

# 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



(01/15/2014)

**OVER EIGHT YEARS OF SUPPORTING OUR K-9 TROOPS!**  
**MORE THAN 380 MILITARY WORKING DOG TEAMS SUPPORTED!**  
**106 Deployed Military Working Dog Kennels Supported**  
**More than \$92,155.00 of supplies shipped down range!**  
<http://www.war-stories.com/odap/ws-odap-index.htm>

Hello everyone! We are currently supporting five (5) kennels and thirty (32) deployed Air Force, Army, and Navy teams as of January 15, 2014. January 2014 brings us to eight years and four 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 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

**Al Udeid Air Base, Qatar:** SSgt Kyle Shaughnessy & MWD Jaga “snuck home” for Christmas – and we bet he really surprised his family! Good times at Joint Base Charleston for the holidays!

**Ali Al Salem Air Base, Kuwait:** MSgt Donald Ellison should be packing for his trip stateside and the winter paradise surrounding Peterson AFB, Colorado. Thanks Sarge for allowing us to be with you on maybe your final K-9 tour?

### Pups arriving in the AOR

**Kandahar Air Field, Afghanistan:** SSgt Tyler Wiseman & MWD Ema deployed from the 17<sup>th</sup> SFS, Goodfellow AFB, Texas. The team is supported by TSgt Justin Kitts (New Active Duty Sponsor).

SrA Brandon Hinton & MWD Dan are deployed from the 377<sup>th</sup> SFS, Kirtland AFB, New Mexico. The team is supported by Mike Regan (NKP).

**Al Udeid Air Base, Qatar:** Mr. Michael Kyker (Retired USAF Master Sergeant), Trainer, is our first pup of 2014. Welcome aboard Sarge! Doc Hodges (Ubon/Korat) supports Mike!

SSgt Sean King & MWD Arco are deployed from the 319<sup>th</sup> SFS, Grand Forks AFB, North Dakota. This is Arco’s second deployment with OD&P. The team is supported by Scotty Baker (Safeside).

## **A Holiday Greeting Worth Repeating!**

### **Camp Tallil Air Base & Joint Security Station (JSS) Attack – Iraq (2009) and Spangdahlem Air Base, Germany (2013)**

**Is this one of the greatest “Holiday Greetings” you have ever seen?**



**Left: MWD Dog Katya sends her best to each of you from Iraq! We received this greeting photograph in December of 2009 from SSgt Justin Aycok – Nothing fancy – Just a great way to remember our warriors past! The team was deployed from Spangdahlem Air Base, Germany and supported by John & Joan Smith (U-Tapao).**

**Right: SSgt Shannon Hennessy recently returned from Afghanistan after completing a tour with Katya. The team must have “Wowed” them – SSgt Hennessy was recently the recipient of the USAFE Security Forces Award – Elizabeth N. Jacobson Award for Expeditionary Excellence – way to go Team Katya! Katya and SSgt Hennessy couldn’t resist sending us “Holiday greetings” from Germany – Still trucking and doing it great.**

**Here’s a little update on Justin: “KATYA/M228 is still on active duty, last I heard she was or had just completed a tour in Afghanistan. I’m off of Active Duty as of August 2012; I’m currently a traditional guardsman in the 145th SFS/NC Air National guard in Charlotte NC. I’m doing well, since getting out; I have gotten married and became a father. I’m also finishing up my degree in Criminal Justice and hopefully going to get back into K9 on the civilian side after I graduate”.**

**We’d also like to thank SSgt Mary Boyer – our BOG at Spangdahlem Air Base for helping us catch up with SSgt Hennessy and Katya so we could tell this story. Wonder if we can talk the team into sending us another “Holiday Greeting” wherever they are next year this time? Stay tuned for more next year.**

## **Old Dawgs & Pup Program Overview – September 2005 - December 2013**

Well, it's been eight years 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. Our original troops and sponsors on September 18, 2005:

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

Now Senior 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). Senior Master Sergeant Matt 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 Sergeant Randy Jensen is pushing dogs and troops with the 341<sup>st</sup> 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 106 kennels, and 388 military personnel since August 2005:

<b>Air Force MWD teams</b>	<b>366</b>
<b>Other Services MWD teams</b>	<b>19 (Army 15, Navy 3, and Civilian MWD trainer 1)</b>

The deployments have been assigned in the following countries:

<b>Qatar</b>	<b>53</b>
<b>Iraq</b>	<b>184</b>
<b>Djibouti – Africa</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Honduras</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Kyrgyzstan</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>Kuwait</b>	<b>31</b>
<b>Afghanistan</b>	<b>66</b>
<b>Korea</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>United Arab Emirates</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Saudi Arabia</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Undisclosed Location AOR</b>	<b>10</b>

The deployments originated from:

<b>USAF</b>	<b>55 – CONUS</b>
<b>USAF</b>	<b>10 – OCONUS (Germany, Guam, Italy, England &amp; Japan)</b>
<b>Other Services</b>	<b>12 – (Army 9 – CONUS, Navy – 3 CONUS/OCONUS, Civilian – 1)</b>

We have shipped 1,991 pieces of equipment valued at \$91,385.00 to 106 kennels and 385 personnel.



## 4<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division – MWD – Kandahar, Afghanistan



Left - SSgt Ian Porter, deployed from the 355<sup>th</sup> SFS, Davis-Monthan AFB, Arizona, spends some “kennel time” with his new partner – MWD Lana, at Kandahar Air Base, Afghanistan. This is Ian’s second deployment with OD&P and the first deployment for the team. As you can see, Lana has mixed emotions about the “cleaning process”. Jim and Nancy Stewart (TSN) support the team.

Right – SSgt Tyler Wiseman, deployed from the 17<sup>th</sup> SFS, Goodfellow AFB, Texas, and MWD Ema ramp up for a mission at Kandahar. This is the team’s first deployment with OD&P and TSgt Justin Kitts (USAFA and two tours with OD&P - now an Old Dawg) supports them.

## Last 455<sup>th</sup> ESFS Bagram troop returns home to Davis-Monthan AFB, Arizona



SSgt Paris Carman, the last K-9 troop from Bagram Air Field (Camp Kujo), returned home to Davis-Monthan AFB, Tucson, Arizona on December 22, 2013. SSgt Carman completed his tour as the last MWD Trainer at the 455<sup>th</sup> EBDG and he “closed the door” on the kennels at Bagram. Bill Cummings (his sponsor) and other members of the 355<sup>th</sup> SFS K-9 section met Paris on his return to “the world”. To Paris’ right is SSgt Aaron Escalante, a three-time OD&P deplorer, and kennelmate of SSgt Carman.

## 386<sup>th</sup> ESFS Ali Al Salem “The Rock”, Kuwait



**Above left: Nira decides to catch a small nap, making sure that her kong is well secured of course. On the right, you can almost hear Nira say “OK, put me down Mom, YOU are embarrassing ME”. NOT!**



**Once the heavy lifting is over, Nira resumes the position – yes that kong is still well secured. “OK, you woke me up – Now quit putting your feet up and play with me”. Look at that face! Something tells us that the kong is the magic bullet to Nira – she just won’t leave home without it. SrA Ashley Wendler & MWD Nira are deployed from 86<sup>th</sup> SFS, Ramstein Air Base, Germany, and the team is supported by Bill & Janice Cummings (U-Tapao).**



