

# 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



(12/15/10)

This edition of the Old Dawgs & Pups/K-9 Supply report is dedicated to the memory of United States Air Force Military Working Dog Argo (F590 – Explosive Detector/Patrol Dog) and his partner TSgt Pablo Martinez. The team was deployed in Iraq with the 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division, HHC, 1BCT, FOB Warrior (USA) in January of 2006 and stateside at 82<sup>nd</sup> Security Forces Squadron, Sheppard Air Force Base, Texas. Argo completed two successful missions in Iraq.

### Military Working Dog Argo – F590



2003 – 2010

It is with great sadness that we announce that Military Working Dog Argo (F590), the partner of TSgt Pablo Martinez, was euthanized on December 7, 2010, at the 82<sup>nd</sup> Security Forces Squadron Military Working Dogs Kennel at Sheppard Air Force Base, Wichita Falls, Texas. During kennel checks, Argo was found laying in his kennel in a very weak condition.

Security Forces K-9 handlers rushed Argo to the veterinarian, they performed an emergency surgery. Argo had a ruptured spleen and cancer that spread throughout his lungs. The veterinarian was forced to put him down.

TSgt Martinez is now assigned to the 355<sup>th</sup> SFS, Davis-Monthan AFB, Arizona and he contacted us with this message:

“Argo came to me at just over a year old. It took me over 3-4 months to finally certify with him and call him my partner. Shortly after, we found ourselves flying in Blackhawks together and walking point for the best group of warriors I've ever had the pleasure to serve with belonging to the 101st Airborne Division. Argo never complained during those long missions nor did he ever slack off his duties even after pushing from village to village.

He knew how important his duty was and the only thing he asked in return was a pat on the head. Argo was my best friend. He's the one I spent most of my time down range venting out to only because I knew he wasn't going to say anything.

I'd like to share this story about something Argo did. Not that many people know but the day we got hit by a roadside bomb, Argo saved the life of my gunner seconds before the blast. Just before the IED went off, Argo nudged our gunner's knee causing our gunner to look down to Argo. At that moment the blast went over his head. I think had he not done that his injuries would've been more severe.

