

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



(12/15/2013)

OVER EIGHT YEARS OF SUPPORTING OUR K-9 TROOPS!
MORE THAN 380 MILITARY WORKING DOG TEAMS SUPPORTED!
105 Deployed Military Working Dog Kennels Supported
More than \$91,385.00 of supplies shipped down range!
<http://www.war-stories.com/odap/ws-odap-index.htm>

Hello everyone! We are currently supporting six (6) kennels and thirty (30) deployed Air Force, Army, and Navy teams as of December 15, 2013. December 2013 brings us to eight years and three 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; Kandahar Air Field, Afghanistan; Al Udeid Air Base, Qatar; Ali Al Salem Air Base, Kuwait; Al Dhafra Air Base, United Arab Emirates (UAE); An Undisclosed Location – Southwest Asia. We have four (4) new pups to introduce this month.

Pups heading home from the AOR

Bagram Air Base, Afghanistan: SSgt Paris Carman, Trainer, is now on his way back to Arizona!

SSgt Rafael Rhodes & MWD Nero and SSgt David Cope & MWD Fredy back in TEXAS!

SSgt Logan Fitzgerald & MWD Pajk are “betting it all on red” back at Nellis AFB, Nevada.

SSgt Joshua Fehringer & MWD Candy are getting settled in at Cannon AFB, New Mexico.

SSgt John Kroll & MWD Nadja are enjoying the winter weather at Peterson AFB, Colorado.

Pups arriving in the AOR

Ali Al Salem Air Base, Kuwait: SSgt Margaret (Hazel) Norotsky & MWD Judi deployed from the 18th SFS, Kadena Air Base, Okinawa, Japan. They are supported by Don Graham (Tuy Hoa).

SSgt Andrew Montgomery & MWD Diesel deployed from the 374th SFS, Yokota Air Base, Japan. They are supported by Ken Smerecki (U-Tapao/Pleiku).

SSgt Henry Edwards & MWD Blecki deployed from the 30th SFS, Vandenberg AFB, California. They are supported by Joel Burton (New Sponsor) (USAF).

Kandahar Air Field, Afghanistan: SSgt Ian Porter & MWD Lana deployed from the 355th SFS, Davis-Monthan AFB, Arizona. They are supported by Jim and Nancy Stewart (New Sponsors) (TSN).

455th EBDG Kennel Closes at Bagram Air Field, Afghanistan

The mission of the 455th Military Working Dog kennels at Bagram Air Field was decommissioned on December 1, 2013. The final dog teams departed on December 2, 2013. Old Dawgs & Pups has supported this kennel from May 9, 2009 until the closing this month. We have supported nine (10) Kennel Masters/Trainers and thirty-eight (38) MWD teams for a total of forty-eight (48) troops during their operation.

We have shipped 307 pieces of equipment, to include the following: Guardian Pet cots, water buckets, food bowls, “water holes”, cooling vests, training sleeves, retractable leashes, sponges, Leatherman Surges, MUTS, Flashlights (Serac S3/M5 LED), knives, and Wave toys, Thailand Handler challenge coins and patches for a total of \$13,136.86 in support of Camp Kujo.

Troops from twenty-eight (28) installations, seventeen (17) states, and four (4) countries outside of the United States have been deployed and supported during their tours at Bagram Air Field.

Camp Kujo (Bagram Air Field – Afghanistan) – How it all began?

On May 9, 2009 Old Dawgs & Pups received an email from TSgt Andrew O’Dell, Kennel Master, 455th ESFS, Bagram Air Field, Afghanistan. “Mr. Cummings, I met you just before I left for my deployment to Afghanistan. Well...I finally have a few moments to shoot you an e-mail. I hope all is well in sunny AZ...I sure do miss it. I have walked into a mess here at Bagram. I am standing up the first-ever K9 unit for the 455th Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron. When I arrived here, I was told that I would have to build our kennel. No problem I thought. Then I was told I had to find the land to build it on - big problem!

