

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



(12/15/2012)

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

More than \$80,300 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 sixteen (16) deployed Air Force, Army, and Navy teams as of December 15, 2012. December 2012 brings us to seven years and three 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 Field, Camp, and FOB Salerno, FOB Masum Ghar, Afghanistan; Undisclosed Location in Southwest Asia; Al Udeid Air Base, Qatar; Ali Al Salem Air Base, Kuwait; and Eskan Village, Saudi Arabia. We have three (3) new Pups to introduce this month.

Pups heading home from the AOR

Eskan Village, Saudi Arabia: SSgt Tanner Grutz & MWD Pajk have returned home to Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio.

Bagram Air Field, Afghanistan: SSgt Kristen McKay, Kennel Master, will be heading home to Kadena Air Base, Japan, after the New Year. Thank you Kristen for a great job and sharing your deployment again with OD&P.

SSgt Ulises Gonzalez, Trainer, will also be heading home to Kirtland AFB, New Mexico, before the next edition of K9 Supply hits the streets in January 2013.

SSgt Timothy Castillo & MWD Nero should be heading back to Dyess AFB, Texas, immediately following the holidays.

Pups arriving in the AOR

Al Udeid Air Base, Qatar: SrA Candice Colburn & MWD Eddy are deployed from the 30th SFS, Vandenberg AFB, California. The team is supported by Steve & Lise Gattis (CRB).

SSgt Melissa Schmalhorst & MWD Bety are deployed from the 92nd SFS, Fairchild AFB, Washington. This is Melissa's second tour with OD&P and the team is supported by Steve & Lise Gattis (CRB).

Ali Al Salem, Kuwait: SSgt Jose Lebron & MWD Fando are deployed from the 802nd SFS, Joint Base San Antonio, Texas. This is SSgt Lebron's second tour with OD&P. The team is supported by John & Carolyn Risse (Pleiku).

379th ESFS – Al Udeid Air Base, Qatar



We'd like to welcome SrA Candace Colburn & MWD Eddy to our OD&P family. This is SrA Colburn's first deployment as a MWD handler after completing two previous tours as a "straight leg". It's not hard to see that this team is "doing fine" and have already developed the bond that makes a great team. They've been together nearly a year. The team is deployed from the 30th SFS, Vandenberg AFB, California and Steve and Lise Gattis (CRB) support them.

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



As you can see, SSgt Ryan Pe'vey & MWD Mega received an early Christmas package from back home. From what we hear from Ryan – “Mega made me open them”! Who would have thought? Look at that face – would you be able to have waited for Christmas and said no to Mega? NOT!

SSgt Pe'vey is deployed from the 97th SFS, Altus AFB, Oklahoma and is supported by Mike Regan (NKP).

455th ESFS – Bagram Air Field – Afghanistan



SSgt Ulises Gonzalez, Trainer, at Bagram Air Field, Afghanistan, takes a break and “sits” with MWD Mayo (deployed from the 56th SFS, Luke AFB, Arizona) following a training session at the 455th ESFS. SSgt Gonzalez is deployed from the 377th SFS, Kirtland AFB, New Mexico and is supported by Ernest Childers (Udorn)

386th ESFS – Ali Al Salem Air Base – Kuwait

We'd like to welcome back SSgt Jose Lebron for his second tour with OD&P. He and his MWD, Fando, are now BOG at the 386th ESFS, Ali Al Salem Air Base, Kuwait. They are deployed out of the 802nd SFS, Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, Texas. Sgt Lebron was also with us during his tour at Joint Base Balad, Iraq in January 2011. This team is again supported by John & Carolyn Risse (Pleiku).



On the left SSgt Lebron & MWD Fando conduct some “helo dismount training” during training at their Regional Training Center (RTC). On the right SSgt Lebron says “See you soon” to his new baby as Fando and Jose prepare to depart for their current deployment.

Undisclosed Location in Southwest Asia



”What am I doing in here”? That’s the question that appears to be on MWD Ziko’s mind. As you can see, he’s ready to get to work or do some training with SSgt Jenny Franco.

On the right it seems that SSgt Jenny Franco has answered MWD Ziko’s question as the team prepares for some training and then a duty shift at an “Undisclosed Location in Southwest Asia”. How about that “boonie hat”? Kinda’ takes you back to our time and place doesn’t it? But we all must agree it sure looks better on SSgt Franco than it did on most of us! SSgt Franco and Ziko are deployed from the 1st Specials Operation SFS, Hurlburt Field, Florida and Steve and Lise Gattis (CRB) support them.

FOB Salerno, Afghanistan



SSgt Dick Lynn IV and MWD Tomy just returned from a “walk and an adventure” while deployed at FOB Salerno, Afghanistan. How in the world do you keep a smile on your face in conditions like this? Way to go Team Tomy! As you might notice, this is “no walk in the park”! They are deployed from Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Washington and Steve and Lise Gattis (CRB) support them. Below the team interacts with members of another unit – hey, communications is still the name of the game.

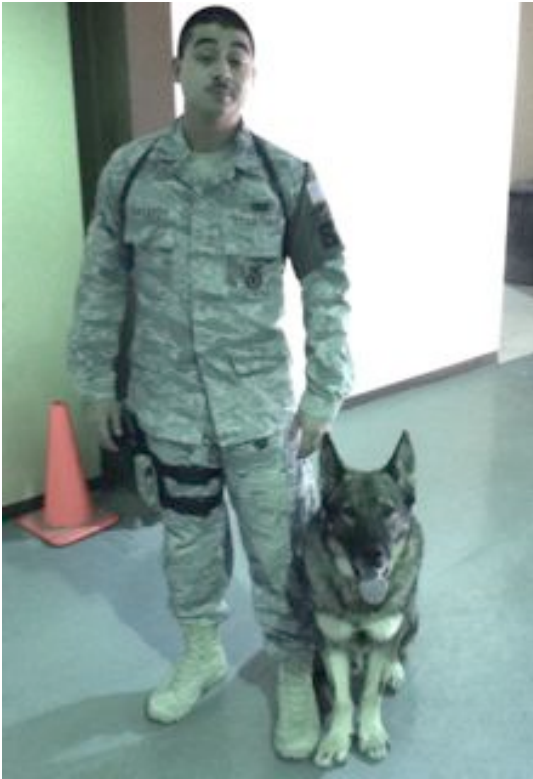


Below is MWD Kain (M588), who was euthanized in November due to medical conditions. Corporal Derrik Truax, U. S. Army, also deployed from JBLM, Washington, was teamed with MWD Kain during their tour at Salerno, Afghanistan. Please take a moment to remember and honor MWD Kain and all of the others that have served.



64th ESFS - Eskan Village, Saudi Arabia

SSgt Daniel Sayarot & MWD Figo sent us a few candid shots from Eskan Village, Saudi Arabia. The photographs were taken prior to and during a RAM (Random Antiterriorm Measure) at one of the search locations on station. This is the team's first deployment together from the 355th SFS, Davis-Monthan AFB, Arizona, and Jon Hemp (TSN) supports them.



Other News concerning OD&P Graduates



MWD TSA *Military Working Dog Team Support Association, Inc.*

A tax-exempt organization under IRS code section 501(c)(3). All donations are tax-deductible.

Once again, thank you to Dixie Whitman and everyone associated with the Military Working Dog Team Support Association who has sent holiday packages down range to support our deployed troops. We all know what it's like to be deployed during these holidays and I think our supports shared their holidays with our MWD teams that are deployed – Happy Holidays!

They have sent packages to sixteen of our troops at seven deployed kennels locations in southwest Asia!

More on the Holiday packages in next month's issue – these boxes are FANTASTIC!

Other News concerning OD&P Graduates

MWD serves in wake of Sandy's ruin

(Luke Thunderbolt On Line)

Chrach, 56th Security Forces Squadron military working dog, and Staff Sgt. Jessica Johnson, his handler, perform a place command at the SFS kennels. During a place command, the dog will place all four paws onto an object and not move until told another command.



