

# 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



(01/15/12)

# Last U.S. Troops Leave Iraq

by THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



A soldier gestures from gun turret of the last vehicle in a convoy as it crosses the border from Iraq into Kuwait on Sunday. The brigade's special troops battalion are the last American soldiers to leave Iraq on December 18, 2011.

(AP) KHABARI CROSSING, Kuwait - The last U.S. soldiers rolled out of Iraq across the border to neighboring Kuwait at daybreak Sunday, whooping, fist bumping and hugging each other in a burst of joy and relief. Their exit marked the end of a bitterly divisive war that raged for nearly nine years and left Iraq shattered, with troubling questions lingering over whether the Arab nation will remain a steadfast U.S. ally.

**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>**

Hello everyone! We are currently supporting nine (9) kennels and thirteen (13) deployed Air Force, Army, and Navy teams as of January 15, 2012. January 2012 brings us to six years and four 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 Bagram Air Base, Bagram Air Base (Mad Dog), FOB Shank, FOB Howz-E-Madad, FOB Spin Boldak, and FOB Parmikan, Afghanistan; Ali Al Salem, Kuwait, Al Udeid Air Base, Qatar and Manas Air Base, Kyrgyzstan. We have one (1) new Pup to introduce this month.

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

**Bagram Air Base, Afghanistan:** TSgt Tom Henzl will be heading home before our next edition hits the stands. Thanks Sarge for all of your help to keep OD&P alive and well at Bagram. Tom should be enjoying the fresh air in the mountains of New Mexico really soon!

**Ali Al Salem Air Base, Kuwait:** SrA Melissa Schmalhorst & MWD Glen are now stateside at Fairchild AFB, Washington.

SSgt William Booker & MWD Pita should be headed back to McConnell AFB, Kansas, for some “cold winter weather” before the next edition of OD&P/K-9 Supply.

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

**Al Udeid Air Base, Qatar:** SSgt Kieran Gibson & MWD Ruth deployed from the 88<sup>th</sup> SFS, Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio. Many of you may have met this team at the VSPA reunion in October 2011. This team is supported by Bob Curnick (NKP).

### **Holiday Packages to the Troop**



### **Veterans & K-9 Groups Supporting Old Dawgs & Pups**

Old Dawgs & Pups just want to take this opportunity to once again say thank you to the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 6441 – Oldham-Cummings Post - Wimberley, Texas, and the Military Working Dog Team Support Association who sent holiday packages down range to support our deployed troops. You guys are just the greatest!

An additional thank you goes out to all of those who sent packages to our troops – we, and they, greatly appreciate your support! Being deployed for the holidays just sucks! All of you have helped to make it a lot easier for our deployed K-9 troops.



## **FOB Howz-E-Madad, Afghanistan**



**MWD Dyngo & SSgt Phillip Kittelson getting ready for a mission at FOB Howz-E-Madad, Afghanistan. This team is deployed from the 56<sup>th</sup> SFS, Luke AFB, Arizona and they are supported by Phil Carroll (NKP/Takhli). Both Dyngo and SSgt Kittelson have deployed with OD&P previously.**



**This Hesco Barrier is “Mine” – If you don’t believe it – Mess with Dyngo!**

## FOB Howz-E-Madad, Afghanistan – Continued

SSgt Phillip Kittelson just received his OD&P Leatherman “Mut” and posted this on the Arizona Tac Gear Blog <http://arizonatacgear.com/blog>

### Leatherman MUT Posted on December 16, 2011

Recently I received a care package from the Old Dogs and Pups program. ODP is through the Thailand Dog Handlers association, an organization for K-9 handlers who served in Thailand during the Vietnam War. Don't be fooled, those handlers in Thailand saw a lot of action, and we even lost quite a few. Notably, the four K-9 Nightfighters who were on a Chinook helicopter which crashed enroute to rescue the SS Mayaguez from the Khmer Rouge off the coast of Cambodia.

