

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



(02/15/2014)

OVER EIGHT YEARS OF SUPPORTING OUR K-9 TROOPS!
MORE THAN 390 MILITARY WORKING DOG TEAMS SUPPORTED!
107 Deployed Military Working Dog Kennels Supported
More than \$92,300.00 of supplies shipped down range!
<http://www.war-stories.com/odap/ws-odap-index.htm>

Hello everyone! We are currently supporting five (5) kennels and nineteen (19) deployed Air Force, Army, and Navy teams as of February 15, 2014. February 2014 brings us to eight 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 Kandahar Air Field, Afghanistan; Al Udeid Air Base, Qatar; Ali Al Salem Air Base; Al Dhafra Air Base, United Arab Emirates (UAE); An Undisclosed Location – Southwest Asia. We have three (3) new pups to introduce this month.

Pups heading home from the AOR

Ali Al Salem Air Base, Kuwait: SSgt Dwight Veon & MWD Buli should be back at Tinker AFB, Oklahoma enjoying some well deserved down time as we publish this edition of K-9 Supply.

SSgt Nathan Parks & MWD Astov should be “pulling chocks” and heading back to the great D. C. winter weather at Joint Base Andrews, Maryland, very soon.

SrA Angela Jones & MWD Chester should be packing and making travel plans for the bright lights of Las Vegas and Nellis AFB, Nevada. Oh don’t you just love the bright lights of Vegas?

SrA Ashley Wendler & MWD Nira are strongly thinking about exploring a German castle or maybe a great beverage at Ramstein Air Base, Germany. OK, this sounds like a plan!

Pups arriving in the AOR

Ali Al Salem Air Base, Kuwait: MSgt Ben Jones is deployed from the 96th SFS, Eglin AFB, Florida. This is Ben’s third tour with OD&P (That’s right – he’s an Alpha Dog!) and Jon Hemp (TSN) supports him.

SSgt Jesse Galvan & MWD Ritz are deployed from the 72nd SFS, Tinker AFB, Oklahoma. They are supported by Jim Cox (Bien Hoa).

Al Udeid Air Base, Qatar: SSgt Nicholas Lewis & MWD Body are deployed from the 436th SFS, Dover AFB, Delaware. The team is supported by David Priest (Korat).

Dyess K-9 Trainer receives Purple Heart Medal

By Senior Airman Peter Thompson – 7th Bomb Wing Public Affairs (Excerpts used)

1/24/2014 - DYESS AIR FORCE BASE, Texas. Tech. Sgt. Rafael Rhodes was recognized for being wounded in action against an enemy of the United States and for directly engaging an enemy while his life was at risk of grave danger in Afghanistan. (He was presented his Purple Heart and Air Force Combat Action Medals)

U.S. Air Force Brig. