

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



(04/15/2013)

This edition of K-9 Supply is dedicated to the memory of United States Air Force Military Working Dog Handler/Kennel Master, Master Sergeant (Retired) Max Anthony Talley.



Max Anthony Talley (Age 40), Loving father and devoted husband passed away on February 27, 2013 in Shasta, California. He was born October 14, 1972 in Flint, Michigan, one of two children of Glen (Jonesboro, AR) and Jeannie Talley (Olive Branch, MS). Max graduated from Westside High School in Jonesboro, AR in 1991 and Parks University in 2010. Max served over 20 years in the US Air Force as a Security K9 Police Officer from November 1991-September 2012. He retired at the rank of Master Sergeant. He served and resided at the following bases: Lackland AFB, San Antonio, Texas; Moody AFB, Valdosta, Georgia; Anderson AFB, Guam; Howard AFB, Panama; Davis-Monthan AFB, Tucson, Arizona, and Fairchild AFB, Spokane, Washington. He also served three deployments overseas in Qatar, Iraq and Afghanistan. Max met his loving wife, Brenda Talley in Tucson, Arizona and they married on April 9, 2004 on a "Good Friday". His last employer was DAA Northwest in Spokane, Washington. His hobbies included golfing, boating, hunting, riding motorcycles/ horses, singing, cooking, anything outdoors, watching and cheering on his children when they played sports, but most of all spending quality time with his wife and children. He is survived by his loving wife of nine years, Brenda (Medical Lake, WA); daughters Audrey (Loganville, GA), Mia and Becca (Medical Lake, WA); son Steven (Medical Lake, WA); brother Wade (Jonesboro, AR) and his parents.

A "Celebration of Life" with Military Honors was held at 9:45AM Friday, March 8, 2013 at Medical Lake Baptist Church, 864 S. Graham Lane, Medical Lake, WA on Hwy 902 at Stanley (Conoco). In lieu of flowers donations can be made in his memory to Sterling Savings Bank, 120 S. Broad Street, Medical Lake, WA 99022.

Many of you that attended the VSPA and VDHA reunions in 2004 may remember Max Talley. Max coordinated our tours for both reunions. Max and SSgt Andrew Esparza made sure we got our money's worth during these fantastic tours of the Old and New Kennels at Davis-Monthan AFB, Tucson, Arizona. Many of you may remember the "red light and siren" escort that Max provided us!

This was our second tour of an active duty MWD kennel by VSPA K-9 members. Max was deployed to Al Udeid Air Base, Qatar in 2006 and he was supported by Bill Cummings (U-Tapao). Rest in peace Max – We'll miss you very much dog man!

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**OVER SEVEN YEARS OF SUPPORTING OUR K-9 TROOPS!
MORE THAN 350 MILITARY WORKING DOG TEAMS SUPPORTED!**

More than \$80,400 of supplies shipped down range!

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

Hello everyone! We are currently supporting four (4) kennels and fourteen (14) deployed Air Force, Army, and Navy teams as of April 15, 2013. April 2013 brings us to seven years and seven 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 Bagram Air Field and Miawand District, Afghanistan; Al Udeid Air Base, Qatar; and Eskan Village, Saudi Arabia. We have three (3) new Pups to introduce this month.

Pups heading home from the AOR

Eskan Village, Saudi Arabia: SSgt Alexandra Jecha & MWD Dexter are getting ready to head back to the "world" and Davis-Monthan AFB, Arizona. They are heading for some warm desert weather!

SSgt Daniel Sayarot & Figo should be following SSgt Jecha back to the desert and the 355th SFS at Davis-Monthan AFB, Arizona.

Bagram Air Field, Afghanistan: TSgt Micheal McKinnon is now back in the states getting prepared for a desert summer and RETIREMENT at Davis-Monthan AFB, Arizona.

