

K-9 Supply Program



(01/15/07 – 02/15/07)

Due to my moving from Maryland to Arizona during January – this is a consolidated January – February 2007 update. Thank you to everyone for sticking with me and being so patient. Hopefully, I can catch up on everything in the next few weeks and get back in the saddle with everything that is happening with our deployed K-9 troops. OK – here we go!

Well, the holidays are now behind them and we have welcomed in a new year. It's going to be a great year for all of us – count on it! I've received word that all of the 820th troops (822nd, 823rd, and the 824th) at Moody AFB are now home safe and sound. We'd like to thank all of our Georgia Peaches for their participation in our program.

February 2007 brings us to 18 months of operation for our "Old Dawgs & Pups/K-9 Supply" programs. I can tell you that I have enjoyed every minute of both programs. 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 – all I can say is WOW!

For those of you who have made special donations, and headed up programs to support our troops in every way that you have – well, please understand how much we all appreciate your efforts.

An update on another of our special Technical Sergeants

We would like to congratulate TSgt Jason Somers on being named the Kennel Master at Moody Air Force Base, home of the 820th. Jason has been at the point of the sword for us and the pups at Moody since we first started our program. TSgt Matt Rebholz, who was the KM at Ali (and who is still one of our pups and a great friend and advisor), introduced us to Jason on September 7, 2005.

Jason and the 823rd were deployed to Kirkuk and that's when our relationship started – and it has been a ball ever since. We have had the opportunity to connect with over 17 handlers, trainers, and just all around great "dawg men and women" due to our association with the 820th. Once again Jason, congratulations and lets keep the ball rolling and get to work dude!

He replaces MSgt Mike Silvin, who was just a wonderful host to us when we visited the kennels at Moody. We wish the Master Sergeant all of the luck in the world on his retirement.

Area of Operation Status

We're still up and running at Manus, Camp Cropper, Camp Bucca, FOB Warrior, and Kirkuk. LSA Diamondback has been shut down for us. TSgt Matt Rebholz returned stateside on January 14th. Matt was assigned to Rick Matott and Marie Zeak. I spoke with Matt this weekend and he's back at Langley and doing great. He asked me to say hello to all and to once again thank every one for their support for him and SSgt Gwen Dodd (she was able to make it home during the holidays) during their tour at Diamondback.

At that time when Matt returned I was "iced in" with TSgt Jon Sarabia near Whiteman AFB, Missouri –as many of you know, Jon was my original pup and we had the opportunity to spend some quality – "snow and ice time" with Jon and his family. We had a ball! Thanks again Jon, Michelle, and the boys for putting up with Janice, Chelsie, and Raven during our trip across country.

Our "pups" from Camp Lemonier, Africa are now home and hopefully we will hear from them now that they are stateside.

RECOGNITION FOR LEATHERMAN

VSPA member Phil Carroll, and Juli Warner (Leatherman Tool Group, Inc.), display the items presented to Juli and Leatherman for their help with programs sponsored by the VSPA. Juli is holding a laser-engraved wood plaque thanking the Leatherman Tool Group for its generosity in donating and discounting equipment purchased by VSPA members for gifts to active duty USAF Security Forces Military Working Dog handlers in Iraq, Afghanistan and other remote, hazardous locations. The plaque now resides in Leatherman's executive conference room. The T-shirt was personally autographed by VSPA member donors and active-duty Security Forces troops with thanks to Juli herself for all her work encouraging the company's generous support. VSPA members who attended the October reunion will also remember the laser-engraved Leatherman knife that was sold in limited quantities to raise additional funds toward the donation program.



Outside Donations - Update!

(Report from Mike Diercks - Korat 75-76)

Command Chief Scott Dearduff of the 332 AEW Balad, Iraq sent me a email asking me if I could help his wife Maggs on a project. I contacted Maggs (we have known Scott and Maggs for 20 years) and she told me that she was doing a Christmas stocking project for the troops at the Hospital in Iraq. It would be called "Operation Red Tail Flyer" because the 332 was the Squadron that the Tuskegee Airman flew in WWII and they were known by their red aircraft tail. Maggs was outside Scott AFB and I was in Southern Minnesota. We contacted schools and churches and they wrote letters to the troops and we did newspaper articles and when it was completed. The Southern Minnesota area contributed 350 lbs of "STUFF" for the troops. Everything from lip balm to Christmas tree ornaments was shipped. Scott had given us a list of what was needed or requested the most so we had a good start for knowing what was needed. As of the 18th of December, the Command Chief had received over 100 boxes for the troops.

How about a little information on some of our deployed troops?



