

# THAILAND DOG HANDLERS

USAF Dog Handlers Who Defended Front-Line Combat Air Bases In Thailand Throughout The Vietnam War

(04/15/10)

## **OVER FOUR YEARS OF SUPPORTING OUR K-9 TROOPS!**

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

Hello everyone! We are currently supporting nine (9) kennels and twenty (20) deployed Air Force, Army, and Navy teams as of April 15, 2010. April 2010 brings us to four 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**

We are currently supporting troops at FOB Warrior, FOB Falcon, Camp Cropper, Joint Base Balad, Iraq; Bagram Air Base and FOB Salerno/Bagram Afghanistan; Al Udeid Air Base, Qatar; Al Dhafra Air Base, United Arab Emirates (UAE), and Manas Air Base, Kyrgyzstan. We have four (4) new Pups to introduce this month.

#### **Pups heading home from the AOR**

**Joint Base Balad, Iraq:** Teams on the way home are TSgt Mark Delcambre/MWD Kim, SSgt David Simpson/MWD Robson, SrA Felipe Alvarado/MWD Pike, SSgt David Bieck/MWD Marco, SSgt William Booker/MWD Kebek, and SSgt Scott/MWD Rex are returning home.

**Bagram, Afghanistan:** SSgt Lealofi Lealofi & MWD Jack are headed back to Elmendorf, Alaska. They were supported by Dale & Debbie Burton (U-Tapao).

SSgt Michael Gwin & Rex are waiting for their relief to rotate back to Dyess, Texas. The team was supported by Kelly Bateman (Ubon).

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

**Bagram Air Base, Afghanistan:** SSgt Matthew Plunkett & MWD Vero are deployed from the 66<sup>th</sup> SFS, Hanscom AFB, Massachusetts. The team is supported by Chuck and Holly Meaders (U-Tapao).

SSgt Loren Surly and MWD Asta are deployed from the 21<sup>st</sup> SFS, Peterson AFB, Colorado. They are supported by Mike Regan (NKP).

SSgt Ryan Craig & MWD Endy are deployed from the 21<sup>st</sup> SFS, Peterson AFB, Colorado. They are supported by Jon Hemp (TSN).

Sra William (Tyson) Naylor & MWD Max are deployed from the 366<sup>th</sup> SFS, Mountain Home AFB, Idaho. They are supported by Don Poss (DaNang) and Mary Hall Rutherford (FoK).

SSgt Jonathan Hartwell & MWD Dagi are deployed from the 6<sup>th</sup> SFS, MacDill AFB, Florida. The team is supported by John & Joan Smith (U-Tapao) and Virginia Gilliam (FoK).

**Joint Base Balad, Iraq:** The six new arriving at JBB from Seymour Johnson Tinker, Robins, Ellsworth, and Moody AFB. Stay tuned for more information as it becomes available!

## More Pups arriving in the AOR

**Sather Air Base, Iraq; OB Salerno/Bagram Air Base, Afghanistan:** SSgt Gabriel Bravo and MWD Mayo are deployed from the 56<sup>th</sup> SFS, Luke AFB, Arizona. The team is supported by Phil Carroll (NKP & Takhli).

SSgt Charles Messer and MWD Elza are deployed from the 42<sup>nd</sup> SFS, Maxwell AFB, Alabama. They are supported by Janet Wise (FoK) and Doug McCoy (47<sup>th</sup> IPSD).

## Profiles and Photographs of members of Old Dawgs & Pups



J. D. Jones and Sentry Dog Thor (76M5) during their tour at Udorn Royal Thai Air Base, Thailand in 1969-1970. On the right, Grandpa J. D. is enjoying his new position as grandfather as he spends some quality time with his new grandson Jax and of course his pal Abbey oversees the new arrival. J.D. hails from Wichita, Kansas and has supported 7 deployed Military Working Dog teams. Looks like you are doing pretty well at your new job J.D.

## Davis-Monthan AFB Handlers return home from Iraq & Afghanistan



SrATolbert Jefferies & Rex (Iraq) and SSgt Steven Gonzalez & Bruno (Afghanistan) both returned to Davis-Monthan AFB, Arizona, on March 23<sup>rd</sup>. Through the generosity of their home kennel, Bill Cummings was able to meet both teams at the airport and to welcome them home in person – This is something that is very special and it was just an honor to be involved with these K-9 teams. Welcome home guys!

## **455<sup>th</sup> ESFS – Bagram, Afghanistan gearing back up!**



We just received this photograph of the personnel assigned to Bagram. Ray Allen had just made a very nice donation of equipment to the kennel. They are pictured here with the Ray Allen banner. One of the handlers made a connection with the Kiowa Helicopter guys and they let them take this picture in front of their Kiowa.