Pups arriving in the AOR

Miawand District, Afghanistan: SrA Brandon Johnson & MWD Diyi deployed from the 820th SFS, Moody AFB, Georgia. The team is supported by Dixie Whitman (FoK)

Al Udeid Air Base, Qatar: SSgt Mark "Cojak" Chojnacki & MWD Mila deployed from the 2nd SFS, Barksdale AFB, Louisiana. The team is supported by Ernest Childers (Udorn).

SSgt Andrew Bowen & MWD Terry are deployed from the 436th SFS, Dover AFB, Delaware. They are supported by Don Graham (Tuy Hoa/Loring).

379th ESFS – Al Udeid Air Base, Qatar

Official Photograph - March 2013



The photographs above were taking by the 379th Public Affairs Office at Al Udeid Air Base, Qatar. Above we found our troops being “K-9 troops” – Everyone remembers these shots (the ones twhere everyone just wouldn’t get with the program because everyone was having such a great time – Well, they were caught again! We can quote an unnamed K-9 trooper “Now you know we cannot do a photo of all K-9 without being just a little goofy! I’m the only one with my ABU top off! Oooohs – I think I just quoted SrA Chad Ditch. OK, lets take a closer look. We have an archer, several leaners, a few shoulder lifters, sure looks like a singer, and a little barking going on, and a Kennel Master that is about to take them behind the wood shed – we all sure miss these days!



In the end, Kennel Master, TSgt Dave Helmbrech, far left, (Old Dawgs & Pups Class of 2006 – Camp Lemonnier, Djibouti, Africa) with the help of Trainer, Mr. Jerry Wood, far right, finally got them together! You can bet it was like herding worms. You know, things just done change over the years. Sharp looking group and we are very proud of you all. Sure wish they’d change that backdrop – but, you know, almost everything goes with a “natural sand” color.

379th ESFS – Al Udeid Air Base, Qatar - Continued



SSgt Tom Beers & Guyro conducting a search on gift that just arrived from Old Dawgs & Pups. Got to search EVERYTHING that comes in fellas!! Thank you for everything you guys do! Much appreciated! SSgt Beers & Guyro are deployed from the 21st SFS, Peterson AFB, Colorado, and John Langley (TSN) supports them.



Above Left: SSgt Beers and MWD Guyro. Taking time away from searching vehicles to say "Thank You" for the gifts!



Above Right: SrA Jared Phillips and MWD Rex take a moment to display their Leatherman Surge, Thailand Handler patch, and we just have to believe that his challenge coin is in his pocket – we know he's not going to get caught short and have to buy a round. SrA Phillips and Rex are deployed from the 28th SFS, Ellsworth AFB, South Dakota and they are supported by Doc Hodges (Ubon/Korat).

379th ESFS – Al Udeid Air Base, Qatar – Continued



Above Right: SrA Candace Colburn & MWD Eddy “getting fired up” for a training exercise!

Above Left: Kennel Master, TSgt David Helmbrecht, takes on MWD Eddy and SrA Colburn as they complete their training exercise for the day. TSgt Helmbrecht was deployed with OD&P to Camp Lenonnier, Djibouti, Africa in August of 2006 and he was supported by Don Graham (Tuy Hoa/Loring).



SrA Candace Colburn & MWD Eddy share a “K-9 moment” as they near the end of their tour together. Steve and Lise Gattis (CRB) support the team. This is one fine looking dog team!

379th ESFS – Al Udeid Air Base, Qatar – Continued



SSgt Mark “Cojack” Chojnacki & SSgt Andrew Bowen are two of our newest pups at Al Udeid, Qatar. They just received their new Guardian Pet Cots from Pet Edge for their MWDs. From the looks of those smiles it appears that Mary Lou Hodsdon and the shipping department did a great job getting this equipment down range for us in just seven days! OK guys – that’s great service!



Above Left: SSgt Mark “Cojack” Chojnacki & MWD Mila got the pet cot unpacked and assembled. They are deployed from the 2nd SFS, Barksdale AFB, Louisiana and they are supported by Ernest Childers (Udorn).

