

## K-9 Supply Program



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

**Hello everyone! We are currently supporting (7) kennels and fifteen (15) deployed Air Force and Army teams as of November 15, 2008. November 2008 brings us to three years and three 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 are currently supporting troops at FOB Warrior, FOB Rustamiyah, Camp Victory, Camp Taji, Joint Base Balad, Iraq; Al Udeid Air Base, Qatar, and Ali Al Salem, Kuwait.**

### **FOB Warrior Happenings**

**Left - They continue to serve! SSgt Brian Pope, deployed from McChord AFB, Washington, as he takes his oath of re-enlistment at FOB Warrior on November 1, 2008. The ceremony was conducted by Lt. Colonel Simpson, Commander of Security Forces. Way to go SSgt Brian Pope!**

**Right – SSgt Robert Starkweather and MWD Diego take a break from their duties to have a little fun – look at that face – that toy just ain’t going to get away!**



## **Military working dogs impact security at Kirkuk**

by Tech. Sgt. Jeff Walston  
506th Air Expeditionary Group Public Affairs

**11/12/2008 - KIRKUK REGIONAL AIR BASE, Iraq -- There are military working dog teams operating around the clock with the 506th Expeditionary Security Forces Squadrons here; their number one mission is conducting explosive detection searches and providing alarmed responses to any situation anywhere on the base. "There is no greater piece of equipment to find explosive material than that of a dog's nose," said Staff Sgt. Brian Pope, 506th ESFS, military working dog handler, who is deployed from McChord Air Force Base, Wash. "Our MWD's provide a huge psychological deterrence for people who may break the law."**

**With a flawless sense of smell and extraordinary hearing, a MWD is an excellent weapon in the fight to keep KRAB safe. "MWD not only detect dangerous explosive and narcotic odors, but also can detect human scent," said Staff Sgt. Rufus Watson, 506th ESFS, military working dog trainer, who is deployed from Holloman Air Force Base, N.M. "This capability is highly effective in rooting out bad guys who threaten to penetrate the installation and cause damage to KRAB personnel and infrastructure."**

**For the handler, a MWD is partner who can always be depended on to do his job. "These dogs are as discipline and loyal as any Airman, Soldier, Sailor or Marine," said Tech. Sgt. Benjamin Jones, 506th ESFS, NCOIC, K-9 Section, who is deployed from Holloman AFB, N.M. "For the squadron, the K-9 plays a significant role in the commander's base defense plan; he counts on us to assist in eliminating any and every explosive threat on the base."**

**Handlers work 13-to 14-hour days with their MWD as well as the duties of maintaining their dogs, the dogs living area, and records before and after each shift. The teams work in various locations throughout the installation, including public infrastructures and key areas of operation, said Sergeant Jones.**

**Although the security of gates is the MWD teams' primary mission, they also conduct inbound and outbound baggage checks along with sweeps for any distinguished visitor visits to Kirkuk RAB. U.S. military working dogs here come from two breeds; German Shepherds and Belgian Malinois. The handlers teamed up with these MWD are deployed from various bases and MAJCOMS from all over the Air Force.**

**The MWD teams conduct DV rout sweeps, customs sweeps, and have searched more than 5,000 pieces of luggage for departing Army personnel exiting KRAB. They recently swept every checkpoint at Kirkuk RAB, when Secretary of the Air Force Michael Donley visited. One important message most dog handlers would like the average person to get is - "don't pet my dog." Although MWD are dogs at the end of the day they shouldn't be petted by anyone other than their handlers, trainers and Kennel Master, Sergeant Watson said.**

**"They are trained to attack to protect themselves and their handlers," he said. "We need them to be tolerant of people but at the same time on guard and suspicious of their surroundings at all times. This is one the edge that makes MWD so vital to the Air Force Mission."**

**A handler's life is dependant of the rapport he and the dog share. "Though not considered deadly force, MWD are trained to attack with or without command. If they view you as a threat, they will attack," Sergeant Jones said. "We need (our dogs) to be tolerant of people, but at the all times on guard and suspicious of their surroundings," Sergeant Watson said. "This is the edge that makes Military Working Dogs so vital to the Air Force Mission."**



**Tech. Sgt. Diego makes it over an eight foot obstacle Nov. 1 at Kirkuk Regional Air Base, Iraq. Diego, a 6-year-old Belgium Malinois weighing 72 pounds, is the only military working dog at KRAB capable of this feat. Sergeant Diego and his handler, Staff Sgt. Robert Starkweather are assigned to the 506th Expeditionary security Forces Squadron/K-9 Unit. They are both deployed from Misawa Air Base, Japan. (U.S. Air Force photo/Tech. Sgt. Jeff Walston)**

