

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



(08/15/2013)

OVER SEVEN YEARS OF SUPPORTING OUR K-9 TROOPS!
MORE THAN 370 MILITARY WORKING DOG TEAMS SUPPORTED!
100 Deployed Military Working Dog Kennels Supported
More than \$84,687.00 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 three (3) kennels and seventeen (17) deployed Air Force, Army, and Navy teams as of August 15, 2013. August 2013 brings us to seven years and eleven 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, 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: SSgt Mark Chojnacki & MWD Mila are enjoying the Louisiana bayou country back at Bardsdale AFB.

Pups arriving in the AOR

Bagram Air Base, Afghanistan: SSgt Justin Gatti & MWD Rambo are deployed from the 823rd Base Defense Squadron, Moody AFB, Georgia. They are supported by Dixie Whitman (FoK).

SSgt David Cope & MWD Fredy are deployed from the 802nd SFS, Joint Base San Antonio, Texas. John & Carolyn Risse (Plieku) supports them.

SSgt Rafael Rhodes & MWD Nero are deployed from the 7th SFS, Dyess AFB, Texas and they are supported by Kelly Bateman (Ubon).

SSgt Adrien Dupuis & MWD Max are deployed from the 633rd SFS, Jt. Base Langley-Eustis, Virginia and Joe Palmer (Binh Thuy) supports the team.

Ali Al Salem, Kuwait: MSgt Donald Ellison, Kennel Master, deployed from the 21st SFS, Peterson AFB, Colorado. This is the Master Sergeant's second tour with OD&P and he is supported by Phil Carroll (NKP/Takhli).

455th ESFS Bagram Air Base, Afghanistan

Old Dawgs & Pups handler wounded in IED Attack

In the early morning hours of August 9, 2013, SSgt Rafael Rhodes & MWD Nero were wounded by an IED attack on their MRAP (Alpha Truck) outside the wire (OTW) near Bagram Air Base, Afghanistan. Ok, now for the good news. MWD Nero was shaken up - but for now seems to be "Good To Go". SSgt Rhodes suffered ankle injuries and sustained a concussion. He is recuperating at the TBI clinic at the Bagram hospital facility. From what we understand – SSgt Rhodes and Nero are in very professional and capable hands to enhance his progress toward recovery. The remainder of the team is also doing very well. Kelly Bateman (Ubon) supports SSgt Rafael Rhodes and MWD Nero. Old Dawgs & Pups have offered our assistance in any way we can help this team. Stand by for additional information as it becomes available.

We'd like to personally thank SSgt Paris Carman (Trainer) for keeping us in the loop concerning the status of OUR MWD team. This is just another incident during the last month that has affected the immediate area.

At press time we are very pleased to report that SSgt Rhodes and MWD Nero are progressing very well with their recovery. Rumor has it that they would like to complete their tour and "keep on truckin'". This is one strong dog team – Team Rhodes way to go – we are very proud of you both!

Note: We just received a very special e-mail from SSgt Rhodes: "Bill, Nero and I are recovering very well. We are thankful that it was primarily concussion and the armor saved us. I am doing OK, with just a few headaches and ears ringing for the time being. I can't thank you enough for reaching out and checking on us. It means a lot for you to take the time out of your day for me. I can't thank you enough. I will keep you posted on my progress."



MWD Nero, SSgt Rafael Rhodes, and Trainer SSgt Paris Carman

455th ESFS Bagram Air Base, Afghanistan - Continued



SSgt David Cope and MWD Fredy are one of our new pups at Bagram Air Base. This is the team's first K-9 deployment together. This is SSgt Cope's third deploy and Fredy's first deployment to Southwest Asia. From what we hear – Fredy has a GREAT NOSE and is doing a great job as a dual-purpose dog! He's had some great finds and has been instrumental in preventing several breaches of the perimeter. On the right, SSgt David Cope & MWD Fredy spend some time with the 455th Security Forces members at an Entry Control Point (ECP). SSgt David Cope & MWD Fredy are deployed from the 802nd SFS, Joint Base San Antonio, Texas, and John and Carolyn Risse (Plietu) supports them.