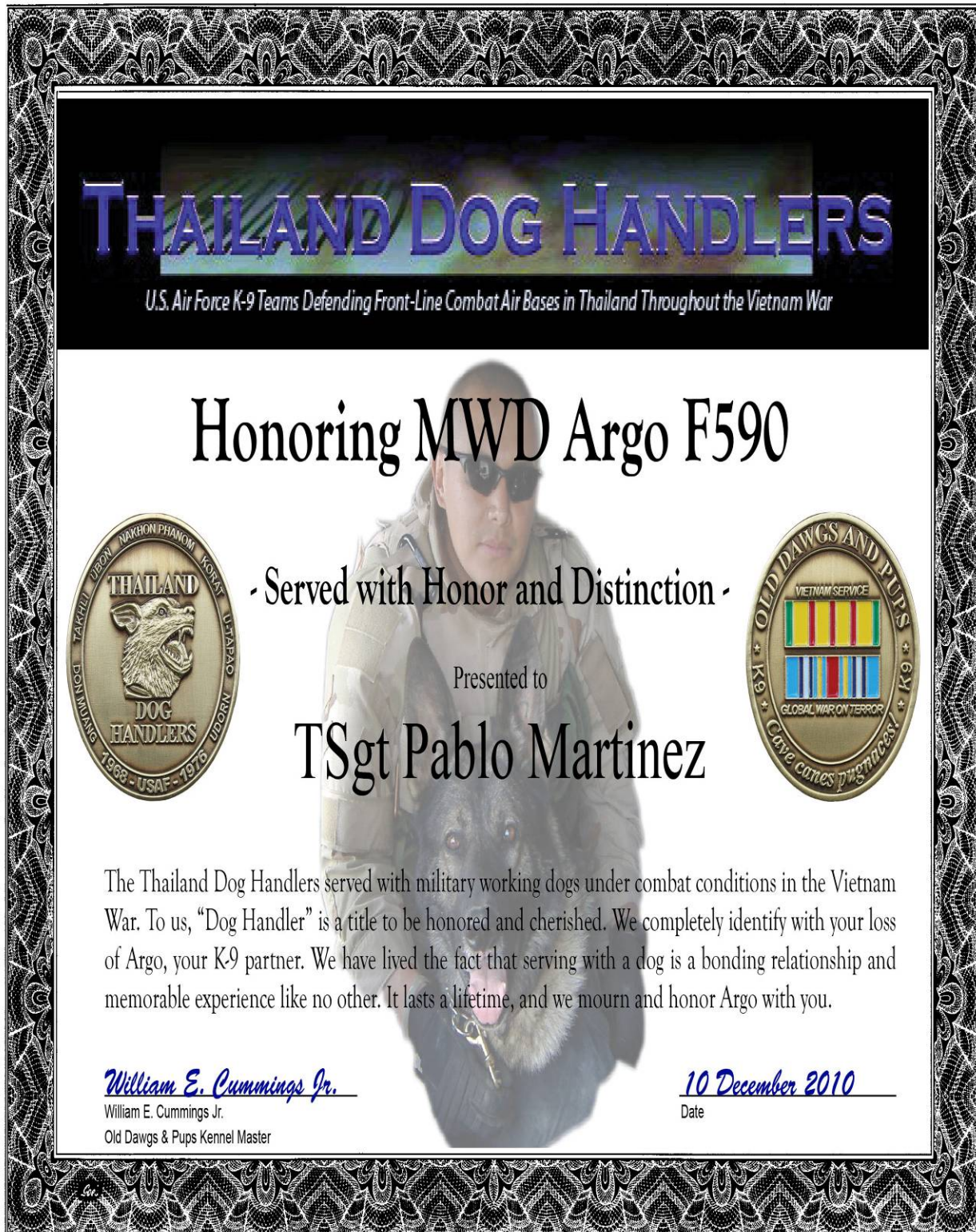
I miss you buddy. Not a day goes by I don't think about those moments you and I had at Sheppard, Creech and Iraq. You affected a lot of us not only back stateside but those bearing the patch of the screaming Eagle. I love you, I miss you. Rest in Peace Argo F590. K-9 UP!!!!”



**SSgt Pablo Martinez and MWD Argo F590 (Iraq 2006)**



The Thailand Dog Handler Group and Old Dawgs & Pups will present this proclamation to TSgt Pablo Martinez to honor his service and partnership with Military Working Dog Argo F590.



**Happy Holidays and We Wish You Were Home!**

***OVER FIVE YEARS OF SUPPORTING OUR K-9 TROOPS!***

**More than \$52,000 of supplies shipped down range!**

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

Hello everyone! We are currently supporting six (6) kennels and sixteen (16) deployed Air Force, Army, and Navy teams as of December 15, 2010. December 2010 brings us to five years and four 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 Joint Base Balad, Sather Air Base, Iraq; Bagram Air Base, FOB Wilson, Afghanistan; Al Udeid Air Base, Qatar; Al Dahfra, UAE, and. We have one (1) new Pup to introduce this month.

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

**Joint Base Balad, Iraq:** Kennel Master, SSgt Kristopher Carroll has returned to Travis AFB, Washington.

**Manas Air Base, Kyrgyzstan:** SSgt Steven Bruner & MWD Rex finally returned home, after a few delays, to Luke AFB, Arizona.

SSgt Joshua Aleprete and MWD Boy are back to their home station at Andrews AFB, Maryland.

**Undisclosed Location, SW Asia:** Kennel Master, TSgt Donald Ellison has returned to Travis AFB, Washington.

SSgt Kristen McKay & MWD has completed another tour and has returned to McGuire AFB, NJ.

SSgt Allison Price & MWD Rudy have returned to McGuire AFB, NJ.

SSgt Jason Albrecht & MWD Marky have pulled chocks and are now back at Shaw AFB, SC.

**Al Dhafra/United Arab Emirates:** Kennel Master, TSgt Jim Parkis should be enjoying the cold and snow and maybe a great German “brew”back at Ramstein Air Base, Germany by now.