Well. We adapted and overcame! After doing my best 'used-car salesman' routine I was able to acquire a sizable amount of land and some lumber to start building. We were operational in 8 days. Within 3 weeks we have built an entire compound on what used to be a big plot of mud. The entire thing was built solely by the hands of K9 handlers - 6 of us to be exact! Some quick numbers for you: 2,300 square feet of flooring, 2000 nails, 1,200 feet of 2" x 6", 1000 feet of 2" x 4", 800 sandbags – yes, my back hurts along with every other joint in my body.

As with any new operation...supplies are hard to come by. I have a ton of stuff on order...but you know how long that stuff takes to actually get here. Whatever you and your team of dedicated 'old dogs' can do for us would be great. I attached some pictures of the compound proudly built by K9 for K9 and yes...that really is our backyard. Hope to hear from you soon! Take care!! Drew

**ANDREW W. ODELL, TSgt, USAF - 455th Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron
NCOIC, Military Working Dog Section - BAF, Afghanistan**

The same day we received this e-mail an invitation and pairing letters went out to six members of the new kennel. The original troops of the 455th ESFS supported by Old Dawgs & Pups were as follows:

TSgt Andrew O’Dell (KM)	Davis-Monthan AFB, Arizona	Bill Cummings & Phil Carroll
TSgt Andrew Bedell (Trainer)	McConnell AFB, Kansas	Jay D. Jones
SSgt Christopher Reynolds/Baiky	Vandenberg AFB, CA	Ron Carlson/Chuck Meaders/ Jon Hemp
SSgt Jorge Davila/Emy	Anderson AFB, Guam	Karl Niemeyer
SSgt Justin Kitts/Mayo	Luke AFB, Arizona	Phil Carroll & Patsy Perrotto
SSgt Scott Carpenter/Kane	Peterson AFB, Colorado	Donald Shaw & Jim Coggins

On May 8th, with the help of Pet Edge, we shipped six (6) Guardian Pet Cots for the troops. June 8th found us shipping 10 heavy-duty stainless steel water buckets and 10 stainless steel food pans for our four legged troops. Not being done yet - on June 10th, with the help of Ray Allen, we shipped the “first” sleeve that was used at Camp Kujo. It was official – OD&P were officially supporting troops in Afghanistan.

455th ESFS establishes new kennel at Bagram, Afghanistan

I can't begin to tell you exactly how much he appreciates the Leatherman equipment and Guardian pet beds. Here is an e-mail from TSgt O'Dell: Today (May 16, 2009) was a great day. As you can see from the pictures, we received the box of Leatherman goods. It was like Christmas as I was passing out the presents. All of the handlers were very excited to receive such great tools that will surely be put to use. The morale-meter was definitely pegged today. We thank you great Americans for all that you do. I will have to retire my Leatherman 'Wave' to be replaced by the new 'Surge' tool. The Surge has surely taken a beating since arriving here. Thanks again to all!! TSgt Drew O'Dell

MWD Kane balances his Surge! MWD Mayo takes a bite and then does a Surge “Demo”



Left – SrA John Spearing & MWD Soyer deployed from the 78th SFS – Robins AFB, Georgia.

Right – SSgt Justin Kitts & MWD Mayo deployed from the 56th SFS – Luke AFB, Arizona - This team is supported by Phil Carroll (NKP/Takhli) and Patsy Perrotto (NKP)



This is “Closed” and this is “Open”! SSgt Christopher Reynolds and TSgt Andrew Bedell show off the “black Surges”. SSgt Reynolds is deployed from the 30th SFS – Vandenberg AFB, California and is supported by Ron Carlton (Phu Cat) and Chuck Meaders (U-Tapao). TSgt Andrew Bedell, Trainer/Supervisor is deployed from the 22nd SFS – McConnell AFB, Kansas and is supported by J.D. Jones (Udorn) and Danny Bowlin (Udorn/Ubon)

455th ESFS K-9 Section – Bagram, Afghanistan – July 2009

Supplies for the 455th ESFS - Bagram, Afghanistan & new compound

TSgt O'Dell just advised us that the stainless steel water buckets, bowls (Pet Edge), and the Syntek Hidden sleeve (Ray Allen) are now on the ground at Bagram. Remember everyone, this section was just “stood up” – literally, from the ground up by these airman pictured about. They built their own shelters and training area. Oh, almost forgot – they also maintained patrols and security at the same time! We'd like to again thank the American Legion, Hurst-Eules-Bedford Post 379, Texas, for their financial support to help get this kennel up and running so quickly! Thank you Texas veterans.



These guys have built a new city at Bagram! Here is the new training area that they built from scratch. Oh, did you notice the “horseshoe pit” on the right? Just like back home. Remember, when you are building a new kennel its – location, location, location! Right next to a minefield!



TSgt Andrew O'Dell/Kennel Master (Davis-Monthan AFB) TSgt Randy Jensen & MWD Artos, SSgt Justin Kitts & MWD Mayo (Luke AFB), SSgt Scott Carpenter & MWD Kane (Peterson AFB) SrA John Spearing & MWD Soyer (Robins AFB), SSgt Jorge Davila & MWD Emy (Anderson AFB), TSgt Andrew Bedell/Trainer (McConnell AFB), and SSgt Christopher Reynolds & MWD Baiky (Vandenberg AFB)

New compound at Bagram – Continued



On the left is the MWD “Tent”, patio, and lounge area – this looks like a “Home Depot” commercial! On the right is the entrance to “Camp Kujo” the newly constructed training area at Bagram. These guys have been very, very busy in the last month. Are these guys proud of “Camp Kujo” – you be the judge. According to TSgt Andrew Bedell “We built the first Air Force field kennel (Camp Kujo). One of the nicest field kennels I have ever seen or built for that matter.”

New supplies hit the ground at Bagram, Afghanistan!

We just heard from TSgt Drew O’Dell at Bagram and here is what he had to say about the new equipment that just arrived. “We cannot thank you enough for the new items: water buckets, feed pans, hidden sleeve, and dog beds. As you can see, all items are being put to the test. We could not get the mission done without you!!! Thank you again. Enjoy the pictures!!”



Left - TSgt O’Dell models the new Syntek Hidden Sleeve – Now they can get some training done!
Center - Mayo enjoying the new “Guardian” Pet bed and water bucket from OD&P. Right - Mayo is head, neck, and ears into his new feed pan – looks like we shipped the right thing and he likes it!

The final troops that were supported at BAF, Camp Kujo are as follows:

SSgt Paris Carman (Trainer) *
SSgt Daniel Wilson/MWD Dan
SSgt Adrien Dupuis/MWD Max
SSgt Rafael Rhodes/MWD Nero
SSgt Justin Gatti/Rambo
SSgt Joshua Fehringer/Candy
SSgt Logan Fitzgerald/Pajk
SSgt John Kroll/Nadja

Davis-Monthan AFB, Arizona
Kirtland AFB, New Mexico
Jt. Base Langley, Virginia
Dyess AFB, Texas
Moody AFB, Georgia
Cannon AFB, New Mexico
Nellis AFB, Nevada
Peterson AFB, Colorado

Bill Cummings
Ernest Childers
Joe Palmer
Kelly Bateman
Dixie Whitman
Rick Matott
Skip Davis
Joe Palmer

(* SSgt Paris Carman, Trainer, deployed from the 355th SFS, Davis-Monthan AFB, Arizona, “locked the gate” at the Bagram kennel on December 15, 2013 closing the “Camp Kujo” era at Bagram Air Field, Afghanistan. Old Dawgs & Pups supported the kennels for 1, 684 days – Great job guys – great job! The last Kennel Master to serve at BAF was TSgt Jeremy Burkeen, 820th BDG, Moody AFB, Georgia.