### **Holiday packages to the troops – Now is the time to get them ready**

**Always the leader – Here is a message that Dixie Whitman just sent to Kennel Master TSgt Ben Jones at FOB Warrior concerning holiday packages for his troops.**

**“I have sent two packages to FOB Warrior to your attention today. These include:**

**One package with 1 gallon dog shampoo and some personal care items for the handlers for the holidays. The second package includes for your kennel staff: coffee, peanuts, and Holiday treats along with rawhide chews and a roll of beef treats for your dogs along with 8 various dog toys.**

**I hope that covers everyone. I wish we could do more, but we wanted to send our Christmas wishes and let you know that we appreciate all that you do. Thanks for taking point on this one.**

**Dixie for MWD TSA  
[www.mwdtsa.org](http://www.mwdtsa.org)**

**If anyone else is interested in getting packages off to our pups or for a specific kennel, please let me know and I will get you a contact point and hopefully a “favorites list” from the handlers for themselves and for their dogs.**

**Just a reminder – Our troops are particular about when items are sent to their dogs – please let me check with each kennel, or the kennel that you are interested in, so your money and efforts are put to the most useful items.**

**Thanks Dixie for taking the lead on this – as always – you are the lead dog!**

## **SSgt Travis Hazelton and MWD Sinda – FOB Rustamiyah, Iraq**

SSgt Travis Hazelton and MWD Sinda take a break at FOB Rustamiyah, Iraq. During the recent Vietnam Dog Handler Association reunion at Lackland AFB, SSgt Hazelton's supervisor, TSgt Jonathan Matthews of the 37<sup>th</sup> SFS had nothing but praise for this deployed dog team – his best message was “Hurry home Travis and Sinda”!



**Down Time**



**Iraqi “Car Alarm” MWD Sinda**

## **Leatherman Surges arrive at FOB Warrior**

Staff Sergeants Walter Lee and Rufus Watson show off the Leatherman “Surges” that just arrived at FOB Warrior. SSgt Lee is teamed with Jim Stastny and SSgt Watson is team with Doug McCoy.



## Leatherman Donation

The Leatherman Tool Group of Portland Oregon has come through for the troops again. The company just donated 20 of each of their three newest products to Old Dawgs & Pups, for us to send to Air Force K-9 troops downrange. Total list-price value of these items is a knockout \$3,800! Leatherman constantly supports the troops and this is a fantastic way for them to get real feedback on their new stuff under harsh desert combat conditions so they can identify and improve anything that could work better.



S3 Serac Flashlight



e33T "Expanse" Knife



e55 "Expanse" Knife

### The S3 "Serac" flashlight

- 100 Lumens on high; 43 Lumens on medium; 7 Lumens on low
- Battery Life 1hr on high; 4 hrs on medium; 36 hrs on low
- Hard-anodized Aluminum and Stainless Steel
- Anti-reflective Coated Glass Lens
- Recessed Tail Switch
- White-Light LED
- Water, Humidity, Corrosion and Shock Resistant
- 10-year Warranty; length only 3.2 inches; weight just 2.6 oz

### The e33T Expanse Knife

- 154CM Stainless Steel Drop-point Knife (Straight Blade on the ones we got)
- 1/4" Screwdriver and Phillips Screwdriver
- Bottle Opener/Carabiner Clip
- Blade Launcher® and Thumb Stud
- 25-year Warranty
- 3.94 inches closed; has a 2.6 inch blade; weighs 3.75 oz

### The e55 "Expanse" Knife

- 154CM Stainless Steel Drop-point Knife (Straight Blade on the ones we got)
- Bottle Opener/Carabiner Clip
- Thumb Stud
- Stainless Steel Reinforced Handle
- Removable Pocket Clip
- 25-year Warranty
- 4.5 inches closed; has a 3.1 inch blade; weighs 5.43 oz

More info on these and other products is available at: [www.L Leatherman.com](http://www.L Leatherman.com)

## **Other News concerning OD&P Graduates!**

During our trip to Lackland for the VDHA reunion last month we had the pleasure of finally meeting one of our “Pups” from a previous deployment. Although we don’t have the photographs right now, we had a great “meet and greet” with SSgt Dominic Burt (who had deployed from Moody AFB to FOB Warrior) who had been teamed with JD Jones and Bob Threatt and SSgt McCants who we had met at Moody AFB during the VSPA reunion at Valdosta, Georgia. We really enjoyed spending time with these guys. Both are now instructors at the “school house” at Lackland. Each of the Sergeants asked us to say thank you for all that our program had done for them during their deployments.

