

THAILAND DOG HANDLERS

USAF Dog Handlers Who Defended Front-Line Combat Air Bases In Thailand Throughout The Vietnam War

(12/15/09)

This edition of the Old Dawgs & Pups Newsletter is dedicated to the memory of United States Air Force Military Working Dog Ikka (H056), the partner of SSgt Martin Campos, deployed to Joint Base Balad, Iraq from the 35th SFS, Misawa, Japan.

Military Working Dog Ikka – H056



February 2002 – November 2009

It is with a great sadness that we announce that Military Working Dog Ikka (H056), the partner of SSgt Martin Campos, was euthanized on Monday, November 16, 2009, at Joint Base Balad, Iraq. Ikka, was seven years old and an experienced veteran of SW Asia deployments. The team was deployed from the 35th SFS, Misawa, Japan. Ikka, was euthanized due to liver failure. Events of the memorial service for Ikka, held on 23 November, 2009, are recorded below, as her fellow warriors honored her service to our country. This MWD team has been supported by Gordon Johnston (Takhli). Please note the General Officer who attended (second row – left) and the Command Master Chief – first row right). There was a tremendous turn out of support for this team at JBB.



Always Mission Ready



Adored by All



Respected by All



Loved by All



Missed by All



Honored by All



Never Forgotten



SSgt Martin Campos always beside Ikka

The Thailand Dog Handlers and Old Dawgs & Pups have sent this proclamation to SSgt Martin Campos to honor his service and partnership with MWD Ikka



We just received word from SSgt Campos concerning Ikka, and I thought we'd pass the message along for everyone to see:

"Let me thank you for all your support through Ikka's passing away. Ikka and I made it back to Misawa last week. I decided to keep her ashes with me at home so she could have the retirement she deserved. I'll be picking up a Narcotics dog in Jan and she needs some work. It will be a good change due me."

OVER FOUR YEARS OF SUPPORTING OUR K-9 TROOPS!

Hello everyone! We are currently supporting ten (10) kennels and thirty-seven (37) deployed Air Force, Army, and Navy teams as of December 15, 2009. December 2009 brings us to four years and four 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 deployed down range.

Area of Operation Status - K-9 Teams Arriving/Departing

We are currently supporting troops at FOB Warrior, Camp Cropper, Joint Base Balad, and FOB Falcon; Camp Tallil/Joint Security Station Attack, Iraq; Bagram, Afghanistan; Al Udeid Air Base, Qatar; Al Dhafra Air Base, United Arab Emirates (UAE), and Manas Air Base, Kyrgyzstan. We have one (1) new Pup to introduce this month.

Heading home: SSgt Martin Campos has returned to Misawa Air Base, Japan, SSgt Chad Phillips is heading back to Scott AFB, Illinois, and Our Kennel Master at Camp Cropper, SGT Chantel Razack is heading back to Fort Gordon, Georgia – Girl, we sure are going to miss you!

New Handler at Bagram: SSgt Michael Gwin & MWD Rex deployed from the 7th SFS, Dyess AFB, Texas. This team is supported by Kelly Bateman (Ubon)

Profiles and Photographs of members of Old Dawgs & Pups

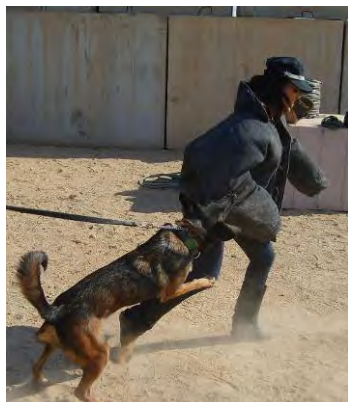


Richard Gear and Jim Stastny at Luke AFB, Phoenix, Arizona during VSPA Reunion 2009

Richard and his wife Joan are new to the Old Dawgs & Pups program – they joined us right after attending the VSPA reunion in Phoenix. Richard was stationed at Nakhon Phanom Thailand – yep, another Nightfighter! Richard and Joan are currently supporting SSgt David Simpson at FOB Warrior, Iraq (deployed from Spangdahlem Air Base, Germany).

Jim Stastny is an OD&P veteran – but he sure enjoyed the visit to Luke AFB Kennels at the VSPA reunion in October. This is one of many photographs of Jim – he “wore out that training area” and if there was a dog – he had his picture taken with them! Jim has sponsored nine MWD teams and is currently teamed with SSgt Martin Ducos & SSgt Eric Wakeland, deployed from Andrews AFB, Maryland, to FOB Warrior, Iraq. Jim served at Korat with MWD Boots in 1970-71.

