

# THAILAND DOG HANDLERS

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

(06/19/10)

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

**<http://www.war-stories.com/odap/ws-odap-index.asp>**

Hello everyone! We are currently supporting six (6) kennels and seventeen (17) deployed Air Force, Army, and Navy teams as of June 15, 2010. June 2010 brings us to four years and ten months of operation for our “Old Dawgs & Pups” 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 Camp Cropper, Joint Base Balad, Sather Air Base, Iraq; Bagram Air Base, Afghanistan; Al Udeid Air Base, Qatar; Manas Air Base, Kyrgyzstan. We have two (2) new Pups to introduce this month.

#### **Pups heading home from the AOR**

**Joint Base Balad, Iraq:** TSgt Christopher Manning (KM) and SSgt Wendy Montellese will be heading home to Kadena and Beale AFB, respectively before our next edition of K-9 Supply. They were supported by Bill Cummings (U-Tapao) and Patsy Perrotto (NKP). Thanks Chris and Wendy for being part of our program and have a safe trip back to the world!

#### **Pups arriving in the AOR**

**Bagram Air Base, Afghanistan:** SSgt Daniel Canitz and MWD King deployed from the 21<sup>st</sup> Security Forces Squadron, Peterson AFB, Colorado. The team is supported by Jim Coggins (Takhli).

**Manas Air Base, Kyrgyzstan:** SSgt Steven Bruner and MWD Rex deployed from the 56<sup>th</sup> Security Forces Squadron, Luke AFB, Arizona. This team is supported by Jon Hemp (Tan Son Nhut).

#### **Old Dawgs Home from Deployment!**

As most of you know, one of our “Old Dawgs” MSgt Hugo Nunez was recently deployed to Afghanistan – it is with great pleasure that we can announce that the “Master Sergeant” is now back in “the world”. Thanks Hugo for your service and for representing Old Dawgs & Pups while you were down range. We are all very glad to have your back home.

#### **477<sup>th</sup> ESFS – Sather Air Base, Iraq**

Skip Davis is supplying our two troops at Sather Air Base with care packages! Skip volunteered to make sure SSgts Gabe Bravo (Luke AFB) and Charles Messer (Maxwell AFB) are getting a little extra from home. Thanks Skip for stepping up and I know those troops sure appreciate hearing from you! Gabe and Charles are supported by Phil Carroll (NKP/Takhli), Doug McCoy (47 IPSD), and Janet Wise (FoK).

## **455<sup>th</sup> ESFS – Bagram, Afghanistan**

### **VFW Post 7539, Bloomingdale, Illinois pitches in for OD&P**

Since 9/11, VFW Post 7539, Bloomingdale, IL, has been sending an average of from 50-75 packages per month to troops in Iraq and Afghanistan. About 3 years ago I located some USAF dog handlers serving and since then have been sending packages with "dog treats" to that special breed of serviceman. We are a small post, but do a lot. We have been an All State Post for two years in a row and in 2009/2010 achieved the status of All American Post (one of only 6 in the state of Illinois). I am proud to say that for those years, I was commander of the post.

We are able to send out as many packages as we do through donations and cooperation from local churches. This past Memorial Day over 100 packages were sent out in cooperation with a local church. Our mission is to continue shipping packages to individual service people as long as they are in harms way.

Best regards,  
Joe  
Binh Thuy '68 K-9

Here are a few messages we have received from Kennel Master, TSgt Tracey Booth on the support they have been receiving.

“We received all the packages today...thank you so much...everything was a hit...especially the cigars.... they're great for poker night. :) We've been trying to get a group photo but due to recent events it's been put on hold for a little while. As soon as we get it done, I will get it sent out. Again, thank you so much for your support”.

“Bill,

The handlers, puppies and trainer along with myself would like to extend a warm and gracious thank you to Karla Christenson and Joseph Palmer. Karla is a Veterinarian at the Michigan Department of Agriculture, Animal Industry Division.

She started adopting MWD Teams through Desert Angels and sends care packages to teams all over the AOR. She is always willing to accommodate any request we have and we usually receive the packages within a week. That's Awesome! Joe is a retired MWD Handler from the Vietnam era (picture attached). His VFW Post in Bloomingdale, IL has been sending care packages to troops in Iraq and Afghanistan since day one. When Joe first contacted us, he asked me to send a list of all the Handlers/Staff here at Bagram.

Within a couple weeks, 20 packages arrived...one for every handler/staff here. Holy crap...we had boxes everywhere! I just wanted to thank your organization and these two awesome individuals for the outstanding support that has been provided during our tour here. The water pails and retractable leashes purchased and sent by Old Dawgs & New Pups have come in very handy for everyday operations. Keep up the great support and we'll see you soon.

V/R  
TSgt Booth”

Joe and members of VFW Post 7539, Bloomingdale, IL, thank you on behalf of Old Dawgs & Pups for all of the additional help that you have provided us in supporting the troops at Bagram Air Base. I know for a fact that you guys have “been there and done that” and know what these efforts mean to the troops on the ground!

