

# 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



<http://thailanddoghandlers.com> - "Old Dogs & Pups"

(04/15/2015)

**OVER NINE YEARS OF SUPPORTING OUR K-9 TROOPS!**  
**MORE THAN 445 MILITARY WORKING DOG TEAMS SUPPORTED!**  
**120 Deployed Military Working Dog Kennels Supported**  
**More than \$99,139.00 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 twenty-seven (27) deployed Air Force, Army, and Navy teams as of April 15, 2015. April 2015 brings us to nine years and eight 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

Due to the worldwide security issues and concerns for safeguarding our troops, we will not be listing the name of the bases or countries, in which our troops are deployed. All locations will be listed as "Undisclosed Location Southwest Asia" (UDL). We are currently supporting troops at six locations in Southwest Asia. We have no new pups to introduce this month.

### Pups arriving in the AOR

**879<sup>th</sup> ESFS - UDL #4 Southwest Asia:** SSgt Jason Albrecht & MWD Cigan deployed from the 20<sup>th</sup> SFS, Shaw AFB, South Carolina. This is SSgt Albrecht's third tour with Old Dawgs & Pups, there by qualifying him as an Alpha Dog Award! Doc Hodges (Ubon/Korat) again sponsors the team.

**UDL #8 Southwest Asia:** SSgt Alexandra Springman & MWD Emor have been Forward Deployed to an UDL Southwest Asia. Jon Hemp (TSN) supports the team.

**379<sup>th</sup> ESFS - UDL # 1 Southwest Asia:** SSgt Robert Beaudoin, Trainer, has been Forward Deployed to this Undisclosed location. Bill Cummings (U-Tapao) supports SSgt Beaudoin.

### Pups rotating home from the AOR

**380<sup>th</sup> ESFS - UDL #3 Southwest Asia:** SSgt Matthew Byrnes, Trainer, will be pulling chocks in the very near future and returning to the springtime weather at Grand Forks, AFB, North Dakota (all three days).

**UDL #7 Southwest Asia:** SrA Andrew Woodard & MWD PPrada should now be back in the world and enjoying the excitement in Las Vegas and Nellis AFB, Nevada in the very near future.

## Air For Paws – First Response Resuscitation Kits (New OD&P Partner)



Old Dawgs & Pups, in co-operation with “Air for Paws”, ([www.AirForPaws.com](http://www.AirForPaws.com)) has obtained life saving first response Resuscitation Kits to be donated and provided to deployed Military Working Dog locations in Southwest Asia. In addition, at this time, equipment will be made available to several stateside United States Air Force installations if they are interested in the equipment for their kennels.

All of these personnel are medically trained to treat their canine partners in the event of emergencies. These bases will be dealing with many problems that this equipment would be very useful. We have asked that all units that receive this equipment to coordinate the use with their veterinary personnel that are responsible for the care of the Military Working Dogs under their care.

After providing the Air For Paws Resuscitation Kits, one Kennel Master provided the following feedback. “We are more than interested in having these kits for our unit, several if we could. The environment we work in and how much we work these dogs it would be a very helpful tool to have on hand. It could be the difference between life and death for these dogs”.

We believe this is the response that we will receive from the kennels that we support during deployments in remote locations worldwide. We feel the training video can and should be incorporated in training with the established veterinarians that are responsible for the care of our Military Working Dogs.

Each kit will contain the following equipment: (1) large resuscitation mask (ie; German Shepherds), (1) small resuscitation mask (ie; Malinois, etc.), (1) Ambu bag, (1) Oxygen Hose adaptor with Ambu bag, (1) Training DV/DVD, testimonials for Fire, Rescue, Police departments that have been supplied with this equipment, and (1) AFP Carrying Case for the equipment. (See photographs below)

Handlers, if you would like additional information to obtain this equipment for your home station, please reply to this newsletter to provide me with contact information of your Kennel Master or have your Kennel Master contact Bill Cummings, Co-Coordinator, Old Dawgs & Pups. Kits can be customized to fit individual kennel needs, for patrol vehicle or kennel use. Air For Paws will donate the kits and Old Dawgs & Pups will coordinate the effort on their behalf.

