

K-9 Supply Program



OVER THREE YEARS OF SUPPORTING OUR K-9 TROOPS!

Hello everyone! We are currently supporting five (5) kennels and ten (10) deployed Air Force teams as of January 15, 2009. January 2009 brings us to three years and five 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 Cropper, Iraq, Al Udeid Air Base, Qatar, and Ali Al Salem, Kuwait.

Camp Cropper: SSgt John Pillarella and MWD Jampy just came on board on November 29th. We had the pleasure of meeting John, MWD Jampy, and a large group of handlers from Luke AFB, AZ at the Phoenix Veterans’ Day Parade. John is now in place with the HHC, 1-114 IN BN at Camp Cropper, Baghdad, Iraq. John is being supported by Dale and Debbie Burton and Bill Cummings.

Camp Taji: In the next three (3) weeks Sgt David Heinzig and MWD Brandon, Sgt Jeremy Van Horne and MWD Ricky, and Sgt Eric Harter and MWD Misti will be rotating from Camp Taji, Iraq, to Ft. Leonard Wood, Missouri; Ft. Knox, Kentucky; and Ft. Jackson, South Carolina. These soldiers have been support by Bob Van de Riet, Rick Matott, and Danny Conyers. We’d like to thank all three Sergeants for pairing up with our troops since March of 2008 – man, that is a very, very long deployment and we are so glad that you guys are rotating home! Please stay in touch with us.

One of our last messages from Sgt David Heinzig went something like this “ We all received your packages and we have been so swamped with being short handed and a lot of us are getting ready to redeploy that we haven’t been able to get back with anyone – not even our families. But, we really appreciate everything that you all have done for us over the past year”. I should be headed home in about two weeks and Sgt. Harter and Sgt. Van Horne should be behind me and outta’ here about two weeks after that. But, again we truly do appreciate everything and we are grateful that there are people like you out there still supporting us – thanks again”. Dave, Jeremy, and Eric – we thank you for all that you have done to keep our country safe!

Al Udeid Air Base: SSgt John Grice and MWD Fritz are packing up at Al Udeid Air Base, Qatar in a few weeks also! John would also like to thank John and Joan Smith, and Doug Lee for the Holiday packages. They have been out of communications for a bit due to a ship hitting and cutting the communications lines that run the internet connections at Al Udeid Air Base. John and Fritz are heading back to Aviano Air Base, Italy, in the very near future. It was great having you with us again John.

FOB Warrior: TSgt Ben Jones, our Kennel Master at FOB Warrior since August, is now home on leave and should be getting ready to report back to Holloman AFB, New Mexico at the end of the month. This was Ben’s second tour with us. Ben was paired with Bill Cummings for this deployment. In addition, SSgt Rufus Watson, our Trainer at FOB Warrior, is also back in Alabama on leave and he also will be heading back to Holloman AFB following his leave. Rufus was teamed with Doug McCoy during his tour at FOB Warrior. This team was just great and we really enjoyed hearing from them and from what we understand they did a great job at FOB Warrior. Happy New Year guys and we are glad that you are home also.

More news in the Area of Operations

FOB Warrior

We've just received news from the new Kennel Master and Trainer at FOB Warrior and it is wonderful to say that the news is GREAT!

The new Kennel Master is TSgt Christopher Wilson from Elmendorf AFB, Alaska. Here's more good news – this is Chris' second tour with us! He and MWD Ben were paired up with Ron Saville and George Conklin in November of 2006.

Here is the message I received from our new Kennel Master “First of all I would just like to say thank you!! I have been working with dogs going on 15 years now and I have to say that the support that you provide for all of the teams is Outstanding to say the least. I was actually teamed up with two of your folks back in 06 when I was handling a dog here at Kirkuk. I will definitely get this passed our (our invitation to OD&P) to the guys and hope that we will have a good turnout. Again, thank you and your team for all that you do for us!”

TSgt Wilson's Trainer for this tour is TSgt Christopher Guild from the 436th SFS at Dover AFB, Delaware and we have also been in contact with him concerning OD&P. They will be joined by handlers from Aviano, AFB Italy; Moody AFB, Georgia; and Buckley, AFB, Colorado in the next few months. We are working with the KM and Trainer to get these new handlers on board and paired up as soon as they arrive at FOB Warrior.

