

# 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://www.war-stories.com/odap/ws-odap-index.htm> - "Old Dogs & Pups"

(5/15/2016)

**OVER TEN YEARS OF SUPPORTING OUR K-9 TROOPS!**

**MORE THAN 510 MILITARY WORKING DOG TEAMS SUPPORTED!**

**134 Deployed Military Working Dog Kennels Supported**

**More than \$144,773.00 of supplies shipped down range!**

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

Hello everyone! We are currently supporting seven (7) kennels and thirty-one (31) deployed Air Force, Army, Navy, and Marine teams as of May 15, 2016. May 2016 brings us to ten years and ten 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.

### **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 names 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 four locations in Southwest Asia. We have four (4) new pups to introduce this month.

### **Pups arriving in the AOR**

**Undisclosed Location Southwest Asia #5:** TSgt Jesse Hall, Kennel Master, deployed from the 820<sup>th</sup> BDG, Moody AFB, Georgia. Dixie Whitman (FoK) supports TSgt Hall. This is Dixie's 30th troop supported.

SSgt Tony Friday & MWD QQuake, deployed from the 820<sup>th</sup> BDG, Moody AFB, Georgia. Ken Smerecki (U-Tapao/Pleiku) supports Team QQuake.

SSgt Nick Chung & MWD Diyi, deployed from the 820<sup>th</sup> BDG, Moody AFB, Georgia. Our newest Old Dawg, Phil Mercil (Phu Cat) supports the team.

SSgt Brandon Wainscott & MWD Herkules, deployed from the 820<sup>th</sup> BDG, Moody AFB, Georgia. Bob Citrano (NKP) supports the team during this deployment.

### **Pups leaving the AOR**

**Undisclosed Location Southwest Asia #2 – 386<sup>th</sup> ESFS:** SSgt William Slifer & MWD Dio are heading back to Jt. Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, New Jersey due to a medical issue with MWD Dio.

**Undisclosed Location Southwest Asia #3 – 380<sup>th</sup> ESFS:** SSgt Kenten Yates & MWD Pixie are now back at Davis-Monthan AFB, Arizona for more desert weather!

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

[www.AirForPaws.com](http://www.AirForPaws.com)



It is our goal to provide lifesaving **Air For Paws Resuscitation Kits** to locations that support Military Working Dogs in the United States and around the world. We've shipped **420** Air For Paws Resuscitation Kits, valued at **\$42,000.00**, to the **115** Military Working Dog detachments and treatment facilities in Southwest Asia, Europe, Africa, Pacific Commands, and stateside locations for MWD teams serving in the US Air Force, US Army, US Navy and the US Coast Guard.

332<sup>nd</sup> ESFS  
Davis-Monthan AFB  
Seymour Johnson AFB  
JBSA/Ft. Sam Houston  
Hurlburt Field  
Spangdahlem AB  
Tinker AFB  
AFSFL/Jt. Base Lackland  
Mountain Home AFB  
Wright Patterson AFB  
Columbus AFB  
Jt. Base Elmendorf  
Jt. Base Lewis-McChord  
Sheppard AFB  
Eielson AFB  
Naval Sub Base New London  
Osan AB  
Jt. Base McGuire  
NAS Pensacola  
Jt. Base Pearl Harbor – Hickam  
Ft. Leavenworth  
Incirlik AB  
Ft. Stewart

379<sup>th</sup> ESFS  
Dyess AFB  
JBSA/Lackland  
Malmstrom AFB  
Grand Forks AFB  
Kirtland AFB  
NAS Bahrain  
Creech AFB  
Altus AFB  
Patrick AFB  
McConnell AFB  
Jt. Base Charleston  
Keesler AFB  
Ft. Huachuca  
Yakota AB  
407<sup>th</sup> AEG/ESFS  
NAS Fallon  
NAS Whidbey  
Ft. Myer  
RAF Mildenhall  
RAF Lakenheath  
Ft. Eustis  
Ft. Carson

380<sup>th</sup> ESFS  
Ellsworth AFB  
Laughlin AFB  
Whiteman AFB  
Travis AFB  
Edwards AFB  
HQ-ARCENT  
MacDill AFB  
Hansom AFB  
Tyndall AFB  
Little Rock AFB  
Goodfellow AFB  
Robins AFB  
Naval Base Ventura  
USCG – Seattle  
Earle NWS  
NS Everett  
Ft. Irwin  
Ft. Belvoir  
820<sup>th</sup> COS  
Ft. Meade  
Ft. Campbell  
386<sup>th</sup> ESFS Det