**NOTE:** The first of these units have been shipped to Units supported by OD&P in Southwest Asia.

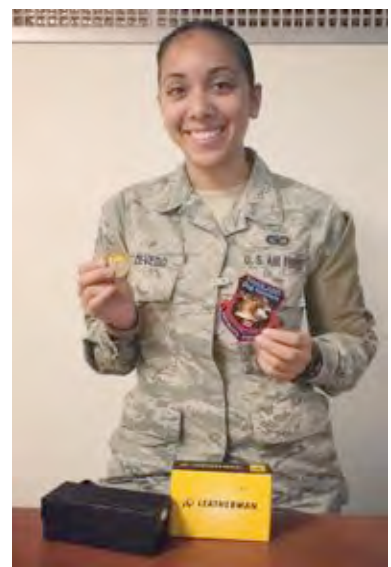


Please visit [www.AirForPaws.com](http://www.AirForPaws.com) for complete information on the “Air For Paws” Resuscitation Kits

*Look for more information and photographs next month!*

## Undisclosed Location Southwest Asia #1 – 379<sup>th</sup> ESFS

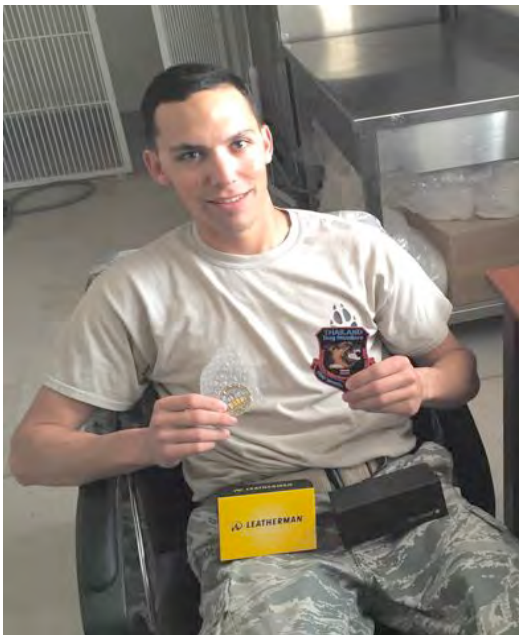
Our handlers at “Undisclosed Location Southwest Asia #1” just received their Thailand Handler gifts that included a “Signature” Thailand Handler Leatherman Surge, a Thailand Handler challenge coin, and a Thailand Handler patch. Thanks TSgt Andrew Rodriguez for distributing the gifts his troops.



TSgt Andrew Rodriguez displays his Thailand Handler gifts. Our Kennel Master is deployed from Joint Base Andrews, Maryland and Bruce Bond (58<sup>th</sup> IPSD) supports him.

SSgt Timothy Garrett deployed Joint Base Charleston, South Carolina, shows his OD&P Challenge coin. Doc Hodges (Ubon/Korat) supports SSgt Burnett, Trainer/Handler during his deployment.

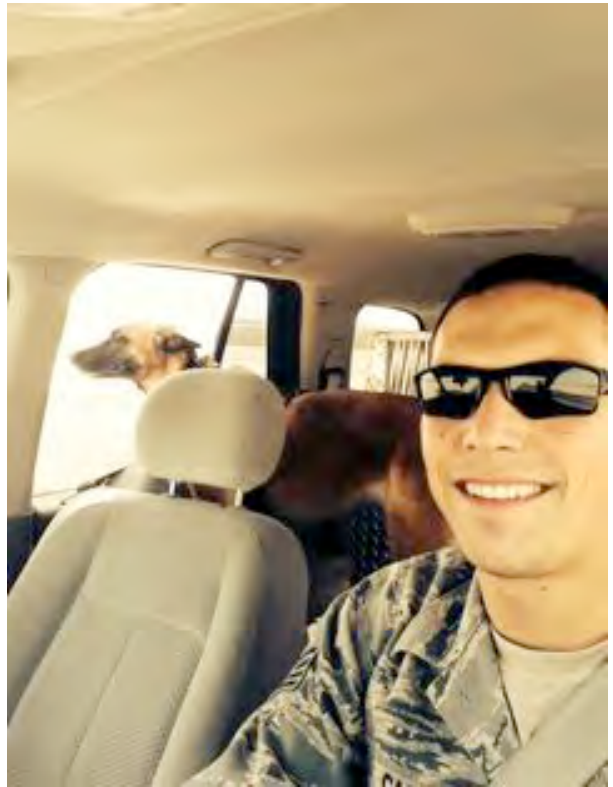
SrA Katrice Acevedo, deployed from Offutt AFB, Nebraska brings out all of the gifts she received. Jay D. Jones (Udorn) sponsors SrA Acevedo.



