionally have veterans who come to see it, and I'd hate for them to not be able to get into the area to see it because the gate is locked and no one staffs the building any more.”

One more bit of good news - We would also like to let everyone know that TSgt Jason Adams is now the Kennel Master at JBSA (802<sup>nd</sup> SFS). This has been one of Jason's career goals and we are happy to share this news to all of our guys. Most of you that have visited JBSA the last few years have probably met Jason and he has bent over backwards working on numerous projects with us. He has also deployed with OD&P on two deployments, one at Al Udeid, Qatar (2009) and again in 2012 at an “Undisclosed Location in Southwest Asia. Jim Hazelton and John and Carolyn Risse supported him, respectively.

Thank you Jason and congratulations from all of us at OD&P! We hope to see you soon.

## Other News concerning OD&P Graduates – Continued

**We met five Pups!** While many of our handlers attended the Vietnam Security Police Association reunion at Eglin AFB/Hurlburt Field, we had the opportunity to meet face to face with four “Pups” that we have supported over the last several years. It was a thrill for all of us! Here are a few shots of them.



**Left:** Bill Cummings, TSgt Joe Throgmorton, and SSgt Ted Carlson. TSgt Throgmorton was our Kennel Master at Joint Base Balad in 2009 and he was supported by Mike Diercks (Korat). SSgt Carlson has deployed with us three times (Joint Base Balad twice (2009 & 2011 and FOB Lagman, Afghanistan 2012) and Dixie Whitman has been his supported all three times.

**Right:** TSgt Brandi Throgmorton has deployed with us three times (Al Udeid, Qatar 2009 & 2010 and An Undisclosed Location Southwest Asia 2012) and SSgt Charles Wilder was with us at FOB Delta, Iraq, in 2009 and was supported by Bill Gunter (NKP) and Tommy Gannon (NKP).



On the drive back from Florida, Ernest Childers and Bill Cummings made a stop at Barksdale AFB, Louisiana to visit with KM TSgt Clayton Tebbetts. TSgt Tebbetts was deployed with us at Kirkuk Air Base, Iraq in 2005 & 2006 and was supported by the Robertson, David Clark (U-Tapao), and J. D. Jones (Udorn) and Camp Victory, Iraq in 2008 and was supported by Dixie Whitman (FOK) and Scotty Baker (Safeside). Clayton gave us a great tour and it was so great to finally meet another three-time deplorler.

## VSPA Reunion K-9 Tour and Feed the Dawgs Event at Eglin/Hurlburt Field



**Top:** Group photograph of the attendees at the VSPA K-9 Kennel Tour and Feed the Dawgs Event.

**Center Left:** Our chefs – J. D. Jones, Charlie Blood, and Ernest Childers (Udorn)

**Center Right:** “First Steak” – Traditionally the first steak is served by the highest ranking to the least senior at the event – We made it happen. SSgt Roberto Matos is served by Major Kit Johnson (Hurlburt Field) and Lt. Colonel Jereme Barrett (Eglin AFB) serves SrA Corbin Carlson his steak.

**Bottom:** Nemo Committee representative Ernest Childers presents SSgt Jeremy Rice with his father’s MWD records – who then presented them to his father. Son, MWD Kanjer, and Father continue the K-9 tradition. VSPA Past President presents Jon Hemp a gratitude gift from the VSPA for FTD events.

## VSPA Reunion K-9 Tour and Feed the Dawgs Event – Continued



**Top:** Our host – KM TSgt Eduardo Torres and Trainer SSgt Jeremy Rice and the interior of the Eglin AFB kennel. This is one beautiful kennel.

**Center:** SSgt Rice presents Bill Cummings a plaque on behalf of the 96<sup>th</sup> SFS K-9 Section. SSgt Rice and his family and Sig Sullivan share dinner conversation and a meal at the VSPA Banquet.

**Bottom.** War Dog Memorial at the Air Force Armament Museum at Eglin AFB and the MWD memorial at Hurlburt Field.

**Thank you to all of the past handlers who supported the K-9 tour, the Feed the Dawgs Event, and the VSPA banquet that was attended by our handlers and the active duty handlers of both Eglin & Hurlburt Field. These events would not have been possible without your support – Wav to go veterans!**

## VSPA Reunion K-9 Tour and Feed the Dawgs Event – Continued



Marianne Crane and Lynda Jones kept the food line moving with their friendly smiles and great service!

