

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



(02/15/2013)

**OVER SEVEN YEARS OF SUPPORTING OUR K-9 TROOPS!
MORE THAN 350 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 fourteen (14) deployed Air Force, Army, and Navy teams as of January 15, 2013. February 2013 brings us to seven years and five 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, FOB Salerno, and 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 two (2) new Pups to introduce this month.

Pups heading home from the AOR

Undisclosed Location Southwest Asia: SSgt Jennifer Franco & MWD Ziko should be packing for the trip home to the 1st Special Operations Security Forces Squadron, Hurlburt Field, Florida. That Florida weather is going to be a welcome relief.

FOB Salerno, Afghanistan: SSgt Dick Lynn & MWD Tomy have completed their turnover and are headed for the "freedom bird" and hopefully they will be stateside back at Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Washington, by the time this newsletter hits the street.

Pups arriving in the AOR

Bagram Air Field, Afghanistan: SSgt Steven Owen & MWD Tex are deployed from the 55th SFS, Offutt AFB, Nebraska. Karl Niemeyer (NKP) supports them.

Al Udeid Air Base, Qatar: SSgt Thomas Beers & MWD Guyro are deployed from the 21st SFS, Peterson Air Force Base, Colorado. They are supported by John Langley (TSN).

Animal Planet Documentary – Afghanistan MWD Handlers

Check your local listing for Animal Planet on February 21st, 2013 at 8:00 PM (Eastern). Times may vary, so check your schedule. The documentary features the MWD handlers deployed to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. Thank you to the Sam "Marty" Martinez (NKP) for the heads up!

379th ESFS – Al Udeid Air Base, Qatar

Flight Line Fest educates, entertains, endures

Posted 1/18/2013: by Master Sgt. Christian Michael - 379th Air Expeditionary Wing Public Affairs

1/18/2013 - SOUTHWEST ASIA -- For the fifth year in a row, Flight Line Fest 2013 hosted U.S. and coalition forces, base personnel and local distinguished visitors to see up close the coalition and local weapon systems used at the 379th Air Expeditionary Wing. Complete with an opening from 379th Air Expeditionary Wing Commander Brig. Gen. Roger Watkins, live music by the U.S. Air Force Central Command Band, and static aircraft, Flight Line Fest 2013 was an opportunity for Airmen and non-service members alike to learn more about operations.

"Flight Line Fest is an annual event that gives U.S. service members, coalition partners, and our host nation the opportunity to learn more about our overall mission at the 379th AEW, how our service members enable that mission, and how we work together with our partner nations," said Lt. Col. James Malec, commander, 379th Expeditionary Logistics Readiness Squadron and event coordinator. "It started as an opportunity to foster positive and enduring relationships and to educate U.S. service members on the different missions each unit performs."

In addition to the aircraft from both local and coalition forces, wing agencies were on hand with daily-use equipment, such as a Mine-Resistant Ambush Protected vehicle, cargo K-loader and fuel truck. The security forces dog handlers also held several demonstrations with their K-9s. "I will remember the K-9 demonstration, with their three handlers and their dogs. I had never seen them in action," said Staff Sgt. Sarah Weber, NCOIC of both 379th Expeditionary Force Support Squadron commander support staff and the Base Honor Guard. "I really enjoyed seeing the families and our coalition forces come out and enjoy the event as much as we did."

The event is one of the few events integrating both on-base and off-base personnel, and promotes intercultural understanding and boosts morale. "We hoped to strengthen the U.S., coalition, and host nation relationships while providing insight to the service members who work here," Malec said. "We expected and received a great turnout and received a lot of great, positive feedback, mission accomplished!"



SrA Candace Colburn handles the sleeve as SrA Chad Ditch and MWD Andor demonstrate the correct "bite and hold" procedures. This was Chad's last relaxing moment of the day, as you will see in the remainder of the photographs. SrA Colburn is supported by Steve & Lise Gattis (CRB). SrA Ditch and Andor are deployed from McConnell AFB, Kansas, and they are supported by J. D. Jones (Udorn).

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

SrA Chad Ditch, after completing his turn on the sleeve with his dog, jumps into the bite suit jacket to take on SSgt Jeremy Hayes and MWD Toki for a little fun. We'll not sure we can say that by the looks on SrA Ditch's face in the two photographs below! The MWD team is deployed from Keesler AFB.



