



(02/15/2012)

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

**More than \$73,000 of supplies shipped down range!**

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

Hello everyone! We are currently supporting ten (10) kennels and eighteen (18) deployed Air Force, Army, and Navy teams as of February 15, 2012. February 2012 brings us to six years and five 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 and an Undisclosed Location in Southwest Asia; Al Udeid Air Base, Qatar and Manas Air Base, Kyrgyzstan. We have five (5) new Pups 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:** 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.

**FOB Shank, Afghanistan:** SSgt Ian Porter & MWD Bruno should be back in sunny Arizona!

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

**Al Udeid Air Base, Qatar:** SSgt Nathan Ward & MWD Ed are deployed from the 22<sup>nd</sup> SFS, McConnell AFB, Kansas. They are supported by Jay D. Jones (Udorn)

TSgt Jeremy Fowler, Kennel Master is deployed from the 316<sup>th</sup> SFS, Andrews AFB, Maryland. He is supported by Jim Stastny (Korat)

**Undisclosed Location in Southwest Asia:** TSgt Micheal Condry, Kennel Master, deployed from the 374<sup>th</sup> SFS, Yakota, Japan. He is supported by Doc Hodges (Ubon/Korat).

## **Pups arriving in the AOR – Continued**

**Undisclosed Location in Southwest Asia:** TSgt Jason Adams, Trainer, deployed from the 802<sup>nd</sup> SFS, Joint Base San Antonio, Texas. This is Jason's second tour with us. He is supported by John & Carolyn Risse (Pleiku).

SrA Kathy Shih & MWD Luxi, deployed from the 49<sup>th</sup> SFS, Holloman AFB, New Mexico. They are supported by Steve & Lise Gattis (CRB).

## **FOB Parmikan, Afghanistan**

Afghanistan's winter has now set in and as you can see from most of the photographs – the conditions are just horrible. Sometimes we think that maybe Southeast Asia might have been a better tour? That mud and cold sure looks like it stinks!



SSgt Steven Bruner gave MWD Chrach a break in the compound. He just had to test drive everything in the parking lot! A Polaris, a motorcycle, and some other type of “cart” – WOW – can you imagine spending time on all of these “toys” – Looks like us old guys missed all the fun? Someone needs to make sure that Chrach has the proper license for all of these vehicles. The team is deployed from the 56<sup>th</sup> SFS, Luke AFB and Jon Hemp (TSN) supports them.



This is SSgt Brunner's second tour with OD&P and Chrach has also deployed with us twice.



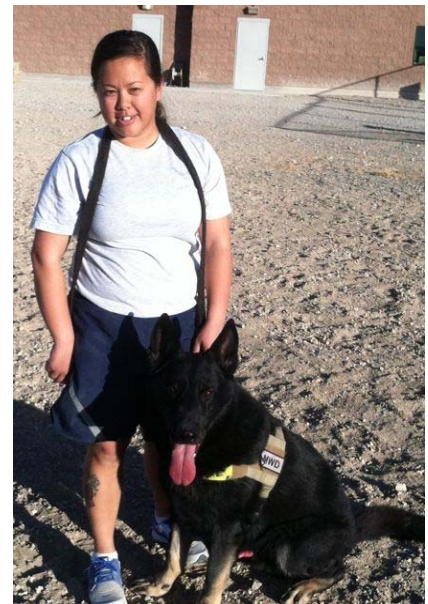
## **386<sup>th</sup> ESFS – Ali Al Salem, Kuwait**



**J. D. Jones (Udorn) meets SSgt Will Booker & MWD Pita at the airport as they return to McConnell AFB, Kansas. As you can see in the photograph on the right – Pita has had enough of traveling and was just a little bit testy! Thanks J. D. for sponsoring Bill Will and Pita once again.**