386th ESFS Ali Al Salem, Kuwait



SrA Ashley Wendler & MWD Nira just finished running the confidence course and took a break before starting “a little bite work” employing the obstacles. One the right, the team receives congratulations for a “demo” that they completed. From what we understand Nira is “high drive low drag” – Remember those dogs’ guys? The team is supported by Bill & Janice Cummings (U-Tapao).



MWD Buli, SSgt Dwight Veon’s partner, mulls over how he’s going to get to this treat? Something tells us that in the end he figured it out. The team is deployed from the 72nd SFS, Tinker AFB, Oklahoma and they are supported by Colonel Bob Sullivan (Phu Cat). Is that one beautiful black dog or what?

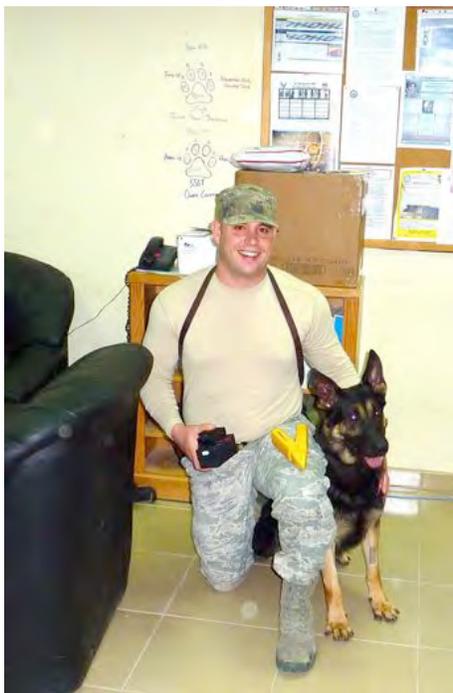
386th ESFS Ali Al Salem, Kuwait – Continued

Thailand Handler Gifts arrive for our Pups



Just In - Old Dawgs & Pups signature gifts just arrived at Ali Al Salem. We'd like to thank TSgt Jason Fields for the photographs of our "Pups" receiving their gifts. The packages included Leatherman Surges, M5 LED Lenser flashlights, Wave dog toys, Thailand Handler challenges coins and patches.

Above left to right: SrA Ashley Wendler & MWD Nira, SSgt "Hazel" Norotsky & MWD Judi, and SrA Angela Jones & MWD Chester. The troops are supported by Bill Cummings (U-Tapao), Don Graham (Tuy Hoa), and Steve and Lise Gattis (CRB), respectively.



Above left to right: SSgt Nathan Parks & MWD Astov and SSgt Dwight Veon & MWD Buli. They are supported by Doc Hodges (Ubon/Korat) and Bob Sullivan (Phu Cat), respectively. Are these good-looking dog teams or what? From the looks of the smiles – OD&P did OK on this shipment!

380th ESFS - Al Dhafra Air Base - UAE (United Arab Emirates)

Candlebox – A 90's rock band performed for the troops at Al Dhafra Air Base recently. The K-9 section returned the favor with an all out “demo” – from what we hear they were a bunch of cool guys. SSgt Justin Lopez & MWD Lopez, Luke AFB, Arizona, put the bite on a few of them. That’s the way to complete a reunion tour!

