

## K-9 Supply Program



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

Hello everyone! We are currently supporting six (6) kennels and fourteen (15) deployed Air Force and Army teams as of February 15, 2009. February 2009 brings us to three years and six 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**

#### **Rotations**

**FOB Warrior – Iraq:** SSgt Walter Lee (Bolling) and SSgt Robert Starkweather (Misawa) have rotated back to their home assignments from FOB Warrior.

**Camp Victory - Iraq:** SSG Kirkey has rotated back to Schofield Barracks, Hawaii.

**Ali Al Salem – Kuwait:** SSgt Chris Tenner returned home to Whiteman AFB this weekend, I spoke with him and he thanks us for all of our support!

**FOB Rustamiyah – Iraq:** SSgt Danny Spaide returned to Ramstein Air Base about a week ago. SSG Eric Hooker is now back at Schofield Barrack, Hawaii.

#### **Arriving in the AOR**

We are currently supporting troops at FOB Warrior, Camp Cropper, FOB O’Ryan, and the Joint Base Balad, Iraq, Al Udeid Air Base, Qatar, and Ali Al Salem, Kuwait. We’ve picked up ten (10) new personnel this month. Here are our new “Pups”:

**Joint Base Balad - Iraq:** SSgt Philip Mendoza & MWD Rico from the 824<sup>th</sup> SFS at Moody AFB, Georgia, supported by Dixie Whitman and Kelly Bateman.

SrA Ted Carlson & MWD Dutchy from the 824<sup>th</sup> SFS at Moody AFB, Georgia, supported by Dixie Whitman and Greg Gines.

SSgt Jeff Mastin & MWD Ffella from the 9<sup>th</sup> SFS at Beale AFB, California, supported by Mike Clunis. Jeff was a “Charter Member” of OD&P when he was teamed up with Janet Wise and June Johnston while deployed at Ali Air Base, Iraq in 2005.

SSgt Angelo Reategui & MWD Tara from the 824<sup>th</sup> SFS at Moody AFB, Georgia, also supported by Dixie Whitman and Greg Gines.

**Al Udeid Air Base - Qatar:** SSgt Ronald Harden, Kennel Master, from the 460<sup>th</sup> SFS at Buckley AFB, Colorado. This is Ron’s second tour with OD&P – he was supported by David Priest and Ken Smerecki while deployed at FOB Warrior in 2007. He is supported this time by Ken Smerecki;

SSgt Dennis Luczak & Kris from the 355<sup>th</sup> SFS Davis-Monthan AFB, Arizona, supported by Dale and Debbie Burton. This is Dennis’ second tour with OD&P – he was supported at FOB Warrior in 2007 by Rick Matott.

SSgt German Lechuga & MWD Liska from the 75<sup>th</sup> SFS Hill AFB, Utah - he is supported by Jennifer Dietrich.

**FOB Warrior - Iraq:** TSgt Christopher Wilson from 3<sup>rd</sup> SFS at 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. He is supported this tour by Phil Carroll. Here is our first message from TSgt Wilson. "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 the support that you provide for all of the teams is Outstanding to say the least. I was actually teamed up with one of your folks back in 06 when I was handling a dog here at Kirkuk".

TSgt Christopher Guild from the 436<sup>th</sup> SFS at Dover AFB, Delaware, he is the trainer at FOB Warrior, he is being supported by Josh Forster.

SSgt Joshua Germann & Edo from the 822<sup>nd</sup> SFS at Moody AFB, Georgia, supported by Scotty Baker and Doc Hodges

SSgt Garry Laub & Kelly from the 823<sup>rd</sup> SFS Moody AFB, Georgia, supported by Dixie Whitman and Mike Clunis. This is Garry second tour with us, he was also deployed Kirkuk in 2006 where he was supported by Kelly Bateman, Ernie Childers, and Bill Wigginton.

**FOB O'Ryan - Iraq:** Army Sergeant Audra Rose & MWD Folti from Schofield Barrack, Hawaii. She is being supported by Mike Diercks and Jennifer Dietrich.

**Ali Al Salem – Kuwait:** Army SSG Raphael Futrell and MWD Alf from Schofield Barrack, Hawaii. He is being supported by Doug McCoy from the 47<sup>th</sup> IPSD.

**Additional Handlers Enroute to the AOR:** We are expecting an additional eight (8) handlers coming to FOB Warrior and Al Udeid Air Base in the upcoming months. If you are interested shoot me an e-mail and I will do my best to hook you up!

**Basra, Iraq:** We are about to pick up a team of six (6) Army handlers that are heading for Basra, Iraq at the end of the month. Keep you eyes open on this team – we're going to try something new with them! Stand by for details as they evolve.

## **Shipping out for FOB Warrior earlier this month from Moody AFB**



Staff Sgt. Garry Laub, 823rd Security Forces Squadron, plays tug-of-war with Kelly, Air Force military working dog, before boarding their flight into Iraq at an air base in Southwest Asia, Jan. 15, 2009. Kelly will travel in her kennel during the flight. Kelly, Air Force military working dog, gets comfortable in her kennel before her flight into Iraq at an air base in Southwest Asia.