## **Undisclosed Location in Southwest Asia**

**SrA Kathy Shih and MWD Luxi just signed up for their first tour with OD&P.**



**In the first two photographs the team is in full “Battle Rattle” at their new assignment in Southwest Asia. On the right Kathy and Luxi take a break during training – this pair is going to have to be watched!!!! We haven’t seen a smile like this in a long time – someone really seems to be enjoying their job here!**

**That’s 85 pounds of German Shepherd and 5 foot of Staff Sergeant – what a combination – stay tuned for more details – this is going to be fun.**



## Undisclosed Location in Southwest Asia - Continued



SSgt Shih and Luxi are having a little fun with the “decoy”! All we need here is for SSgt Shih to take a smoke break – Luxi sure seems to have control of this situation. There’s a whole lotta’ fun going on here. Remember Luxi – no talking with your mouth full!

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



Lise Gattis is more than “all smiles” as she shows off her 376<sup>th</sup> AEW/ESFS K-9 patch that was worn by MWD Tomy at Manas Transit Center. It sure didn’t take Lise very long to let OD&P Coordinator Bill Cummings know who was the “Top Dog” this time! It was the “off the record” comments that took Bill down – Lise was vicious – she was operating in the “attack mode” while letting everyone know how proud she was of her deployed team at Manas.

SSgt. Mary Boyer sent her sponsors the patch and you are going to have to believe that Lise was the hit of the show at Joint Base San Antonio, Texas during the 44<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration of the Tet Offensive of 1968 that was held on January 30-31, 2012. You can bet that Lise showed everyone at the event her “K-9” patch! SSgt. Mary Boyer & MWD Tomy are deployed from the 627<sup>th</sup> SFS, Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Washington and they are supported by Steve and Lise Gattis (CRB)

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



**Left: SSgt Kieran Gibson, MWD Ruth deployed from the 88<sup>th</sup> SFS, Wright-Patterson AFB, and Kennel Master TSgt Jeremy Fowler, deployed from the 316<sup>th</sup> SFS, Joint Base Andrews take a break after a training session at the 379<sup>th</sup> ESFS. Bob Curnick (NKP) supports SSgt Gibson and Jim Stasty (Korat) supports TSgt Fowler.**



**Right: SSgt Nathan Ward & MWD Ed deployed from McConnell AFB, Kansas**



**SSgt Kieran Gibson & MWD Ruth and SSgt Nathan Ward & MWD Ed, deployed from the 22<sup>nd</sup> SFS McConnell AFB share some down time at Al Udeid Air Base. SSgt Ward is supported by J. D. Jones (Udorn).**



## Kandahar Air Base, Afghanistan / FOB Spin Boldak – Afghanistan



**Left: SSgt Jennifer Franco & MWD Cora in full “Battle Rattle” – Can you say “K-9 Up”?**  
In case you haven’t noticed – that’s a lot of equipment just to put on – much less go on patrol with isn’t it?



**Right: SSgt Franco & MWD Cora having a little fun during a training session.**



**Left: SSgt Franco & MWD Cora putting the finishing touches on the training – looks like it’s getting ready to get interesting? SSgt Jennifer Franco & MWD Cora, deployed from Hurlburt Field, Florida; they are supported by Steve and Lise Gattis (CRB).**

**Center: MWD Cora – “Yep! It’s me in the hat – just like the old days”!**

**Right: MWD Cora’s Doggles – Yes, I really make these doggles look good – don’t I?**



## FOB Shank, Afghanistan



**SSgt Ian Porter and MWD Bruno take a break after “humping” on a mission” – Smoke’m if you got’em! Sure looks pretty cold in those mountains? On the right Bruno poses with his new “boots”. We’re not really sure if he is really that pleased with the footwear?**

## Kennel Mates take a moment and train together at FOB Shank



**SSgt Aaron Escalante & MWD Mushe (assigned to the Mad Dog Kennels at Bagram) and SSgt Ian Porter had a chance to get together at FOB Shank recently. Both are deployed from the 355<sup>th</sup> SFS, Davis-Monthan AFB, Arizona. As you can see, as soon as those two got together they had to get in some training – it’s the “D-M way”.**