WWE Tribute to the Troops Joint Base Balad, Iraq



Members of the WWE (World Wrestling Entertainment) visited JBB and of course the K-9 Section received the royal treatment. Top - Members of the 332nd ESFG. Center – SSgt Delcambre & MWD Kim, TSgt Mark Ochoa, SSgt Bieck & MWD Marco, and SGT Uhl (kneeling), Army KM at sister Kennel JBB and an unidentified Army handler pose with WWE Divas. Bottom – MWD Kim takes down Diva Layla and another WWE Star. “Everyone should know we made the area safe before we took time to play with divas. Wink, wink! The powers of the leash!” according to TSgt Ochoa. Now that’s Christmas entertainment in the sand!

506th ESFS – FOB Warrior, Iraq – December 2009



Back Row

**Left: TSgt Paul Grambrell (Kennel Master) – Hubert Field, Florida
Right: SSgt Jessica Sonnier (Trainer) – Patrick AFB, Florida**

Handlers and Military Working Dogs of FOB Warrior, Iraq December 2009

Left to Right

**SrA Anthony Richison & MWD Ate – Holloman AFB, NM supported by Chuck & Holly Meaders
SSgt Erik Rod & MWD Aron – Nellis AFB, Nevada supported by Patsy Perrotto
SSgt Martin Ducos & MWD Dandy, Andrews AFB, MD supported by Josh Forster & Jim Stastny
SSgt Wakeland & MWD JJackson, Andrews AFB, MD supported by Josh Forster & Jim Stastny
SSgt Nicholas Pospischil & MWD Woodan, and SSgt Michael Longo & MWD Bleck not in our
program**

455th ESFS – Bagram, Afghanistan gearing back up!

SSgt Michael Gwin & MWD Rex deployed from the 7th SFS, Dyess AFB, Texas are now part of our program at Bagram. The team is supported by Kelly Bateman (Ubon) who also served at Dyess – but it was a LONG time ago. The Leatherman “Surges” and other equipment have hit the ground at Bagram and we should be seeing some photos by next month.

FOB Falcon, Iraq – Happy Holidays!



Happy Holidays from SrA Tolbert Jefferies and MWD Rex! The team is deployed from Davis-Monahan AFB, Arizona; they are sponsored by Ken Smerecki (U-Tapao & Pleiku).

Camp Cropper – Iraq



SSgt Gerson Henriquez and Brit are currently assigned to Camp Cropper, Iraq with U. S. Army HHCT, 1-105th Calvary. SSgt Henriquez and Brit are deployed from the 60th SFS, Travis Air Force Base, California and they are supported by Scotty Baker (Safeside).

Camp Tallil Air Base & Joint Security Station (JSS) Attack – Iraq

Is this one of the greatest “Holiday Greetings” you have ever seen?



MWD Dog Katya sends her best to each of you from Iraq!



SSgt Justin Aycock and MWD Katya found another way to use his new Leatherman “Surge” tool. It went something like this according to their sponsor, John Smith (U-Tapao): “Bill, We just got an email from Justin and he said he used his Leatherman to assist the door gunner 1000 ft over Iraq when his machine gun mount came loose and they had nothing to fix it with. You never know when they will come in handy”. Oh, by the way, that’s a Thailand Handler patch on his right sleeve in the photograph on the left!

379th ESFS – Al Udeid Air Base, Qatar

The handlers at Al Udeid Air Base are having a fundraiser and this is the information we have.

Here's the deal:

K-9 T-Shirts are: XL - XXL \$16.00 Large \$15.00 Mediums are \$15.00.

K-9 Challenge Coins are \$7.00

Combo Packs – XL- XXL Shirt and Coin is \$21.00

Combo Packs Large & Medium Shirt & Coin is \$20.00

Contact **Mike Diercks** at Diercks1@sleepyvetel.net for ordering details. You will absolutely love both the shirt and the coins. There are only 30 coins remaining!



Front of Shirt



Back of Shirt

A "Flashback" from 1966 – We've come a long way baby! Air Force Security and Law Enforcement Digest

SENTRY DOGS AND THE M-16

Vietnam reports indicate that sentry dogs have not received sufficient training in the sound of gunfire from the M-16 rifle. One dog actually jumped and grabbed the rifle barrel, and another grabbed the handler's arm when the weapon was fired full automatic. If sentry dogs accompany handlers to the firing range, remain in their crates at a distance and are then gradually worked closer during actual firing, then they should become familiar with the sound of the M-16.

From the Air Force Security and Law Enforcement Digest, Fall 1966 Edition

SENTRY DOGS NEED HANDLERS

The heavy reliance which the U. S. Air Force must place upon the Air Police forces for protection of our installations in Southeast Asia means that many Air Policemen will be performing duties in that area. A proven effective means of protection has been the Air Policeman-Sentry Dog team. The actions and effectiveness of over 450 teams in Vietnam have demonstrated that they are thoroughly deserving of the high praise that has been given them.