When Sandy, a category 2 hurricane, touched down in the Northeastern United States in late October, the devastation was enormous. The need for volunteers to help the people of New Jersey and New York restore their homes and cities was met by thousands who dropped everything to help restore power, provide food and do whatever was necessary to help their fellow citizens. Staff Sgt. Jesse Johnson, 56th Security Forces Squadron military working dog handler, and Chrach, her MWD, also answered the call and were dispatched to Sky Harbor International Airport to help assist the recovery effort. Team Chrach departed Luke Air Force Base Nov. 2 and assisted FEMA for roughly three days searching and identifying vehicles for explosives.

Johnson and Chrach teamed with the 161st Security Forces Squadron, part of the Arizona Air National Guard's 161st Refueling Wing stationed at Sky Harbor and the 56th SFS's sister unit, searched more than 132 vehicles that arrived at the airport en route to the North East.

FEMA, whose primary purpose is to coordinate the response to a disaster in the U.S., requested assistance from security forces at Luke AFB. "This is the first natural disaster our squadron has taken part in," said Staff Sgt. Kyle Alltop, 56th SFS MWD trainer.

The team received C-17 and C-5 aircraft carrying vehicles from all over the United States. From tractor trailers to compact cars, the team made sure the vehicles were explosives-free and ensured the safety of cargo departing from and arriving to military installations. "It was a privilege to work with our sister unit at the Arizona ANG to help the victims of Hurricane Sandy," Johnson said.

The 56th SFS receives daily requests for the services of working dog teams. They work with the Department of Public Safety learning new skills and honing old ones on a daily basis. "Our mission changes from day to day," Alltop said. "From searching roadways for buried bombs to vehicles used for catering, the working dogs are there to deter any explosive operations."

Feed the Dawgs News – MISSION COMPLETED!

On December 8, 2012, Jon Hemp and the “Feed the Dawgs” Team completed their mission with 17 events completed during 2012. The final event at the 99th SFS, Nellis AFB, Nevada capped a successful season of fellowship and dedication by the “Crew” of dedicated volunteers that travelled to four states (California, Nevada, Arizona, and Florida) spreading the word of gratitude for our canine team members that deploy throughout the globe. To enjoy the full story of “The Dawgs” program please visit their website at

<http://www.thedawgsproject.com>



Above Left: Jon Hemp (TSN) and his family were able to spend so “quality time” with SSgt Felipe Alvarado and his family at the recently completed event. Jon supported SrA Alvarado & MWD Pike during their 2009 deployment at Joint Base Balad, Iraq.

Above Right: FTD Ambassador At Large Ken Neal (Ubon/Udorn) presented SSgt Bobbie Ohm with an “Above and Beyond” award at the Nellis AFB event. SSgt Ohm & MWD Nero recently completed their tour at Al Udeid Air Base, Qatar. They were part the Old Dawgs & Pups program and were sponsored by Scotty Baker (Safeside). The award reads as follows:

**In recognition of serviced and dedication Above and Beyond
SSgt Bobbie Ohm & MWD Nero J250**

We would like to express our appreciation to SSgt Bobbie Ohm and MWD Nero J250 for their contributions to the Old Dawgs & Pups Program during their tour at the 379th ESFS, AL Udeid Air Base, Qatar, 2012. SSgt Ohm distinguished herself from the moment she was “BOG” and continued to excel as a “Dawg Handler” during here entire tour. Thanks for keeping the “Boys” squared away! She is a true example of “Lead, follow, or get the hello out of the way”.

8 December 2012

“The Dawgs Project and Old Dawgs & Pups – Thailand Dog Handlers, presented the award.

SSgt Ohm, and many, many other handlers like her, has represented themselves throughout the world as ambassadors of professionalism while serving as Military Working Dog handlers. Regardless of what the mission, what location, and especially the conditions in which they serve – they continued to set the path and tone for Military Working Dog teams that are yet to serve.

We are so very proud of where they have taken “our” career field that we all were so very fortunate to have been a part of so many years ago. We also know how proud they are to serve in the different parts of the world today. Keep up the great work and like those before you – “Trust that dog”!

