

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”

(March 15, 2018)

OVER TWELVE YEARS SUPPORTING OUR K-9 TROOPS!

MORE THAN 580 MILITARY WORKING DOG TEAMS SUPPORTED!

154 Deployed Military Working Dog Kennels Supported

More than \$154,539.00 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 eleven (11) deployed Air Force, Army, Navy, and Marine teams as of March 15, 2018. March 2018 brings us to twelve 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. We are currently supporting troops at seven locations in Southwest Asia. We have one (1) new troop to introduce this month.

Area of Operation Status - K-9 Teams arriving in the AOR

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 five locations in Southwest Asia.

Undisclosed Location Southwest Asia #2 – 386th ESFS: SSgt Kody Rowlett & MWD Frenky are deployed from the 355th SFS, Davis-Monthan AFB, Arizona. One of our newest “Old Dawgs” and former “Pup” SSgt Kenten Yates will support the team during their deployment.



End of Watch - (R) MWD Mushe - October 01, 2008 - March 10, 2018



The 355th SFS, Davis-Monthan AFB, Arizona, lost another hero. RMWD Mushe (R067) crossed the “Rainbow Bridge” on March 10, 2018. The “Mush Man”, one of the most brutal hitting MWDs ever at Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, was enjoying life at Ft. Living Room with SSgt Kody Rowlett and his family in retirement. MWD Mushe served three tours with OD&P with SSgt Aaron Escalante (Afghanistan 2011/AI Udeid 2013) and SSgt Sean McKenna (Al Dhafra 2014). Mushe, you will be missed and you are a hero! We salute you for your service in protection of our country. Rest easy Mush Man.

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

www.AirForPaws.com



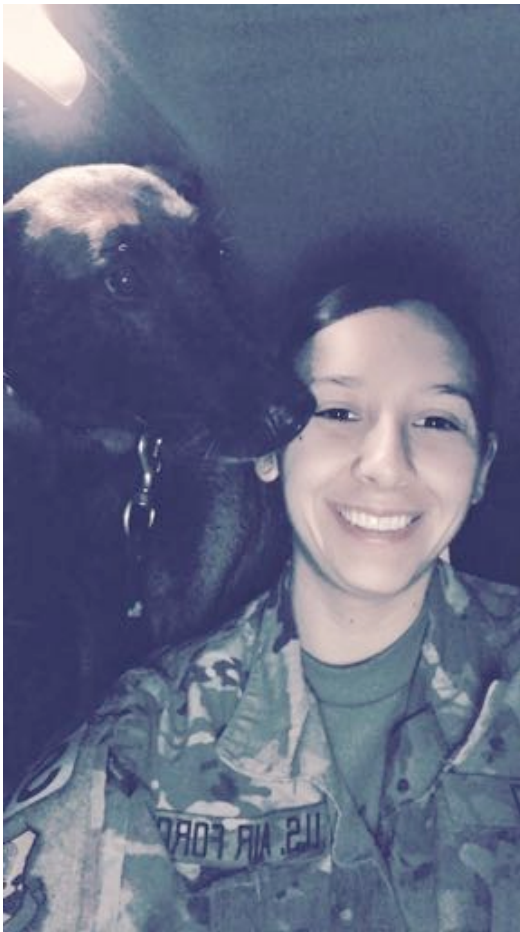
It is our goal to provide lifesaving **Air For Paws Resuscitation Kits** to locations that support Military Working Dogs in the United States and around the world. We’ve shipped **420** Air For Paws Resuscitation Kits, valued at **\$42,000.00**, to the **115** Military Working Dog detachments and treatment 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 nd ESFS | 379 th ESFS | 380 th ESFS | 386 th ESFS | 879 th ESFS |
| Davis-Monthan AFB | Dyess AFB | Ellsworth AFB | Nellis AFB | Shaw AFB |
| Seymour Johnson AFB | JBSA/Lackland | Laughlin AFB | Barksdale AFB | Luke AFB |
| JBSA/Ft. Sam Houston | Malmstrom AFB | Whiteman AFB | F E Warren AFB | Kadena AB |
| Hurlburt Field | Grand Forks AFB | Travis AFB | USAF Academy | Ramstein AB |
| Spangdahlem AB | Kirtland AFB | Edwards AFB | Jt. Base Andrews | Eglin AFB |
| Tinker AFB | NAS Bahrain | HQ-ARCENT | ACC/Langley AFB | RTC Ft. Bliss |
| AFSFL/Jt. Base Lackland | Creech AFB | MacDill AFB | Vance AFB | Hill AFB |
| Mountain Home AFB | Altus AFB | Hansom AFB | Offutt AFB | El Gorah |
| Wright Patterson AFB | Patrick AFB | Tyndall AFB | Cannon AFB | Scott AFB |
| Columbus AFB | McConnell AFB | Little Rock AFB | Minot AFB | Beale AFB |
| Jt. Base Elmendorf | Jt. Base Charleston | Goodfellow AFB | Fairchild AFB | Buckley AFB |
| Jt. Base Lewis-McChord | Keesler AFB | Robins AFB | Jt. Base Langley | Dover AFB |
| Sheppard AFB | Ft. Huachuca | Naval Base Ventura | CNRSW San Diego | Kennel/Hold |
| Eielson AFB | Yakota AB | USCG – Seattle | USCG – Galveston | Holloman AFB |
| Naval Sub Base New London | 407 th AEG/ESFS | Earle NWS | Aviano AB | Ft. Rucker |
| Osan AB | NAS Fallon | NS Everett | Moody AFB | Anderson AFB |
| Jt. Base McGuire | NAS Whidbey | Ft. Irwin | JEB Little Creek | Ft. Benning |
| NAS Pensacola | Ft. Myer | Ft. Belvoir | NAS JRV New Orleans | Ft. Lee |
| Jt. Base Pearl Harbor – Hickam | RAF Mildenhall | 820 th COS | USFOR-A | 386 th ESFS HUB |
| Ft. Leavenworth | RAF Lakenheath | Ft. Meade | Ft. Riley | Ft. Knox |
| Incirlik AB | Ft. Eustis | Ft. Campbell | Ft. Sill | Ft. Polk |
| Ft. Stewart | Ft. Carson | 386 th ESFS Det | Peterson AFB | OD&P Stock |

Undisclosed Location Southwest Asia #1 – 379th ESFS



Merica! If you don't believe it ask MWD Venice.



Partners – they just do everything together. They patrol and they check maps and they just hang out together! Team Venice, that's SrA Vanessa Soto and MWD Venice are deployed from JBSA-Lackland and Steve and Lise Gattis (CRB) support them during this deployment.

Undisclosed Location Southwest Asia #2 – 386th ESFS

K9 handler learns from her canine student

By Staff Sgt. William Banton, 386th Air Expeditionary Wing Public Affairs / Published February 23, 2018



Above Left: Senior Airman Nicole Meyer, 386th Expeditionary Security Force Squadron, military working dog handler, rewards Nido, a Belgian Malinois, after training at an undisclosed location in Southwest Asia, Feb. 19, 2018. Meyer graduated from the military working dog technical school approximately a year ago and was assigned Nido after being notified of her deployment. (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. William Banton)

Above Right: Staff Sgt. Conner Patron and Senior Airman Nicole Meyer, 386th Expeditionary Security Force Squadron, military working dog handlers work Nido, a Belgian Malinois as Tech. Sgt. Eric Hoffman, 386 ESFS kennel master watches at an undisclosed location in Southwest Asia, Feb. 19, 2018. Handlers practice controlled aggression training with military working dogs in order to deal with hostile people. (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. William Banton)