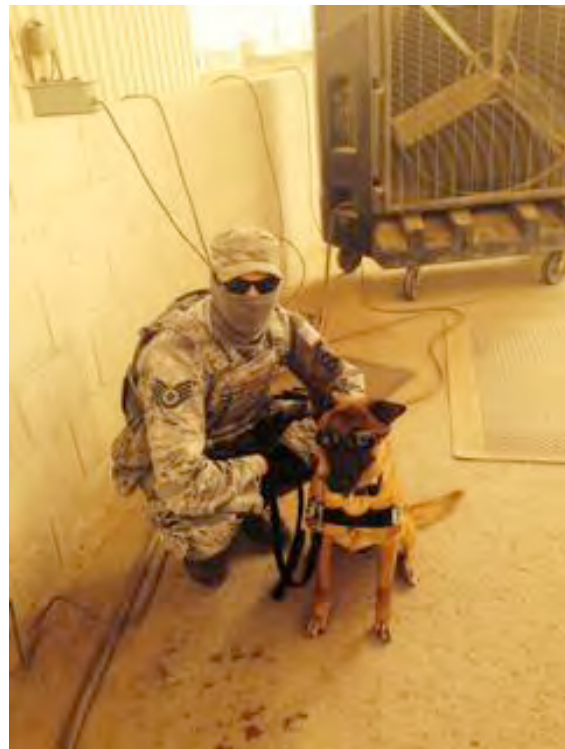
SSgt Jonathan Calo, supported by Christi Cryer (FoK) and Chuck Rogers (TSN), displays his Thailand Handler gifts. He is deployed from Joint Base Charleston, South Carolina.

SSgt Joshua Burnett gets a little help from MWD Jecky as they open their gifts. The team is deployed from MacDill AFB, Florida, and Rick Matott (Ubon) supports the team.

## Undisclosed Location Southwest Asia #1 – 379<sup>th</sup> ESFS - Continued



SSgt Jonathan Calo & MWD Ttilly take up an observation post at their deployed location. Word has it that Ttilly just loves watching planes land and take off! That is a dog with great “situational awareness”. Keep your eyes on them Ttilly and keep up the great work. The team is deployed from the 628<sup>th</sup> SFS, Jt. Base Charleston, South Carolina. The team is supported by Christi Cryer (FoK) & Chuck Rogers (TSN).