Above Right: SSgt Andrew Bowen and MWD Terry show off their new pet cot also. The team is deployed from the 436th SFS, Dover AFB, Delaware and they are supported by Don Graham (Tuy Hoa/Loring). Both Don and Andrew are “Penn State” guys and they are only about a few hours from each other back in the world.

455th ESFS Bagram Air Field, Afghanistan

TSgt Adam Leslie has now assumed the Kennel Master position. TSgt Adams is supported by MSgt Jason Somers (820th/Minot AFB) and is deployed from 633rd SFS, Joint Base Langley-Eustis, Virginia. Looks like TSgt Leslie just realized that he is NOW the KM – and he's pretty pleased about his new job.



SSgt Joshua Mason & MWD Ruth take up a security position outside of a building adjacent to a village while on patrol outside the wire (OTW). SSgt Joshua Mason & MWD Ruth are deployed from the 88th SFS, Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio and the team is supported by Bob Curnick (NKP).



455th ESFS Bagram Air Field, Afghanistan - Continued



SSgt Steven Owen & MWD Tex finish up a mission at Bagram and we caught them for a photograph. The team is deployed from the 55th SFS, Offutt AFB, Nebraska and Karl Niemeyer (NKP) supports them. SSgt Owen is our first team that we have supported from Offutt – Welcome aboard Team Tex.



SSgt Joshua Mason & MWD Ruth and SSgt Steven Owen & MWD Tex took time after a mission to send us these photographs. SSgt Mason has turned into our “Official Photographer” at Bagram Air Base!

64th ESFS - Eskan Village, Saudi Arabia



Left: SSgt Jecha and Dexter sharing some down time following training at Eskan Village.

Center: SSgt Alexandra Jecha & MWD Dexter and SSgt Daniel Sayarot & MWD Figo are packing their bags and as promised they provided us a “Team Davis-Monthan” photograph. Both dog teams are on deployed as part of their first K-9 deployment. It turned out great that the kennelmates were able to deploy to the same location. They should be stateside shortly after this edition of “K-9 Supply” hits the streets. Dave Broker (U-Tapao) and Jon Hemp (Tan Son Nhut) support them, respectively.

Right: SSgt Sayarot enjoying a “K-9 moment” at Eskan Village. They are ready to come home!



Following an “Official Photograph” session for the squadron, SSgt Jecha and MWD Dexter and SSgt Sayarot and MWD Figo enjoy a “K-9 moment” at Eskan Village. Both teams say that they are ready to get back to the states to continue the “D-M” standards.

We’d like to thank Alexandra and Daniel for providing us such great photographs and for being part of the Old Dawgs & Pups program. Remember, we’ll be there for you when you go down range in the future. Good job guys – good job!

Other News concerning OD&P Graduates

“An inside look at one of our graduates”



As everyone knows – We LOVE PHOTOGRAPHS from our pups – both old and new ones. We just received this photograph from one of our “Old Dawg &Pups” program graduates and as you can see – it’s a little different from most of the photographs that we receive. Can you tell us what this is?

It’s what happens when you have some fun riding motocross! TSgt Joe Throgmorton (Kennel Master, Joint Base Balad, Iraq 2009) broke his foot in 12 places. In addition, he broke his back, tailbone, and sternum. That had to be one hellva’ ride!

He’s doing better now, graduating from a wheel chair, to crutches, to a boot cast, to a cane, and finally to being able to walk again. Physical therapy is going very well and he’s been catching up on our program via our newsletters.

He hopes to be back flying in the near future. Joe is now stationed at Hurlburt Field, Florida. Mike Diercks (Korat) supported TSgt Throgmorton during his last K-9 deployment.

From all of us Joe, we are glad you are doing better and hopefully next time when you get that “need for speed” we hope that you will trade motocross riding for watching NASCAR – it’s a lot easier on your body!