Nido, a Belgian Malinois, waits for instruction from his handler, Senior Airman Nicole Meyer, 386th Expeditionary Security Force Squadron, military working dog handler, at an undisclosed location in Southwest Asia, Feb. 19, 2018. This is Nido's third deployment, his second to his current location. (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. William Banton)

Undisclosed Location Southwest Asia #2 – 386th ESFS – Continued

K9 handler learns from her canine student

By Staff Sgt. William Banton, 386th Air Expeditionary Wing Public Affairs / Published February 23, 2018

SOUTHWEST ASIA -- Moments ago, the joys of playing with a rubber toy were all he could think about; but now his posture has changed. Senior Airman Nicole Meyer, 386th Expeditionary Security Force Squadron, military working dog handler, deployed from Moody Air Force Base, Georgia, waits patiently and reassures him the training will begin soon. Nido, a Belgian Malinois, is ready to work. This is Nido's third deployment, second to his current undisclosed location, and Meyer laughs joyfully describing how he clearly remembers the location.

“Oh he definitely remembers,” she said. “Like the vehicle search pit, it's not always the most exciting thing in the world but he knows what he has to do and you can tell.” Speaking to Nido in a melancholy tone, which sounds smaller and more child-like, Meyer says “we are going to the pit today aren't we.” It is a testament to her bond with Nido, that she can punctiliously describe his emotional reaction to the location before they have arrived.

This is Meyer's first deployment as a handler. She graduated from the military working dog technical school approximately a year ago and has worked with dogs for a few months before she found out she was deploying and assigned Nido, a more experienced and confident dog. Meyer said the differences between a seasoned military working dog and a younger dog is as different as the colors black and white. She compared her first dog Buster to a toddler, young and energetic but new.

“It's pretty much like when you get to your first [station] as an airman 1st class and you're linked up with a staff sergeant,” she said. “That's Nido, and Buster was that airman 1st class.” Meyer says Nido doesn't require as much hands-on instruction, which has helped her overcome self-doubt, allowing her to build trust in her furry companion. “When I first picked him up, I doubted myself a lot. I thought I had to intervene when I didn't have to and presented things to him I didn't have to,” she said. “The handler that previously had him [said] just watch him, so I gave him the leash and he did it on his own.”

She said she would hover over top of him, like a helicopter parent. She would direct him to objects that either didn't require being searched or that Nido hadn't indicated as an object of interest. “He's taught me to trust him and let him do his thing, read him and if he needs help he will let me know he needs help,” Meyer said. She learned to be patient with him, to stay calm which built a bond allowing him to communicate to her.

She speaks about this bond with reverence, indicating that it may be an experience only understood by other military working dog handlers. “I just learned it travels down leash,” she said about how her emotions can affect how the dog preforms. “He teaches me, ‘hey don't get stressed, relax, be cool,’ because the stress will travel down the leash. If it travels down the leash it will go to him and he's like ‘what are you doing, calm down’”