**386<sup>th</sup> ESFS Ali Al Salem “The Rock”, Kuwait - Continued  
Christmas greetings from Ali Al Salem**

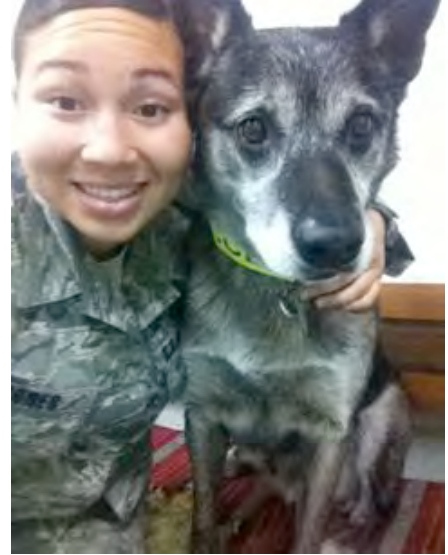


**Left: Rein"dog" Nira strikes a Christmas pose on the left. On the right, SSgt Henry Edwards and Blecki show that they were also in the “spirit” also for the holidays. Nira is SrA Ashley Wendler’s partner and SSgt Edwards and MWD Blecki are supported by Joel Burton (New Sponsor - USAF Retired)**



**A message from SSgt Henry Edwards “I hope your Christmas was full of many blessings. Blecki and I spent the day at work, but we still had a good day. Here are some Christmas pictures that we took. They team is deployed from 30<sup>th</sup> SFS, Vandenberg AFB, California and they are supported by Joel Burton.**

## 386<sup>th</sup> ESFS - Ali Al Salem, Kuwait - Continued



MWD Chester was already for Santa and then it happened – “Santa Clause was here? Santa was HERE and he brought great toys? Is this fantastic or what”? Happy, happy, happy - One happy MWD! SrA Angela Jones & MWD Chester are deployed from the 99<sup>th</sup> SFS, Nellis AFB, Nevada and they are supported by Steve and Lise Gattis (CRB). What a great looking MWD team.

## Christmas Eve Jingle Bell 5K Run at the Rock



SSgt Henry Edwards just sent us this message concerning an event held during the holiday season. “Our handlers participated in the Christmas Eve Jingle Bell 5K” – SSgt Henry Edwards tells us that everyone that was off duty participated in the “jog” and all the “dogs did amazing”! Nothing like a great little run to get you ready for the big “Santa day”.

Left to Right: SSgt Henry Edwards & MWD Blecki, (Vandenberg), SSgt Timothy Driver (Spangdahlem), SSgt Jarvis Beauchamp & MWD Rocky (Aviano), SrA Angela Jones & MWD Chester (Nellis), SrA Ashley Wendler & MWD Nira (Ramstein) SSgt Dwight Veon & MWD Buli (Tinker), SSgt Whitney Young & MWD Dano (Peterson), MSgt Donald Ellison (Peterson).



**386<sup>th</sup> ESFS - Ali Al Salem, Kuwait - Continued  
Kellie Pickler, "Every Moment Counts" USO tour**



**12/24/2013 - Country music singer Kellie Pickler notices a tiny remembrance flag on the Airman 1st Class Elizabeth Jacobson memorial during her seventh United Service Organization (USO) tour for deployed members at an undisclosed location Southwest Asia. Pickler visited "The Rock" in participation with the new, "Every Moment Counts" campaign encouraging all Americans to show troops their gratitude; Pickler's contribution includes a nine-day tour around the area of responsibility. (U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Desiree W. Moyer)**



**SrA Ashley Wendler & MWD Nira received a special surprise when they visited with Kellie Pickler during the USO stop at Ali Al Salem. Nira was making sure that no one got that close to the Ms. Pickler and the entertainers of the USA show – Someone was overheard asking "Who is that with Nira"?**



## **386<sup>th</sup> ESFS - Ali Al Salem, Kuwait – Continued**

### **The Rock's K9's receive new sun shade**

(Senior Airman Desiree Moye 386th Air Expeditionary Wing Public Affairs)

**1/4/2014 - SOUTHWEST ASIA -- The 386th Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron military working dog section opened a new sunshade training pavilion Tuesday, ensuring a safer training environment for their canine partners. Prior to installation, the K-9 teams performed repetitive training drills around the base in inclement weather and temperatures that reached into the 100's during the summer months.**

**"When our dogs train without protection from the sun, the scorching ground burns their paws," said, Tech. Sgt. Jason Fields, 386th ESFS MWD trainer, deployed from Davis-Monthan Air Force Base and native of Mesa, Ariz. Fields said heat exhaustion and burned paws sustained by the dog's leads to veterinary quarters, which impedes on their mission readiness. The sunshade was installed over a 14,000 square foot sandy training area to alleviate those injuries.**