MWD Toki is just about to ruin SrA Ditch's whole morning – great bite Toki! SSgt Hayes & MWD Toki are supported by Doc Hodges (Ubon). The team should be home when this newsletter hits the street.



Can you feel the pain? That is one nasty look on Chad's face as Toki gets a great grip on the elbow area! Something just tells us those front nails are doing their job also. That's SSgt Melissa Schmalhorst & MWD Bety in the background just waiting for their turn with the decoy. It's just going to be a great day for these dog teams. Chad's had better days! Are these great photographs or what?

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



SSgt Melissa Schmalhorst & MWD Bety finally get their chance in the big ring. You might notice, there's a lot of fight in MWD Bety! What a fantastic lunge on the target. Prepare yourself SrA Ditch, Bety "ain't coming off that bite anytime soon". That is a "big time bite" and Bety is having a great outing. SSgt Schmalhorst & MWD Bety are deployed from the 92nd SFS, Fairchild AFB, Washington.



And now for the finale – SrA Chad Ditch is having a "two dog afternoon" as he takes on MWD Bety on the right and MWD Toki on the left. Fun – it's just a moment in time! Great job to all of our troops as they displayed their skills for the 379th Air Expeditionary Wing at this years' Flight Line Fest 2013.

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



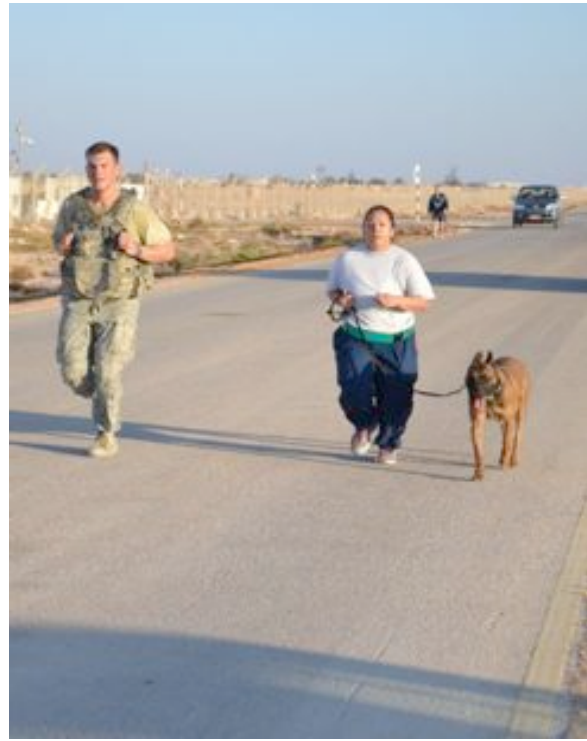
MWD Andor just received his new Guardian Pet Cot from Pet Edge and so far so good! Above left he's checking out the new digs – on the far right – well – he just didn't take too long for him to cut some ZZZs! Thank You Mary Lou and everyone at Pet Edge for making this happen so quickly – once again.

FOB Salerno, Afghanistan



SSgt Dick Lynn and MWD Tomy head back to base after completing their last mission at FOB Salerno, Afghanistan. According to SSgt Lynn "It's been a fun adventure and we're sad to leave our kennel mates behind, but it is what it is and they have been left in good hands". This team has been in "unfriendly country" since their first day on the ground. They are deployed from Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Washington and Steve and Lise Gattis (CRB) support them.

Undisclosed Location Southwest Asia



SSgt Jenny Franco and MWD Ziko took a break from their duties to participate in a “Fun Run” recently at an Undisclosed Location in Southwest Asia. From the looks of these photographs both Jenny and Ziko had a blast during the event.

Jenny is a second time deplorer with OD&P and she deployed from the 1st Special Operations Security Forces Squadron, Hurlburt Field, Florida. Steve and Lise Gattis (CRB) support the team.

They are slated for a stateside “bird” in the real near future – rumor has it that Jenny is a fantastic shopper and those retail establishments in Florida better be prepared – it’s been seven months since Jenny has been in a “target rich environment”.

64th ESFS - Eskan Village, Saudi Arabia



SSgt Alexandria Jecha and MWD Dexter prepare to search during a training problem conducted at Eskan Village, Saudi Arabia. That's a great presentation SSgt Jecha – Looks like you're showing off that great Davis-Monthan training! As you can see on the right – Dexter is all over that "stuff"!

