

THAILAND DOG HANDLERS

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

OLD DAWGS and PUPS

Dog Handlers of the Vietnam War Supporting US Operations in Iraq and Afghanistan

Sponsored by Thailand Dog Handlers at combat Air Bases during the Vietnam War



(09/15/10)

OVER FIVE YEARS OF SUPPORTING OUR K-9 TROOPS!

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

Hello everyone! We are currently supporting seven (7) kennels and twenty-four (24) deployed Air Force, Army, and Navy teams as of September 15, 2010. September 2010 brings us to five years and one month 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 Joint Base Balad, Sather Air Base, Iraq; Bagram Air Base, Afghanistan; Al Udeid Air Base, Qatar; Manas Air Base, Kyrgyzstan; Al Dahfra, UAE, and a base at an “Undisclosed location in the AOR”. We have six (6) new Pups to introduce this month.

Pups heading home from the AOR

Al Udeid Air Base, Qatar: SSgt David Duritsky & Buddy are now back at Buckley AFB, Colorado after catching that “Freedom Bird”.

Sather Air Base, Iraq: SSgt Gabriel Bravo & Mayo should be back home at Luke AFB, Phoenix, Arizona and relaxing in more “desert heat”.

Bagram Air Base, Afghanistan: TSgt Tracey Booth, Kennel Master, has returned to Davis-Monthan AFB, AZ. Bill Cummings had the pleasure of welcoming him home!

In addition, SrA William Naylor & Max hopefully should be home at Mountain Home AFB, ID and SSgt Daniel Canitz & King should have arrived home to Peterson AFB, CO.

SSgt Matthew Plunkett & MWD Vero should be back at Hanscom AFB, MA, along with SSgt Loren Surley & MWD Asta at Peterson AFB, CO., and SSgt Jonathan Hartwell & Dagi who should be relaxing back at McDill AFB, FL.

Pups arriving in the AOR

Joint Base Balad, Iraq: SSgt Brian Klein & MWD Benny deployed from the 355th SFS, Davis-Monthan AFB, Arizona. He is supported by Peggy Fingar (FoK).

Sather Air Base, Iraq: TSgt Jason Hanisko, Kennel Master, deployed from 75th SFS, Hill AFB, Utah. He is supported by Mike Regan (NKP).

SrA James Worley & MWD Olix deployed from the 366th SFS, Mountain Home AFB, Idaho. They are supported by Bob Citrano (NKP).

Pups arriving in the AOR - Continued

Bagram Air Base, Afghanistan: SSgt Kim Harting & MWD Gina deployed from the 45th SFS, Patrick AFB, Florida. This team is supported by John & Joan Smith (U-Tapao), Peggy Finzgar (FoK) and Juli Warner (Leatherman).

Al Dahfra, UAE: SSgt Jesus Gonzalez & MWD Goro deployed from the 902nd SFS, Randolph AFB, Texas. They are supported by Bob Van de Riet (NKP)

Al Udeid Air Base, Qatar: SSgt Aaron Escalante & MWD Rex deployed from the 355th SFS, Davis-Monthan AFB, Arizona. He is supported by Kelly Bateman (Ubon).

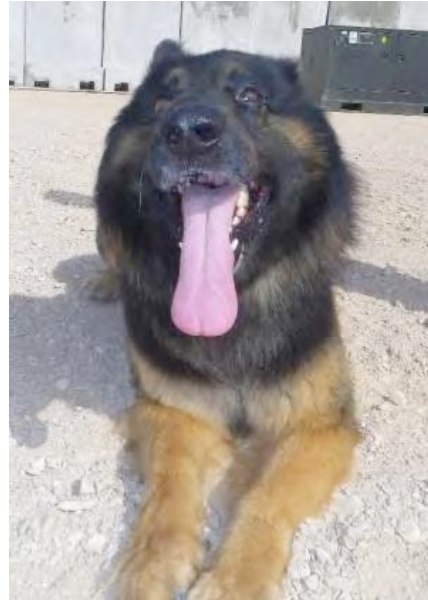
447th ESFS – Sather Air Base, Iraq



SrA James Worley & MWD Olix deployed from the 366th SFS, Mountain Home AFB, Idaho last month. Here are a few photographs of their “adventure” to Sather Air Base, Iraq. First they hung out in the transit area – “waiting for airflow”. Then it seems as though James was a little impatient as he “warmed up the plane”, and finally Olix had had enough – nap time! They are supported by Bob Citrano (NKP).