SSgt Daniel Wilson, deployed from the 377th SFS, Kirtland AFB, New Mexico, and Trainer SSgt Paris Carman, deployed from the 355th SFS, Davis-Monthan AFB, Arizona, received their Thailand Handler Gifts recently at Bagram. Each received a Leatherman MUT, Leatherman M5 LED Lenser flashlight, Thailand Handler Challenge coin and a patch. Thank you SSgt Wilson for being our POC for this tour at Bagram. OK guys - give those gifts a workout and don't leave home without that challenge coin!

455th ESFS Bagram Air Base, Afghanistan – Continued

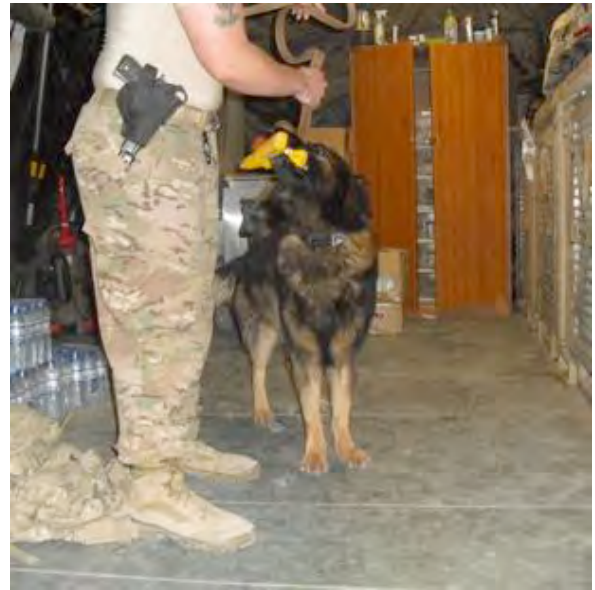


SSgt Daniel Wilson & MWD Dan, deployed from the 377th SFS, Kirtland AFB, New Mexico, working OTW near Bagram Air Base. Some of this terrain looks so beautiful and some is so scary! Great looking dog team aren't they? The team is supported by Ernest Childers (Udorn).



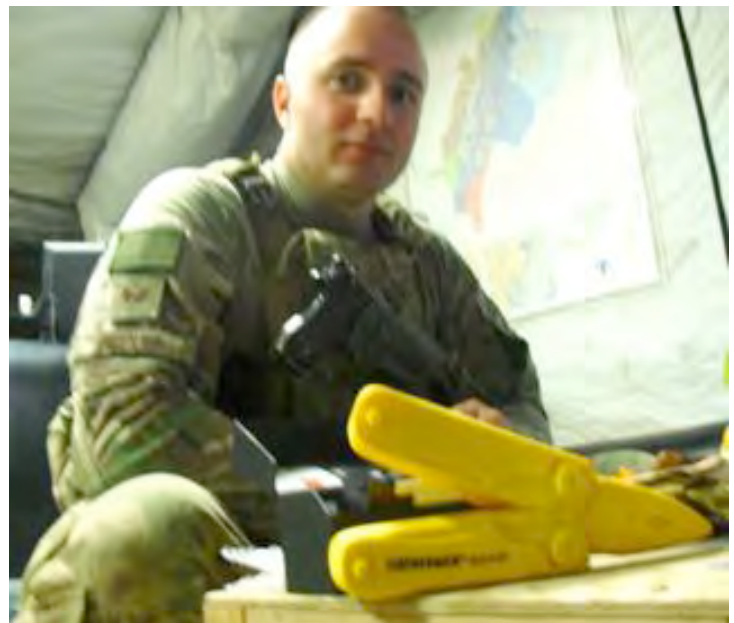
MWD Dan and SSgt Daniel Wilson surveying the local surrounds – Looks like Dan is a little interested something on the left. Just doing his job and doing it very well – Way to go DANs!

