

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



(09/15/11)

OVER SIX YEARS OF SUPPORTING OUR K-9 TROOPS!

More than \$67,000 of supplies shipped down range!

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

Congratulations to Old Dawgs & Pups

September begins our sixth year of operation and we keep getting stronger by each day! Thank you to everyone who has supported and been a part of this great program!

Hello everyone! We are currently supporting seven (7) kennels and eleven (11) deployed Air Force, Army, and Navy teams as of September 15, 2011. September 2011 brings us to six years 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, and Sather Air Base (BIAP) Iraq; Bagram Air Base, FOB ACS-2/Kandahar, FOB Lagman, "Mad Dog" Kennels, Bagram Air Field, Afghanistan; and Ali Al Salem, Kuwait. We have two (2) new Pups to introduce this month

Pups heading home from the AOR

Joint Base Balad, Iraq: SSgt Christopher LaBoy & MWD Frigo have returned stateside to Beale AFB, California.

SSgt Travis Dulworth & MWD Andor are now back in Kansas as they are now BOG at McConnell AFB, Kansas.

SSgt Jose Lebron & MWD Kormi finished their tour and are now on leave from Joint Base San Antonio, Texas.

Bagram Air Base, Afghanistan: TSgt George Shepherd & MWD Aris have finished their tour and are now back at Misawa, Japan.

Ali Al Salem Air Base, Kuwait: SSgt Chad McCord & MWD Brutus are home on leave at Ramstein Air Base, Germany.

SrA Stephanie Nunez & MWD Buddy have rotated stateside and they should be home at Buckley AFB, Colorado.

SrA Kyle Tredway & MWD Rakker have also returned home to McConnell AFB, Kansas.

Pups heading home from the AOR - Continued

Manas Transit Center, Kyrgyzstan: SSgt Jamie Wright & MWD Delly are now back at Aviano Air Base Italy.

SSgt Jeffrey Besserglick & MWD Jacob should be back at Holloman AFB, New Mexico by the time this edition hits the street.

Pups arriving in the AOR

Mad Dog Kennel, Bagram Air Base, Afghanistan: SSgt Ian Porter & MWD Bruno deployed from the 355th SFS, Davis-Monthan AFB, Arizona. The team is paired with Ernie Childers (Udorn).

Saither Air Base (BIAP), Iraq: SrA Kyle Majorana & MWD Heros deployed from the 75th SFS, Hill AFB, Utah. This is Kyle's second deployment with us and he is once again paired up with David Priest (Korat).

447th ESFS – Sather Air Base (BIAP), Iraq



TSgt Kurt Lugar, Trainer, at the 447th ESFS, Sather Air Base, Iraq, take a furious hit from MWD Dante during one of the daily training sessions conducted there to keep our MWD teams sharp and ready for duty. Kurt is deployed from the 355th SFS, Davis-Monthan AFB, Arizona and is sponsored by Dave Broeker.

Kurt has already signed up two additional teams for OD&P as he promotes our program during his tour. Many of you that attended the Millard Lehman Complex dedication ceremony at Davis-Monthan in April of this year may have met Kurt.

This is TSgt Lugar's second tour with OD&P as we supported him and MWD Deny during his deployment to Camp Bucca, Iraq. His sponsors were Dale Burton (U-Tapao) and David Adams (Korat).

FOB Lagman, Afghanistan



MWD Tosca “guards the flag”

Does everyone remembers these moments?



SSgt Martin Ratkowski & MWD Tosca prepare for a mission – Team Tosca and a local



OK – there’s got to be a ball in there some place? Bill Gunter (NKP) is their sponsor!

Where can you get a good cup of “Joe” in Southwest Asia?

K9 Koffee Klatch —The Support Comes Pouring In



An unidentified MWD takes his post at Joint Base Balad, Iraq, to make sure that the “coffee” doesn’t go missing! We’re sure it is just like the old days – “sometimes things just disappear!” if it isn’t secured properly – this should take care of that problem.

Please take the time to read Dixie Whitman’s article, in the below paragraphs concerning the “K9 Koffee Klatch” – Her group has sent more than 200 pounds of coffee to Ali Al Salem, Kuwait, Joint Base Balad and Sather Air Base, Iraq, Manas Transit Center, Kyrgyzstan, and Bagram Air Base, Afghanistan in support of our pups!