This organization pairs a new “pup” (current K-9 handler) with an “old dawg” (former K-9 handler). The organization supports many handlers and kennels in the Middle East, and, according to their last newsletter, sent over \$67,000 worth of equipment and supplies to those teams. I should know, I've been on the receiving end of their awesome support. Many of these guys returned home to anti-war protests, and had others spit in their face. They're determined to never have that happen to us who are currently serving. I have the privilege of being the first handler to be met by a group from ODP. They halted the reunion of the AF Security Police Association to meet me at the airport when I returned from Iraq in 2009.

Included in my care package was the Leatherman Military Utility Tool (MUT), donated by Leatherman by the way! The MUT sports 18 tools, includes three bits and is geared for military and civilian shooters.

This tool includes a punch for those stubborn dis-assembly buttons, hammer (because sometimes those weapons need a little TLC!), replaceable bronze carbon scrapper tool, bits fitting screws on many modern and commonly used weapons systems, and an accessory wrench to tighten down most civilian optics and scopes. It's name even rings true, it just looks like on badass MUT!

Another feature includes what Leatherman calls the “bolt override tool.” It allows you to quickly pull a bolt back during a miss-feed or malfunction, even when you're charging handle won't give you enough leverage to do the trick.

I used this tool to clean my M-4 the other day, and I was quite impressed. I was able to use the scrapper tool to get into those hard to reach places on my bolt carrier group. The needle nose pliers include two ports, which fits most standard military or civilian cleaning rods. This comes in quite handy, giving you added leverage when using your chamber brush. My only disappointment was the lack of compatibility with my Otis military cleaning kit, but that's a story for another blog post.

The Leatherman MUT doesn't disappoint when it comes to regular use around the tent, or home for that matter. The needle nose pliers include replaceable hard wire cutters. I've broken wire cutters on other pocket tools in the past, making them useless. Having the option to replace this, and other tools on the MUT, will surely increase its lifespan as a useful tool. A knife and saw, standard Leatherman equipment, are also included. A replaceable cutting hook makes short work of 550, and other cord. Though I'm sure most of you will love the carabineer/bottle opener. AFTER you're done shooting and cleaning your weapons of course!

Note: Sure sounds like a glowing endorsement to us! It's great to hear how our Leatherman equipment is being used down range. Once again, the Leatherman Group is one of the reasons that our OD&P program is so very successful – this equipment has been battle tested by REAL troops.



## **376<sup>th</sup> AEW/ESFS - Manas Transit Center, Kyrgyzstan**

### **Manas Transit Center, National Security Service K-9 teams train together**

(by TSgt. Tammie Moore - 376th Air Expeditionary Wing Public Affairs – Manas Website)

Staff Sgt. Mary Boyer and her military working dog, Tomy, check a vehicle for explosives during an exercise at the Transit Center at Manas, Kyrgyzstan, November 15, 2011. Twice a week, dog handlers from the 376th Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron and the Kyrgyz Republic run through various scenarios to help maintain their dog's proficiency levels. Boyer, 376th ESFS MWD handler, and Tomy, an 8-year old German Shepherd, are deployed from Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Wash. Boyer is a native of Lebanon, Pa. (U.S. Air Force photo/TSgt. Tammie Moore)



Tomy, a military working dog, lets his handler, Staff Sgt. Mary Boyer, know he detected explosives during an exercise at the Transit Center at Manas, Kyrgyzstan, November 15, 2011.

Tomy, a military working dog, sniffs for explosives during an exercise at the Transit Center at Manas, Kyrgyzstan, November 15, 2011. Mary Boyer & MWD Tomy are deployed from the 627<sup>th</sup> SFS, Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Washington. The team is supported by Steve and Lise Gattis (CRB).



## 376<sup>th</sup> AEW/ESFS - Manas Transit Center, Kyrgyzstan - Continued



SSgt Mary Boyer is joined by her MWD, Tomy, and other SF members as she reenlisted on January 2, 2012. Top Left: (L-R) SrA Jake Zucker (BDOC), TSgt Gerson Henriquez (an OD&P graduate from 2009 – Camp Cropper, Iraq), Kennel Master, SrA Aaron Gairud (K-9), MWD Tomy, SSgt Mary Boyer, and Lt. Levi Cass (Flight CC).