Joint Base Balad

As it stands now there are three teams of handlers and dogs from Moody (820th Group) that should be in theater very shortly. We have made contact and hopefully once they are settled in we should be able to have them paired up with us for their tour. Stay tuned for more information as it becomes available. They have already received our “Information” and they have been briefed on our program.

Looks like these guys from Moody are going to be something else – I have their nicknames – anyone interested in “Nighthawk”, “Red Dragon”, or “Bottle Knuckles”?

New Leatherman equipment shipped to SSgt John Pillarella

SSgt John Pillarella and MWD Jampy have received their Surge and some additional new “tools” from Leatherman. Once again, Phil Carroll, our Leatherman coordinator took great care of John. What we sent to John really was a pretty complete package. In addition to our signature gift, the fantastic “Thailand K-9” engraved Leatherman Surge multi-tool, John received a couple of extra pieces of Leatherman's newest equipment. One item is their tiny but high-power Serac S3 flashlight. This thing is only three inches long, and like he says you can actually clip it on the brim of a hat. It has three power levels, which I call Blinding (100 Lumens), Normal (43 Lumens), and Really Dim But Very Useful (7 Lumens). The single battery lasts from one hour on Blinding to 36 hours on Really Dim But Very Useful. It's a perfect size and weight to always have with you, when you left something bigger at home or in the barracks. The 10-year warrantee gives you some idea of how much faith the company has in the product's durability.

The second Leatherman item was one of their newest model single-blade folding knives, the e55 Expanse. It's the updated version of the VSPA Vietnam Veterans commemorative knife that we sell (engraved) in the VSPA on-line BX Store. It's got a super-tough stainless blade just over three inches long, and it holds an edge like you wouldn't believe. This one is barely different from the VSPA version, mostly in the design of the handle. This knife comes with a 25-year warrantee.

Leatherman donated this equipment to K-9 Supply because the items are brand new to their product line, and the company knows that a dog handler in Iraq will put anything to an ultimate real-world rugged test. They ask us to request as much feedback as possible from the handlers, in the interest of finding any needed improvements in the design of the products.

Of course, since this package was going to a dog handler, I had to tuck in a Thailand Dog Handler's patch, an industrial size bag of M&M peanuts, and a bunch of Milk Bones. I couldn't help myself.

Holiday packages for our troops

A great big "Thank You" goes out to everyone who shipped packages off to our troops. I have spoken to a number of you and the troops were so very grateful. I know it's a rough time for everyone, but once again, thanks so much for supporting the troops. I know most of us remember these times and a package from "home" always made us feel great!

Other News concerning OD&P Graduates!

Dateline JTF Bravo – Honduras! We just received photographs from SSgt Kim Harting and it looks like they have a handle on things in the southern hemisphere. Kim is being supported by Juli Warner, Ken Smerecki, Pfc Deborah Rush, and John and Joan Smith during her deployment.



Kim would like to introduce you to her new partner – Kanto – he's two and one half years old. They were teamed up together last month and from what I hear – all is going very, very well.

Here is a photograph of her group – SSgt Harting & Kanto, SSgt Seal & Hauston, KM TSgt Gordon, SSgt Trimble & Tommy, and SSgt Stacey & Nero.



Below Kim and a group of volunteers hiked through the mountains to deliver food that they had donated to a local village. As Kim said, “It was a long tiring day, but so worth it to see their faces when we finally got there – it was empowering! There was a great base turnout with nearly 150 people turning out for the event”.



Left to Right: First Sergeant, Chief Kennedy, Kim, Brandon Vines, and USN “Chilly” and two local children who participated in the event.



Locals and volunteers at the site



This is what I call volunteerism!

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

At the time of this report we have **10** members of the "Old Dawgs & Pups" program actively supporting **10** handlers assigned to **five** 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 January 15, 2009. Over **95** "Old Dawgs and Friends" have supported over **115** 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 **\$7,758.00** of supplies for the 27 kennels solely via your personal donations. Including the Leatherman corporate donation, the total is **\$22,660.00!**

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!