386<sup>th</sup> ESFS  
Nellis AFB  
Barksdale AFB  
F E Warren AFB  
USAF Academy  
Jt. Base Andrews  
ACC/Langley AFB  
Vance AFB  
Offutt AFB  
Cannon AFB  
Minot AFB  
Fairchild AFB  
Jt. Base Langley  
CNRSW San Diego  
USCG – Galveston  
Aviano AB  
Moody AFB  
JEB Little Creek  
NAS JRV New Orleans  
USFOR-A  
Ft. Riley  
Ft. Sill  
Peterson AFB

879<sup>th</sup> ESFS  
Shaw AFB  
Luke AFB  
Kadena AB  
Ramstein AB  
Eglin AFB  
RTC Ft. Bliss  
Hill AFB  
El Gorah  
Scott AFB  
Beale AFB  
Buckley AFB  
Dover AFB  
Kennel/Hold  
Holloman AFB  
Ft. Rucker  
Anderson AFB  
Ft. Benning  
Ft. Lee  
386<sup>th</sup> ESFS HUB  
Ft. Knox  
Ft. Polk  
OD&P Stock

## Heads At Ease Pillowcases



Our “Heads At Ease” pillowcases are on the way to our troops. We’d like to thank Sue Lamberson and her organization for taking care of our troops and hopefully to get a good night rest on pillowcases from home. Go to [www.navyformoms.com/group/heads](http://www.navyformoms.com/group/heads). Here are some of the pillowcases they have shipped.



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



**Kennel Master, TSgt Kevin Nelson, presented SrA Michael Castilleja (left) and TSgt Brandon Potts (right), and himself with their Thailand Handler gifts that recently arrived at this location. They were presented with our signature Leatherman “Surge”, a Thailand Handler coin and patch. SrA Castilleja and TSgt Potts are supported by Scotty Baker (Safeside) and Dixie Whitman (FoK), respectively.**



**Kennel Master TSgt Kevin Nelson and his “crew” completed an “exhibit of canine uses” for visiting members of United Kingdom military. SSgt Paralez with MWD Rogane and SSgt Hardy and MWD Nero demonstrated the use of our K-9 assets to the visiting group. Ernest Childers (Ubon) supports TSgt Nelson during this tour.**

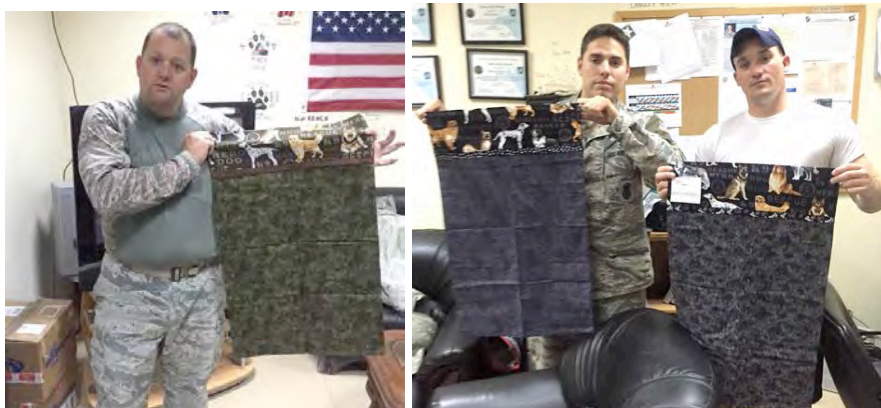
## Undisclosed Location Southwest Asia #2 – 386<sup>th</sup> ESFS



**SSgt Bill Slifer & MWD Dio and SSgt Kyle Smith & MWD Oopey just received their signature Leatherman “Surge”, a Thailand Handler coin and patch when their Thailand Handler gifts arrived. Team Dio and Team Oopey are supported by Don Graham (Tuy Hoa) and Mark Smooth (NKP).**



**SSgt Brett Huff just received his Thailand Handler gifts also. SSgt Huff is deployed from the 4<sup>th</sup> SFS, Seymour Johnson AFB, North Carolina and is supported by John Probst (Don Muang).**



**TSgt Jason Fields, SSgt Brett Huff, and SSgt Aaron Souza really aren’t doing laundry. They are showing us the Heads At Ease pillowcases that have just arrived at their location. We understand the pillowcases are being very widely described as a taste from home. This program sure appears to be a winner!**

## Undisclosed Location Southwest Asia #2 – 386<sup>th</sup> ESFS



SSgt William Slifer and MWD Dio take a minute to say goodbye to their kennelmates. Due to a medical condition affecting MWD Dio, the team is now back at the 87<sup>th</sup> SFS, Joint Base McGuire (Graham/Tuy Hoa) for treatment for Dio. As you can see from the photo on the right, the conditions for the flight aren't your traditional "first class" accommodations. "Is this anyway to run an airline – you bet it is"! Old core military transportation got the job done and got Team Dio home for treatment. Don Graham (Tuy Hoa) supported the team during their deployment.