Partnering with exquisite coffee roasters and brewers across America, MWDTSA is introducing our new program: K9 Koffee Klatch. We are soliciting donations of ground coffee from each coffee house we contact to place in our care packages. We know that our handlers enjoy the taste of a great cup of “Joe” and that these men and women hail from far and wide. It seemed only appropriate to start making requests from far and wide in order to try to get “a taste of home” over to our handlers; therefore, with this coffee drive, we reached out with greater efforts to smaller roasters.

In fact, we are so excited by our responses that we are hoping you, our supporters, will make an extra effort to stop by whenever you are in an area serviced by one of these participating companies. Or, check out the websites of our great supporting companies and try a new brew via an online order. Either way, please remember to thank the participants for their support of MWDTSA’s K9 Koffee Klatch.

When I Googled “donations of coffee” the first company that popped up was Green Mountain Coffee Roasters (GMCR) in Vermont. Our Webmaster is currently in Vermont and active with a hiking organization in the Green Mountains so I was very excited when GMCR said “Sure, we’ll donate.” (Note to Webmaster Jonathan: Please drink a lot of coffee this summer to thank them.) The second coffee company, Gimme Coffee, in New York City, said “yes” immediately. How exciting, “yes” on the first two requests. The next company, Community Coffee Company IS coffee in Louisiana so our team member from Louisiana made that contact on our behalf and they promised bags of coffee each quarter. Oh yes, they did!

Coffee companies from “sea to shining sea” participated in an effort to show our deployed K9 handlers that we love and appreciate them. And, I do mean “from sea to shining sea” – Gimme Coffee from New York City to San Francisco Bay’s Roger’s Gourmet Coffees. Imagine what a great cup of coffee will taste like to a handler sitting in a cold mountain pass in Afghanistan.

K9 Koffee Klatch —The Support Comes Pouring In – Continued

In those moments, I can almost imagine the aroma of a cup of coffee, like Raven’s Brew, would reveille the scent receptors in the handler’s nose as strongly as the scent being searched by the Military Working Dog.

MWDTSA appreciates the support of the companies below. Additionally many thanks to Linda Booker, our awesome Member at Large and my wonderful sister, Jeanne Gilmore Dedrick for making K9 Koffee Klatch contacts on our behalf. Due to the combined efforts of everyone involved, coffee support is truly pouring in.

Coffee was supplied by the following companies – if any are in your area and you would like to thank them – we’d greatly appreciate your taking the time to say “Thanks” on behalf of our pups!

Green Mountain Coffee Roasters

www.greenmountaincoffee.com

Vermont

Gimme! Coffee

www.gimmecoffee.com

New York

Community Coffee Company

www.communitycoffee.com

Louisiana

Raven’s Brew Coffee

www.ravensbrew.com

Alaska/Washington

Roger’s Gourmet Coffee & Tea Market

www.gourmet-coffee.com

California

Mad Dog Kennels, Bagram Air Base, Afghanistan



SSgt Ian Porter and MWD Bruno have finally arrived at the “Mad Dog” Kennels, Bagram Air Base, Afghanistan. It took a hurricane, and stops in four countries and nearly a month to get this team in the AOR, but they are now “Boots on the Ground”. The photograph above is the team leaving Tucson International Airport on their way to their deployment. The team is supported by Ernie Childers (Udorn).

386th ESFS Ali Al Salem, Kuwait



Ole' Will is a little camera shy, but after a little coaxing SSgt William Booker sent us this photograph. SSgt William Booker & MWD Pita are deployed from the 22nd SFS, McConnell AFB, Kansas. This is SSgt Booker's second tour with OD&P. The team is once again paired with Jay D. Jones (Udorn)



Top Photo: K-9 teams from the 386th SFS participated in a 9/11 Memorial Race at Ali Al Salem, Kuwait. Pictured above are TSgt Spencer w/Omega, SSgt Hernandez w/Rocky, SSgt Newell w/Helena, and SrA Melissa Schmalhorst w/Glen. Below Team Schmalhorst crosses the finish line.