**"There won't be a work stop due to rain and temperatures reaching upward of 120 degrees," said Master Sgt. Donald Ellison, 386th ESFS MWD kennel master, deployed from Peterson AFB and native of Yoder, Colo. "The dogs are more comfortable during training drills now." With sufficient square feet available for multiple handlers at once and taking only four months to fruition, the handlers believe it's an ideal structure for the four-legged warriors. "It's not only the accessibility, which allows more training and play," said Senior Airman Angela Jones, 386th ESFS MWD handler, deployed from Nellis AFB and a Lafayette, La. native, "but it's darn comfortable for Chester."**

**Senior Airman Angela Jones, 386th Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron, takes a break with her seven year old Belgian Malinois, Chester after his play time at an undisclosed location in Southwest Asia. Jones is a military working dog handler, deployed from Nellis Air Force Base and a Lafayette, Louisiana native. (U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Desiree W. Moye)**



**1st Expeditionary Civil Engineer Group J-2 team constructs a sunshade for the 386th Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron Military Working Dog section at an undisclosed location in Southwest Asia. Prior to installation, the K-9 teams performed repetitive training drills around base while dealing with inclement weather and temperatures that reached into the 100's during the summer months. (U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Desiree W. Moye)**

**Is this amazing or what? This sure reminds us of the training area at Luke AFB, Arizona that many of you have seen during our trips to the 56<sup>th</sup> SFS kennels in Glendale, Arizona. They sure have come a long way in protecting "our" valuable assets haven't they? It's about time.**

## A New OD&P Special Award for Active-Duty Troops Only



We created this beautiful challenge coin especially for our active-duty “Pups” in the War Zones who have displayed especially distinguished service, earning “Alpha Dog” status in our judgment. Each coin is individually serial numbered and will be awarded according to our strict criteria. To receive one of these, a troop will have to do one of the following: earn and be awarded a Bronze Star, Purple Heart, Combat Action Medal or other high-level military decoration; serve three deployments to a War Zone as an active Pup in our program, or perform an especially meritorious service, either for the Old Dawgs & Pups program or elsewhere.

These are two-inch diameter coins, significantly larger than the usual 1.75 inches. They’re also 3.5 mm thick so they’re much more hefty than the usual 3.0 mm, without being too heavy to carry. We will publicly announce in this newsletter when each one is presented to the troop who earned it, hopefully with photos of the presentation, and we’ll maintain a list of who was awarded each one. None will be for sale. As of now, there are only 100 of these to be awarded, numbered 001 through 100.

Each one that’s awarded will go along with a really classy-looking certificate, as a keepsake that can be displayed publicly for the special people who earn these special awards from the Old Dawgs & Pups program.

The 3-D image of the snarling dog on one side of the coin is adapted from a picture of an active-duty Military Working Dog in one of today’s War Zones. The image of the dog team on the other side of the coin is a photo of Air Force Security Police Sgt Alexander Liverano and Sentry Dog Dante, 632M. The photo was



taken on a base perimeter post at Takhli Royal Thai Air Force Base during the Vietnam War. The text and images on the coin memorialize the Old Dawgs & Pups program and the Thailand Dog Handlers who started and continue to manage it. The Latin phrase “*Curator Venator Noctis*” means Guardian Hunters of the Night. Please don’t try to buy one of these beauties because they are not for sale, and awarded only for the criteria listed above - BUT just wait to see what we’ve got for you, coming next month!

We hope all our supporters will be as proud of seeing this coin given to our troops who earn one as we are to be able to offer it. Each and every one of these people is a hero to us, and we’re honored to be able to recognize the outstanding service they give.