Left to right: SSgt Lealofi Lealofi & MWD Jack, SSgt Stein & MWD Artus, TSgt Tracey Booth – KM, SSgt Steven Gonzalez & MWD Bruno, SSgt Kenneth Williams – Trainer, SSgt Kristina Reese & MWD Flint, and SSgt Nathan Goedert & MWD Argo.

## **The “Amazing Race” at Bagram Air Base, Afghanistan**

SSgt Gwin & Rex, TSgt Tracey Booth and the decoy – the last words were heard were “Rex is going to kill you”! “Last week we were asked to assist in the wing’s Amazing Race event. One of the events was to put on the bite suit and run a relay race or the smallest person had to take a hit from a dog. Of course everyone wanted to take a hit from the dog...not too smart. Well, Rex, slammed just about everyone he got to go after...including a Captain that he gave a nice bruise on the arm and broke her nail half way back...and to top it off...he dislocated an Army PFC’s shoulder. For a 9-year-old Mal...he hits like a train. It was awesome. Take care...and thanks for taking care of my guys” – TSgt Tracey Booth





## The “Amazing Race” – Continued

To view the video for the “Amazing Race” go to <http://www.bagram.afcent.af.mil/news/story.asp?id=123197354>

Then click on the box that says “**Bagram Airfield Video**”. The coordinator of the event had this to say about the MWD teams contributions. “The Camp Kujo/Mad Dog station was a highlight of many of the teams and we couldn’t have done it without you!” These two photographs are of the Captain’s bruise (tricep) and the PFC’s dislocated shoulder. Well you can’t see the dislocated shoulder but you can see the brace sticking out of his shirt.



Here are a few other candid shots of Rex opening up a can of “Whoop Ass” on the Amazing Race participants. From what we understand there was a whole lot of “Get him – Hold him Rex”!



Oh, almost forgot! “Have you met SSgt Mike Gwin and Rex”? Here are a few people that have and we think it will be a “lasting impression”. Can you say “Kicking butt and taking names”? Those of you keeping score – its Rex & the Gang 5 – Bagram Air Base Personnel 0.

## The “Amazing Race” – Continued



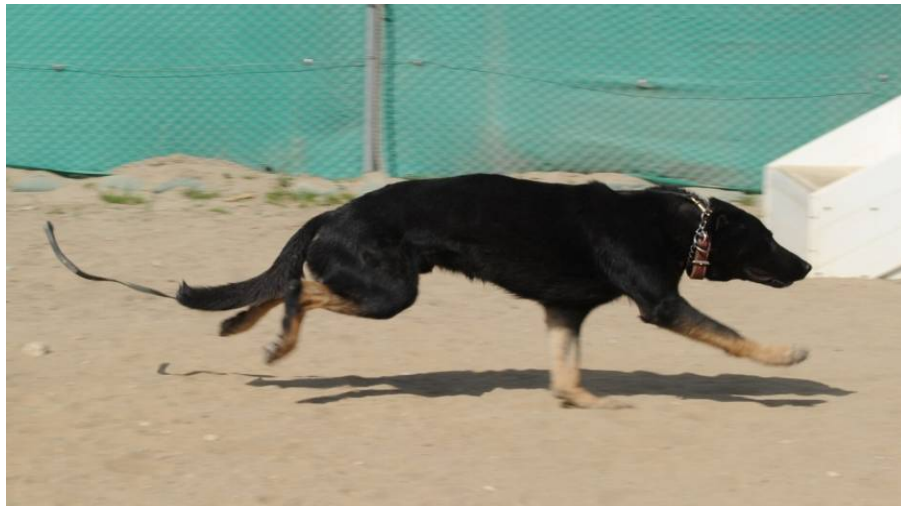
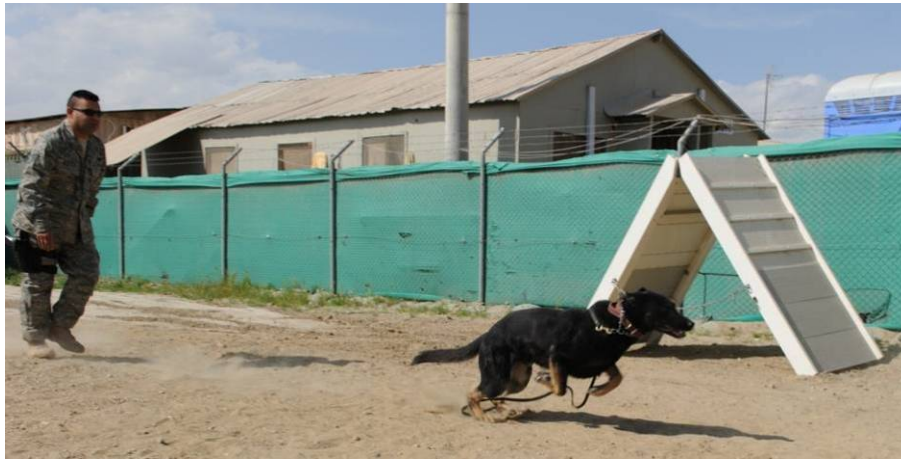
**At this point in time – the decoy sure wishes he was a plumber instead of a decoy!  
Way to go guys – they will remember this afternoon for a long, long time**