Old Dawgs & Pup Program Overview – September 2005 - December 2012

Well, it's been seven year and three months since we started Old Dawgs & Pups due to a call for help from some troops down range at Ali Air Base, Iraq, specifically SSgt Jon Sarabia. If you don't remember, Monty and Cathy Moore first started matching up troops via the VSPA website and other venues. We kicked off OD&P as we supported eight troops (seven AF and one Army personnel) on September 18, 2005. The original troops and their sponsors on September 18, 2005 were:

KM TSgt Matt Rebholz (Langley AFB):	Supported by Ben Cox & Donald Graham
Trainer SSgt Jassen Dongon (Langley AFB)	Supported by Fred Cobb
SSgt Carl Wolf (Langley AFB):	Supported by Ben Cox & Jim Hannon
SSgt Jon Sarabia (Whiteman AFB):	Supported by Bill Cummings & Marie Zeak
SSgt Jake Bolton (Whiteman AFB):	Supported by Gary Logsdon
SSgt Damon Tripp (Mountain Home AFB):	Supported by David Adams & Dave Broeker
SSgt Jeffrey Mastin (Seymour Johnson AFB)	Supported by Gordon Johnston & Janet Wise
Sgt Randy Jensen (Ft. Hood):	Supported by Kelly Bateman, Ernie Childers, & Terry Strickland

Now Master Sergeant Matt Rebholz has completed three (3) tours with OD&P (2 Iraq & Kuwait); SSgt Damon Tripp completed two (2) tours with OD&P (Iraq & Kyrgyzstan), and SSgt Jeff Mastin completed two (2) tours with OD&P (Iraq). Master Sergeant Rebholz is now assigned to Kirtland AFB in New Mexico as he continues his military career. MSgt Jon Sarabia is currently assigned at Whiteman AFB, Missouri. Staff Sergeants Tripp and Mastin have left the Air Force and Sgt Randy Jensen is pushing dogs and troops with the 341st Training Squadron at Joint Base San Antonio, Texas.

Our dear friends Ben Cox passed away on March 16, 2009 and James T. (Terry) Strickland passed away on May 5, 2012 and we really miss them both – what great men and supporters of our program!

Just thought we'd give you a quick overview of our program today. We have supported 94 kennels, and 345 deployments of 347 military personnel since August 2005:

Air Force MWD teams	328
Other Services MWD teams	19 (Army 15, Navy 3, and Civilian MWD trainer 1)

The deployments have been assigned in the following countries:

Qatar	41
Iraq	190
Djibouti – Africa	4
Honduras	1
Kyrgyzstan	20
Kuwait	18
Afghanistan	50
Korea	1
United Arab Emirates	10
Saudi Arabia	3
Undisclosed Location AOR	9

The deployments originated from:

USAF	54 – CONUS
USAF	10 – OCONUS (Germany, Guam, Italy, England & Japan)
Other Services	12 – (Army 9 – CONUS, Navy – 2 CONUS, Civilian – 1 CONUS)

We have shipped 1,750 pieces of equipment valued at \$80,300.00 to 94 kennels and 347 personnel.

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

At the time of this report we have **14** members of the "Old Dawgs & Pups" program actively supporting **16** 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 **1,750** pieces of equipment has been delivered to our K-9 troops serving in the AOR from August 21, 2005 to December 15, 2012. Over **410** "Old Dawgs and Friends" have supported **94** kennels and **347** 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 **\$22,171.00** of supplies for the **94** kennels solely via your personal donations. Including the Leatherman corporate and Helping Udders donations, the total is **\$80,300.00**

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

- 294 Leatherman "Surge" Tools (145) Donated by Leatherman
 - * The Leatherman "Surge"/Muts/Flashlights/Knives donation is valued at approximately **\$54,709.00**
- 266 Thailand Challenge Coins (Donated & Purchased)
- 205 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)
- 50 * Leatherman M5 LED Lenser Flashlights
- 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
- 7 Sets Ruff Wear Bark'n Boots Trex (Ray Allen & Ruff Wear)
- 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)