## Joe Palmer & Spike - 1968



## Master Sergeant Promotions! Pups made it Big!

On the 27<sup>th</sup> of May promotion list came out – Our Master Sergeants (Select) are TSgt Jon Sarabia, TSgt Jason Somers, TSgt Max Tally, and TSgt Drew O’Dell. This was a big list for K-9 and our pups just rose to the top of the heap! For all of you Old Dawgs & Friends of K-9, thanks for supporting these new Master Sergeants – our guys just did great. Congratulations Old Dawgs & Pups!



For those of you who haven’t been around the Air Force for a while – this is part of the “new tradition” – Above left MSgt (Select) Jon Sarabia, Whiteman AFB, shows the “stripes” that are part of the Promotion day ceremonies. Above right, Jon displays the new set of “real stripes and his promotion certificate” presented at his promotion ceremony.

## Greater Rochester All Airborne Chapter Donation

Once again this year we'd like to express our appreciation for a very generous donation from the Greater Rochester All Airborne Chapter. Thanks also to Greig Parker (U-Tapao/Korat) for his efforts along with all of the members from the Airborne Chapter for continuing their support for our deployed MWD teams. All I can is "How far Airborne? -- All the way!"

### *"Beware the Dogs of War"*

That's the motto on OUR brand-new challenge coin. It features the Vietnam Service ribbon and the Global War on Terror ribbon on one side, and a hard-core Sentry Dog on the other side. It's a bold, heavy, full-size, antique-brass challenge coin. It will be a new signature gift to our new Pups, and available for sale as a fund-raiser to Old Dawgs, friends, and all our past-Pups.

**If you are interested in purchasing a coin or a patch all have to is contact Phil Carroll at [k9nightfighter@msn.com](mailto:k9nightfighter@msn.com)**



Here is the new Thailand Dog Handlers Patch



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

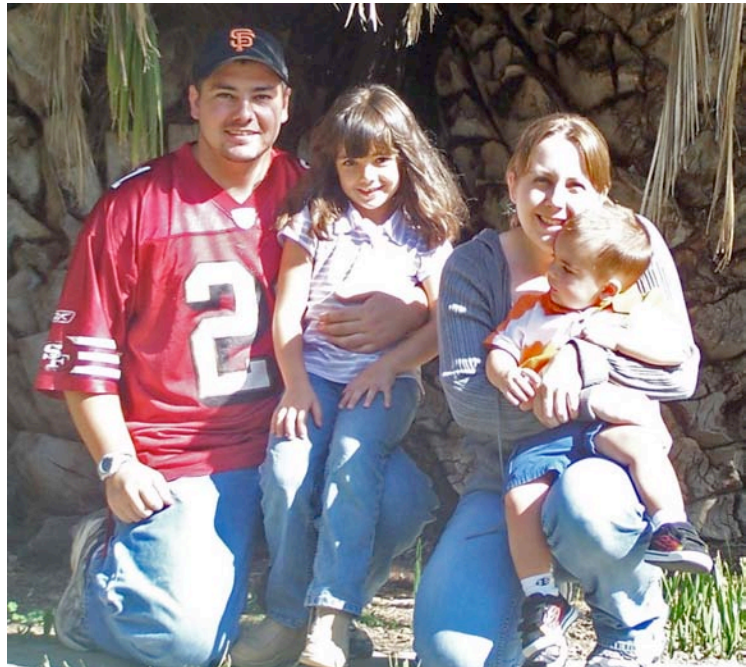
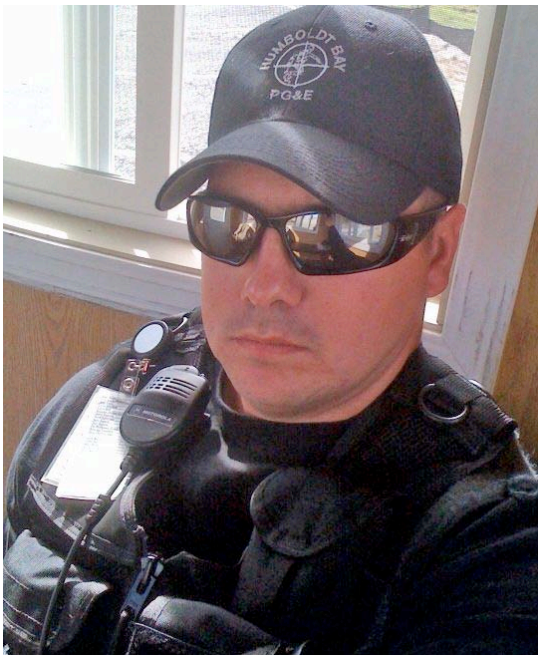
Joshua Ortiz is one of our “graduates” of the Old Dawgs & Pups program, and we’re happy to say he’s found a good life after the Air Force. Phil Carroll supported him during his last overseas tour as a dog handler at FOB Warrior, Iraq. During his six years in the Air Force, Josh also served tours at Al Dhafra Air Base, United Arab Emirates, and Ali Al Saleem Air Base, Kuwait. He made it to the rank of Staff Sergeant, and then was honorably discharged in 2007. He moved home to California from his last duty station at Fairchild AFB, Washington, and first worked as a sheriff’s deputy in El Dorado County. He has since moved on to a job with PG&E in Eureka, California.

