

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



(02/15/11)

This edition of K-9 Supply is dedicated to the memory of United States Army Military Working Dog Handler Sgt Zainah C. Creamer, 2nd Battalion, 502nd Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault)

IN HONOR OF OUR FALLEN COMARADE
2nd Battalion, 502nd Infantry Regiment
2nd Brigade Combat Team
101st Airborne Division (Air Assault)



SGT Zainah C. Creamer
23 February 1982 - 12 January 2011





**U.S. Department of Defense
Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Public Affairs)
News Release**

January 15, 2015

DOD Identifies Army Casualty

The Department of Defense announced today the death of a soldier who was supporting Operation Enduring Freedom.

Sgt. Zainah C. Creamer, 28, of Texarkana, Texas, died Jan. 12, 2011, in Kandahar province, Afghanistan, of wounds suffered when insurgents attacked her unit with an improvised explosive device. She was assigned to the 212th Military Police Detachment, Headquarters Battalion, Fort Belvoir, Va.

She was most recently serving as a Military Working Dog Handler. Officials with the Department of Defense say Creamer was a member of the 212th Military Police Detachment at Fort Belvoir. Creamer and her working dog, Joffa, left for Afghanistan in October. They were part of the 2nd Battalion, 502nd Infantry Regiment. Joffa was not hurt in the attack. She was 28 years old.

We just received this from SSgt Justin Kitts, assigned to the same Battalion:

“As we all know the K-9 world is a big family. On 12 January 2011 while serving her country with her MWD Joffa, Sgt Creamer was killed doing what she loved. I did not know Sgt. Creamer on a personal level. I met her when I arrived at FOB Wilson; we did some training together than she was sent out to another FOB. I remember helping her load her bags onto the Blackhawk and joking about how many bags she had. The point I want to get across here is that K-9 is a family, regardless if you never met Sgt. Creamer or if you knew her your whole life. The K-9 Family has lost a family member. I do not personal feel that Sgt. Creamer would want us to morn her death but instead she would want us to celebrate the life she lived. Sgt Creamer your K-9 family will never forget your sacrifice to our country and we promise to spread the word of what an amazing American Hero and Dog Handler you are”

Justin went on to say:

“Sorry, it’s been a while. It has been crazy around here as usual. On the 12th we lost one of our K-9 Handlers to an IED – Sgt Zainah C. Creamer – U. S. Army. I went to the memorial service, which was not easy but I felt I had to pay my respect to her. I gave here my Thailand K-9 coin that I received from Old Dawgs & Pups with my patch and Leatherman surge. I felt that she deserved it. I am attaching a picture of the pamphlet from the memorial service. This really hits home to all of us fighting the fight out here in Afghanistan. This s\$@ is no joke and should not be taken lightly. Her dog Joffa did not receive any wounds and is still a live. Let’s pay our respects to this American Hero!!!”**

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 seven (7) kennels and fifteen (15) deployed Air Force, Army, and Navy teams as of February 15, 2011. February 2011 brings us to five years and five 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, Iraq; Bagram Air Base, FOB Wilson, and FOB Azizullah (COP), Afghanistan; Al Dahfra, UAE; and Ali Al Salem, Kuwait; and Manas Transit Center, Kyrgyzstan. We have six (6) new Pups to introduce this month.

Pups heading home from the AOR

Joint Base Balad, Iraq: SSgt Joshua Aleprete and MWD Boy are back to their home station at Andrews AFB, Maryland.

SSgt Kyle Richards and MWD Omega are enjoying the wonderful winter back at Ramstein AB, Germany.

SSgt Brian Klein & MWD Benny are back in the wonderful climate in Arizona. They arrived the first weekend of February and are now back at Davis-Monthan AFB, Tucson, Arizona.

Sather Air Base, Iraq: SSgt Jason Hanisko, Kennel Master, is now back at Hill AFB, Utah.

SSgt Dedrick Callahan, Trainer, is now back in the bright lights of Las Vegas, his home station at Nellis AFB, Nevada. His is also the proud father of a new K-9 handler – see Other News!

SrA James Worley & MWD Olix has his bags pack and should be back at Mountain Home AFB, Idaho

Al Udeid Air Base, Qatar: SSgt Aaron Escalante & MWD Rex hit the ground running at warm Davis-Monthan AFB, Tucson, Arizona. Rumor has it that Rex is heading for Fort Living Room very soon!

Bagram Air Base, Afghanistan: SSgt Terri Messiana & MWD Rico should be arriving at Vandenberg AFB, California about the time this edition hits the streets!

Al Dhafra, United Arab Emirates: SSgt John Houston & MWD Otto are departing for Mildenhall Air Base, England

SSgt Jeremy O’Dell & MWD Ajax is also heading back to Mildenhall Air Base, England.