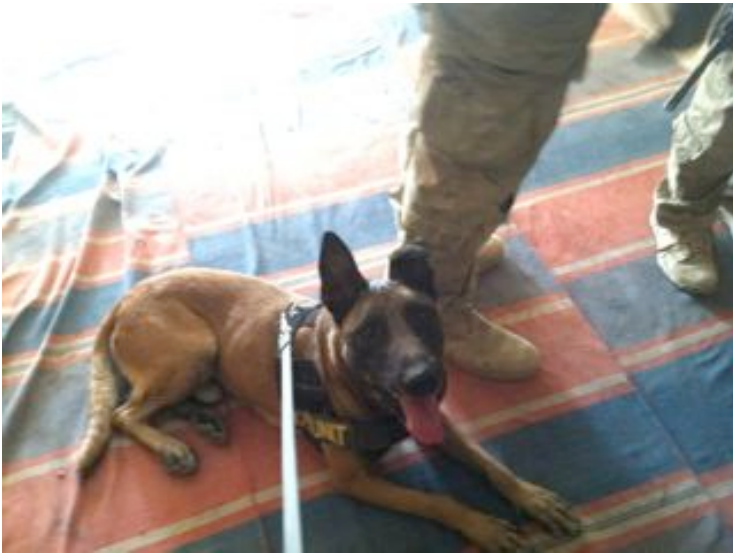
Check out the photograph on the left – the training session is being photographed as part of the exercise. This allows the handler to review techniques and tactics following the training in a real time situation and to make any corrections that are needed. Isn't technology a great thing?



OK – All of the searching over – Now it's time for some fun! On your mark, get set – "Get'em"! As you can clearly see, Dexter is up to the task and it appears that he's got this part of the problem solved quite well. This is the team's first deployment together and all appears to be going very well.

SSgt Alexandria Jecha and MWD Dexter are deployed from the 355th SFS, Davis-Monthan AFB, Arizona. The team is supported by Dave Broeker (U-Tapao).

FOB Ma'sum Ghar, Afghanistan



Top Left - MWD Dyngo, assigned to SSgt Travis Dulworth takes a small break out in the field.

Top Right - On the right Dyngo has already checked out the “friendly forces” and is making sure no outsiders come into play during one of their recent missions. The team is deployed from the 56th SFS, Luke AFB, Arizona and they are supported by J. D. Jones (Udorn). Dyngo just doesn't take any time off – work, work, work and he loves it.



Above Left - Fresh off returning from an Outside the Wire (OTW) mission, Dyngo enjoys some of the “spoils of the FOB” at this lush desert location. It “ain't a Holiday Inn”, but we've seen worse. You know, blue brings out the color of Dyngo's eyes! Can you imagine the fight for the bed later on that night?

Above Right – After searching for several hours and finding materials that could have been very problematic to the platoon – the team took up a security position on a village rooftop to secure the approach route as their team caught up with them.

This is real stuff guys – providing security for a team and making sure to keep the upper hand against all odds are what our teams are doing down range. Can you imagine the pressure of doing this each and every day? Great job Travis and Dyngo – great job! FOB Ma'sum Ghar is located in Panjwai District, and is known as the birthplace of the Taliban. This place is no walk in the park! Google it sometime to see the images. This place won't be on your “bucket list” for travel plans.

FOB Ma'sum Ghar, Afghanistan – Continued



Left Above - SSgt Billy Taulbee and MWD Arko take up a “standby position” as they wait for a ride back to FOB Ma'sum Ghar. Man, is this a bad bus stop or what? Who is the Transportation Lead here?

Right Above - The team mounts up for the last leg of the ride home. Looks like a lot of teamwork involved in this movement! How about this for a great travel destination?

SSgt Billy Taulbee is deployed from the 96th SFS, Eglin AFB, Florida and they are supported by Ken Smerecki (U-Tapao/Pleiku).

Other News concerning OD&P Graduates Military Working Dogs Deserve a Snow Day

Posted on 17th January, by Kevin Hanrahan



SSgt Mark Bush, 8th Security Forces Squadron military working dog handler, takes a break from validation training with Iian, 8th SFS military working dog, at Kunsan Air Base, Republic of Korea. (Photo by Senior Airman Brittany Auld – from Internet source) SrA Bush was with OD&P at FOB Warrior, Iraq, in 2008 and was supported by Ernest Childers (Udorn). Is this a great photo or what?