(U.S. Air Force photo/Senior Airman Courtney Richards)

## Shipping out from Moody AFB - Continued



**SOUTHWEST ASIA -- Staff Sgt. Garry Laub, 823rd Security Forces Squadron, plays with Kelly, Air Force military working dog, before his flight into Iraq at an air base in Southwest Asia, Jan. 13. Sergeant Laub played with Kelly to calm her down before they boarded the aircraft.**

**Staff Sgt. Garry Laub, deploying from the 823rd Security Forces Squadron at Moody AFB, said it's easy to think of working dogs as equipment, but they're closer to fellow Airman than a rifle or aircraft.**

**"Overall, I think the military views the dog as equipment, and any handler will tell you that's not the case," he said. "My dog and I have been together two and half years. We don't have to tell each other what to do. She just knows what I want her to do. I don't even have to give her commands. To me, they're not really dogs. They're like an extra body out there that you have to take care of, because they're taking care of you."**

**(U.S. Air Force photo/Senior Airman Courtney Richards)**

## Shipping out from Moody AFB – Continued 2



**Staff Sgt. Joshua Germann, 822nd Security Forces Squadron, and Edo, Air Force military working dog, wait to board an aircraft taking them into Iraq at an air base in Southwest Asia, Jan. 13. Sergeant Germann and Edo are from Moody Air Force Base, Georgia. This is SSgt Germann's fourth tour to Iraq, and his first as a dog handler.**

**(U.S. Air Force photo/Senior Airman Courtney Richards)**



**Staff Sergeant Joshua Germann, 822<sup>nd</sup> Security Forces Squadron, gears up with Edo, Air Force military working dog, for his flight into Iraq at an air base in Southwest Asia, January 13, 2009. Edo had a full medical checkup before his departure with his handler.**

**(U.S. Air Force photo/Senior Airman Courtney Richards)**

## Other News concerning OD&P Graduates!

### U. S. Army Freedom Team Salute Commendation

Old Dawgs and Pups has just been recognized for it's "Partnership between the Army, its Soldiers, their families and their communities – a partnership as old as the nation itself" according to the citation that we just received.

Our program was submitted by SSG Eric Hooker, Kennel Master, at FOB Rustimayh, Baghdad, Iraq and we officially received the U. S. Army Freedom Team Salute Commendation.

SSG Hooker was deployed from Fort Jackson, South Carolina. He was also teamed with MWD Butch – H414 while assigned to the HHD 95<sup>th</sup> Military Police Battalion during 2007 – 2008.

While there SSG also took great care of three more of our pups, SSgt Zach Burt, SSgt Travis Hazleton, and TSgt Danny Spaide. SSG Hooker was paired with Ernie Ayala during his tour.



Bill Cummings  
10172 N. Tall Cotton Dr.  
Marana, AZ 85653-7917



Dear Bill Cummings:

You have been submitted for a U.S. Army Freedom Team Salute Commendation by SSG Eric Hooker for your contributions to our Army community.

America has always called upon the Army to do the hard jobs, and its Soldiers answer the call to duty. Ours is a free Nation – the standard-bearer of freedom for millions of less fortunate people – because our freedoms are guaranteed by great Soldiers and the families and communities by their side.

Ours is an Army of tradition. Our greatest tradition is selfless service to our Country, and in that service we ask our Soldiers to carry out the tough missions that take them away from home, community and family. Today, Soldiers answer the call to defend us against new kinds of threats. Deployments have increased in frequency and length in order to maintain our commitments to freedom, to our way of life and to the American family. The Global War on Terrorism is one that touches us all – and one that we must win.

As Soldiers serve, the support of families and communities sustains them so they can do what must be done to protect our freedoms. Our Nation would not have the service of Soldiers without your support and patriotism. As an Army Supporter, you make a difference to our Soldiers and to our Country.

Please accept the enclosed Army lapel pin. It symbolizes the partnership between our Army, its Soldiers, their families and our communities – a partnership as old as the Nation itself. We hope that you will wear this pin with pride, as a statement of our shared commitment to support America's Soldiers.

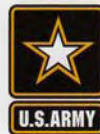
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "George W. Casey, Jr.".

George W. Casey, Jr.  
General, United States Army  
Chief of Staff

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Pete Geren".

Pete Geren  
Secretary of the Army



**SSG Eric Hooker on behalf of all of us that have supported the Old Dawgs & Pups Program we salute you for taking care of our troops who are in harms way – HOOOOAH!**

### **Greater Rochester (NY) All Airborne Donation**

**Thanks to the efforts of Greig Parker, we received a \$300.00 donation from the Greater Rochester All Airborne Chapter. Thank you Greig, and all of your airborne brothers for this very generous donation. Donations like this help to keep our program going, and going, and going!**

**All the way airborne!**

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

At the time of this report we have **14** members of the "Old Dawgs & Pups" program actively supporting **15** handlers assigned to six (6) 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 February 15, 2009. Over **100** "Old Dawgs and Friends" have supported over **128** 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 **\$7,758.00** of supplies for the 29 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!*