

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



(06/15/2013)

**OVER SEVEN YEARS OF SUPPORTING OUR K-9 TROOPS!
MORE THAN 350 MILITARY WORKING DOG TEAMS SUPPORTED!**

More than \$80,400 of supplies shipped down range!

<http://www.war-stories.com/odap/ws-odap-index.htm>

(Please Bookmark our NEW OD&P Website Address)

Hello everyone! We are currently supporting four (4) kennels and thirteen (13) deployed Air Force, Army, and Navy teams as of June 15, 2013. June 2013 brings us to seven years and nine 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 Field and Miawand District, Afghanistan; Al Udeid Air Base, Qatar; and Ali Al Salem, Kuwait. We have five (5) new pups to introduce this month.

Pups heading home from the AOR

Al Udeid Air Base, Qatar: SrA Chad Ditch & Andor should be back in "the world" and enjoying the spring at McConnell Air Force Base, Kansas.

Bagram Air Base, Afghanistan: SSgt Joshua Mason & MWD Ruth should be pulling chocks and heading home to Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio, before our next edition.

Pups arriving in the AOR

Al Udeid Air Base, Qatar: SSgt Aaron Escalante & MWD Mushe are deployed from the 355th SFS, Davis-Monthan AFB, Arizona. The team is supported by Kelly Bateman (Ubon). This is SSgt Escalante's third deployment with Old Dawgs & Pups and Mushe's second tour.

SSgt Stephen Salassi & MWD Amor are deployed from the 11th SFG, Joint Base Andrews, Maryland. The team is supported by Jim Stastny (Korat).

SSgt Dominic LaForest & MWD Vanda are deployed from the 30th SFS, Vandenberg AFB, California. The team is supported by Scotty Baker (Safeside).

Ali Al Salem, Kuwait: SSgt Bryan Dubetsky & MWD VVience are deployed from the 802nd SFS, JBSA-Lackland, Texas. The team is supported by Jim Cox (Bien Hoa).

SSgt Joel Congdon & MWD Digi are deployed from the 11th SFG, Joint Base Andrews, Maryland. The team is supported by Bob Sullivan (Phu Cat).

379th ESFS – Al Udeid Air Base, Qatar



“Super Dog” Guyro – Who is the man? Guyro you are the man! Oh, that’s SSgt Tommy Beers with the “caped crusader” showing off their new pair of doggles. OK, who looks best in the “shades”?



SSgt Aaron Escalante & MWD Mushe are now “Boots on the ground” at Al Udeid Air Base. This is how Mushe made the trip. SSgt Escalante checks up on Mushe during the trip. Not exactly first class, but the team is on the ground. The team is deployed from the 355th SFS, Davis-Monthan AFB, Arizona, and they are supported by Kelly Bateman (Ubon).

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

USO Celebrities visit Al Udeid Air Base



It's "star time" at Al Udeid Air Base, as Kal Penn and Kathleen Walsh visited during a recent USO Handshake tour. Kal Penn is known for his roles portraying the character Dr. Lawrence Kutner on the television program "House" and the character Kumar Patel in the "Harold and Kumar" stoner comedy films. He is also recognized for his performance in the critically acclaimed film "The Namesake". Kathleen Erin "Kate" Walsh is an American film and television actress, best known for her role as Dr. Addison Montgomery on the ABC dramas Grey's Anatomy and Private Practice.

In the photograph above, the stars visit with SSgt Tom Beers and Guyro following a MWD "demo".

Below, Kal Penn and Kate Walsh took the time for a "photo op" with the 379th MWD Section.



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

USO Celebrities visit Al Udeid Air Base



SSgt Aaron Escalante and MWD Mushe spend some time during a demo to get a “little piece” of SSgt Tommy Beers. For those of you keeping score – it’s Mushe one – Beers 0! That dog sure has a mouthful and from the looks of things – Higher is better.

SSgt Escalante and MWD Mushe are deployed from the 355th SFS, Davis-Monthan AFB, Arizona and the team is supported by Kelly Bateman (Ubon). This is SSgt Escalante’s third deployment with Old Dawgs & Pups and Mushe’s second tour.

From what we understand Mushe can do this “all day long” and SSgt Beers swears he can also.