**It’s a long way from the southwestern Arizona desert and you can be sure that the “white stuff” is a lot different working and training conditions for these two Desert Warriors!**

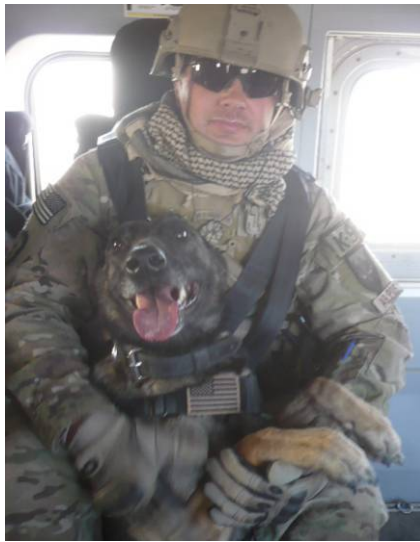
**SSgt Escalante and Mushe are supported by Bill Cummings (U-Tapao) and SSgt Ian Porter is supported by Ernest Childers (Udorn).**

**SSgt Escalante has been forward deployed from the “Mad Dog” Kennels at Bagram Air Field to FOB Shank. This is SSgt Escalante’s second deployment with OD&P and Musche’s first deployment ever.**



## **FOB Lagman, Afghanistan**

**We just received some photographs from SSgt Martin Ratkowski after his return stateside. He's back at Beale AFB, California. He was supported by Bill Gunter (NKP). If anyone is at March Reserve Base for the War Dog Rededication – keep your eyes open to say hello to Martin.**



**Left: SSgt Ratkowski and MWD Tosca prepared to leave FOB Lagman – Good to GO!**

**Center: The team leaves FOB Lagman enroute to Kandihar – One more step closer to home.**

**Right: Tosca is loaded on the flight and we get a “Thumbs up” to leave Afghanistan.**



**Left: After a short break in Kuwait – they are ready to load up again. Tosca is not real sure about this flight – but we heard that he asked for a window seat!**

**Right: “Plane full of dogs”. Not much has changed here after all these years. As you can see, one of the handlers heading home makes a last minute check on the dogs. It's not first class – but it's going to get them home!**

**Thank you SSgt Ratkowski for the great photographs you provided during your deployment.**



## Other News concerning OD&P Graduates



**We have a winner!**

### **2011 56<sup>th</sup> Fighter Wing, Non-Commissioned Officer of the Year**

On Saturday, January 21, 2012, TSgt Justin Kitts was selected as the 2011 56<sup>th</sup> Fighter Wing, Non Commissioned Officer of the Year for Luke AFB. Yes, that our Pup! TSgt Kitts has deployed twice with OD&P: Once in May 2009 at Bagram Air Base, Afghanistan (with MWD Mayo) where he was instrumental in building “Camp Kujo”- the first Air Force Kennel at Bagram Air Base. He deployed again in December of 2010 to FOB Wilson, Afghanistan (with MWD Dyngo). For his service at FOB Wilson with the 101<sup>st</sup>/1-75 Cav, he was awarded the Bronze Star. Justin is now serving as an instructor at the Yuma Training Center with the USMC for OTW mission training.

TSgt Kitts has been nominated as the representative from Luke AFB for the Air Force Sergeants Association William H. Pitsenbarger Award which annually recognizes an Air Force enlisted Service member who has performed a heroic act, on or off duty, that resulted in saving a life or preventing serious injury to another person or persons. The heroic act must have placed the nominee in risk of personal danger and been a legitimate attempt to save life or prevent serious injury to another person or persons.

TSgt Kitts was supported by Patsy Perrotto (NKP) and Phil Carroll (NKP/Takhli)

That’s Justin’s wife, Melissa, celebrating after the awards ceremony at Luke AFB. Think Melissa is proud of him? We all are and thank you Justin for being a great part of OD&P!