455th ESFS Bagram Air Base, Afghanistan – Continued



SSgt Rafael Rhodes, SSgt Paris Carman, and SSgt David Cope show off the Thailand Handler Gifts that just arrived at Bagram Air Field. This is the first shipment that included the new Leatherman Wave Dog Toy along with our traditional Leatherman MUT, Serac S3 Flashlight, Thailand Challenge Coin and Thailand Handler patch. SSgt Rhodes and Nero are deployed from the 7th SFS, Dyess AFB, Texas and is supported by Kelly Bateman (Ubon). SSgt Paris Carman is deployed from the 355th SFS, Davis-Monthan AFB, Arizona and is supported by Bill Cummings (U-Tapao). SSgt David Cope is deployed from the 802nd SFS, Joint Base San Antonio, Texas, and is supported by John Risse (Pleiku).

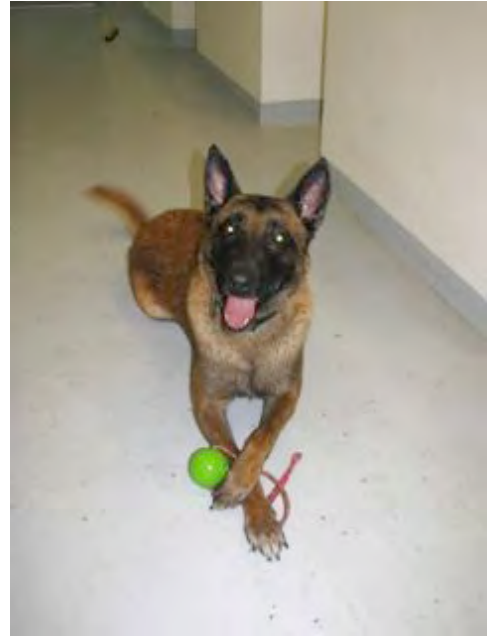
On the right – SSgt Rhodes and MWD Nero check out the new Leatherman Wave Toy – looks like a hit!



Left: SSgt Justin Gatti & MWD Rambo show off their Thailand handler gifts that just arrived and were presented by SSgt Daniel Wilson (did we say how great a job he's doing for us as our POC?). It looks like Rambo is very well satisfied with his new Leatherman Wave toy. The team is deployed from the 823rd Base Defense Squadron, Moody AFB, Georgia and they are supported by Dixie Whitman (FoK).

Right: SSgt Adrien Dupuis, deployed from the 633rd SFS, Joint Base Langley-Eustis, Virginia. SSgt Dupuis & MWD Max are supported by Joe Palmer (Binh Thuy). We caught SSgt Dupuis at shift change and this is probably going to be the last time that the Wave Toy is going to be without bite marks

379th ESFS – Al Udeid Air Base, Qatar



SSgt Aaron Escalante and MWD Mushe sharing some time in the kennels at Al Udeid Air Base. Things just don't change do they guys? All it takes is a ball, some sunglasses, a handkerchief, and a little dog and handler bonding time! Trust us Aaron, when you look back over these pictures forty years from now you will ask yourself "Why do dog handlers do this to their dogs? The answer is – Because we CAN"! What a great looking dog team.



All of the posing is done and now it's time for Mushe to get to something a little more serious. Left and center above, SrA Hanus takes a go in the suit with Mushe in the training area. Sure looks like Mushe might have the upper "hand/tooth" here! This dog is a beast and he sure makes it known when it comes time to prove it. Can you say "High Drive Maligator"?