SSgt Noe Gutierrez & MWD Jannie have returned to Holloman AFB, New Mexico and they are getting ready for the holidays back in the states. Jannie is headed for Joint Base San Antonio for some medical treatment in the very near future.

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

**FOB Wilson, Afghanistan:** SSgt Justin Kitts & MWD Dyngo just arrived at FOB Wilson, Afghanistan. They are deployed from the 56<sup>th</sup> SFS, Luke AFB, Arizona and they are supported by Patsy Perrotto (NKP). This is Justin’s second tour with OD&P. Many of you should remember him from the VSPA reunion at Luke AFB last year – he spent a “LOT of TIME” with us!

We have a number of troops that we are very familiar with that are enroute to several locations in the AOR. They will be in place in the next few weeks and we will introduce them to you next month.



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



**Left - SrA James Worley & MWD Olix showing off their new Leatheman Surge.**

**Right – Olix doing some “place training” on a Jersey barrier. That dog just loves to have his picture taken!!**

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

**It's turkey time at Bagram!**



**MWD Gina finishes a “taste” of Thanksgiving. Even MWDs enjoy turkey!  
SSgt Harting and Gina just picked up a few new sponsors – Steve and Lise Gattis (CRB)**

## **455<sup>th</sup> ESFS – Bagram Air Base, Afghanistan - Continued**



**Above Left – SSgt Kim Harting & Gina photographed through NVGs (Night Vision Goggles). Kim is supported by a “cast” of OD&P volunteers.**

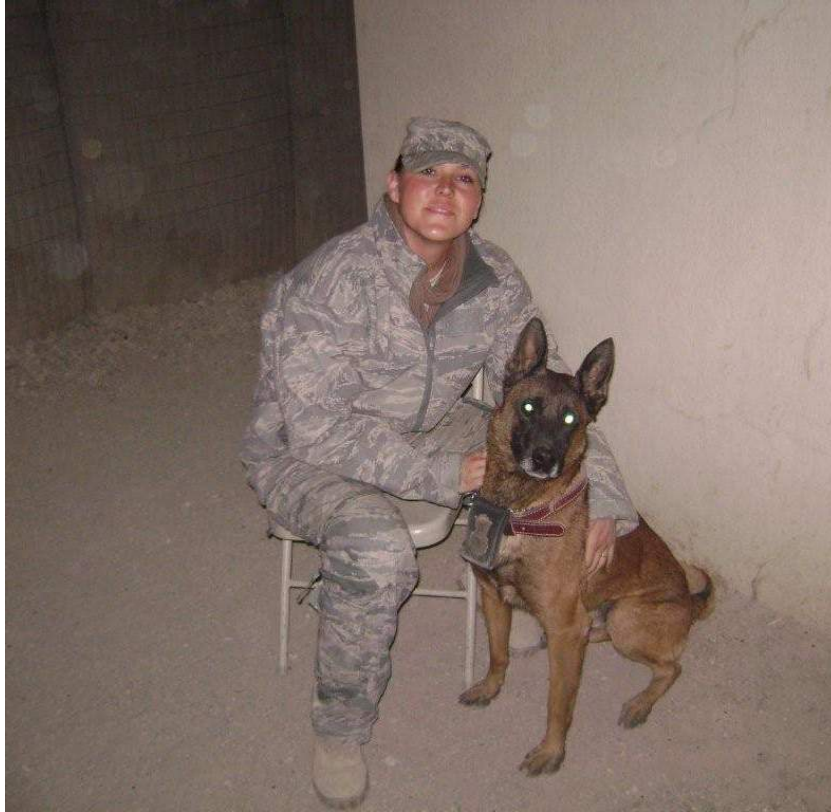
**Above Right – The team takes a little break before some obedience training at Bagram.**



**Above – MWD Gina is very engrossed in that chew tug! To the left, MWDs Rico and Gina enjoy some down time. Finally, Gina has had a “hard day’s night” and is grabbing a few ZZZZZZZZZZZZZZZS!**