DOD's longest-serving working dog retires

<http://www.mountainhome.af.mil/news/story.asp?id=123334114>

Posted 1/28/2013 Updated 1/28/2013 by Senior Airman Benjamin Sutton - 366th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

1/28/2013 - MOUNTAIN HOME AIR FORCE BASE, Idaho -- For a few weeks in January, MHAFB held the distinction of having the longest-serving military working dog in the Department of Defense.

Base leadership, fellow Defenders and other members of the Gunfighter family came out to say farewell to Tanja as she left the 366th Security Forces Squadron kennels for the last time. "She is a Belgian Malinois and has been in the program for almost 12 years," said Staff Sgt. Robert Wilson, 366th SFS military working dog handler. "She has deployed five times to various countries around the world and has been a definite asset during her military career."

Dogs have been used in warfare since the time of the ancient Egyptians and during the Roman Empire they wore armor and spiked collars. "The dogs provide tremendous capabilities to military personnel by searching out explosives and narcotics as well as tracking down and apprehending individuals thereby ensuring the safety of base population both at home and overseas," said Wilson. "They enhance the capabilities of law enforcement personnel and our mission throughout the Department of Defense."

Dogs and their handlers spend 24 hours-a-day together; they train, eat, sleep, and fight together. "I am so glad I had the opportunity of working with her," said Wilson. "I never had any issues working with her and she was definitely the best dog I have ever had." Wilson continued by relating a story from their deployment together. "One time while we were deployed, she located explosive devices inside a third-country national vehicle," he said. "However, upon further search of the vehicle we found stolen classified documents hidden inside. In a round-about way she was able to alert us of potential explosives and keep extremely valuable classified information from being stolen."

Her last handler and new owner, Tech. Sgt. Roseann Kelly, 366th SFS assistant flight chief, had a similar story from their deployment together. "We were performing multiple roles including base patrolling and deterrent," said Kelly. "She alerted on an individual who had jumped the fence and when we began moving toward him he decided to leave instead of deal with her. She is still kicking butt after all these years.

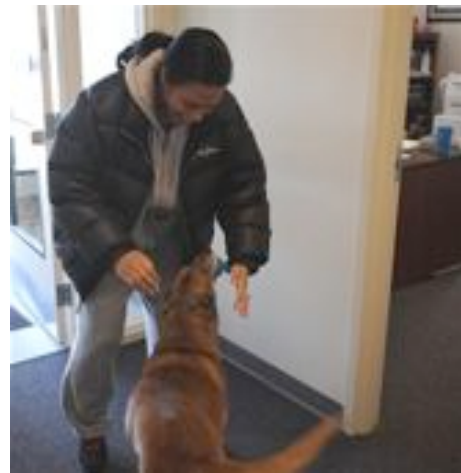
"These dogs act as a first line of defense against enemy threats because they can smell things and go places humans can't. Patrol work makes them fearless and they will attack if ordered to by their handlers." Now that Tanja is retiring she has a new set of "challenges" ahead of her. "I don't think she will have any problem adjusting to being a civilian since she's been preparing and practicing for house-dog life for years," laughed Kelly. "She loves to lounge around and play games like most dogs do. I love the military working dogs and am excited to adopt Tanja." Kelly explained they had an unusual relationship for a MWD and handler.

"I actually babied her quite a bit and put sweaters on her because the veterinarian said as she got older her circulation wouldn't be as good," said Kelly. "I wanted to ensure she was cozy and warm during the cold winters. Of course, all the other handlers picked on us but I didn't care because she liked it." Kelly wasn't the only former handler who treated Tanja different because of her unique personality.

"I could go on all day about Tanja because she is a terrific dog and I consider it an honor to have been able to work with her," said Wilson. "I'm glad I will be able to see her retire and enjoy a normal life because she has earned it." The transition into life as a normal dog will mean a little more work for both Tanja and Kelly. "I will have to watch her when I take her places because of her age and the fact that she was a dual-purpose dog who did a lot of patrol work during her career," said Kelly. "I will mostly need to watch other people and how they are responding and reacting to her. Honestly, I doubt there will be any issues because of her good disposition." That particular temperament is one of the main reasons she has been so popular with handlers throughout her service.