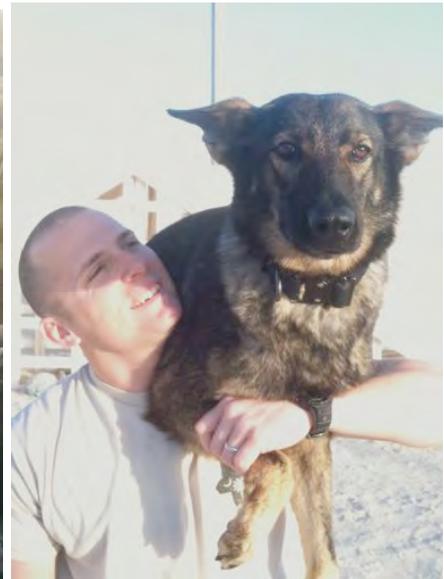
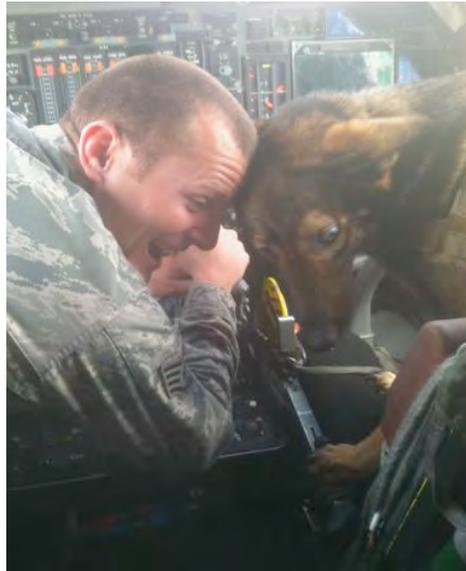


From the looks of the bands participation in the demo – we wonder if they’d consider doing the song “Another one bites the dust”? Great job Kennel Master SSgt James Worley and the gang at the 380th. Looks like the guys from Candlebox had a great time also – Music – the great equalizer!

379th ESFS – Al Udeid Air Base, Qatar



Our signature Thailand Handler gifts arrived at Al Udeid and it looks like we have a new mannequin to show off the gifts – MWD Jaga is just doing a fine job! How about that Leatherman Wave Toy? They also received a Leatherman Surge and M5 Flashlight, Thailand Handler coin and patch. Welcome to Old Dawgs & Pups Team Shaughnessy.