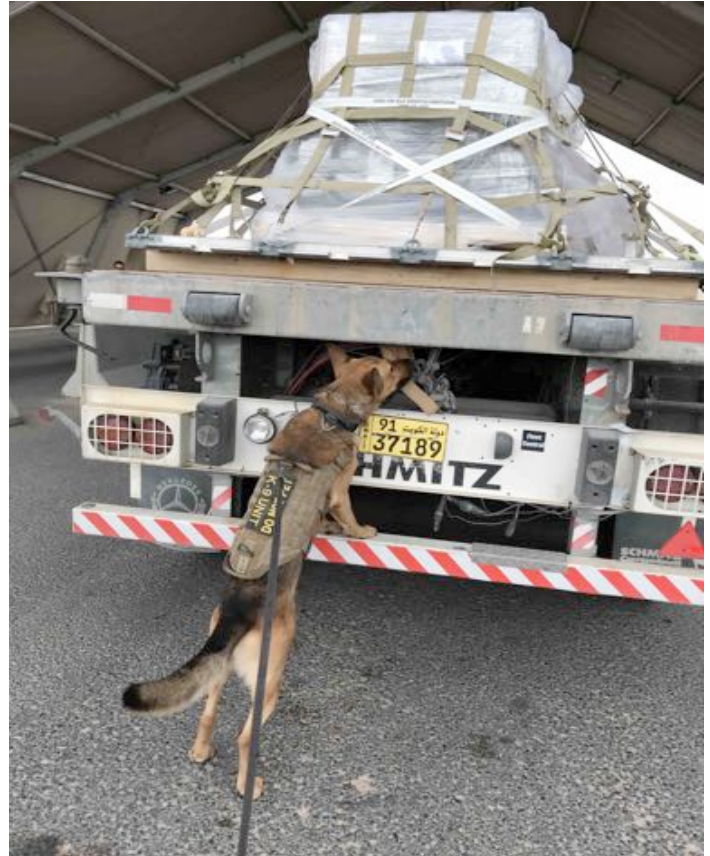
The bond between Meyer and Nido is obvious to those who are looking. He's constantly focused on a need for gratification that can only be provided by his master. The special way she ruffs up his fur. The high pitch and cadence change in her voice when she's praising him from afar. The calm and subtle way she says yes, giving him permission to take his reward. There is pride in her voice and a twinkle in her eye as she speaks about her friend.

“Nido, he's a cuddler, he's sweet, he loves attention, he loves to please his handler and it's cool how he flips that switch from protection to patrol,” she said.

“Yes they are [security] tools, but they are dogs and as a dog they have needs,” Meyer said. “They need to breathe and eat, but they also need to be comforted, they need attention, they need love.”

One of our newest “ Old Dawgs” and former “Pup” TSgt Mary Boyer supports the team during their deployment. Welcome aboard Team Nido!

Undisclosed Location Southwest Asia #2 – 386th ESFS – Continued



SSgt Kody Rowlett and MWD Frenky getting settled in for the trip to the 386th. On the right, Frenky was quick to get to work and rocking and rolling on the job already. Team Frenky is deployed from the 355th SFS, Davis-Monthan AFB, Arizona and Kenten Yates, a kennelmate and one of our new “Old Dawgs” will support them downrange during this deployment. Is this anyway to run an airline – you bet!



MWD Frenky seems to be settling in very well on his first deployment. He’s making sure his eye protection is “good to go” and he sure knows how to strike a pose! Yup, he’s the good looking one on this team! Sorry SSgt Rowlett – we just couldn’t miss this opportunity to rib you.

Undisclosed Location Southwest Asia #12 – ASG KU DES – U. S. Army

Our “Signature” Thailand Handler gifts have arrived at the ASG KU DES for SGT Travis Hawthorne and MWD Greco (Skip Davis 48th IPSD), and SPC Raven Vignati and MWD Max (Nikky Rohrig MWD TSA), and SPC Dakota Scott and MWD Levi (Bruce Bond 58th IPSD). The gifts included our OD&P Signature Leatherman Surge, OD&P coin and patch. Here is our “Army of three”!

Our POC at this location, Raven Vignati sent us this response to our gifts. Thank you SO much!!! These are so amazing. We are so grateful and appreciate it so, so much. Phil (Carroll) it's been so great exchanging pictures and learning about how everything was when you were a dog handler. I attached some pictures unfortunately were all on different shifts so Dakota couldn't make it when Travis and myself took a picture but Travis is with his MWD Greco and Dakota is with his MWD Levi and then of course my MWD Max! Thank you so much for supporting us on this deployment we are so grateful.



SPC Raven Vignati and MWD Max and SGT Travis Hawthorne and MWD Greco.



SPC Dakota Scott and MWD Levi.