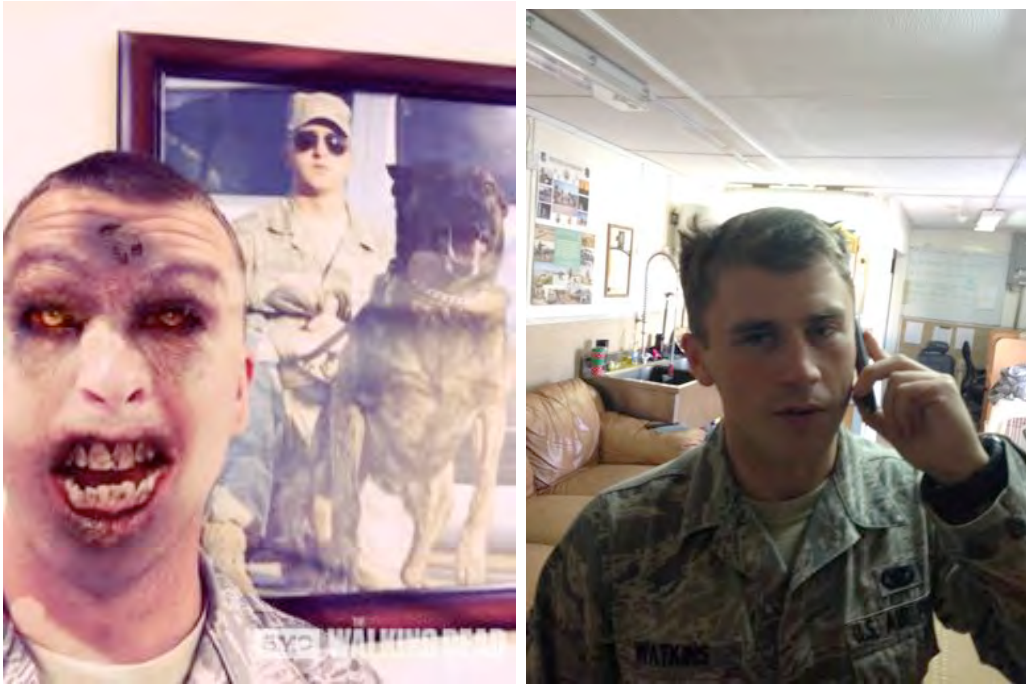
Ttilly is all geared up with some fantastic boots! When the haboobs hit you better be ready with your protective gear. As you can see, SSgt Jonathan Calo and Ttilly are more than prepared. Boots, doggles, glasses, and scarfs are exactly what these weather conditions call for and this team is good to go!

## Undisclosed Location Southwest Asia #1 – 379<sup>th</sup> ESFS - Continued



SrA Katrice Acevedo and her kennelmates show off their skills and tactics recently as they completed a K-9 demonstration at their deployed location. There was a challenge, an attack, a call off, and finally a wrap up on the K-9 capabilities. The final photograph, on the bottom right just shows you – sometimes all you need is “a friend” to bond with during deployment. Great looking dog team aren’t they? SrA Acevedo and Errol are deployed from Offutt AFB and are supported by Jay D. and Lynda Jones (Udorn).

## Undisclosed Location Southwest Asia #3 – 380<sup>th</sup> ESFS



There's something strange in the neighborhood – Who you gonna' call? That's SSgt Matthew Byrnes on the left (looks like zombies have struck) and SrA Steven Watkins making the call to report the attack (Now who's going to believe this call?! You know, sometimes you just got to let your hair down or up. Bob Citrano (NKP) supports SSgt Byrnes and Nancy & Jim Stewart (TSN) support SrA Watkins. These guys might just be having a little fun – pretty creative wouldn't you say? K-9 leads the way – Always!



We now know that these guys aren't all play and no work. The section was recognized as the Squadron Level winner and the Mission Support Group team of the Bi-Month. Left to Right: SSgt Justin Leon Guerrero, SrA Steven Watkins and MWD Bob, Trainer/Supervisor SSgt Matthew Byrnes, and Kennel Master Joshua Hayes accept the award on behalf of the kennels from Major Michael Jewell, Squadron Commander (SSgt Latisha Langley, SSgt Nicholas Taylor, and SSgt Brandon Miller were not available for the photograph). The team has won two back-to-back Squadron level team awards.

## Undisclosed Location Southwest Asia #3 – 380<sup>th</sup> ESFS - Continued



**SSgt Langley & MWD Lama were recognized by Base commander Brigadier General Quintas and Command Chief Alkoury. The team is deployed from the 30<sup>th</sup> SFS, Vandenberg AFB, California and Pat and Dave Broeker (U-Tapao) supports the team. Congratulations SSgt Langley for your teamwork!**



**Left: During a recent USO tour, SSgt Matthew Lenegan and MWD Kalo put New Orleans Saints #76 Defensive End Akiem Hicks on the working end of an attack suit while SSgt Justin Leon Guerrero takes in the show! John and Joan Smith (U-Tapao) supports SSgt Lenegan and MWD Bob and Jim Cox supports SSgt Guerrero.**