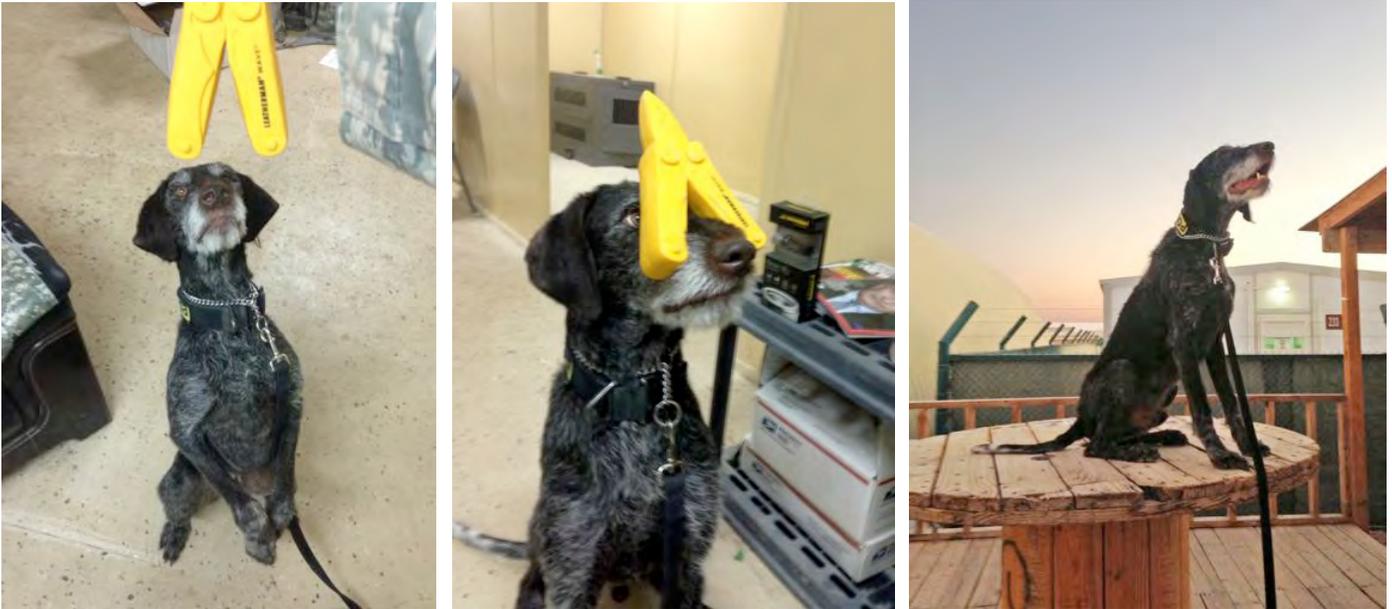


MWD Jaga and SSgt Kyle Shaughnessy, deployed from Joint Base Charleston, South Carolina share some time in the cockpit. They look good at the stick of a B-1 bomber! On the right – Kyle proves the old adage – “He ain’t heavy – he’s my partner”! Jaga seems to enjoy the lift from his partner.



A little tug-a-war and some Christmas headgear – GTG! Doc Hodges (Ubon/Korat) supports this team.

Undisclosed Location Southwest Asia



Thailand Handler Group gifts have arrived!

What's going through Kanjer's mind?

(Left) "OK, I got this Leatherman Wave toy"! (Center) "I've seen that "Hold it" commercial – but, if that is what it takes?" (Right) "Isn't the view just great when you are on top?" SSgt Jeremy Rice and MWD Kanjer are deployed from the 96th SFS, Eglin AFB, Florida, and they are supported by Ernest Childers (Udorn).

Feed the Dawgs Project 2013

To our OD&P Friends,

The Dawgs Project has just completed year 5 at Naval Base Ventura, 16 November. Hard to believe that this was our event #96 since March 2008! On behalf of all the Old Dawgs and Patriots of The Dawgs Project, I want to thank each and every one of you who have supported our outreach effort for another year. We had the privilege of having our VDHA Brothers stand with us at Nellis AFB this past October, and on three occasions - once at Fort Huachuca Army (2012), once at Wounded Warriors 29 Palms, and now Naval Base Ventura (2013) - we've had our active duty Air Force and/or Marine Young Dawgs show up at a feed event to provide chow to their Army, Marines, and Navy Brothers and Sisters - absolutely incredible.

Our 2014 calendar will be announced very soon - full of high focused events in support of the Young Dawgs of today's United States Armed Forces. We'll be announcing our 2014 Kennel Adoption, "Dawgs Of War" Memorial, and what might be our very first "off-shore" feed event for handlers of all four branches of service.

Our appeal for support of Laura Reynolds (TSgt Christopher Reynolds' wife) Vietnam Veterans Project was overwhelming - a major shout out to Perry Money and company for standin' with us. 2013 has proven to be another incredible dose of therapy for us Old Dawgs, a shot in the arm for our Patriot partners, and 2014 promises to see many more significant events in a history of significant events. To each of you, Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah, or Happy Holiday - your choice. Drive on!

Jon Hemp Co-Founder <http://TheDawgsProject.com> 2013 ~ Our luck has always preceded us . . . on a leash!

Other News concerning OD&P Graduates SSgt Mary Boyer – Spangdahlem Air Base, Germany

“I know I've been slacking since getting to Germany to keep you updated. Well I'm settling in and have started to work. Took me about a month to validate and certify on my dog Dirk. (Pictured below biting on a decoy). I am having fun working with him and enjoy the challenge. He is a big dumb puppy.

Of course I had to send photos of Tomy. One of him in front of the kennel at Spangdahlem Air Base and one of him on his daily walks, he pays particular close attention to the sheep all around here, but he doesn't mind the chickens that are also everywhere. I'm definitely in the German countryside. It is beautiful and reminds me of where I grew up so I like it. I have done a little traveling and have developed a taste for Belgium waffles”.