At the present time, we need sentry dog handlers to replace those who are now returning from Southeast Asia tours. The Sentry Dog Center at Lackland AFB is training men and dogs for all the services and attempting, at the same time, to provide replacements for Air Force commands which have had to provide the Southeast Asia requirements.

The Air Force policy is that sentry dog handlers will be volunteers. We want men who have a liking for dogs, who can understand them and care for them properly, and who can appreciate the extra protection that a well-trained and physically-fit sentry dog gives his handler. Experienced handlers claim that they would rather have such a dog than almost any weapon you can name. From the standpoint of both security effectiveness and self protection.

Those of you who have not served a Southeast Asia tour and have reasonable prospects of doing so, should consider volunteering for sentry dog training. Any Air Police duty is arduous and demanding, but a faithful, well-trained dog can give you the extra eyes and ears, as well as the extra assurance, that will make that job easier. Give it some thought.

OK, it's history lesson time! How many of you remember "Gunfire training" and our dogs jumping up and grabbing the barrel of an M-16 or a GAU-5/A or even an arm? Here's a little bit of history for everyone to enjoy – who would have thought that gunfire training might have worked? Did you notice what the publication said – "The Sentry Dog Center at Lackland is training **men and dogs for all services".**

If we had only known then what we know now!!!! I can't help myself – I just love this announcement!

Holiday Packages to the Troops

A special thank you goes out to Dixie Whitman and her "special Group" for the holiday packages that have hit all ten of our kennels down range – Dixie, or should I say "Santa" – thanks so much for the every present extra effort in supporting our troops! You are just something else Dixie!!!!

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

At the time of this report we have **40** members of the "Old Dawgs & Pups" program actively supporting **37** handlers assigned to ten (10) 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 **1,079 (OK)** pieces of equipment has been delivered to our K-9 troops serving in the AOR from August 21, 2005 to December 15, 2009. Over **220** "Old Dawgs and Friends" have supported **201** 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 **\$12,551.00** of supplies for the **44** kennels solely via your personal donations. Including the Leatherman corporate and Helping Udders donations, the total is **\$43,233.00!**

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!

List of Supplies Shipped by Old Dawgs & Pups

- 193 Leatherman "Surge" Tools (125) Donated by Leatherman) *
- * The Leatherman "Surge"/Flashlights/Knives donation is valued at approximately **\$27,262.00**
- 75 Thailand Challenge Coins (Donated & Purchased)
- 75 Guardian Pet Beds (Pet Edge)
- 75 * Leatherman Knives (Models: c33T, e55, e55B, e33L)
- 52 Kongs (Assorted sizes)
- 45 * Leatherman Serac S3 Leatherman Flashlights
- 40 Sponges
- 40 Cleaning/Scouring Pads
- 39 Thailand Historical Base Patches
- 30 Kygen Port-A-Bowls (Dressler's)
- 40 PSI Water Holes (Dressler's)
- 24 Kygen 2-In-1 Food/Water Bowls (Dressler's)
- 24 Rolls 26"x78" 20% Dark Limo Window Tint (Checker Auto Supply)
- 22 Doggles (10 Pairs were donated)
- 19 VSPA Challenge Coins (Donated & Purchased)
- 16 Cooling Vests & Extra Cooling Packs (**Helping Udders - Valued at \$3,420.00**)
- 16 Coastal Medium Firm Shedding Blades (Dressler's)
- 16 Classic Long Tooth Undercoat rakes (Dressler's)
- 15 Classic HG Food Dishes (Dressler's)
- 12 Coastal Large Slickers (Dressler's)
- 12 Heavy Guard Handled Water Pails (Dressler's)
- 10 Muzzles (Dressler's)
- 10 Heavy Duty Handled Pails - 9 Qt. - (Pet Edge)
- 10 Stainless Steel - 3 Qt Dura-weight Bowls (Pet Edge)
- 10 Helping Udder Reward Toys (Helping Udders)
- 9 Hose Nozzles
- 8 K9 Bluelight Supplement (2 pound bags) (Dressler's)
- 8 Cooling Wraps (Roshgo Corp)

8	Cooldanna Cooling Mats (Roshgo Corp)
8	Sets of Flood Light Bulbs
8	24" Heavy Duty Floor Squeegees
7	Digital Thermometers
5	Set of four Ruff Wear Bark'n Boots Grip Trex (Ray Allen)
4	Carabiners
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	Hose Reels - Wheels
2	50 Foot Water Hoses
2	Spray Bottles & Sprayers
2	150 Foot Enclosed Hose Reels
1	Large Patrol Harness
1	Medium Patrol Harness
1	Drink Mixes & Snacks (Large Box)
1	Case Toilet Paper (30 Rolls)
1	Syntek Hidden Sleeve (Ray Allen)

*** If you receive more than one copy – It's a data base thing!**