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



Above Left: We'd like to introduce one of our newest pups - SSgt Stephen Salassi & MWD Amor are deployed from the 11th SFG, Joint Base Andrews, Maryland. The team is supported by Jim Stastny (Korat). FYI – Amor is a German shorthaired pointer – these are very “high speed” MWDs! Those of you that attended the VSPA reunion at Eglin AFB last year might remember SSgt Jeremy Rice and MWD Kanjer, who was the star of the show during the demo - Kanjer stole the show - high speed MWD! Looks like we now have another “star” according to SSgt Salassi – all he has to do is HOLD ON!

Above Right: SSgt Salassi and MWD Amor show off their Thailand Handler signature gifts (Thailand Handler coin & patch and Leatherman Surge and M5 LED Lenser flashlight) that just arrived. SSgt Tom Beers stepped up for us again and made the presentation to the team. Here is the note that we received from SSgt Salassi. “I hope everything is going great for y'all back stateside. SSgt Beers just got the package y'all sent and everything promptly went on to my duty gear. I just shot an e-mail over to Jim (Stastny – his sponsor) and wanted to send one over to you as well to say thanks. Everyone over here appreciates the support y'all are giving us!”

Thailand Handler Signature Gifts – Coins, Patches, Leatherman Surge & M5 LED Lenser Flashlight



386th ESFS Ali Al Salem, Kuwait



SSgt Bryan Dubetsky & MWD Vvience, hydrate during their RTC at Creech Air Base, Nevada before deploying to Ali Al Salem, Kuwait. The team is deployed from the 802nd SFS, JBSA-Lackland, Texas. They are supported by Jim Cox (Bien Hoa).

Other News concerning OD&P Graduates



Technical Sergeant	Deployed Location	Year	Sponsor(s)
Jason Adams	Al Udeid, Qatar	2009	Jim Hazelton
Donald Ellison	Al Jaber, Kuwait	2012	John Risse
Danny Spaide	Undisclosed Location SW Asia	2010	Phil Carroll
	Camp Rustamiyah, Iraq	2008	Charlie Blood
Joe Throgmorton	Joint Base Balad, Iraq	2009	Janet Wise Parker
			Mike Diercks

Other News concerning OD&P Graduates - Continued

It is our great pleasure to introduce our newest “dog handler” – Megan Alyssa Kitts – born on May 31st at 0214 hours. She weighted in at 7 pounds 10 ounces at a height of 20 and ½ inches and thank goodness like her mother! She is the sister of Abby, and the daughter of Melissa and TSgt Justin Kitts. Thank you Melissa and Justin for sharing this moment with all of your OD&P friends. Patsy Perrotto and Phil Carroll supported Justin in 2009 at Bagram Air Base and again in 2010 while deployed to FOB Wilson, also in Afghanistan. TSgt Kitts is currently assigned at the USAF Academy, Colorado as an instructor. He’s helping to push out new “AF Officers”. K-9 Up Justin!



Other News concerning OD&P Graduates - Continued

SSgt Steven Bruner received "Bronze Star" for Afghanistan deployment

MWD team takes training downrange

Senior Airman David Owsianka - 56th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

5/17/2013 - LUKE AIR FORCE BASE, Arizona

[Editor's note: this is the third in a 3-part series on military working dogs] (Excerpt from Luke AFB site)

Staff Sgt. Steven Bruner, 56th SFS MWD kennel master, and Chrach, 56th SFS MWD, deployed with an Army Special Forces unit on their last deployment to Afghanistan. "It was different from my previous deployment because I had never been attached to a special-forces unit," he said. "Being the only handler at the post, I was tasked to go on several missions with my unit. Having Chrach there allowed the unit to clear out areas they couldn't go to before because they didn't have a MWD with them."

Bruner and Chrach received a Bronze Star Medal for actions during their deployment including locating four separate improvised explosive devices totaling more than 150 pounds, and recovering 50 blasting caps that could have been used to make IEDs.

Being deployed to Afghanistan has made Bruner more aware of how dangerous his job is and the importance of a MWD team. "I responded to a vehicle that was blown up and had four personnel in there killed during the explosion," he said. "There was a secondary IED set up to get any other personnel who would come to help those in the vehicle. By having the dog out there, he was able to find the secondary IED and save lives."