Old Dawg Honors his “Pup” with VDHA Membership

Old Dawg Dave Broeker is paired with TSgt Kurt Lugar, who is assigned to Sather Air Base (BIAP), Iraq as the MWD Trainer for his tour. Dave just honored and awarded TSgt Lugar with an annual membership to the Vietnam Dog Handler Association. Many of you may not know it, but all of the handlers that are assigned to bases in Southwest Asia are eligible for membership in the VDHA. The VDHA By-Laws state “All Members must have served or are presently serving as members of the United States Armed Services during a period of war/conflict for which a combat ribbon was issued” and the additional criteria is that they “Must have served as a dog handler in the United States Armed Services”.

Dave just happens to be a Life Member and the webmaster for the VDHA. What a great way to support our deployed troops and to connect them with our heritage. Way to go Dave Broeker and congratulations TSgt Lugar.

Feed the Dawgs Project 2011

Vietnam Veterans supporting - Active Duty Military Dog Handlers

<http://feedthedawgs.com/default.aspx>



The *Feed the Dawgs* Project is a culmination of United States Military Vietnam Veterans, Active Duty Military Working Dog Personnel, and patriotic citizens joining together to support and recognize the dedication and patriotism of today's Military Working Dog Teams around the globe. The United States Air Force, Army, Coast Guard, Marines, and Navy deploy Military Working Dogs in many regions of the world in support of global peace and stability. We feed steak barbecues to active military dog handlers in all branches of United States service as they return from or "ship out" for "deployment" to the front lines on the War on Terror.

If you are interested in assisting in one of the projects or need more information about “*Feed the Dawgs*” please contact Jon Hemp at jmhemp@feedthedawgs.com

Here is the Feed the Dawgs schedule for the remainder of 2011 – Get Involved!

17	September	Air Force - Beale AFB (Sacto), CA
8	October	USMC - MCAS Yuma/YPG, Yuma, AZ
22	October	Army - 18th MP Fort Huachuca, AZ
19	November	USAF - Luke AFB, Glendale, AZ

Thailand Dog Handlers Group Fundraisers to benefit four organizations!

Fundraiser 1: Win one of two unique collections of Army, Navy, Marines, Air Force and, Coast Guard Service Brassards and Shields, and K-9 memorabilia. Valued at \$350.00 (Brassards) and \$250.00 (K-9 memorabilia), respectively.

All donated funds raised by this project will go to two proven charitable funds, “**The Thailand Dog Handlers Web Page**” <http://thailanddoghandlers.com> And, Dixie Whitman’s “**Military Working Dog Team Support Association**” <http://www.mwdtsa.org> Winner to be announced at VSPA Reunion in October.



Fundraiser 2: Win one of two unique collections of USAF Air Police and Security Police Shields, Brassards, Qualification Pins, and Commemorative Shields. Valued at \$700.00 (Vintage Shields) and \$500.00 (K-9 Shields, badges, etc.), respectively.

All donated funds raised by this project will go to two proven charitable funds, the “**Old Dawgs and Pups Program.**” <http://www.war-stories.com/odap/ws-odap-index.asp> and “**The Nemo’s War Dog Hero’s Memorial Project.**” <http://635thk9.com/tdhnemo.htm> Winner to be announced at VDHA Reunion in October.



For more information and details on how to donate contact John Homa at jmhoma@usit.net Deadline for donation is September 17, 2011. Please put **FUNDRAISER** in the title of the email.

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

At the time of this report we have **12** members of the "Old Dawgs & Pups" program actively supporting **11** 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 **1,461** pieces of equipment has been delivered to our K-9 troops serving in the AOR from August 21, 2005 to September 15, 2011. Over **347** "Old Dawgs and Friends" have supported **70** kennels and **282** 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 **\$19,100.00** of supplies for the **70** kennels solely via your personal donations. Including the Leatherman corporate and Helping Udders donations, the total is **\$65,576.00!**

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

- 267 Leatherman "Surge" Tools (166 Donated by Leatherman) *
* The Leatherman "Surge"/Muts/Flashlights/Knives donation is valued at approximately **\$44,470.00**
- 183 Thailand Challenge Coins (Donated & Purchased)
- 163 * Leatherman Serac S3 Leatherman Flashlights
- 125 Thailand Historical Base Patches
- 91 Guardian Pet Beds (Pet Edge)
- 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 * Leatherman MUT Tools
- 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)**
- 6 **Retractable Leashes (Dresslers)**
- 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**
- 2 *** Leatherman EOD MUT Tools**
- 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)**