A Very, Very Special “Thank You” to Janice Cummings for all of her hard work in pre-planning and on site work and to Cathy Childers, Sig Sullivan, Lynda Jones, Marianne Crane and everyone who helped make the Feed the Dawgs feed such a great success! It wouldn’t have happened without these special workers – and they busted their butts! Colonel Bob Sullivan, you did a great job on pre-planning and on-site logistics – Thank You!

Thanks also to Jon Hemp, John Homa and Ken Neal for their fundraising efforts and all of you who donated your time and funds to support our kennel tour, Feed the Dawgs, and banquet tickets for our active duty troops that we visited!

We present SSgt Jeremy Rice with a Security Forces Peace Keeper bust with the following inscription “SSgt Jeremy Rice, Thank you for continuing our K-9 tradition and walking in our footsteps. Your brother K-9 handlers - VSPA Reunion, Eglin AFB, Florida – October 2012”.

Once again Sarge - YOU ARE DA’ MAN! Thank you to all of the handlers who helped with the pre-planning, the site set up and on-site work you guys did – Awesome, just awesome!

The active duty guests were presented with VSPA K-9 hats; Vietnam era K-9 patches, miniature Security Police badges, and P-38 can openers. From the feedback we received a great time was had by all in attendance.

These troops at Eglin and Hurlburt Field are just class acts – they would make you proud anywhere or in any situation stateside or down range.

We were able to feed over 90 Old Dawgs and spouses, troops and their families, and active duty Officers from Eglin AFB, Hurlburt Field and Moody Air Force Base, and guests.

Please visit <http://www.thedawgsproject.com/dawgs-calendar.html> for more photos of the event.

## Thailand Dog Handler Group Fundraiser Winners

Thailand Dog Handlers attending the Vietnam Security Police Association Reunion in Destin, FL raised \$2,000.00 for “The Nemo’s War Dog Hero’s Memorial Project.” <http://635thk9.com/tdhnemo.htm> and, “Feed The Dawgs,” <http://thedawgsproject.com> These two organizations are particularly in need of funds this year to support current day troops, veterans, and Military Working Dogs past and present.

Robert Harvey, Ubon won First Prize but opted for the Second Prize. Bill Harris, Cam Ranh Bay won the second and chose the First Prize. Dutch VanHatten, Nakhon Phanom won Third Prize.

**First Prize:** Bill Harris, Cam Ranh Bay - USAF Security Police Camouflage Shirt with in country made Security Police crossed pistols patch, and Harry J's Commandos tab. Included with the shirt was an Air Police proto type badge with white and blue enamel inlay.

**Second Prize:** Robert Harvey, Ubon - 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 432nd Security Police Squadron – K9 Sec. Included with the jacket was a Security Police badge. The jacket was donated by Jay Jones (Udorn).

**Third Prize:** Dutch VanHatten, Nakhon Phanom - Current day SF Sather Air Base Baghdad, Iraq and SP brassards and a Security Police badge. Brassards donated by Bill Cummings (U-Tapao) and Jim Stastny (Korat).

An additional \$60.00 was donated to the VSPA scholarship fund. Thanks to all who donated to this fundraiser. If anyone has ideas for charitable organizations to receive donations from our next fundraiser please contact us.

Thank You, John Homa [jmhoma@usit.net](mailto:jmhoma@usit.net) and Ken Neal [maxk000@aol.com](mailto:maxk000@aol.com)

First Prize Picture



Second Prize Picture



Third Prize Picture



## 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!

October	27	Fort Huachuca, AZ – 18 <sup>th</sup> MP Detachment – U. S. Army
November	17	Luke AFB – 56 <sup>th</sup> SFS MWD Section - U. S. Air Force
December	8	Nellis AFB – 99 <sup>th</sup> SFS MWD Section - U. S. Air Force

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

At the time of this report we have **29** members of the "Old Dawgs & Pups" program actively supporting **27** 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 **409** "Old Dawgs and Friends" have supported **92** kennels and **341** 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 **92** 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)