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



SSgt Kenten Yates & MWD PPixie wait patiently as they remember the words to song "The Letter" by the Box Tops – "Give me a ticket for an aeroplane" as they await airflow back to "the world". The team is in the air as this edition goes to publication. Jon Hemp (TSN) supports the team from the 355<sup>th</sup> SFS.

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



**SSgt Brian Claypool & MWD Cigan put in some training time before a very special mission. Check out all of the photos and you will see why Cigan was rewarded for a job well done! The team is deployed from the 20<sup>th</sup> SFS, Shaw AFB, South Carolina, and Doc Hodges (Korat/Ubon) supports Team Cigan.**

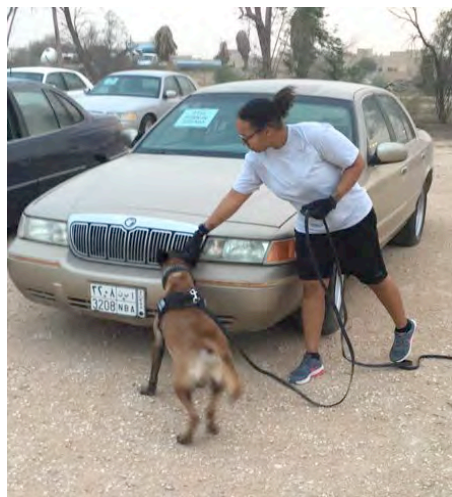


**SSgt Claypool and Cigan just received their Thailand Handlers gifts that included a Leatherman Surge, a Thailand Handler patch and challenge coin. Cigan is in charge of securing the gifts as you can see. On the right, SSgt Claypool immediately put the gifts to work as he used the Surge to make some needed repairs. The right tool for the right job - nothing like OD&P supplying the tools necessary to do the job!**

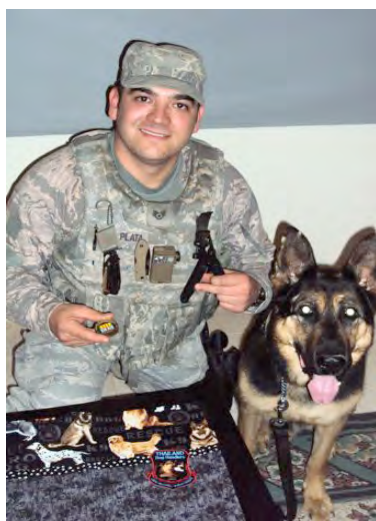
## Undisclosed Location Southwest Asia #4 – 879<sup>th</sup> ESFS - Continued



SSgt Krystle Draper & MWD Jop, deployed from the 49<sup>th</sup> SFS, Holloman AFB, New Mexico, just received their “Heads at Ease” pillowcases. Check out those smiles – what a great gift for our handlers. They also received their Thailand Handler gifts. Steve and Lise Gattis (CRB) support Team Jop.



SSgt Krystal Draper and MWD Jop getting in some training. It looks like Jop is all over this problem!



MWD Foxxo is really impressed with the Thailand Handler Gifts and the Heads at Ease Pillowcases that just arrived for the team. SSgt Luis Plata and MWD Foxxo are deployed from the 47<sup>th</sup> SFS, Laughlin AFB, Texas. John and Carolyn Risse (Pleiku) support Team Foxxo. They were sent our signature Leatherman “Surge”, a Thailand Handler coin and patch. Foxxo is IMPRESSED!