**Right: Following the demonstration, SSgt Lenegan receives a well-deserved handshake from Texas Titan # 76, Offensive Tackle Will Svitek who also visited the location with the USO tour.**

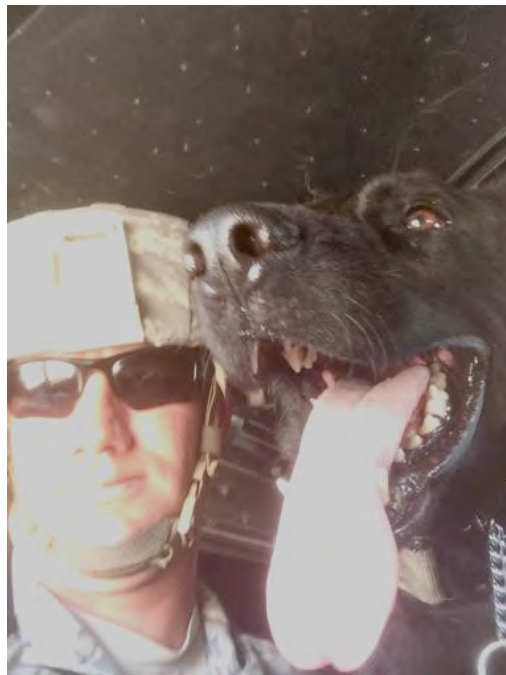
## Undisclosed Location Southwest Asia #3 – 380<sup>th</sup> ESFS - Continued



**Left:** Kennel Master, SSgt Joshua Hayes, completes his first ever half marathon (13.1miles). Joshua is deployed from the 60<sup>th</sup> SFS, Travis AFB, California and John Hemp (TSN) supports him.

**Right:** Well, we told you these guys have a lot of fun didn't we? As you can see, SSgt Matthew Lenegan and Kalo show us a little different approach to training. You know – this just might work!

## Undisclosed Location Southwest Asia #4 – 879<sup>th</sup> ESFS



SSgt Jason Albrecht and MWD Cigan are now Boots on the Ground (BOG) for their third tour with Old Dawgs & Pups. The team is deployed from the 20<sup>th</sup> SFS, Shaw AFB, South Carolina and they are supported by Doc Hodges (Ubon/Korat). With this deployment in the books, SSgt Albrecht is now our newest and our 20<sup>th</sup> Alpha Dog. Once he returns stateside we will have his citation and Alpha Dog coin presented at his home station. Thanks Sarge for deploying three times with OD&P.



## Undisclosed Location Southwest Asia #5 – 2015 Team Photograph

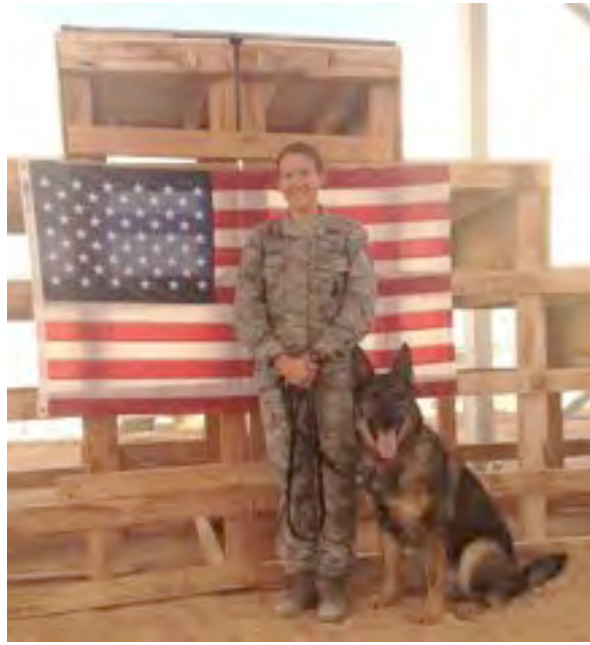


**SSgt Alexandra Springman/MWD Emor, Davis-Monthan AFB, Arizona (Jon Hemp Tan Son Nhut);  
SSgt Lucas Tripp/MWD Bak, Joint Base Andrews, Maryland (Jim Stastny Korat);  
SSgt Robert Beaudoin, Trainer, Davis-Monthan AFB, Arizona (Bill Cummings U-Tapao);  
TSgt Thomas Myers, Kennel Master, Tinker AFB, Oklahoma (Jon Hemp Tan Son Nhut);  
SSgt Brandon Gerrins/MWD Vivo, Joint Base Andrews, Maryland (Doug McCoy 47<sup>th</sup> IPSD); and  
SSgt Jordan Capela /MWD Sjem, Joint Base Andrews, Maryland (David Priest Korat)**