**Left to Right: Unknown, SSgt Ryan Craig & Endy, Unknown, SSgt Michael Gwin & Rex, Unknown, TSgt Andre Brooks, SSgt Jonathan Hartwell & Dagi, Unknown, and Kennel Master Tracey Booth in the center on the ground.**



## More Amazing Race at Bagram



**SSgt Jonathan Hartwell and Dagi participated in the demonstration during the “Amazing Race”. According to TSgt Booth “That dog is so damn fast it’s ridiculous and loves patrol work. He got the chance to take a couple of people down.....I think him and Rex (SSgt Michael Gwin’s dog) were having their own competition of who could house the most decoys”! Just look at the position of the decoy – he knows when the cause for paws have triumphed! Thanks TSgt Booth and members of the 455<sup>th</sup> ESFS K-9 section for sharing these great photographs with us!**



## Back to Work at Bagram Air Base



Left: SSgt Leolofi Leolofi & MWD Jack and SSgt Ryan Craig & MWD Endy prepare to mount up for the evening patrol.

Right: SSgt Ryan Craig and MWD Endy inside the MRAP – what a vehicle and what a team!

## 332<sup>nd</sup> ESFS – Joint Base Balad, Iraq - Election Postings



Left to right are SSgt Torres/MWD PPhantom, TSgt Christopher “Dog Father” Manning/KM and SSgt David Simpson/MWD Robson posting during high alerts during the Iraqi elections. Way to go guys – take it to the fight! We have six more teams arriving at JBB soon so stand by for incoming!

## **FOB Salerno – Afghanistan**

**SSgt Jerod Schley and MWD Baddy have moved to Bagram Air Base to join 415th Military Police Detachment. We have shipped doggles and portable water bowls to SSgt Schley and his troops. Thanks again MSgt Hugo Nunez for your assistance in supporting this team.**

## **447th ESFS – Sather Air Base, Iraq**



**SSgt Gabriel Bravo & MWD Mayo have just been deployed to Sather Air Base, Iraq. Many of you met SSgt Bravo at the VSPA reunion in Phoenix last year at the 56<sup>th</sup> SFS, Luke AFB. Gabe met us at the door and conducted the kennel tour and the fantastic demonstration. This is our first venture at Sather and we are really proud to have this dog team supported by Phil Carroll, who also served at the 56<sup>th</sup> – in Thailand. The photo on the right shows the true balance and training that our MWDs have today – NOT – Gabo and Bravo are just “having a ball”!**

**Also deployed to Sather are SSgt Charles Messer & MWD Elza from Maxwell AFB, Alabama. That team is being supported by Doug McCoy (47<sup>th</sup> IPSD) and Janet Wise (FDoK). How about that for a team supporting a team? Welcome aboard Gabe & Mayo and Charles and Elza.**



## **Military Working Dogs run final course**

by Staff Sgt. Jason Colbert  
56th Fighter Wing Public Affairs Office

**3/31/2010 - LUKE AIR FORCE BASE, Ariz. (AFNS) -- Three military working dogs here are due to be medically retired April 6, and took a final run at the kennel obstacle course March 25. The dogs and their partners are assigned to the 56th Security Forces.**



**Photographed above are MWD Roc adopted by SSgt Kyle Alltop, MWD Kisma adopted by SSgt Phillip Kittelson, and MWD Jampy adopted by SSgt John Pillarella.**

## **Military Working Dogs Retiring at Luke AFB!**

**On April 7, 2010 several members of our organization attended the retirement ceremony for three Military Working Dogs at the 56<sup>th</sup> SFS, Luke Air Base, Arizona. SSgt John Pillarella has adopted MWD Jampy (C115), SSgt Phillip Kittelson has adopted MWD Kisma (B266) and SSgt Kyle Alltop has adopted MWD Roc (D246). Bill Cummings joined TSgt Angel Landrau (355<sup>th</sup> SFS – Davis-Monthan AFB) and the members of the 56<sup>th</sup> SFS to celebrate the retirement of these three Military Working Dogs at Luke AFB, Arizona.**

**To conclude the ceremony, the three MWDs travelled outside the theater for their “official last bite”. Believe me when I say that they sure didn’t look like retired MWDs – the big end still bites! Left to Right: SSgt Phillip Kittelson & Kisma, SSgt John Pillarella & Jampy, and SSgt Kyle Alltop and Roc. It was a great day – it sure made you proud to have served as a dog handler.**