Other News concerning OD&P

MSgt Pablo Martinez and partner MWD Argo F590 reunite



SSgt Pablo Martinez and MWD Argo – 2006 in Iraq



We just received this message from one of our first pups from 2006, then SSgt Pablo Martinez. “Fifteen years ago Argo and I were united as a team. After extensive research and countless phone calls my wife was able to track down Argos remains. As a gift, today (February 14, 2018) she reunited me with my best friend. I'm overwhelmed. I had to tell someone. He's displayed in my living room. And yes that Kong was Argos actual Kong that he and I had in Iraq together. I've kept it all these years.

Thanks Sarge for sharing this news with Old Dawgs & Pups. The Rainbow Bridge really does exist on earth. Partners that serve together are never forgotten. Rest in peace MWD Argo, yes you were and are a hero.

Other News concerning OD&P – Continued

Military Working Dog Egon retires

By: [jilliancoleman](#) March 2, 2018 Comments Off on Military Working Dog Egon retires

Though military working dogs are considered to be Air Force equipment with a serial number tattooed on their ears, to the 72nd Security Forces Squadron they are loyal defenders in fur coats. Military working dogs risk their lives, sometimes making the ultimate sacrifice, and expect nothing in return other than a little love and affection. The K9 possesses a skill set unique to that of a human with their keen ability to detect bombs, drugs, weapons and criminals.



Left: Military Working Dog Egon P792 retired Feb. 23 after serving a distinguished seven-year career. Egon enlisted in the Air Force in 2010, specializing in patrol and explosives detection, and was assigned to the 72nd Security Forces Squadron Military Working Dog section in 2011. He was adopted by his handler, Staff Sgt. Carlton Isaacson, after 9,700 hours on duty, 4,000 random vehicle searches, 800 hours of K-9 presence at installation gates, 850 perimeter walking patrols, two deployments and eight Secret Service missions.

Right: Military Working Dog Egon P792 is joined on stage at the Base Theater by 72nd Security Forces Commander Lt. Col. Keith Quick, his handler Staff Sgt. Carlton Isaacson and the entire Military Working Dog section during his retirement ceremony Feb. 23, 2018.

The military working dogs are more than the equipment they are labeled as. They are American patriots and deserve the same honor and treatment given to our nation's heroes. So in that spirit, homage was paid to one of the nation's four-legged warriors as MWD Egon/P792 retired from Active Duty in a formal ceremony Feb. 23. Born on Oct. 10, 2008, Egon enlisted in the United States Air Force and was accepted by Security Forces Aug. 24, 2010. As a distinguished graduate from both explosive detection and patrol dog courses at Lackland Air Force Base, Egon was assigned to Tinker Air Force Base in August 2011, where he has served faithfully since.

In the last seven years, Egon tallied 9,700 hours on duty. Of those hours, he conducted 400 random vehicle inspections, searched 4,000 vehicles and spent 800 hours at installation gates. Additionally, Egon patrolled 1,000 buildings and performed 850 perimeter-walking patrols. On top of the countless hours working at home on Tinker, Egon has also deployed twice, providing protection for more than 2,000 coalition and joint forces. Throughout his support in Operation Inherent Resolve and Operation Enduring and Iraqi Freedom, Egon tacked on another 5,000 vehicles searched and 200 buildings patrolled, while also performing 600 random anti-terrorism measures facilitating uninterrupted combat operations. And finally, the K9 conducted eight secret service missions, capping an already impressive career with his protection of the President, First Lady and Vice President of the United States, as well as Pope Francis' first visit stateside.

