

## K-9 Supply Program



(06/15/08)

Hello everyone! Well we have paired up six (6) kennels and twenty-six (26) deployed teams as of June 15, 2008. June 2008 brings us to two years and 10 months of operation for our “Old Dawgs & Pups and K-9 Supply” 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

We just recently picked up another K-9 trooper at Camp Cropper, Iraq (418<sup>th</sup> MP Detachment). We were contacted by TSgt Max Talley, a graduate of OD&P and he had one of his troops’ that was in desperate need of muzzles, water bowls, and K-9 boots. I was on travel and I was like to thank Phil Carroll for getting the equipment out to SSgt Shawn Lindblom. There will be a few photos of SSgt Lindblom and his partner, Helena, later in this report.

FOB Warrior (506<sup>th</sup> ESFS), Manas Air Base (376<sup>th</sup> ESFS), Kyrgyzstan, FOB Rustamiyah, Baghdad, Iraq, (an Army detachment, 4th ID in support of 4th BDE 10th Mountain Division deployed from the 374<sup>th</sup> SFS out of Yokota AB Japan), Camp Victory, Iraq, and Camp Taji, Iraq are still up and running with our support.

We would like to thank everyone who has come on board to help us with our largest deployment since we first started OD&P. This is such a large task and saying thanks just doesn’t seem to get the job done – I just don’t know what or how else to say it but – Thank You to everyone who are supporting our deployed troops!

As many of you know, I’ve been away for about three weeks and I’m still playing catch up. So, until I back up to speed, I’d like to share some photographs and information concerning our deployed K-9 troops and their partners, along with some other news that keeps our supply program running.

Next month we will have some movement of our supported personnel. I have been assured that we will be advised of who is headed stateside and their replacements. We are probably going to need more help and I will get that information out as soon as possible. Stay tuned for more details as they develop.

### Camp Taji, Iraq

We have some news on MWD Dasti and SSG Chase Turbitt. MWD Dasti has been diagnosed with Megaesophagus (the muscles in the esophagus do not work properly and the dog needs help digesting his food) and he is currently being treated for this medical condition. The condition requires an enormous amount of individual care. Dasti is going through the “Disposition Process” and SSG Turbitt is in the process of adopting Dasti – “He is too good of a dog – I can’t let them put him down” – sound familiar guys? Way to go Chase!

Due to this condition, SSG Turbitt and Dasti have been pulled from their assignment and have returned to the states. According to Chase, “I know the rest of my boys are still there for a while and Sgt Heinzig will take care of them!” “I still am not sure where I am headed next. I might not have to do the recruiting thing after all. I might be taking the Plans and Operations spot at my Kennels in Ft. Leonard Wood. I am happy I might get to stay K9. I do love the job. Well, thank you again for all the support”.

**SGT David M. Heinzig reports that he and the rest of the troops at Camp Taji really miss having SSG Turbitt as their Kennel Master, because he cared about his soldiers more than himself. That's the kind of leaders we treasure and encourage, and we're proud to be able to support them.**

## **Photographs of our New Pups**

**We just received these photographs from SSgt Josh Harrison & MWD Vvictor deployed at FOB Warrior from the 366<sup>th</sup> SFS/Mountain Home AFB, Idaho, how about this for a fine looking dog team?**





## Candid K-9 Photographs of Pups

SSgt James Parkis & MWD JP deployed at FOB Warrior from the 824th SFS/Moody AFB, Georgia and SSgt Stephanie Finch & MWD Ate from 49<sup>th</sup> SFS, Holloman AFB “Getting some training done!”



SSgt Shawn Lindblom and MWD Helena, 92<sup>nd</sup> SFS, Fairchild AFB, Washington, deployed at Camp Cropper, Iraq, modeling their new supplies – “Don’t those ladies just love new shoes?”