## Undisclosed Location Southwest Asia #5 – 407<sup>th</sup> AEG/ESFS



**SSgt Nick Chung & MWD Diyi spend some quality time with a member of a host nation MWD team. On the right, it's clear that Diyi is focused on the "reward". Phil Mercil (Phu Cat), our newest "Old Dawg", supports Team Diyi.**



**This is how you give a buddy a lift! It sure looks like Team Diyi are on point and are "Good to Go" for this deployment. The team is deployed from the 820<sup>th</sup> BDG, Moody AFB, Georgia.**



## Undisclosed Location Southwest Asia #8 – 332<sup>nd</sup> ESFS



MWD Body, deployed from the 436<sup>th</sup> SFS, Dover AFB, Delaware, with SSgt Jared Brown show off their Thailand Handlers Gifts that just arrived. Their signature gifts included a Leatherman “Surge”, a Thailand Handler coin and patch

## Other News concerning OD&P Graduates



As we reported last month, U.S. War Dogs has jumped in to help one of our retired MWDs in need of medical equipment following back surgery. Here’s what we received from SSgt Kim Harting. “Just want to up date you about Gina! I am proud to pass along that she has healed up even better than expected from her surgery (mass on her spline, full spline removable)! We got her in her new wheels tonight thanks to the US War Dogs. She was a little apprehensive to move at first but I think was tired of just being in one place so she got moving and took off! She’ll have to get used to the turns and turn around but I’m sure she’ll have it down in no time. I just wanted you all to see her in them and of course say a hug thank you to US War Dogs for graciously getting them to her and so quickly. Thanks again to Ron Aiello and the US War Dog Association for assisting one of our OD&P troops.

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

### **Old Dawg & Pup reunion**

Jim Stastny and pup TSgt Heath Hinton were able to get some “face time” for a quick reunion. TSgt Hinton was participating in a bicycle ride from Washington, D. C. to Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. Rescue 22, an organization that raises awareness concerning the 22 Veterans that are lost each day due to PTSD and Suicide, sponsored the event. He and others rode approximately 60 miles on the first day from the Pentagon (Washington, D.C.) to Frederick Maryland. The second day we rode 50 miles from Frederick to Gettysburg. More information on Rescue 22 can be obtained on Facebook or an Internet search.

Jim Stastny, his sponsor during his last deployment, made contact via Facebook and it turned out they were only minutes and a few miles apart. The two had a “good half-hour of Old Dawg and Pup time”. It was great seeing him again. This is what the Old Dawgs & Pups program is all about!



TSgt Hinton has deployed twice with OD&P. His first deployment was in 2010, at the 376<sup>th</sup> ESFS, Manas Transit Center, Kyrgyzstan, while deployed from Mt. Home AFB, Idaho, with MWD VVictory. Ken Smerecki (U-Tapao/Pleiku) supported the team. Jim Stastny (Korat) supported TSgt Hinton during his tour as the 386<sup>th</sup> ESFS Hub LNO while deployed from Jt. Base Charleston, South Carolina.

### **Military Working Dog Retirements**

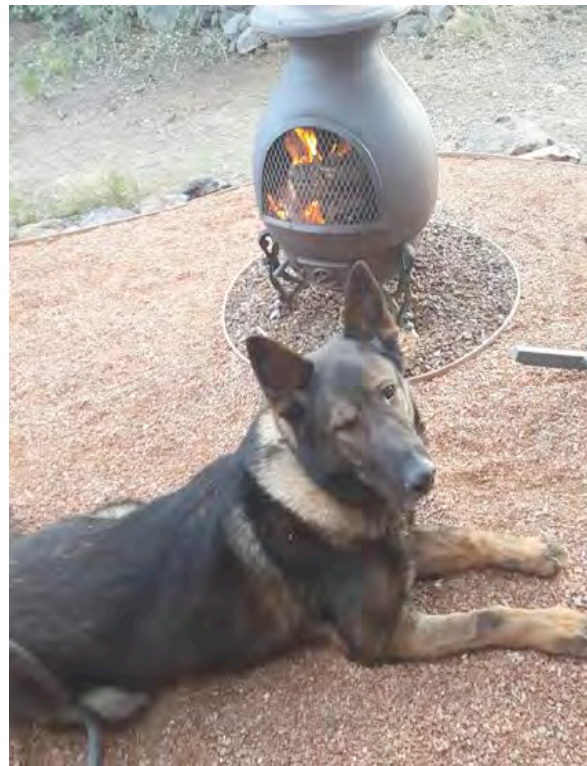
MWD Bruno (L652) and Dyngo (L606) have retired from service with the USAF earlier this month. We will have more information in the coming editions concerning their retirements. Here’s a preview.

MWD Bruno, deployed from the 355<sup>th</sup> SFS, Davis-Monthan AFB, Arizona, did three (3) tours with OD&P with SSgt Steven Gonzalez, SSgt Ian Porter, and SSgt Bryan Klein.

MWD Dyngo, deployed from the 56<sup>th</sup> SFS, Luke AFB, Arizona, did two (2) tours with OD&P with SSgt Justin Kitts, and SSgt Travis Dulworth.