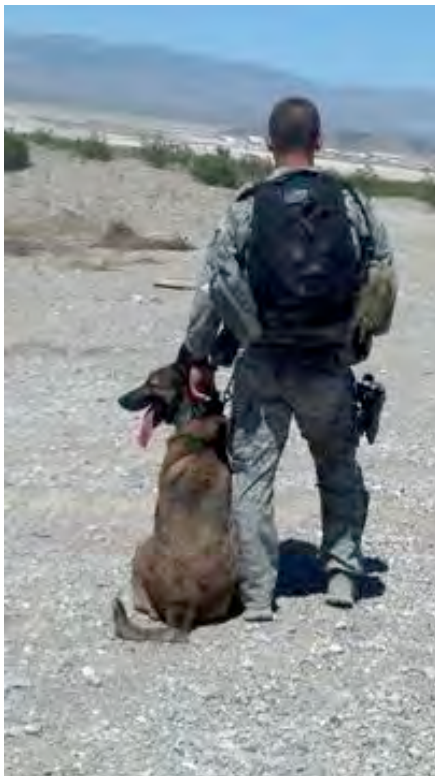
Training has been completed and Mushe is supervising SSgt McGuire as he cleans up Mushe's reward. "Let's be very careful there Sarge – you know how important that reward is to Mushe". As you can see, Mushe is keeps a really, really close eye on what's happening here – NO ROOM FOR MISTAKES!

SSgt Escalante & MWD Mushe are deployed from the 355th SFS, Davis-Monthan AFB, Arizona, and they are supported by Kelly Bateman (Ubon).

386th ESFS Ali Al Salem, Kuwait



Digi, 386th Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron military working dog, takes a bite of a simulated suspect during training here, July 2. MWDs spend several hours each week training on different scenarios to ensure they are in perfect shape to handle any situation that might arise on the base. Digi is deployed from Joint Base Andrews, Md. (U.S. Air Force photo by Master Sgt. Christopher A. Campbell)



We'd like to introduce one of our new Pups - SSgt Joel Congdon & MWD Digi, deployed from the 11th SFS, Andrews AFB, Maryland. As you can see, Digi has the left flank covered and then the team focuses straight ahead. MWD Digi and SSgt Joel Congdon are supported by Bob Sullivan (Phu Cat).

Leatherman Donates MUTs to OD&P

Leatherman has done it again, with another huge donation of top-notch military gear to the Old Dawgs & Pups program. This time they blessed us with 20 more of the best military/law enforcement tools made - the Leatherman MUT. These tools have a suggested retail price of \$180, so that's a sizeable donation to our troops going on missions outside the wire! In addition, they donated a box full of the new "Leatherman Dog Toy. These yellow rubber squeaky toys are heading down range ASAP for a "PHOTO CONTEST" to see who is the most creative at placing the toy in the "deployed environment" – This should really be interesting – stay tuned for the results.

These tools are greatly appreciated and used for always everything down range. They're just exactly the right combination of tools and portability for somebody who might just stake his or her life on a weapon, thousands of miles from the nearest armorer or gunsmith. The tools in a MUT are made specifically to clean, repair and adjust today's issue M4 carbine, M16 rifle and M9 pistol, in addition to the usual versatility of a Leatherman tool. They include: needle-nose pliers, regular pliers, stranded-wire cutters, electrical crimper, combo-blade knife, saw, hammer, cleaning rod/brush adapter, carabiner/bottle opener, large bit driver, 1/2" wrench and 3/8" wrench. It also has the following replaceable tools, should they ever wear out from heavy use: cutting hook, bolt override tool, firearm disassembly punch, bronze carbon scraper, wire cutter and hard-wire cutter. That's a whole lot of very job-specific goodies, plus some totally versatile do-any-job tools, in a five-inch, 12 oz. package that you can hang on your MOLLE gear! As we've said many times before in the last eight years - THANK YOU LEATHERMAN!



VFW Post 7539, Bloomingdale, Illinois pitches in for OD&P



VFW Post 7539, Bloomingdale, IL, has added our troops from Ali Al Salem, Kuwait and Bagram Air Field, Afghanistan, to their monthly "care package" project. Joe Palmer (Binh Thuy K-9 1968) tells us a little about their program "About 5 years ago I located some USAF dog handlers serving and since then have been sending packages with "dog treats" to that special breed of serviceman. We are a small post, but do a lot. We have been identified as an "All State Post" two years in a row and in 2009/2010 achieved the status of All American Post (one of only 6 in the state of Illinois). I am proud to say that for those years, I was commander of the post". We are able to send out as many packages as we do through donations and cooperation from local churches. Our mission is to continue shipping packages to individual service people as long as they are in harms way. Thank you Joe and all the veterans of VFW Post 7539 – once a veteran always a veteran!