# Candid K-9 Photographs of Pups

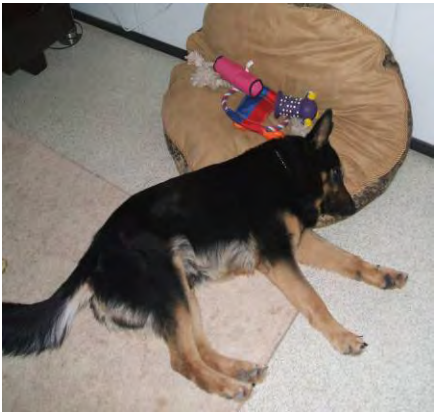
SSgt Shawn Lindblom & MWD Helena – Camp Cropper, Iraq



SSgt Stephanie Finch & MWD Ate – FOB Warrior



SSgt Stephanie Finch & MWD Ate – FOB Warrior





## **“Thailand K-9” Surges at FOB Warrior**

**OOOPHS – Here they are again! Kennel Master “Drew” Esparza, deployed from the 355<sup>th</sup> SFS, Davis-Monthan AFB, Arizona, models one of the new “Surges” that were delivered to FOB Warrior. These things will fix anything!**



**Now we see who’s doing all the work at FOB Warrior – Trainer/Supervisor Kevin Nelson, deployed from the 75<sup>th</sup> SFS, Hill AFB, Utah – that’s who!**



**Why do they even send tools to Iraq – we’ve got Surges!**

## Speaking of Leatherman Surges!

She's done it again! Julie Warner just advised us that Leatherman had donated 16 additional Tactical Black Leatherman Surge multi-tools to our program. It's like Christmas all over again. Here are a few photographs of Phil Carroll presenting the VSPA's thank-you plaque to Juli at Leatherman a couple weeks ago, expressing our appreciation and thanks for all that she's personally done to continue Leatherman's participation in supporting our K-9 troops downrange.

Phil said "I was proud to provide the K-9 commemorative badge that VSPA mounted on the plaque, as I've been proud to work with Juli and the company over the last two and a half years. Their generosity has really started adding up, if you include the value of all the tools they've donated directly, plus the ones they let us purchase at wholesale for the troops and for resale to our members. Plus, they let us pay wholesale cost for those excellent folding knives, engraved with "Honoring Vietnam War Veterans; Air Police, Security Police, K-9" that we're currently selling in the VSPA online BX Store".

That other photo is of the plaque hanging on the wall in Juli Warner's office, alongside the tee shirt we had made and so many of our guys autographed with messages to her at the 2006 reunion. She tells me she's very proud of that shirt, and keeps flipping it to look at either the photo of Argo sitting behind that M-60 on the back, or all the messages and signatures on the front.





## 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 **26** handlers assigned to **six** 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 633 pieces of equipment has been delivered to our K-9 troops serving in Iraq from August 21, 2005 to June 15, 2008. Over eighty-five "Old Dawgs and Friends" have supported over **100** 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 **\$7,570.00** of supplies for the 23 kennels solely via your personal donations. Including the Leatherman corporate donation, the total is **\$18,672.00!**

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!

- 138 Leatherman "Surge" Tools (91) Donated by Leatherman) \*  
\* The Leatherman "Surge" donation is valued at approximately **\$11,102.00**
- 75 Thailand Challenge Coins (Donated & Purchased)
- 57 Guardian Pet Beds
- 40 Sponges
- 40 Cleaning/Scouring Pads
- 39 Thailand Historical Base Patches
- 34 Kongs
- 22 Doggles (10 Pairs were donated)
- 19 VSPA Challenge Coins (Donated & Purchased)
- 16 Coastal Medium Firm Shedding Blades
- 16 Classic Long Tooth Undercoat rakes
- 12 Coastal Large Slickers
- 12 Heavy Guard Handled Water Pails
- 10 Muzzles
- 8 K9 Bluelight Supplement (2 pound bags)
- 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
- 6 24" Heavy Duty Floor Squeegees
- 5 Classic HG Food Dishes
- 5 Nozzles
- 4 Large Kongs
- 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 Kygen 2-In-1 Food/Water Bowls

- 2 50 Foot Water Hoses**
- 2 Spray Bottles & Sprayers**
- 1 Drink Mixes & Snacks (Large Box)**
- 1 Case Toilet Paper (30 Rolls)**
- 1 Set of four Ruff Wear Bark'n Boots Grip Trex**

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