Colonel John Probst Retiring

Colonel John Probst retired on March 29th, 2013, after completing a career of 37 years, 11 months, and 17 days! Colonel Probst started his military career as an enlisted troop and a Military Working Dog handler serving with a canine partner at Goose Bay, Labrador (New Foundland, Canada), Fairchild AFB, Washington, Clark AFB, RPI, and Don Maung, Thailand, and later was the Commander, 341st Training Squadron (MWD School), Lackland AFB, Texas. From March 2007-2008 he also served a tour in Iraq.

Colonel Probst is believed to be the last active duty dog Air Force military working dog handler from the Vietnam era still serving in the USAF. Congratulations Colonel for all of us “puppy pushers”. This officially ends a career of service that spanned three major conflicts in the history of the United States; Vietnam, Operation Iraqi Freedom, and Operation Enduring Freedom.



Kelly Bateman and Ernest Childers presented Colonel Probst with a certificate honoring his service to our career field that stated “Colonel John W. Probst – Thailand Dog Handlers served with military working dogs under combat conditions in the Vietnam War. Back then; you were one of us – a “Dog Handler,” a title we cherish”.

We honor and congratulate you on the completion of a fantastic career spanning more than 40 years, from dog handler to commanding officer. Serving with a dog is a relationship and memorable experience like no other, and we’re proud both that you are one of us, and that you have continued to show the world what a dog handler can do”.

Colonel Probst was also presented a copy of Mike Lemish’s book “Forever Forward: K-9 Operations in Vietnam” and a Forever Forward Hat from Kelly Bateman’s personal collection.

Feed the Dawgs Project 2013 Schedule

<http://www.thedawgsproject.com>



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

Here is the Feed the Dawgs upcoming schedule for 2013 – Get Involved!

You can view photos from all of our events on Facebook at "[The Dawgs Project](#)"

4	May	Edwards AFB, CA
25	May	Travis AFB, Beale AFB, NAS Fallon, CA
8	June	NAS Lemoore, CA

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 **14** handlers assigned to four (4) 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 1,754 pieces of equipment has been delivered to our K-9 troops serving in the AOR from August 21, 2005 to April 15, 2013. "Old Dawgs and Friends" have supported 97 kennels and 357 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 **\$22,289.00** of supplies for the **97** kennels solely via your personal donations. Including the Leatherman corporate and Helping Udders donations, the total is **\$80,417.00**

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.

List of Supplies Shipped by Old Dawgs & Pups

- 294 Leatherman “Surge” Tools (145) Donated by Leatherman
 - * The Leatherman “Surge”/Muts/Flashlights/Knives donation is valued at approximately **\$54,709.00**
- 266 Thailand Challenge Coins (Donated & Purchased)
- 205 Thailand Historical Base Patches
- 163 * Leatherman Serac S3 Leatherman Flashlights
- 103 Guardian Pet Beds (Pet Edge)
- 75 * Leatherman Knives (Models: c33T, e55, e55B, e33L)
- 56 Kongs (Assorted sizes)
- 50 * Leatherman M5 LED Lenser Flashlights
- 46 Sponges
- 44 PSI Water Holes
- 40 Cleaning/Scouring Pads
- 34 * Leatherman MUT Tools
- 33 Kygen Port-A-Bowls
- 25 Doggles (10 Pairs were donated)
- 24 Kygen 2-In-1 Food/Water Bowls
- 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
- 16 Classic Long Tooth Undercoat rakes
- 15 Classic HG Food Dishes
- 12 Coastal Large Slickers
- 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
- 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)
- 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
- 7 Sets Ruff Wear Bark’n Boots Trex (Ray Allen & Ruff Wear)
- 7 Retractable Leashes
- 4 Carabiners
- 4 5” Heavy Duty Cleaning Brushes
- 3 100 Foot Water Hoses
- 3 20” Heavy Duty Cleaning Brushes
- 3 12” 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)