Top Right: Lt. Levi Cass – Flight Commander – Congratulates SSgt Boyer and MWD Tomy as “THEY” re-enlist.

Bottom Left: On the other hand – it looks like Tomy may have had different thoughts about the event – Only kidding! – Tomy was just smiling for the camera.

Bottom Right: “OK, everything is GTG now; I have one of my favorite toys – A giant exercise ball”!

OD&P would also like to extend our appreciation for being a “very small part” of SSgt Boyer’s tour and we would like to thank her for sharing this “professional snapshot in time” with all of us! Hopefully we will be a part of their tours in the years to come.

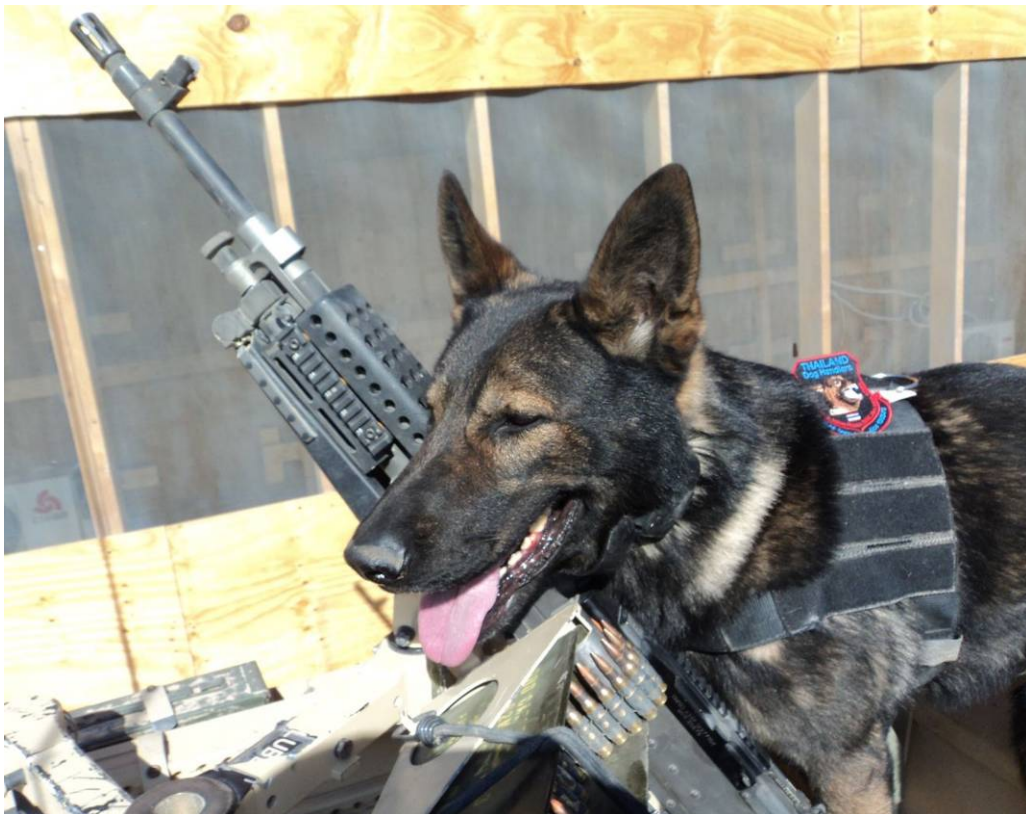
Mary and Tomy are supported by Steve and Lise Gattis (CRB).