Staff Sgt. Steven Bruner, 56th Security Forces Squadron kennel master, and Chrach, 56th SFS military working dog, pose in front of a Polaris Ranger vehicle in Herat Province, Afghanistan, during a deployment with an Army Special Operations Task Force West unit. The MWD team received a Bronze Star Medal for actions during their deployment including locating four separate improvised explosive devices totaling more than 150 pounds, and recovering 50 blasting caps that could have been used to make IEDs. (Courtesy photo)

Donation Fundraiser, To Be Held By Members of the Thailand Dog Handlers Group

Win one of two unique collections of USAF Air Police and Security Police Shields and Qualification Badges and, Army, Navy, Marines, Air Force and, Coast Guard Service Brassards and Shields.

Thailand Dog Handlers attending the Vietnam Security Police Association Reunion will be holding a donation fundraiser for these two rare memorabilia collections in October, in Charleston SC at the VSPA Reunion. You do not have to be present to win one of these incredible collections.

All donated funds raised by this project will go to two proven charitable funds, The USAF Security Forces Museum Foundation <http://securityforcesmuseum.org/> and “The Nemo’s War Dog Hero’s Memorial Project,” <http://635thk9.com/tdhnemo.com>

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 20th. See details below. After that date we cannot guarantee your chances will be placed into the drawing.

Thailand Dog Handler Fundraiser Prizes - First Prize: Valued at \$700.00

- Air Police Shield with blue and white enamel Air Force crest
- Air Police Shield
- Security Police Shield
- Small Size Women’s Security Police Shield
- 50th Anniversary Commemorative Shield.
- SP Qualification Badges Original Style

Second Prize: Valued at \$350.00

- Armed Forces Police Brassard with a US Coast Guard Security Officer Shield
 - Air Police Brassard with a USAF Security Police Shield
 - Army Military Police Brassard with Military Police Shield
 - US Marine Corps MP Brassard with a US Marine Corps Military Police Shield
 - US Navy Shore Patrol Brassard with a US Navy Police Shield, NTC Sam Diego
- This prize was donated by Jerry Nelson.

For a \$5 donation you will receive 3 chances to win one of the prizes. We are encouraging VSPA members 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!** 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.

You must provide a return address to receive your copies.

First Prize Picture



Second Prize Picture



Donation Fundraiser, To Be Held By Members of the Thailand Dog Handlers Group

Send in your check or money order donation (**PLEASE, NO CASH!**), to be received by September 20th for the drawing at the VSPA reunion in October.

Again this donation fundraiser is conducted by the Thailand Dog Handlers Group and NOT the VSPA. Send donations with name, return address, and phone number printed clearly on a sheet of paper, make Payable to:

John Homa
151 CR 556
Athens, TN 37303

VFW Post 64 – Oldham-Cummings, Wimberley, Texas



VFW Post Number 64, Wimberley, Texas, was just recognized as an “All State (Texas) Post and an All American Post in the same year – this is huge! Kelly Bateman (Ubon) is a very active member at the Wimberley post.

The post has been supporting “Old Dawgs & Pups” for more than five years. They have sent monthly “Care Packages” down range to Iraq, Qatar, Kuwait, and Afghanistan to our pups. In addition, they have also presented “gift cards” to our deployed dog handlers once they returned home from their deployments.

Congratulations go out to all of the members of the Oldham-Cummings, VFW Post 64 for all of the work you do in your community and for all you have done for Old Dawgs & Pups. Veterans helping Veterans, it just doesn’t get any better than this. This is service “Texas Style”!

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. They feed steak barbecues to active military dog handlers and their family and friends from 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](#)"

29	June	Vandenberg AFB, CA
20	July	PMO/IMEF Camp Pendleton, CA

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

At the time of this report we have **15** members of the "Old Dawgs & Pups" program actively supporting **13** handlers assigned to four (4) 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 1,753 pieces of equipment has been delivered to our K-9 troops serving in the AOR from August 21, 2005 to June 15, 2013. "Old Dawgs and Friends" have supported 99 kennels and 362 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 **\$22,328.00** of supplies for the **99** kennels solely via your personal donations. Including the Leatherman corporate and Helping Udders donations, the total is **\$80,456.00**

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
- 102 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 – Whee
- 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)