## Other News concerning OD&P Graduates - Continued

### MWD Chrach's last run!



On April 17<sup>th</sup> at the 14th Desert Dog Police K-9 Trials in Goodyear, Arizona, MWD Chrach (N178) completed his “last official act” during the competition. TSgt Jessie Keller accompanied Chrach on his final run in the competition. Upon completion of the “run” Chrach was retired “on the field”. The handlers of the 56<sup>th</sup> SFS formed an honor line and former Trainer/handler SSgt Kyle Alltop was called to the pitchers mound. His fellow kennelmates saluted “Team Chrach” and the leash was passed to Kyle. Officially retired, MWD Chrach was reassigned to “Fort Living Room” on reserve status – just in case!

MWD Chrach, an 8-year-old German Shepherd, is a well-known hero to the DoD for deploying four times during his service. His tour included two assignments with the Army in Afghanistan and two in Kuwait. Serving alongside TSgt Keller, TSgt Steven Bruner, SSgt Scott Emmick, and SSgt Kyle Alltop he contributed to service connected awards including a Bronze Star and a Combat Action Medal for locating five separate improvised explosive devices totaling more than 170 pounds, and recovering 50 blasting caps that could have been used to make IEDs. Chrach has also been awarded the 12th Annual Animal Hero Award. He has not only saved the lives of many soldiers but he has touched the hearts of many people in the local community demonstrating the capabilities of police dogs and their handlers.

## Feed the Dawgs Project 2016 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.

2014 brings new adventures for *Feed the Dawgs* – They are expanding 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 [jonhemp@thedawgsproject.com](mailto:jonhemp@thedawgsproject.com)

**Here is the Feed the Dawgs upcoming schedule for 2016 – Get Involved!**

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

May 30	Brooklyn Memorial Day Parade – Truck & Trailer display (FDNY & NYPD)
May 31/June 1	Jt. Base Andrews, MD – Hog Roast
June 2	Jt. Expeditionary Base Little Creek, VA
June 4	Camp Lejeune Feed – NC
June 11	Mountain Home AFB, ID
June 18	Fairchild AFB, WA
June 25	Joint Feed Naval Base Kitsap, WA (NS Everett/NAS Whidbey Naval Island/Munitions Base Indian Island/Jt. Base Lewis-McCord)
June 28	Offutt AFB – NE
June 29	Ellsworth AFB – SD
July 3	Albert Lea MN Independence Day Parade – Truck & Trailer display
July 9	Grand Forks/Minot AFB Joint Feed - ND
16-17 July 2016	2016 Jason Norton Memorial War Dawg Weekend (Pending) Coast Guard SFO, Alameda, California

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

At the time of this report we have **25** members of the "Old Dawgs & Pups" program actively supporting **29** handlers assigned to seven (7) 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 2,748 pieces of equipment has been delivered to our K-9 troops serving in the AOR from August 15, 2005 to May 15, 2016. "Old Dawgs & Friends" have supported **134** kennels and **510** 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 **\$31,329.00** worth of supplies to **134** kennels solely via your personal donations. Including the Leatherman Corporation, Air For Paws, Inc., and other noted major donations; our program has supplied a total of **\$144,773.00** 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

- 410 Air For Paws Resuscitation Kits valued at **\$41,000.00**
- 357 Leatherman "Surge" Tools (**150 donated by Leatherman**)
  - The Leatherman "Surge"/MUTS/Flashlights/Knives/Toys donation is valued at **\$69,024.00**
- 287 Thailand Challenge Coins (Donated & Purchased)
- 266 Thailand Historical Base Patches
- 203 \* Leatherman Serac S3 Flashlights
- 148 Guardian Pet Beds (Pet Edge)
- 102 Alpha Dog Challenge Coins
- 95 \* Leatherman M5 LED Lenser Flashlights
- 79 \* Leatherman MUT Tools
- 75 \* Leatherman Knives (Models: e33T, e55, e55B, e33L)
- 62 Retractable Leashes (Pet Edge)
- 56 Kongs (Assorted sizes)
- 55 \* Leatherman Wave Dog Toys
- 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)
- 20 Flat Sided Stainless Steel Water Pails (Pet Edge)
- 20 Bucket Clips (Pet Edge)
- 19 VSPA Challenge Coins (Donated & Purchased)
- 16 Cooling Vests & Extra Cooling Packs (Helping Udders) valued at **\$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 Heavy Guard Handled Water Pails
- 10 Muzzles

- 10 **RexSpecs Goggles**
- 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)**
- 7 **20”/12” (3 each) Heavy Duty Cleaning Brushes**
- 4 **Carabineers**
- 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**