## **FOB Parmikan, Afghanistan**



**SSgt Steven Bruner & MWD Chrach just received their Leatherman Mut, Leatherman Serac S3 flashlight, Thailand Handler coin and patch. Both Steven and Chrach have served previous tours with OD&P. The team just was forward deployed to FOB Parmikan from Camp Arena, Afghanistan. The team is supported by Jon Hemp (TSN).**



**Not to be outdone by SSgt Bruner – Chrach shows off his new Thailand Handler Patch on his gear.**

## **455<sup>th</sup> ESFS - Bagram Air Field, Afghanistan**



**SSgt Jonathan Torocaloyeropoulos & MWD Ajax shared a Christmas deployed at Bagram Air Base. We don't care what anyone says – Dog look great in all kinds of hats - Especially Christmas hats! This team is supported by John & Joan Smith (U-Tapao) and Dixie Whitman (FoK).**

## **Kandahar Air Base, Afghanistan / FOB Spin Boldak - Afghanistan**



**MWD Cora is gets into the Christmas spirit! There they go again! After all these years – hats on dogs – don't you just love it? That's MWD Cora at the top of the page. SSgt Jennifer Franco and Cora display the new Christmas hat at the kennels at Kandahar. SSgt Franco and Cora are supported by Steve and Lise Gattis (CRB).**

**If everything goes like it should – we should have the opportunity to meet SSgt Franco and Cora at the upcoming VSPA reunion in October 2012 at Eglin/Hurlburt Field, Florida.**

**We have just learned that SSgt Franco & MWD Cora have been forward deployed to FOB Spin Boldak, Afghanistan.**



## **FOB Shank, Afghanistan**



**I know – this photograph sure makes us remember “back in the day”!**

**SSgt Ian Porter and MWD Bruno hop a blackhawk ride from FOB Shank, Afghanistan to one of the COPs for a duty assignment. Sure beats riding in a deuce and a half doesn't it?**

**From what we hear – it damn cold there now – especially if your home base is in Tucson, Arizona.**

**What do you think of the multi-cams? Quite a “spiffy” uniform these guys are using now!**

**Did you notice the ear protection on Bruno – damn, we've come a long way haven't we?**

**That's first class eye protection also – it's just amazing the equipment these guys have now.**

**Ian and Bruno are supported by Ernie Childers (Udorn).**

## A Quick Review of Old Dawgs & Pups



Just thought we'd give you a quick overview of our program for the end of the year 2011. We have supported **75** kennels and **287** deployments of **292** military personnel since August 2005:

Air Force MWD teams	274
Army MWD teams	15
Navy MWD teams	2
Civilian MWD trainer	1

The deployments have been assigned in the following countries:

Qatar	19
Iraq	189
Djibouti – Africa	3
Honduras	1
Kyrgyzstan	17
Kuwait	10
Afghanistan	36
Korea	1
United Arab Emirates	10
Oman	6

The deployments originated from:

USAF	49 – CONUS Bases
USAF	10 – OCONUS Bases (Germany, Guam, Italy, England & Japan)
Army	9 – CONUS Forts/Installations
Navy	1 – CONUS Naval Air Station 1 – OCONUS Naval Air Station
Civilian	1 – Florida

More than 358 Old Dawgs have supported deployed MWD teams and we have sent 1,462 pieces of equipment down range at a cost \$67, 019.00 – all of which have been donated by our friends!

We'd like to thank the VDHA and the VSPA for their support over the last six years – the member of both organizations have been extremely generous – both financially and actively supporting our pups with their members. Thanks also to Helping Udders for those wonderful cooling vests.

We'd also like to thank our friends from the VFW, the American Legion, and the Air Force Security Forces Association for their continued support.

And of course, the Military Working Dog Team Support Association for their active and continued supported both stateside and in the AOR.