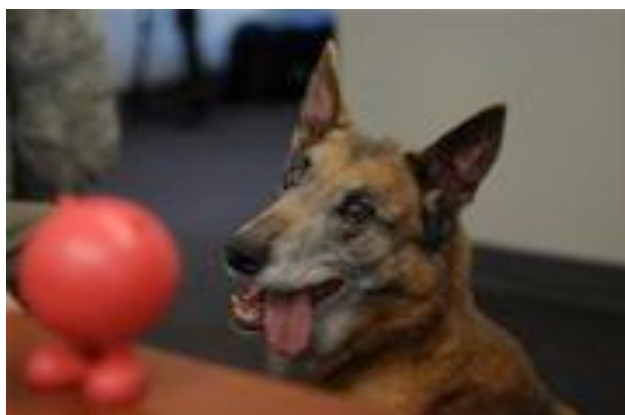
"She is such a warm-hearted and caring dog," said Kelly. "As old as she is she continues to have a fantastic personality and endless spunk. She has served her country and can now look forward to enjoying herself and relaxing. It's going to be interesting watching her adjust to eating snacks and taking naps like any other regular dog." Kelly has planned a relaxing evening for her new companion.

"I'm so excited to take her home because I bought her some Christmas gifts which she will finally be opening today," said Kelly. "Adopting military working dogs is such a fantastic service we provide to these veterans. All Tanja has known is service and she deserves a chance to enjoy a relaxing retirement now that it's complete- just like any other servicemember.



Above Left - U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. Robert Wilson, 366th Security Forces Squadron military working dog handler, and Tanja sit on a couch and play with a blue ball Jan. 18, 2013, at Mountain Home Air Force Base, Idaho. Wilson was Tanja's handler for more than a year and deployed with her. (U.S. Air Force photo/Senior Airman Benjamin Sutton). Above Right - U.S. Air Force Tech. Sgt. Roseann Kelly, 366th Security Forces Squadron assistant flight chief, is welcomed as she walks in the door of the 366th SFS kennels Jan. 18, 2013, by Tanja. Kelly was Tanja's last handler since her retirement and has formally adopted her. (U.S. Air Force photo/Senior Airman Benjamin Sutton)

Below Left - Tanja, 366th Security Forces Squadron military working dog, stares at her toy while awaiting the command to get it Jan. 18, 2013, at Mountain Home Air Force Base, Idaho. Tanja was retired after more than 12 years of service and 6 deployments. (U.S. Air Force photo/Senior Airman Benjamin Sutton) Below Right - Base leadership, fellow Defenders and other members of the Gunfighter family came out to say farewell to Tanja as she left the 366th Security Forces Squadron kennels Jan. 18, 2013. For a few weeks in January Tanja held the distinction as the longest-serving military working dog in the Department of Defense. (U.S. Air Force photo/Senior Airman Benjamin Sutton)



MWD Tanja E073 – Deployed with Old Dawgs & Pups Handlers with SSgt Rojen Richards to FOB Warrior, Iraq in 2007 and SSgt Roseann Kelly to an “Undisclosed location in Southwest Asia” in 2012.

Feed the Dawgs Project 2013 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 upcoming schedule for 2013 – Get Involved!

You can view photos from all of our events on Facebook at "[The Dawgs Project](#)"

- | | | |
|----|----------|---|
| 16 | February | Dawgs on Hawgs – 8:00 am March Air Reserve Base, CA
2013 War Dog Memorial – 10:00 am MFAM
4th Annual All Services Feed – 1:00 pm MFAM |
| 17 | February | IRON DOG II – 9:00 am walk-thru/10:00 am MFAM |
| 9 | March | MCAS Miramar, CNRSW/San Diego, MCRD San Diego, CA – U S Coast Guard |
| 23 | March | USMC Sgt Christopher Diaz Feed the Dawgs Event, Fort Bliss, TX |
| 24 | March | USMC Sgt Christopher Diaz Memorial IRON DOG SOUTH, Fort Bliss, TX |

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 **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 **1,752** pieces of equipment has been delivered to our K-9 troops serving in the AOR from August 21, 2005 to February 15, 2013. "Old Dawgs and Friends" have supported **96** kennels and **352** 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 **\$22,221.00** of supplies for the **96** kennels solely via your personal donations. Including the Leatherman corporate and Helping Udders donations, the total is **\$80,349.00**

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
- 101 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)
- 7 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)