MWD Dirk gets a bite



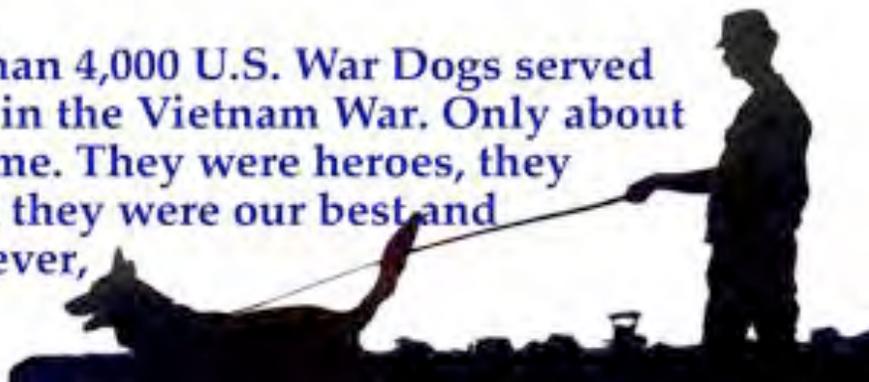
Retired MWD Tomy enjoying retired life – German style!

SSgt Mary Boyer and MWD Tomy were deployed to 376th AEW, Transit Center at Manas, Kyrgyzstan, in 2011. MWD Tomy was also deployed with SSgt Richard Lynn to FOB Salerno, Afghanistan in 2012.

MWD Tomy official transferred to “Fort Living Room” on August 6, 2013 after serving his country and his partners loyally. Due to his adoption by SSgt Boyer, he accompanied her on her PCS to Germany. Steve and Lise Gattis (CRB) supported both SSgt Boyer and SSgt Lynn during their deployments.

No explanation needed!

IN MEMORY - More than 4,000 U.S. War Dogs served in Vietnam and Thailand in the Vietnam War. Only about 200 were ever brought home. They were heroes, they saved countless lives, and they were our best and closest friends. We will never, ever forget them.



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

At the time of this report we have **31** members of the "Old Dawgs & Pups" program actively supporting **30** handlers assigned to six (6) kennels in Southwest Asia.

Our K-9 Supply program has been coordinated and funded by the "Old Dawgs & Pups" program volunteers. The supporters are members of the VSPA, VDHA, and friends of K-9. A total of 1,991 pieces of equipment has been delivered to our K-9 troops serving in the AOR from August 15, 2005 to December 15, 2013. "Old Dawgs & Friends" have supported **105** kennels and **388** K-9 personnel via our program. For additional information on the program please go to:

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

Please review, photographs, press releases, and more about our ongoing programs.

We have purchased and shipped **\$24,951.00** worth of supplies to **105** kennels solely via your personal donations. Including the Leatherman corporate and other noted major donations, our program has supplied at total of **\$91,385.00** to deployed Military Working Dog teams. Please note that this total does not reflect all of the "care packages" that have been sent directly by team sponsors and other organizations that we have been so fortunate to be involved with for this program.

Major List of Supplies Shipped by Old Dawgs & Pups

(For a complete list of supplies shipped contact Bill Cummings)

- 312 Leatherman "Surge" Tools (145 donated by Leatherman)
 - * The Leatherman "Surge"/MUTS/Flashlights/Knives/Toys donation is valued at **\$63,014.00**
- 266 Thailand Challenge Coins (Donated & Purchased)
- 205 Thailand Historical Base Patches
- 163 * Leatherman Serac S3 Flashlights
- 102 Guardian Pet Beds (Pet Edge)
- 102 Alpha Dog Challenge Coins
- 79 * Leatherman MUT Tools
- 75 * Leatherman Knives (Models: e33T, e55, e55B, e33L)
- 56 Kongs (Assorted sizes)
- 55 * Leatherman Wave Dog Toys
- 50 * Leatherman M5 LED Lenser Flashlights
- 46 Sponges
- 44 PSI Water Holes
- 40 Cleaning/Scouring Pads
- 33 Kygen Port-A-Bowls