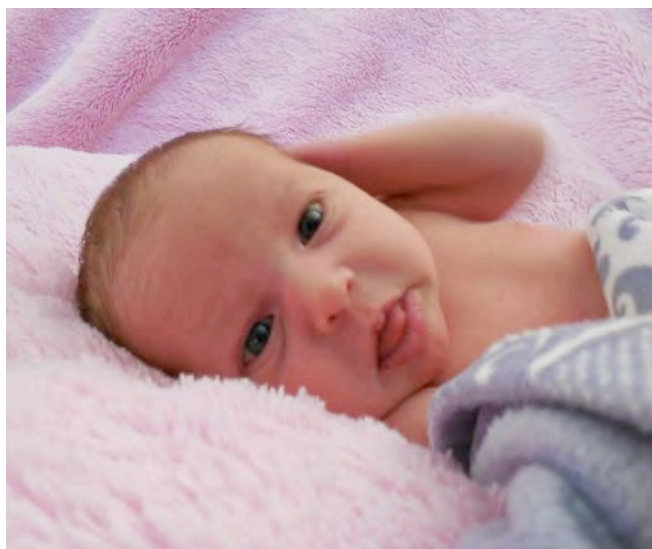
We think all of you will be excited to see what’s going to be available to you starting next month. Watch this newsletter for details!



## Other News concerning OD&P Graduates



**John and Carolyn Risse (Pleiku) visited with one of their pups during the holidays – in the photograph above, the Risse’s broke bread with TSgt Jason Adams and his wife, Tina, as they breezed through half of the United States during the Christmas holiday. The Risse’s supported Jason during his tour at Al Jabar, Kuwait in 2012.**



**We have a new dog handler in the “pipeline”! Kyle and Rachael Alltop are the proud new parents of Aubree June Alltop, born in November weighing in at 8.0 pounds with a height of twenty inches. Baby and parents are doing very well. Kyle was deployed from the 56<sup>th</sup> SFS, Luke AFB, Arizona, and did a tour with OD&P at Ali Al Salem, Kuwait and was sponsored by Bob Curnick (NKP). Thanks for sharing Kyle and Rachael – all of us at OD&P really appreciate the update and we miss you.**

**No explanation needed!**



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

At the time of this report we have **34** members of the "Old Dawgs & Pups" program actively supporting **32** handlers assigned to five (5) 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 2,075 pieces of equipment has been delivered to our K-9 troops serving in the AOR from August 15, 2005 to January 15, 2014. "Old Dawgs & Friends" have supported **106** 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 **\$25,721.00** worth of supplies to **106** kennels solely via your personal donations. Including the Leatherman corporate and other noted major donations, our program has supplied at total of **\$91,860.00** 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**
- 287 Thailand Challenge Coins (Donated & Purchased)
- 266 Thailand Historical Base Patches
- 163 \* Leatherman Serac S3 Flashlights
- 104 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  
31 Doggles (10 Pairs donated)  
29 Retractable Leashes (Pet Edge)  
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 Classis 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  
10 Heavy Duty Handled Pails – 9 Quart (Pet Edge)  
10 Stainless Steel – 3 Quart Dura-weight Bowls (Pet Edge)  
10 Helping Udders Reward Toys (Helping Udders)  
9 Hose Nozzles  
8 K-9 Bluelight Supplement (2 pounds)  
8 Cooling Wraps (Roshgo Corporation)  
8 Cooldanna Cooling Mats (Roshgo Corporation)  
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 20"/12" (3 each) Heavy Duty Cleaning Brushes  
4 Carabiners  
4 5" Heavy Duty Cleaning Brushes  
3 100-Foot Water Hoses  
3 Ceremonial K-9 Badegs (Memorial)  
2 Hose Reels – Wheeled Cart  
2 50-Foot Water Hoses  
2 Spray Bottles & Sprayers  
2 130-Foot Enclosed Hose Reels  
2 \* Leatherman EOD MUT Tools  
1 Large Patrol Harness  
1 Medium Patrol Harness  
1 Case Toilet Paper (30 Rolls)  
1 Case Drink Mixes & Snacks  
1 Syntek Hidden Sleeve (Ray Allen)  
1 Armor Carrier Shoulder Pads  
1 Molle Dump Pouch