### **Good Bye Bar-B-Q at Davis-Monthan AFB, Tucson, Arizona**

Last Thursday Kelly Bateman and Bill Cummings attended a “Good Bye Bar-B-Q” at the kennels of the 355<sup>th</sup> SFS, Davis-Monthan AFB, Tucson, Arizona. It was quite the day for us as we met with the Squadron Commander, Major “Kit” Johnson for breakfast and then toured the HQ facilities at Davis-Monthan. Kelly got to play with some weapons and Major Johnson made us feel very welcome as his staff showed off the “tools of the trade” to two old dawg handlers.

Following our breakfast and tour we then headed out to the “Old 803<sup>rd</sup> SPS” kennels where we located the graveyard for the sentry and patrol dogs that had served the installation when it was a SAC base. It was great spending some time with these old warriors – May they rest in peace.

TSgt Andrew Esparza, whom many of you may remember from our 2004 visits during the VDHA and VSPA reunions and his recent deployment to FOB Warrior where he had been teamed with Bill Cummings, had extended us an invitation to SSgt Ryan Wade’s “Good Bye Bar-B-Q”. It sure was great to see Ryan again and to meet his family. SSgt Wade had been teamed with Dale and Debbie Burton during his tour at FOB Warrior. We also had the pleasure of finally getting to meet SSgt Dennis Luczak, who had been teamed with Rick Matott during his deployment at FOB Warrior. It kept getting better as we once again met SSgt Angel Landau who had been supported by Sharron Anderson’s group during his deployment to Saudi Arabia.



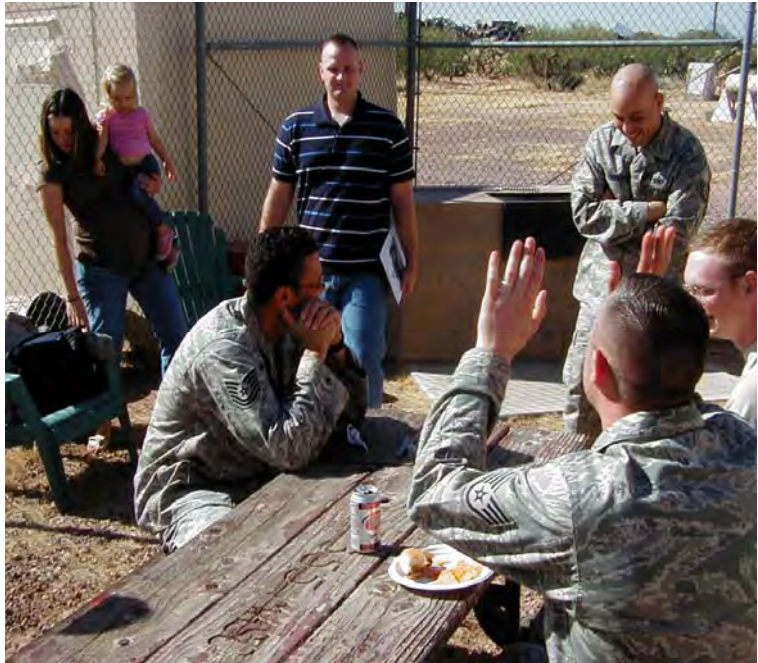
**SSgt Ryan Wade and his family - Kelly Bateman, TSgt Andrew Esparza, & SSgt Ryan Wade**

## The party continued – what a great day!

Major Kit Johnson & SSgt Ryan Wade  
355<sup>th</sup> Squadron Commander



SSgt Ryan Wade and troops from the 355<sup>th</sup> K-9 Section  
Look – You can see the “lies” they are telling!



SSgt Dennis Luczak – Our Chef!  
What a mean hamburger he cooked -  
Dennis even used his Leatherman Surge  
When he cooked the fool!



SSgt Angel Landau – Trainer/Supervisor  
Yes, he is always this happy!



Let me tell you – this is a great K-9 Section

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

At the time of this report we have **19** members of the "Old Dawgs & Pups" program actively supporting **15** handlers assigned to **seven** 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 695 pieces of equipment has been delivered to our K-9 troops serving in the AOR from August 21, 2005 to November 15, 2008. Over **95** "Old Dawgs and Friends" have supported over **114** 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 **\$7,658.00** of supplies for the 27 kennels solely via your personal donations. Including the Leatherman corporate donation, the total is **\$22,560.00!**

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 **\$14,902.00**
- 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)
- 20 \* Serac SC Leatherman Flashlights (**\$1,600.00**)
- 20 \* E33T "Expanse" Leatherman Knives (**\$1,100.00**)
- 20 \* E55 "Expanse" Leatherman Knives (**\$1,100.00**)
- 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**
- 2 150 Foot Enclosed Hose Reels**
- 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!*