405th ESFS – “Undisclosed Location in the AOR”

A photographic “Demonstration”



SSgt Kristen McKay and MWD Cezar put on a little “demo” for us!

Looks like Cezar might just be on the “biting end of this exercise. This is one good looking dog team – ready to go at any time.

This is Kristen and Cezar’s second tour with Old Dawgs & Pups – you might remember her by the name of Kristen Smith when the team was assigned to Joint Base Balad. She went home got married and here she is again. When we first heard from her we didn’t put the name together until she “enlighten us” on the events of the last year. Congratulations Kristen and welcome back. They are once again supported by Jim Stastny (Korat).

More 405th ESFS – “Undisclosed Location in the AOR”



Above left are SSgt Kristen McKay and Cezar and TSgt Donald Ellison during a training exercise. Above right is SSgt Allison Price and Rudy – looks like Rudy has found something he recognizes? SSgt McKay is supported by Jim Stastny (Korat), TSgt Ellison is supported by Phil Carroll (Takhli/NKP) and TSgt Price is supported by Rick Matott (Ubon) and Bob Curnick (NKP).



OK, we’ve all had these kinda’ days! As you can see, Cezar is just plain tucker out! But if you had to caption this photograph – how would you do it? That is the spirit we just love to see – Cezar just isn’t giving up on the toy!

Please submit your entry to Bill Cummings so we can put the “proper caption” in next month’s report! The best caption submitted will receive a new “Thailand Dog Handlers/OD&P” challenge coin for your suggestion – lets see what you got?

The “Thailand Dog Handlers - Old Dawgs & Pups” Challenge Coin

“Beware the Dogs of War”



One side of this coin displays the heritage of the Thailand Dog Handlers - U.S. Air Force sentry dog and patrol dog handlers who guarded America’s front-line combat air bases in Thailand throughout the Vietnam War. It features the 3-D head of an attacking German Shepherd dog in the aggressive posture of these outstandingly courageous and intelligent animals. Around the circumference of the coin are the names of the seven Royal Thai Air Force Bases that were used by U.S. forces and guarded by the American K-9 teams. Also shown are the years this Thailand service took place, 1968-1976, and the initials “USAF.”

The reverse of the coin celebrates the connection of the Vietnam War “Old Dawgs” with their “Pups” - the U.S. Military Working Dog handlers of the Twenty First Century. This side bears the Latin wording “Cave Canes Pugnaces,” or “Beware the Dogs of War.”

This side of the coin also features color reproductions of two official U.S. military ribbons denoting award of the Vietnam Service Medal and the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal. The VSM was awarded for service in the Vietnam War between

1965 and 1973 (and in reality should have been extended to include wartime Thailand service until 1976). The GWOT-E medal is awarded today for service in, or in support of, Operation Enduring Freedom or Operation Iraqi Freedom, in parts or all of 68 countries or regions. It is never awarded for service in the U.S. Hundreds of U.S. Air Force, Army and Navy dog handlers have been supported by the Old Dawgs & Pups program since 2005 in Iraq, Afghanistan, Kyrgyzstan, Qatar, United Arab Emirates, Djibouti, Honduras, Korea and locations which must remain undisclosed for operational security.

The tradition of challenge coins is said to have started in the U.S. Army Air Service, the first ancestor of the U.S. Air Force, during World War I. Legend has it that one wealthy young volunteer pilot had small gold-plated medallions made of his squadron insignia which he gave to his fellow pilots for camaraderie and good luck. One of the pilots carried his in a leather pouch worn around his neck. This pilot’s aircraft was damaged in combat, forcing him to land behind enemy lines where he was captured by German troops who confiscated everything he carried but missed the leather pouch. On his way to a POW camp he was held in a French village which was bombarded by the British, creating enough confusion to allow his escape.

The pilot avoided German patrols by wearing civvies, crept across no-man’s land and made contact with a French patrol who mistook the him for a German spy and prepared to immediately execute him. Without any identification, the pilot pulled out the coin from his leather pouch and showed it to his French captors, who recognized the unit insignia on the coin and delayed the execution long enough to verify his identity.

Once the pilot returned to his squadron and his story spread, it became a tradition for every squadron member to carry his coin everywhere. To ensure this, the pilots would challenge each other to produce the coin. If one couldn’t, he was required to buy a drink for the challenger; if he could, the challenger had to buy the drink.