## Other News concerning OD&P Graduates – Continued



TSgt Justin Kitts (left) and SSgt Phillip Mendoza (right) led their troops on an eight (8) mile ruck march during the night training portion of training at the Yuma Training Center. Both Justin and Phillip have been supported during their deployments with OD&P in Iraq and Afghanistan. Sure is nice to see these AF types as instructors at the Marine training facility! Kitts is TDY from the 56<sup>th</sup> SFS, Luke AFB, Arizona and Mendoza is TDY from the 824<sup>th</sup> BDS, Moody AFB, Georgia. Once again our troops are leading the way!

## Feed the Dawgs Project 2012 Schedule



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. 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](mailto:jmhemp@feedthedawgs.com)

Here is the Feed the Dawgs schedule for 2012 – Get Involved!

February	18	2012 War Dog Memorial – March Field Air Museum – Open to Public
February	19	3 <sup>rd</sup> Annual All Services Feed – March Field Air Museum – Invitation Only
February	19	Best of the Southwest Iron Dog – March Field Air Museum – Open to Public
March	10	Camp Pendelton / Camp Cann – U. S. Marines Corp
March	31	NAS Fallon Host – NAS Fallon – Navy & Beale & Travis Air Force – Jt. Feed
April	21	Davis Monthan AFB - 355 <sup>th</sup> SFS MWD Section – U. S. Air Force
May	12	29 Palms Marine Base – PMO/IIIMEF Marines - U. S. Marines Corp
June	2	Vandenberg AFB – 30 <sup>th</sup> SFS MWD Section – U. S. Air Force
June	23	MCRD/San Diego Marines – Marine Corps Recruit Depot - U. S. Marines Corp



## Leatherman Donates MUTs to OD&P

Leatherman has done it again, with another huge donation of top-notch military gear to the Old Dawgs & Pups program. This time they dropped 24 of the best military/law enforcement tools made on us - the Leatherman MUT. These tools have a suggested retail price of \$180, so that's a sizeable donation to our troops going on missions outside the wire!

As you can read in last month's review from a dog handler in Afghanistan, they're just exactly the right combination of tools and portability for somebody who might just stake his or her life on a weapon, thousands of miles from the nearest armorer or gunsmith. The tools in a MUT include: needle-nose pliers, regular pliers, stranded-wire cutters, electrical crimper, combo-blade knife, saw,



hammer, cleaning rod/brush adapter, carabiner/bottle opener, large bit driver, 1/2" wrench and 3/8" wrench. It also has the following replaceable tools, should they ever wear out from heavy use: cutting hook, bolt override tool, firearm disassembly punch, bronze carbon scraper, wire cutter and hard-wire cutter. That's a whole lot of very job-specific goodies, plus some totally versatile do-any-job tools, in a five-inch, 12 oz. package that you can hang on your MOLLE gear!

As we've said many times before in the last six years - THANK YOU LEATHERMAN!

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

At the time of this report we have **19** members of the "Old Dawgs & Pups" program actively supporting **18** handlers assigned to ten (10) 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 **1,554** pieces of equipment has been delivered to our K-9 troops serving in the AOR from August 21, 2005 to February 15, 2012. Over **363** "Old Dawgs and Friends" have supported **79** kennels and **298** 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 **\$19,773.00** of supplies for the **79** kennels solely via your personal donations. Including the Leatherman corporate and Helping Udders donations, the total is **\$73,099.00**

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 (145) Donated by Leatherman)
  - \* The Leatherman “Surge”/Muts/Flashlights/Knives donation is valued at approximately **\$49,906.00**
- 213 Thailand Challenge Coins (Donated & Purchased)
- 163 \* Leatherman Serac S3 Leatherman Flashlights
- 155 Thailand Historical Base Patches
- 100 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)
- 34 \* Leatherman MUT Tools
- 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 -Value \$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 lb) (Dressler’s)
- 8 Cooling Wraps (Roshgo Corp)
- 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 Sets Ruff Wear Bark’n Boots 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)