Other News concerning OD&P Graduates



Dixie and Jerry Whitman, representing the Military Working Dog Team Support Association, visited Davis-Monthan AFB and spent the morning with the troops of the 355th SFS MWD Section. After a visit to their kennels they shared a fantastic lunch at El Molinito's, one of Tucson's best Mexican restaurants. Dixie presented MWDTSA T-shirts, kongs, and other items to the handlers. The MWDTSA has supported the 355th handlers down range for more than six years – and the tradition continues! Left to right: SSgt Robert Beaudoin, SSgt Ian Porter, TSgt Jose Valdez, TSgt Tomaz Diaz, SSgt Mike Ruiz, SSgt Daniel Sayarot, Dixie and Jerry Whitman.

Military Working Dogs retire at McChord AFB, Washington



SSgt Mary Boyer & MWD Tomy (H264) and SSgt Richard Lynn & MWD Meki (J245) celebrate retirement to “Ft. Living Room” at McChord AFB, Washington for our two K-9 heroes. Rumor has it that there were “beer and hamburgers” for ALL – the hamburgers were the favorite for Tomy & Meki. This is what it’s all about – heroes coming home to retire and enjoy the good life! Life is good - Salute. Steve and Lise Gattis (CRB) supported SSgt Boyer and SSgt Lynn during their deployments.

Old Dawg retires!



July 31st, 2013, marked the retirement of Ken Smerecki from the Nashville Glass Maintenance Department. Ken was presented the framed photographs of him and his dogs, Duke and Shannon, at Pleiku, RVN, and U-Tapao, Thailand, respectively. The wonderful people that Ken worked with over the years knew how much Ken's tours as a Military Working Dog handler meant to him as they made the presentation. Ken and Jackie have always been there to support our deployed dogs handlers with their involvement in "Old Dawgs & Pups". Ken has supported ten (10) deployed troops since 2006 and he's always been our "go to guy" who has been a phone call away when help was needed. Congratulations Ken on your retirement and your commitment to our deployed K-9 troops.

No explanation needed!



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.htm>

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

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"

31 August PMO Kennels, 29 Palms MCB, CA

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

At the time of this report we have **17** members of the "Old Dawgs & Pups" program actively supporting **17** handlers assigned to three (3) 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 1,933 pieces of equipment has been delivered to our K-9 troops serving in the AOR from August 21, 2005 to August 15, 2013. "Old Dawgs and Friends" have supported 100 kennels and 373 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 **\$24,748.00** of supplies for the **100** kennels solely via your personal donations. Including the Leatherman corporate and Helping Udders donations, the total is **\$86,687.00**.

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

- 312 Leatherman "Surge" Tools (145) Donated by Leatherman
 - * The Leatherman "Surge"/Muts/Flashlights/Knives/Toys donation is valued at approximately **\$58,519.00**
- 266 Thailand Challenge Coins (Donated & Purchased)
- 205 Thailand Historical Base Patches
- 163 * Leatherman Serac S3 Leatherman Flashlights
- 102 Guardian Pet Beds (Pet Edge)
- 102 Alpha Dog Challenge Coins
- 75 * Leatherman Knives (Models: c33T, e55, e55B, e33L)
- 56 Kongs (Assorted sizes)
- 54 * Leatherman MUT Tools
- 50 * Leatherman M5 LED Lenser Flashlights
- 46 Sponges
- 44 PSI Water Holes
- 40 Cleaning/Scouring Pads
- 33 Kygen Port-A-Bowls
- 30 * Leatherman Wave Toys
- 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)
- 22 Retractable Leashes (Pet Edge)
- 16 Cooling Vests & Extra Cooling 3acks (**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 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
- 6 20"/12" (3 each) Heavy Duty Cleaning Brushes
- 3 100 Foot Water Hoses
- 3 Ceremonial K-9 Badges (Memorial)
- 2 Hose Reels – Wheeled Cart
- 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)