Top – L – R:	SrA Daniel McClain MWD Kevin	SSgt Steve Montez (KM) MWD Bruno	SSgt Russell McLaughlin MWD Max
Front – L – R:	SSgt Thomas Larosa MWD Pancho	MA3 Robert Pennington MWD Cindy	

The troops at FOB are supported by Fred Prudhomme, Ken Smerecki, Janet Wise, J. D. Jones, Terry Strickland, Dixie Whitman, Peggy Finzgar, and Mike Diercks

More on our Pups at Camp Bucca!

Here are a few shots of our troops at Camp Bucca – thought you might enjoy seeing them!
Don't you just love that Camp Bucca K-9 Section sign?



SSgt Christa Hofman/MWD Jago



SSgt Zachary Burt/MWD Argo

Kevin Bradley/ Korat

Supported by

John Risse/Pleiku



SSgt Erik Ellingson/MWD Dak have rotated stateside. He was assigned to Doug Lee (Korat).
Patrol photos of SSgt Ellingson and MWD Dak



More on our Pups at Camp Cropper!

In December we introduced SSgt John Grice and MWD Hhope. I thought many of you might be interest in the “Puppy Program” that was mentioned, so I asked John to update me on the process. Here are SSgt Grice’s thoughts on the program.

“As you probably know we buy most of all dogs from vendors from all across the world. Well the powers that be in the program at Lackland decided a few years back that instead of buying all the dogs from different people and most times not knowing exactly what your getting, was to get breed some of the really good ones that they have bought. So basically they have dogs at Lackland that there main job is to breed.

When the pups are born then are cared for by the staff for a month or so and then get to live (at home) with some on the trainers down there and they also except volunteers from within the community. The purpose is to let them grow up and just be loved and be a normal dog until they are old enough to start there training. The families usually get to keep the dogs until they are a 1 or so and then they are brought back to begin there training. So far it has been a GREAT program and I think it will only get better. Most of these dogs, like Hhope that I've worked with are absolutely AWESOME!! She's the biggest love hound that I've ever seen but can turn into your worst nightmare in a second. I hope this is what you were looking for, talk to you later. John”

So, when you see the “double first letter” in a MWDs name you will know that they are a product of the “Puppy Program”. For additional information, please visit Monty Moore’s article on the VSPA site: http://www.vspa.com/k9/puppy_program.htm

Here’s a little training photograph from Cropper – MWD Oolivia



Don’t you just love it?

**SSgt Patricia Hascall (Monty & Cathy Moore – VSPA Webmasters) and
SSgt Chris Jones (Doc Hodges/Ubon & Korat & Pete Villarreal/Safeside)
just relaxing and hanging out in Saddam’s throne – and we thought they had it tough?**



If anyone has kept up with the news, you will know that Camp Cropper has been the center of attention for many weeks. This has been a pressure filled assignment for our troops.

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

At the time of this report we have 33 members of the "Old Dawgs & Pups" program actively supporting 19 handlers at five kennels. **If anyone has information on any of our troops rotating home, please contact me with any information that you might have.**

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 **337** pieces of equipment has been delivered to our K-9 troops serving in Iraq from August 21, 2005 to January 15, 2007. Over seventy "Old Dawgs and Friends" have supported over **seventy-three** K-9 personnel via our program. For additional information on the program please go to:

http://www.pbase.com/635thk9/old_dawgs

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

We have purchased and shipped **\$4,729.00** of supplies for the 15 kennels solely via your personal donations. Including the Leatherman corporate donation, the total is **\$8,515.00!**

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!**

* The Leatherman "Surge" donation is valued at approximately **\$3,786.00**

60	Thailand Challenge Coins (Donated & Purchased)
52	Leatherman "Surge" Tools (30 Donated by Leatherman) *
47	Guardian Pet Beds
16	Coastal Medium Firm Shedding Blades
16	Classic Long Tooth Undercoat rakes
13	VSPA Challenge Coins (Donated)
12	Coastal Large Slickers
12	Doggles
12	Heavy Guard Handled Water Pails
8	K9 Bluelight Supplement (2 pound bags)
8	Muzzles
8	Kygen Port-A-Bowls
8	Cooling Wraps
8	PSI Water Holes
8	Cooldanna Cooling Mats
8	Sets of Flood Light Bulbs
7	Digital Thermometers
5	Classic HG Food Dishes
4	Kygen 2-In-1 Food/Water Bowls
4	Large Kongs
3	100' Foot Water Hoses
3	Nozzles
3	24" Heavy Duty Floor Squeegees
3	20" Heavy Duty Cleaning Brushes
3	12" Heavy Duty Cleaning Brushes
3	5" Heavy Duty Cleaning Brushes
2	Spray Bottles & Sprayers
1	Drink Mixes & Snacks (Large Box)

Note: Some of you may receive this twice. I apologize - it's a data base thing!