SSgt David Garver & MWD Uudensi are heading back to the cold weather at Langley AFB, Virginia.

SSgt Jesus Gonzalez & MWD Goro should be back in the great state of Texas, namely Randolph AFB.

Pups arriving in the AOR

Joint Base Balad, Iraq: SSgt Christopher LaBoy & MWD Frigo deployed from the 9th SFS, Beale AFB, California. This team is supported by Jon Hemp (TSN).

SSgt Travis Dulworth & MWD Andor deployed from the 22nd SFS, McConnell AFB, Kansas. They are supported by Jay D. Jones (Udorn).

Ali Al Salem, Kuwait: SrA Stephanie Nunez & MWD Buddy deployed from the 460th SFS, Buckley AFB, Colorado. They are supported by Jim Coggins (Takhli).

Manas Air Base, Lurguzstam: TSgt Andrew Esparza, Kennel Master, deployed with us for the third time, from the 355th SFS, Davis-Monthan AFB, Tucson, Arizona. He is supported by Bill Cummings (U-Tapao).

SSgt Paris Carman & MWD Diesel deployed from the 355th SFS, Davis-Monthan AFB, Tucson, Arizona. He is supported by Larry Zacker (U-Tapao/Takhli).

447th ESFS – Sather Air Base, Iraq



SSgt Dedrick Callahan and SrA James Worley, lightening up the mood at their Christmas party before leaving Sather Air Base, Iraq. Fashion statements – NOT! SSgt Callahan was supported by Jon Hemp (TSN) and SrA Worley was supported by Bob Citrano (NKP) and Ernest Childers (Udorn)

332th ESFS – Joint Base Balad, Iraq



Left - SSgt Ted Carlson, MWD Rambo, and TSgt Tim Kaluza “gearing up” for a mission at JBB. Don’t you love it when your Kennel Master is your point man – that’s top cover at its finest!

Center – SSgt Ted Carlson and MWD Rambo preparing for another day at Joint Base Balad, Iraq.

Right - SSgt Carlson shares his water ration with Rambo – Rule # 1 – always maintain hydration!

TSgt Kaluza is supported by Dixie Whitman (FoK) and Rich Vivio (U-Tapao) and SSgt Carlson & Rambo are supported by Dixie & Bill Gunter (NKP)

332th ESFS – Joint Base Balad, Iraq - Continued

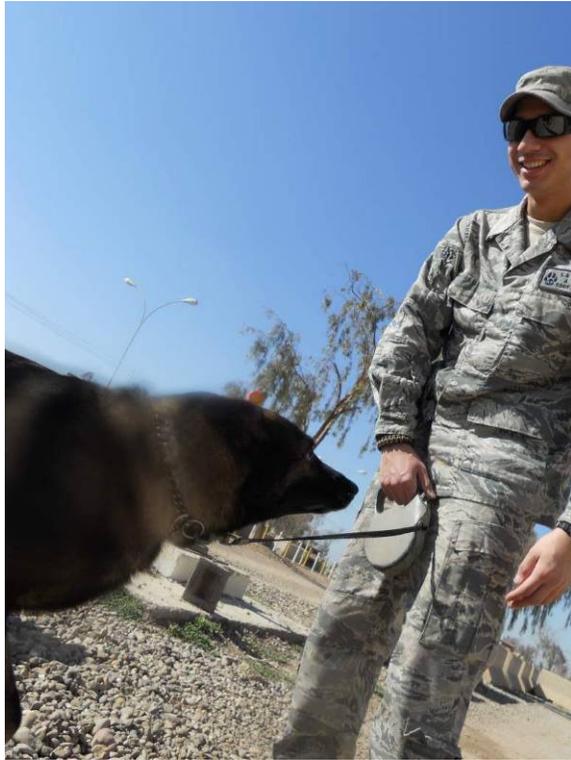


SSgt Ted Carlson and MWD Rambo checking out the river banks of the Tigris River



Those 820th guys know how to run patrols – that’s what training is all about. SSgt Ted Carlson and MWD Rambo head out on patrol with their team – you play like you practice!

More 332th ESFS – Joint Base Balad, Iraq



SSgt Christopher LaBoy and MWD Frigo finish up a little training and prepare for a mission at Joint Base Balad. OK boss, I got the kong – lets “hit it”! They are supported by Jon Hemp (TSN)

455th ESFS Bagram Air Base, Afghanistan



SSgt Kimberly Harting and MWD Gina enjoying a little Afghanistan winter weather. Looks like it might have been fun for a while? Gina was heard to say – “HEY – This stuff is cold and I’ve had enough of it! Maybe a small nap will make it just a little more bearable. Sometimes I really miss the weather at Patrick AFB, Florida!” It was fun while it lasted. Kim and Gina are supported by Steve and Lise Gattis (CRB), John & Joan Smith (U-Tapao), Peggy Finzgar (FoK), and Juli Warner (FoK/Leatherman).