**Their counterparts join Air Force handlers at this location during a break in their training. The local program was established in the 1970's and continues during deployments with our pups. It's not hard to see that these teams enjoy working with each other. That is just "the dog world" we guess?**

## Undisclosed Location Southwest Asia #5 - Continued



**SSgt Alexandra Springman, joined with her partner Emor, reenlisted on K9 Veterans Day March 13, 2015. Congratulations Team Emor and what a great day to “re-up”! Jon Hemp supports the team.**



**SSgt Alexandra Springman presents gifts to SSgt Lucas Tripp (Left) and SSgt Brandon Gerrins (Right). Both handlers are deployed from the 11<sup>th</sup> SSPTS Joint Base Andrews, Maryland. Rumor has it that our Old Dawg & Pup patches have been added to their “dawg” gear!**

**Our handlers at this “Undisclosed Location Southwest Asia” just received their Thailand Handler gifts that included a “Signature” Thailand Handler Leatherman Surge, a Thailand Handler challenge coin, and a Thailand Handler patch. Thanks SSgt Springman for distributing the gifts to your kennelmates.**

## Undisclosed Location Southwest Asia #5 - Continued



Staff Sergeants Alexandra Springman and Robert Beaudoin, both deployed from the 355<sup>th</sup> SFS, Davis-Monthan AFB, Arizona, display their Thailand Handler Gifts. Both have deployed twice with Old Dawgs & Pups. Jon Hemp (TSN) supports SSgt Springman and Bill Cummings (U-Tapao) supports SSgt Beaudoin.

## Undisclosed Location Southwest Asia #8



Captain Kimberly Guest, SSgt Springman's home station "Operations Officer", greets the team on their arrival at the Forward Deployed Undisclosed Location. Thanks Captain Guest, from all of us at OD&P for taking care of the team for us! This is what you call a "WINGMAN"!

## **Other News concerning OD&P Graduates**

### **Senior Master Sergeant Promotions**

We are very proud to announce and report that two of our “Pups” were selected for promotion to Senior Master Sergeant in April. This brings us to a total of three (3) of our pups that are senior leaders in our career field. (S)MSGts Tracey Booth and Andrew O’Dell now join SMSgt Matt Rebholz on this very exclusive list. Congratulations to our two new Senior Master Sergeants. Here is a little background on our newest SMSgts! Ironically, both were deployed from the 355<sup>th</sup> SFS, Davis-Monthan AFB, Arizona. Must have been something in the water that they drank in Arizona that helped them along in their careers?

**TSgt Tracey Booth (Deployed from DMAFB)  
Bagram March 2010 - Cummings  
Tracey Booth, Master Sergeant, USAF  
Action Officer, Military Working Dog Program  
Action Officer, Training and Contingencies Branch  
Headquarters, Air Combat Command, A7STT  
Langley AFB, Virginia**

**TSgt Andrew O’Dell (Deployed from DMAFB)  
Bagram May 2009 – Cummings & Carroll  
TSgt Andrew O’Dell, Master Sergeant, USAF  
Superintendent, Contingencies Branch  
Air Force Security Forces Center  
Joint Base San Antonio - Lackland, Texas**



**TSgt Tracey Booth, Kennel Master just having a little fun during a “demo” at the 455<sup>th</sup> ESFS, Bagram Air Field, Afghanistan (2010). See, even Kennel Masters can have a great time training.**



**TSgt Andrew O’Dell, Kennel Master, Camp Kujo, Bagram Air Field, Afghanistan. This was the sleeve we provided to help them get up and running at the first kennel built at Bagram.**