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



**SSgt Teri Messina and MWD Rico “strike a pose for the hometown folks”. As you can tell, it’s now COLD in Afghanistan! Teri and Rico are supported by Jon Hemp (TSN).**



**455<sup>th</sup> ESFS Bagram Air Base, Afghanistan - 2010**

## **332<sup>th</sup> ESFS – Joint Base Balad, Iraq**



**SSgt Bryan Klein & MWD Benny getting ready to “work out some training stuff”**



**SSgt Bryan Klein & MWD Benny announcing “their challenge” before entering for a building search. The team is deployed from 355<sup>th</sup> SFS Davis-Monthan AFB, AZ and they are supported by Peggy Finzgar (FoK). This squadron was deactivated as the 355<sup>th</sup> SPS Takhli, Thailand December 10, 1970 and reactivated as the 355<sup>th</sup> SPS on September 30, 1976, and later the 355<sup>th</sup> SFS in 1992.**



## FOB Wilson, Afghanistan



**SSgt Justin Kitts & MWD Dyngo just arrived at FOB Wilson, Afghanistan. They are deployed with the 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division. Many of you met Justin at the VSPA reunion in 2009 in Phoenix. He is deployed from the 56<sup>th</sup> SFS, Luke AFB, Arizona and they are supported by Patsy Perrotto (NKP). This is Justin's second Afghanistan tour and his second with OD&P.**

## 379<sup>th</sup> ESFS – Al Udeid Air Base, Qatar



**Left - SSgt Aaron Escalante and Rex completing a little “basic obedience” at Al Udeid Air Base, Qatar. Aaron and Rex are deployed from the 355<sup>th</sup> SFS, Davis-Monthan AFB, Arizona and they are supported by Kelly Bateman (Ubon).**

**Right – The “Old Man” just posing for some photographs. Rex is on his final deployment and the seasoned veteran is still going strong. He might look a little “gray” but you just don’t want to be on the wrong end of an attack sleeve when Rex plies his trade and training – he can make it hurt!**

## **Al Dhafra Air Base, United Arab Emirates (UAE)**



**Left: SSgt David Garver & MWD Uudensi showing off Uudensi's new harness. This team is deployed from Langley AFB, Virginia and they are supported by John & Joan Smith (U-Tapao).**

**Right: SrA Kyle Majorana & MWD Erik checking in on the "close up" shot! They are deployed from Hill AFB, Utah and are supported by David Priest (Korat).**



**SSgt Eric Hoffman & MWD Pita just "Working out on" TSgt Jim Parkis. SSgt Hoffman & Pita are deployed from McConnell AFB, Kansas and are supported by J. D. Jones (Udorn). TSgt Parkis is deployed from Ramstein AB, Germany and he is supported by Dixie Whitman (FoK).**



**It's been a "ruff day" for Uudensi – some sack time on those Guardian Pet Cots from Pet Edge is just too inviting and toooooooooooooooooooooo much to resist!**