**Units Supported by Old Dawgs & Pups  
(2005 to 2011 - 49 Units Supported)**

455th ESFS – Bagram AB, Afghanistan (USAF)  
Bagram Air Base (Mad Dog), CJTF-1, Afghanistan (USA)  
FOB ACS-2 (Airspace Control System), Kandahar, Afghanistan (USA)  
FOB Azizullah, Afghanistan (USA)  
FOB Howz-E-Madad (HHC 2BCT K9, Afghanistan (USA)  
FOB Lagman, Afghanistan (USA)  
FOB Shank, Afghanistan (USA)  
FOB Spin Boldak, Afghanistan (USA)  
FOB Wilson, Afghanistan (USA)  
FOB Wilson, Afghanistan (USA)  
2<sup>nd</sup> BCT, 1/75 Cav, HHT, Afghanistan (USA)  
HHC K9 3D SQDN 2D ACR, Afghanistan (USA)  
Salerno Landing Zone, Afghanistan (USA)  
USFOR - A South J3/MWD, Kandahar Air Base, Afghanistan (USA)  
USFOR-A DET West, Camp Arena, Heart, Afghanistan (USA)  
NAVCENT/K9 – Djibouti, Africa (USN)  
332th ESFS – Joint Base Balad, Iraq (USAF)  
407th AEG/ESFS – Ali Air Base, Iraq (USAF)  
447th AEG/ESFS – Sather AB, Iraq (USAF)  
506th ESFS – FOB Warrior/Kirkuk Air Base, Iraq (USAF)  
178th MP Det, Iraq (USA)  
3rd Recon BN, Iraq (USA)  
25<sup>th</sup> ID/K9, FOB Warrior, Iraq (USA)  
HQ Co, 1st BN, Iraq (USA)  
101st AB Div, Iraq (USA)  
HHC, 1 BCT, 101<sup>st</sup> ABN DIV – FOB Warrior, Iraq (USA)  
HHC, 1/114 IN BN – Camp Cropper, Iraq (USA)  
HHC 2/25 K9, Iraq (USA)  
HHD 95<sup>th</sup> MP BN, Iraq (USA)  
MNC-1 PMO, Iraq (USA)  
170 MPCO, 504<sup>th</sup> MPBN, Iraq (USA)  
70082 MP, FOB Warrior, Iraq (USA)  
310<sup>th</sup> MP Co/K9, Camp Bucca, Iraq (USA)  
790<sup>th</sup> CMCO, Camp Cropper, Iraq (USA)  
LSA Diamondback – Mosul, Iraq (USA)  
13<sup>th</sup> MP Det., 728<sup>th</sup> MPB, 8<sup>th</sup> MP Brigade, Iraq (USA)  
FOB Delta, Iraq (USA)  
FOB Falcon, Iraq (USA)  
PB Husiniyah, Iraq (USA)  
FOB Kalsu, Iraq (USA)  
FOB O’Ryan, Iraq (USA)  
FOB Warrior, Iraq (USA)  
Unit 74 K9 Camp Basra, Iraq (USA)  
Camp Victory, Iraq (USA)  
386th ESFS – Ali Al Salem Air Base, Kuwait (USAF)  
376th ESFS – Manas, Kyrgyzstan (USAF)  
379th ESFS – Al Udeid Air Base, Qatar (USAF)  
380th ESFS – Al Dhafra Air Base, United Arab Emirates (USAF)  
405<sup>th</sup> ESFS – Thumrait Air Base, Oman (USAF)

## Other News concerning OD&P Graduates



We have another beautiful new dog handler – Gia Pillarella, daughter of TSgt John and Tatiano Pillarella – born on September 22, 2011, weighting in at 21 inches and 7 pounds. As you can see, she’s already a Patriots fan! Many of you have met John at the VSPA reunion at Luke AFB, Arizona in 2009 or at a Feed the Dawgs event at Luke. John was supported by Dale and Debbie Burton (U-Tapao) and Bill Cummings (U-Tapao) during his tour as a handler and Kennel Master at Camp Cropper, Iraq in January of 2009.

The Pillarella’s are going to need a very large “bat” in the coming years – she’s going to be a beautiful MWD handler!

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

At the time of this report we have **13** members of the “Old Dawgs & Pups” program actively supporting **13** handlers assigned to nine (9) 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 **1,522** pieces of equipment has been delivered to our K-9 troops serving in the AOR from August 21, 2005 to January 15, 2012. Over **359** “Old Dawgs and Friends” have supported **78** kennels and **293** 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 **\$19,539.00** of supplies for the **78** kennels solely via your personal donations. Including the Leatherman corporate and Helping Udders donations, the total is **\$67,429.00!**

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
213	Thailand Challenge Coins (Donated & Purchased)
163	* Leatherman Serac S3 Leatherman Flashlights
155	Thailand Historical Base Patches
92	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	Coldanna 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)**