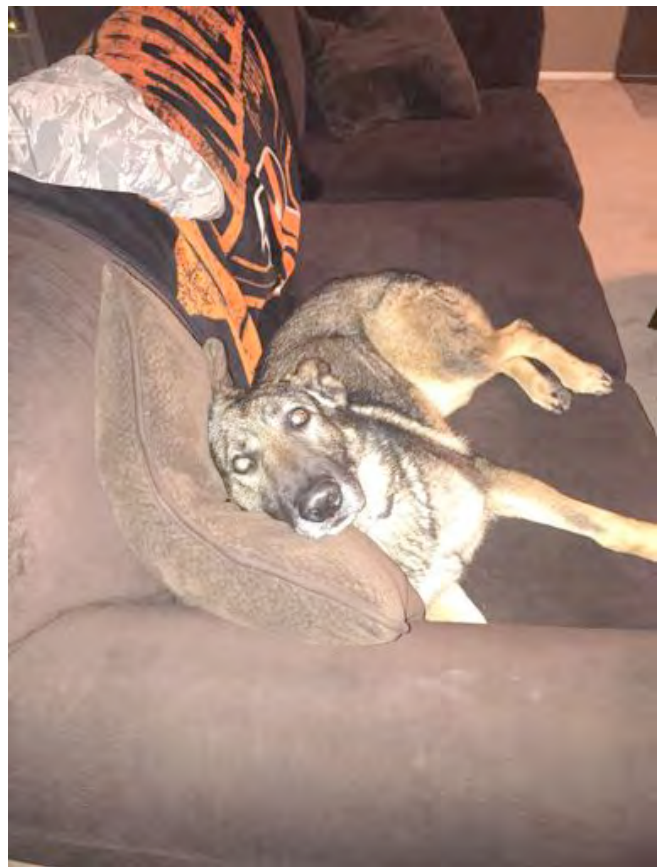
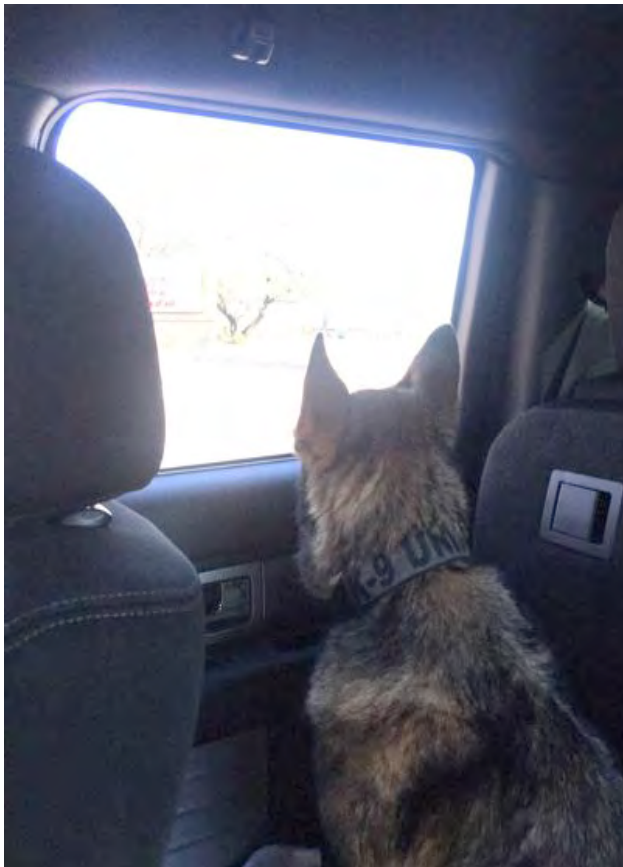


**Again, congratulations from all of us at Old Dawgs and Pups!**

## Other News concerning OD&P Graduates – Continued



MWD (Retired) Benny (M078) grabs his seat (not in a cage for the first time) as he leaves the kennels at the 355<sup>th</sup> SFS, Davis-Monthan AFB, Tucson, Arizona. On the right – old partners, MWD Benny and SSgt Bryan Klein get comfortable prior to the ride home – this time in a POV! The team deployed twice with Old Dawgs & Pups. They first were deployed to Joint Base Balad, Iraq, in 2010 and then again to Bagram Air Field, Afghanistan, in 2012. Peggy Finzgar (FoK) supported them during both deployments!