His wife Allison is working for the state of California, their daughter Julie is getting ready to go into the 3rd grade, and son Jason will be three years old this month. Josh has coached his daughter in softball for two seasons, completed an Associates Degree in Criminal Justice, and is working toward a Bachelor's in Project Management. The job is also sending him to Glock Armorer's Course, which sounds like more fun than he deserves.

Josh is widely remembered by the Old Dawgs for the message he sent us when he received a commemorative K-9 badge as a gift, shortly after leaving the service:

“I got the K9 badge, and I have to tell you, I was almost in tears thinking of all the things I went through with my dog over the few years I had him.... It brought back memories of me sitting under a tree with him laying on my legs when I first picked him up just talking to him, to being downtown Iraq sweeping houses when we were shot at and him being totally unaware of what was going on; just trusting me for everything he needed and looking up with eyes of confusion. It means so much to me, I can’t thank you enough! I immediately framed it and it is currently displayed on top of my television, so that it can attract questions.... Thank you from me and the K9 in my heart!”

Welcome Home, Josh!



Left: Josh on to a job at PG&E in Eureka, California

Right: Josh, Julie, Allison, and Jason enjoying some of that good ole family time together.

It sure is nice hearing from you Josh and it looks like “life is good”.

## Leatherman introduces the new “MUT” multi-tool!

COMING IN SEPTEMBER the Leatherman “MUT” is the first multi-tool that functions as both a tactical and practical tool for military, LE, or civilian shooters. This thing is built like the Surge tools we’ve been sending to the war zones for the last four years, and which our troops love, but it adds some really terrific features for active duty troops. We introduced this tool at the Vietnam Dog Handlers Association reunion at March AFB last spring, but all we had available at the time were some brochures ([www.leatherman.com/userguides/950030\\_MUT\\_Brochure\\_web.pdf](http://www.leatherman.com/userguides/950030_MUT_Brochure_web.pdf)). The active-duty K-9 handlers who attended our reunion were pretty excited about the idea of a Leatherman multi-tool that would give them what they needed to disassemble, fix, adjust or un-jam an M-16 or M-4 in the field. Well, it’s going to be on the market in just another few months.

There’s a great review of the new tool in “American Cop eZine,”

at: <http://fmgpublishings.ipaperus.com/FMGPublishings/AmericanCop/ACJA10/?Page=48>

The MUT has areas on the tool threaded for cleaning rods and brushes and all the screwdriver bits are sized for standard military and civilian sight adjustment. Also built into the design of the tool is the flexibility to replace the most commonly used parts on the spot, using a simple Torx #8 bit. A MOLLE sheath and scope adjustment wrench are included.

### Tools:

- Stainless Steel Clip Point Combo Straight/Serrated Knife
- Needlenose Pliers, Regular Pliers, Saw, Hammer, Bottle Opener, Large Bit Driver,
- Bolt Override Tool, Cleaning Rod/Brush Adapters
- Replaceable Wire Cutters, Hard-wire Cutter, & Cutting Hook, Carabiner Clip
- Replaceable Firearm Disassembly Punch, Carbon Scraper
- Stranded Wire Cutters, Bolt Override Tool, Electrical Crimper
- INCLUDED BITS: Phillips #1-2 and 3/16, Phillips #2 and 1/4 Screwdriver, Torx #15 and Hex 7/64

### Features:

- Stainless Steel Body & Handles, Bronze Carbon Scraper and Titanium Pocket Clip
- Black Oxide Version Available, All Locking Blades and Tools & Outside-accessible Blades for One-handed Opening



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

At the time of this report we have **20** members of the "Old Dawgs & Pups" program actively supporting **17** 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 **1,228** pieces of equipment has been delivered to our K-9 troops serving in the AOR from August 21, 2005 to June 15, 2010. Over **252** "Old Dawgs and Friends" have supported **224** 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 **\$15,370.00** of supplies for the **56** kennels solely via your personal donations. Including the Leatherman corporate and Helping Udders donations, the total is **\$47,855.00!**

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

- 212 Leatherman "Surge" Tools (125) Donated by Leatherman) \*
  - \* The Leatherman "Surge"/Flashlights/Knives donation is valued at approximately **\$29,065.00**
- 120 Thailand Challenge Coins (Donated & Purchased)
- 81 Guardian Pet Beds (Pet Edge)
- 75 \* Leatherman Knives (Models: c33T, e55, e55B, e33L)
- 75 Thailand Historical Base Patches
- 52 Kongs (Assorted sizes)
- 45 \* Leatherman Serac S3 Leatherman Flashlights
- 40 Sponges
- 40 Cleaning/Scouring Pads
- 33 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)
- 25 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 Retractable Leashes (Pet Edge)
- 12 Flat Sided Stainless Steel Water Pails (Pet Edge)
- 12 Bucket Clips (Pet Edge)
- 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!**