## More from the Military Working Dogs Retirement at Luke AFB!

Bill Cummings is photographed with the shadow boxes, proclamations, and “retirement bones” for the MWD teams – “It was the most impressive military ceremony that I have ever attended. Squadron Commander, Major Michael Borders made the official presentations and he did a great job” according to Bill. SSgt Justin Kitts was the Master of Ceremonies for the event and SSgt Charles Wilder assisted. It should be noted that Phillip Kittelson, John Pillarella, Justin Kitts, and Charles Wilder have all been supported by Old Dawgs & Pups. Many of you should also remember Kyle Alltop from our VSPA reunion last year – he was the one that tried to “Keep Up” – NOT!



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

At the time of this report we have **23** members of the “Old Dawgs & Pups” program actively supporting **20** handlers assigned to nine (9) kennels in Southwest Asia.

Our K-9 Supply program has been coordinated and funded by the “Old Dawgs & Pups”. The supporters are members of the VSPA, VDHA, and friends of K-9. A total of **1,105** pieces of equipment has been delivered to our K-9 troops serving in the AOR from August 21, 2005 to April 15, 2010. Over **286** “Old Dawgs and Friends” have supported **223** K-9 personnel via our program. For additional information on the program please go to:

[http://www.pbase.com/635thk9/old\\_dawgs](http://www.pbase.com/635thk9/old_dawgs)

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

We have purchased and shipped **\$14,433.00** of supplies for the **56** kennels solely via your personal donations. Including the Leatherman corporate and Helping Udders donations, the total is **\$46,918.00!**

Please note that this figure does not include all the goodies some of you have sent directly, or which came from other organizations we've been involved with but who shipped their donations independently. WAY TO GO K-9 SUPPLY!

**List of Supplies Shipped by Old Dawgs & Pups**



- 212 Leatherman “Surge” Tools (125) Donated by Leatherman) \*
- \* The Leatherman “Surge”/Flashlights/Knives donation is valued at approximately **\$29,065.00**
- 75 Thailand Challenge Coins (Donated & Purchased)
- 75 Guardian Pet Beds (Pet Edge)
- 75 \* Leatherman Knives (Models: c33T, e55, e55B, e33L)
- 52 Kongs (Assorted sizes)
- 45 \* Leatherman Serac S3 Leatherman Flashlights
- 40 Sponges
- 40 Cleaning/Scouring Pads
- 39 Thailand Historical Base Patches
- 33 Kygen Port-A-Bowls (Dressler’s)
- 40 PSI Water Holes (Dressler’s)
- 24 Kygen 2-In-1 Food/Water Bowls (Dressler’s)
- 24 Rolls 26’x78” 20% Dark Limo Window Tint (Checker Auto Supply)
- 25 Doggles (10 Pairs were donated)
- 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 (Dressler’s)
- 16 Classic Long Tooth Undercoat rakes (Dressler’s)
- 15 Classic HG Food Dishes (Dressler’s)
- 12 Coastal Large Slickers (Dressler’s)
- 12 Heavy Guard Handled Water Pails (Dressler’s)
- 10 Muzzles (Dressler’s)
- 10 Heavy Duty Handled Pails - 9 Qt. - (Pet Edge)
- 10 Stainless Steel - 3 Qt Dura-weight Bowls (Pet Edge)
- 10 Helping Udder Reward Toys (Helping Udders)
- 9 Hose Nozzles
- 8 K9 Bluelight Supplement (2 pound bags) (Dressler’s)
- 8 Cooling Wraps (Roshgo Corp)
- 8 Cooldanna Cooling Mats (Roshgo Corp)
- 8 Sets of Flood Light Bulbs
- 8 24” Heavy Duty Floor Squeegees
- 7 Digital Thermometers
- 5 Set of four Ruff Wear Bark’n Boots Grip Trex (Ray Allen)
- 4 Carabiners
- 3 100 Foot Water Hoses
- 3 20” Heavy Duty Cleaning Brushes
- 3 12” Heavy Duty Cleaning Brushes
- 3 5” Heavy Duty Cleaning Brushes
- 3 Ceremonial K-9 Badges (Memorial)
- 2 Hose Reels - Wheels
- 2 50 Foot Water Hoses
- 2 Spray Bottles & Sprayers
- 2 150 Foot Enclosed Hose Reels
- 1 Large Patrol Harness
- 1 Medium Patrol Harness
- 1 Drink Mixes & Snacks (Large Box)
- 1 Case Toilet Paper (30 Rolls)
- 1 Syntek Hidden Sleeve (Ray Allen)

\* **If you receive more than one copy – It’s a data base thing!**