Benny gets his last look at DMAFB as he heads home to the Tucson area. Wonder what's going through his mind? He's now very comfortable in his home at "Fort Living Room". As you can see, he's very settled in now! Way to go Bryan - way to give a "HERO" a home after his gallant service to his country.

## Feed the Dawgs Project 2015 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 Dogs. 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.

2015 brings new adventures for *Feed the Dawgs* – They have expanded to **THREE** regions! Here are the contacts for the regions – if you are interested in participating in an event – just ping the POC and they will put you to work and make sure you share some quality time with the TROOPS!

**Southwest Dawgs (CA, AZ, NV, & TX)**

Jon Hemp - [jonhemp@thedawgsproject.com](mailto:jonhemp@thedawgsproject.com)

<http://thedawgsproject.com>

**Rocky Mountain Dawgs (CO, NM, MO, & TX)**

Kevin Sonka – [kevinsonka@comcast.net](mailto:kevinsonka@comcast.net)

<http://www.rockymountaindawgsproject.org>

**Northwest Dawgs Project (NV, UT, ID, & WA)**

Frank Wehner – [nwdawgs@fcwehner.com](mailto:nwdawgs@fcwehner.com)

<http://northwestdawgsproject.com>

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](mailto:jmhemp@feedthedawgs.com)

Here is the Feed the Dawgs upcoming schedule for 2015 – Get Involved!

You can view photos from all of our events on Facebook at "The Dawgs Project"

18	April	Yuma Joint Feed – YPG-IASK Yuma, Border Patrol @ Yuma PG, AZ
2-3	May	USMC Cpl. David M. Sonka Memorial War Dog Weekend, Denver, CO
		FEED THE DAWGS & Iron Dawg Competition @ Buckley AFB, CO
9	May	Kirtland AFB Feed @ Kirtland AFB, Albuquerque, NM
23	May	Jt. Northern Feed – Travis & Beale MWD Sections @ Beale AFB, CA

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

At the time of this report we have **26** members of the “Old Dawgs & Pups” program actively supporting **27** 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 2,229 pieces of equipment has been delivered to our K-9 troops serving in the AOR from August 15, 2005 to April 15, 2015. “Old Dawgs & Friends” have supported **120** kennels and **447** 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 **\$29,105.00** worth of supplies to **119** kennels solely via your personal donations. Including the Leatherman Corporation and other noted major donations; our program has supplied a total of **\$99,139.00** 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**

- 342 Leatherman “Surge” Tools (145 donated by Leatherman)
  - The Leatherman “Surge”/MUTS/Flashlights/Knives/Toys donation is valued at **\$65,614.00**
- 287 Thailand Challenge Coins (Donated & Purchased)
- 266 Thailand Historical Base Patches
- 163 \* Leatherman Serac S3 Flashlights
- 133 Guardian Pet Beds (Pet Edge)
- 102 Alpha Dog Challenge Coins
- 90 \* Leatherman M5 LED Lenser Flashlights
- 79 \* Leatherman MUT Tools
- 75 \* Leatherman Knives (Models: e33T, e55, e55B, e33L)
- 56 Kongs (Assorted sizes)
- 55 \* Leatherman Wave Dog Toys
- 54 Retractable Leashes (Pet Edge)
- 46 Sponges
- 44 PSI Water Holes
- 40 Cleaning/Scouring Pads
- 33 Kygen Port-A-Bowls
- 31 Doggles (10 Pairs donated)
- 24 Kygen 2-In-1 Food/Water Bowls
- 24 Rolls 26”x78” 20% Dark Limo Window Tint (Checker Auto Supply)
- 20 160 oz Stainless Steel Bowls (Pet Edge)
- 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 Air For Paws Resuscitation Kits (**Value \$1,000.00**)
- 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)
- 8 Cooldanna Cooling Mats (Roshgo)
- 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 Badges (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**