## Cool Custom Dog Handler Goodies for Christmas

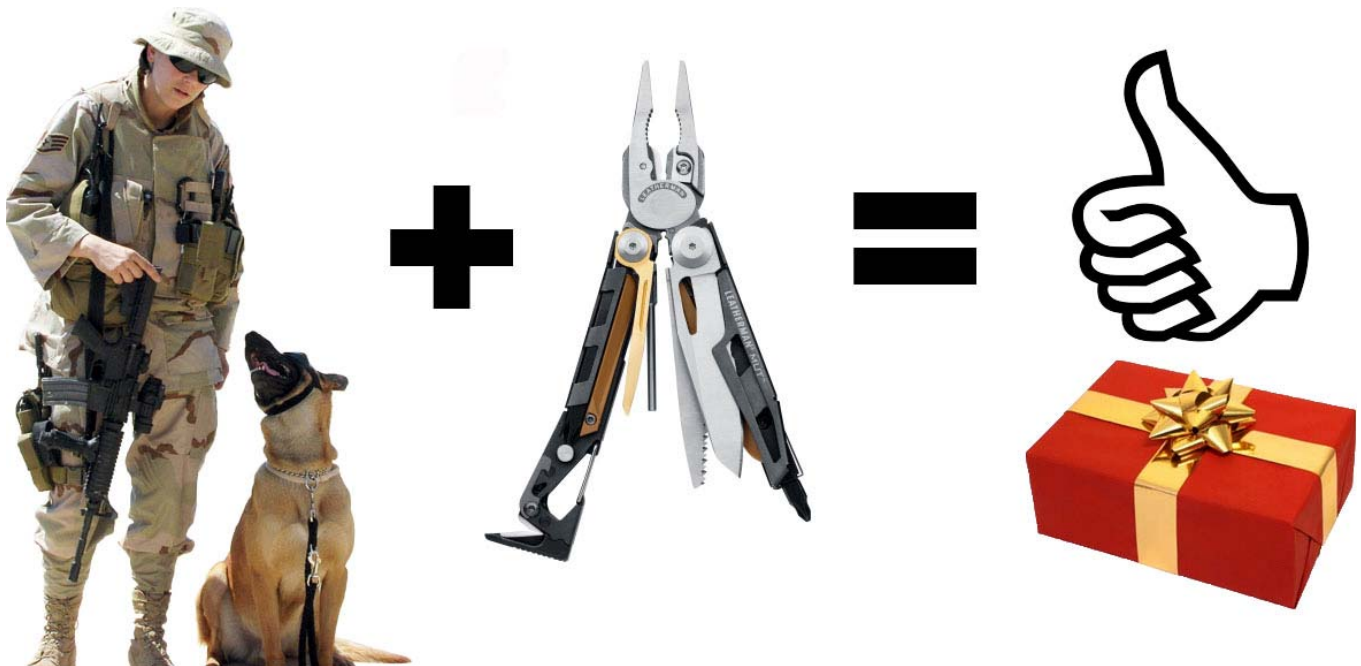
Leave some hints around the house if you want family to give you some of these cool products for Christmas – and there's more than pictured here. The website where you can order them is at:

[www.zazzle.com/thailand+dog+handlers+gifts](http://www.zazzle.com/thailand+dog+handlers+gifts)



All proceeds from these products go to support the Thailand Dog Handlers website!

## The New Leatherman Mut



**OR;** Dog team plus the Leatherman Mut equals a Great Christmas present! (for the “hard of hearing”). For more information on the “Muts” please contact Bill Cummings or Phil Carroll. Original art was designed by James Miller. MWD team is SSgt Catherine Frazier & Rico.

## Thank you for the Holiday packages sent to our pups

A great big “Thank You” goes out to the MWDTSA (Military Working Dog Team Support Association, Inc.), Joe Palmer and VFW Post 7539 Bloomingdale, Illinois, Kelly Bateman and VFW the Oldham-Cummings Post 6441, Wimberley, Texas, Sharon Schultz and the Ohio/Red Oak United Methodist churches, and Tracy Brown and her family and friends for the “Holiday” packages that they have shipped to our deployed pups. Our troops down range appreciate all that you have done for them and their kennelmates! Thank you also for supporting our OD&P program.

Thanks also to the individuals sponsors who have sent holiday and monthly packages to support our deployed dog teams. Your work and dedication on behalf of deployed dog teams down range is just fantastic.

## **Old Dawgs & Pup Program Overview – September 2005 - December 2010**

Well, it's been 64 months since we started Old Dawgs & Pups due to a call for help from some troops down range at Ali Air Base, Iraq, specifically SSgt Jon Sarabia. If you don't remember, Monty and Cathy Moore first started matching up troops via the VSPA website and other venues. We kicked off OD&P as we supported eight troops (seven AF and one Army personnel) on September 18, 2005. The original troops and their sponsors on September 18, 2005 were:

KM TSgt Matt Rebholz (Langley AFB):	Supported by Ben Cox & Donald Graham
Trainer SSgt Jassen Dongon (Langley AFB)	Supported by Fred Cobb
SSgt Carl Wolf (Langley AFB):	Supported by Ben Cox & Jim Hannon
SSgt Jon Sarabia (Whiteman AFB):	Supported by Bill Cummings & Marie Zeak
SSgt Jake Bolton (Whiteman AFB):	Supported by Gary Logsdon
SSgt Damon Tripp (Mountain Home AFB):	Supported by David Adams & Dave Broeker
SSgt Jeffrey Mastin (Seymour Johnson AFB)	Supported by Gordon Johnston & Janet Wise
Sgt Randy Jensen (Ft. Hood):	Supported by Kelly Bateman, Ernie Childers, & Terry Strickland

Now Master Sergeant Matt Rebholz has completed three (3) tours with OD&P (2 Iraq & Kuwait); SSgt Damon Tripp completed two (2) tours with OD&P (Iraq & Kyrgyzstan), and SSgt Jeff Mastin completed two (2) tours with OD&P (Iraq). Master Sergeant Rebholz is pushing troops at Langley, Staff Sergeants Tripp and Mastin have left the Air Force and Sgt Randy Jensen is pushing dogs and troops with the 341<sup>st</sup> Training Squadron at Joint Base San Antonio, Texas.

Our dear friend Ben Cox died on March 16, 2009 and we really miss him – what a good man!

Just thought we'd give you a quick overview of our program today. We have supported 60 kennels, and 249 deployments of 226 military personnel since August 2005:

Air Force MWD teams	231
Army MWD teams	15
Navy MWD teams	2
Civilian MWD trainer	1

The deployments have been assigned in the following countries:

Qatar	19
Iraq	174
Djibouti – Africa	3
Honduras	1
Kyrgyzstan	11
Kuwait	3
Afghanistan	21
Korea	1
United Arab Emirates	10
Undisclosed Location AOR	6

The deployments originated from:

USAF	46 – CONUS
USAF	10 – OCONUS (Germany, Guam, Italy, England & Japan)
Army	9 – CONUS
Navy	2 – CONUS
Civilian	1 – Florida

**Old Dawgs and Friends of K-9 – you've done a great job!**



## Other News concerning OD&P Graduates

It's been a very exciting month for Bill Cummings as he has had the fantastic opportunity to finally meet three handlers that have been supported in the past by OD&P while volunteering at Davis-Monthan AFB, Arizona.

First he finally got to meet TSgt Pablo Martinez (MWD Argo) deployed from Sheppard AFB, Texas to Kirkuk Air Base, Iraq and Korea who was supported by himself and Phil Carroll over the years.

Then TSgt Kurt Lugar (MWD Deny), deployed out of Elmendorf AFB, Alaska to Camp Bucca in 2007, who was supported by Dale Burton (U-Tapao) and David Adams (Korat).

Finally, a few days ago TSgt Justin Fields (MWD Eddy), deployed from Edwards AFB, California to Ali Air Base, Iraq in 2006. Justin was supported by Phil Carroll (NKP/Takhli) and Don Graham (Loring).

Oh, by the way – all three of them have their engraved “Thailand Handler” Leatherman Surges!

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

At the time of this report we have **23** members of the “Old Dawgs & Pups” program actively supporting **16** 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 **1,329** pieces of equipment has been delivered to our K-9 troops serving in the AOR from August 21, 2005 to December 15, 2010. Over **310** “Old Dawgs and Friends” have supported **60** kennels and **250** K-9 personnel via our program. For additional information on the program please go to:

[http://www.pbases.com/635thk9/old\\_dawgs](http://www.pbases.com/635thk9/old_dawgs)

Please review the photos, press releases, and more about our ongoing programs.

We have purchased and shipped **\$16,271.00** of supplies for the **60** kennels solely via your personal donations. Including the Leatherman corporate and Helping Udders donations, the total is **\$52,436.00!**

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 **\$32,745.00**
- 148 Thailand Challenge Coins (Donated & Purchased)
- 91 \* Leatherman Serac S3 Leatherman Flashlights
- 91 Guardian Pet Beds (Pet Edge)
- 90 Thailand Historical Base Patches
- 75 \* Leatherman Knives (Models: c33T, e55, e55B, e33L)
- 52 Kongs (Assorted sizes)
- 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)