Military Working Dog Egon retires (Continued)

By: [jilliancoleman](#) March 2, 2018 Comments Off on Military Working Dog Egon retires

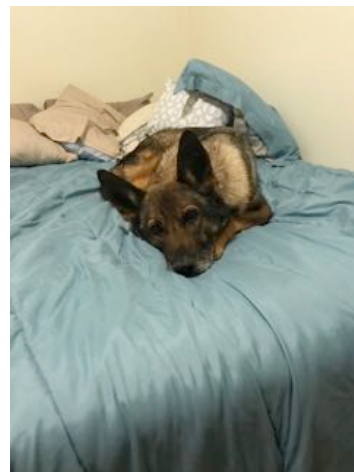
Lt. Col. Keith Quick, 72nd Security Forces Squadron commander, commended Egon for his unwavering dedication and service to his country. “This is a very special day for me and a very special ceremony to be a part of,” Quick said. “We’re celebrating a successful and proud career. Egon will never know the impact he has had and it is for that reason we honor his service.” Seven years of service included various handlers, all sharing a different kind of inseparable bond with one another. The culmination of his career was time spent with Staff Sgt. Carlton Isaacson, a seasoned member of the military working dog section and Egon’s newly adopted dad. The ceremony ended with the passing of the leash, symbolizing the transition from Active Duty into retirement. Egon will always be a loyal companion, though this time around his service commitment will be with Sergeant Isaacson and his family.

“We thank Egon for his dedicated service, and thank Sgt. Isaacson for ensuring he has a nice and well-deserved retirement,” Quick said. “A retirement that includes a comfortable bed and not the cold kennel floors, eating many treats that his former strictly enforced diet used to prohibit, and playing with toys and catching the occasional cat instead of sniffing bombs. He has certainly earned it.”



Military Working Dog Egon proudly displays his Meritorious Service Medal while Senior Master Sgt. (Ret.) Pete Piazza gives closing remarks during Egon’s retirement ceremony Feb. 23. Egon enlisted in the Air Force in 2010, specializing in patrol and explosives detection, and was assigned to the 72nd Security Forces Squadron Military Working Dog section in 2011. He was adopted by his handler, Staff Sgt. Carlton Isaacson, after 9,700 hours on duty, 4,000 random vehicle searches, 800 hours of K-9 presence at installation gates, 850 perimeter walking patrols, two deployments and eight Secret Service missions.

Note/Later that day: Retired MWD Egon enjoys Fort Living Room – Welcome to retirement Egon! Skip Davis (58th IPSD) supported Team Egon during their tour with Old Dawgs & Pups.



Thank you for supporting our Old Dawgs & Pups troops!

Thank you to MWD TSA, U. S. War Dogs, and VFW Post 7539, Bloomingdale, Illinois for the “Care Packages” that are arriving to all of the kennels and K-9 troops that we support in Southwest Asia. You guys are just damn awesome. Thanks for your continued support.



Feed the Dawgs Project 2018 Schedule

The Dawgs Project

<http://thedawgsproject.com/index.html>



We've finished up 2017! 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.

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

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

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

Jon Hemp - jonhemp@thedawgsproject.com
<http://thedawgsproject.com>

24 March Camp Pendleton, CA - Southwest Regional Kennels (Coasties & LOB)

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

At the time of this report we have **12** members of the "Old Dawgs & Pups" program actively supporting **11** 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 3,256 pieces of equipment has been delivered to our K-9 troops serving in the AOR from August 15, 2005 to March 15, 2018. "Old Dawgs & Friends" have supported **154** kennels and **583** 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 **\$33,960.00** worth of supplies to **154** 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 **\$154,539.00** 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

- 437 Thailand Challenge Coins (Donated & Purchased)
- 422 Leatherman "Surge" Tools (**195** donated by Leatherman)
 - The Leatherman "Surge"/MUTS/Flashlights/Knives/Toys donation is valued at **\$75,309.00**
- 416 Thailand Historical Base Patches
- 410 Air For Paws Resuscitation Kits valued at **\$41,000.00**
- 203 * Leatherman Serac S3 Flashlights
- 156 Guardian Pet Beds (Pet Edge)
- 120 K-9 Patches/Decals and other AllK9Stuff and AllPoliceStuff (Gifts to Handlers) (**\$850.00**)
- 110 * Leatherman M5 LED & T7M Lenser Flashlights
- 102 Alpha Dog Challenge Coins
- 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