Another version of this story comes from the Vietnam War, when a soldier would carry a piece of “lucky” ordnance that had hit or nearly hit him, or saved his life. At first it was shrapnel or small-arms ammunition, but grew to include bigger and more dangerous items over time. Eventually commanders banned it, and instead gave away metal coins emblazoned with the unit crest. The purpose of the piece of ordnance had been that when going into a bar you had to have your lucky piece or you had to buy drinks for everyone who had theirs. The coins took over this tradition, which goes on to this day. Other uses of challenge coins have evolved; for example they are often left at the funeral of an airman, soldier or sailor killed in action as tokens of respect and condolence from military personnel in attendance, for the family of the deceased.

Contact Phil Carroll if you are interested in purchasing

a Thailand Dog Handler – Old Dawgs & Pups Coin - K9nightfighter@msn.com

Other News concerning OD&P Graduates!

Just in case any of you don't have Facebook, here is the latest addition to our family. His name is Anty and he is a 9 1/2 yr old Czech Sheppard. Anty and I were deployed to Iraq together where he had 3 explosive finds with just me. He retired from active duty last Friday and now enjoys chasing the cat around the house, playing with tennis balls, and Sleeping 10 hrs a day. Even though I totally miss him being my partner at work, I really enjoy him being at home to greet me when I come home. Below right is Anty stationed at "Ft. Living Room". Petty Office Robert Pennington (USN) (FOB Warrior – November 2006 – Supported by Terry Stickland (Korat/Dixie Whitman (FoK))



SSgt Chuck Dalton and his wife are the proud new parents to Grace Dalton – born on September 9, 2010. SSgt Dalton was supported by John Risse (Pleiku) and Peggy Finzgar during his tour at FOB Warrior in 2009. Congratulations Chuck – looks like a future dawg handler to us!!!!



Leatherman Tool Group News



With Deepest Appreciation

Honoring

Juli Warner

of the Leatherman Tool Group

For your love and devotion in support of hundreds of deployed U.S. Military Working Dog teams in Iraq, Afghanistan, Kyrgyzstan, Qatar, United Arab Emirates, Djibouti, Honduras, Korea and necessarily undisclosed locations in the war zones. Nobody could possibly care more for the boots and paws on the ground than you do, and we're here to make sure they all know it.

The "Old Dawgs & Pups"



Last month Phil Carroll had the honor to present the above 16x20 plaque to our Leatherman Angel, Juli Warner. The big photo is of SSgt Wendy Montellese and her dog Jimmy K193 at Joint Base Balad, Iraq. On the photo are the names of the more than 200 handlers and their dogs who have received Leatherman equipment through Old Dawgs & Pups, thanks to Juli.

Old Dawgs & Pup Program Overview – September 2010

Just thought we'd give you a quick overview of our program today. We have supported 243 deployments of 220 military personnel involving since August 2005:

Air Force MWD teams	210
Army MWD teams	15
Navy MWD teams	2
Civilian MWD trainer	1

The deployments have been assigned in the following countries:

Qatar	19
Iraq	171
Djibouti – Africa	3
Honduras	1
Kyrgyzstan	11
Kuwait	3
Afghanistan	20
Korea	1
United Arab Emirates	8
Undisclosed Location AOR	6

The deployments originated from:

USAF	40 – CONUS
USAF	10 – OCONUS (Germany, Guam, Italy, England & Japan)
Army	9 – CONUS
Navy	2 – CONUS
Civilian	1 – Florida

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

At the time of this report we have **31** members of the “Old Dawgs & Pups” program actively supporting **24** handlers assigned to seven (7) 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 **1,239** pieces of equipment has been delivered to our K-9 troops serving in the AOR from August 21, 2005 to September 15, 2010. Over **300** “Old Dawgs and Friends” have supported **59** kennels and **243** 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 **\$15,756.00** of supplies for the **59** kennels solely via your personal donations. Including the Leatherman corporate and Helping Udders donations, the total is **\$48,241.00!**

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)
- 91 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
- 40 PSI Water Holes (Dressler's)
- 33 Kygen Port-A-Bowls (Dressler's)
- 25 Doggles (10 Pairs were donated)
- 24 Kygen 2-In-1 Food/Water Bowls (Dressler's)
- 24 Rolls 26"x78" 20% Dark Limo Window Tint (Checker Auto Supply)
- 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
- 6 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!**