FOB Wilson, Afghanistan

MWD Dyngo all “decked out” in his Thailand Handler patch during a recent message. SSgt Justin Kitts wants us to know that he understands where “he” came from and the heritage behind our Thailand Handler Group. That dog looks “Goooooooooooooooooooooooooooooooooooooood”!



They have been having some “issues” with people stealing the K-9 water supply. There have just started using a new approach to combat the problem. Check out the sign on the water is a new MWD Dyngo all “decked out” in his Thailand



SSgt Kitts and Dyngo on their way back to their Patrol base after a long ass mission. I think our faces tell it all! These are long patrols.

FOB Wilson, Afghanistan – Continued

They have been having some “issues” with people stealing the K-9 water supply. There have just started using a new approach to combat the problem. Check out the sign on the water storage box now. It seems that Dyngo has been assigned as an interrupter and it appears he can handle the job!



SSgt Justin Kitts and Dyngo catching a “short break” during one of their multi-day missions. This team is supported by Patsy Perrotto (NKP).



386th ESFS Ali Al Salem, Kuwait



Two of our pups got together for a little training in the desert. On the left, SrA James Worley and SSgt Kyle Alltop shared a few hours together at Ali Al Salem. These guys were stationed together at the 56th SFS, Luke AFB, Arizona. James was on his way home from Sather AB Iraq when they shared a little down time. Of course, they immediately went to the training area where Kyle gave Chrach a ride on his shoulders. I think Chrach was glad to see James also!



Care packages from home - after all these years – it’s the same reaction! A care package from home is hard to beat! Many of you that know Kyle know that when it comes time to take a break and grab a bite – Kyle is da’ man. Rumor has it and these pictures prove that he has been doing great on his diet. He just received this “care package” from Bob Curnick (NKP) and of course he had to “inventory” it for suspicious items! Bob didn’t forget Chrach – those Mike Bones go a long way to keep those teeth clean and his breath fresh – right!

Other News concerning OD&P Graduates

New Handler on board! SSgt Dedrick Callahan and his wife proudly announce that they have a new K-9 handler joined the group, their son, Isaiah Elijah Callahan, born 8 Feb 2011 @ 1150 hours. Nomenclature: 7 lbs 5 oz of K-9 handling fury! Way to go Callahan's! SSgt Callahan deployed at Sather Air Base, Iraq and he was supported by Jon Hemp (TSN).



We know that many of you remember TSgt Joe Throgmorton, our Kennel Master at Joint Base Balad, Iraq in 2009. We just received a little update on what Joe and Bradi (she's and Argo deployed with us twice at Al Udeid, Qatar) are up to now. He has cross-trained as a loadmaster.

Joe wrote "Thought I'd drop you a line, I'm down in Arkansas doing my initial qualification training then me and Brandi are PCSing to Hulburt Field (Florida) in late January.

Ready to get somewhere, I'll be TDY for more than a year once all this training is done; have about a month when we get to Hulburt then I'm off to Cannon for 3 more months of training on the AC130. Only have one picture thus far LOL, no time to take them for the most part and not like I'm going to be securing hummers in a AC130 anyway but I gotta go through all the training for slicks. Not doing a lot of flying here just a few check rides and simulators".

Joe and Brandi do a great job keeping in touch with us – stay tuned for more adventures in the future! Joe and Brandi have been supported in the past by Mike Diercks (Korat) and Bill Cummings (U-Tapao).



MSgt Jonathan Sarabia was officially promoted to Master Sergeant in a ceremony at Whiteman AFB, Missouri on February 1, 2011. Many of you know Jon from our trips to Lackland and many other K-9 events.

In addition, it was Jon's request when he was deployed at Ali Air Base, Iraq, that started our "K-9 Supply Program" after we had been supporting pups down range. That was way back on September 18, 2005.

Thank you MSgt Sarabia for lighting a "fire under our butts" to get supplies down range. Or as you would say "All I did was make a phone call" – right!



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

At the time of this report we have **25** members of the "Old Dawgs & Pups" program actively supporting **15** 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 **1,329** pieces of equipment has been delivered to our K-9 troops serving in the AOR from August 21, 2005 to February 15, 2011. Over **313** "Old Dawgs and Friends" have supported **62** kennels and **261** 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 **\$16,271.00** of supplies for the **61** 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)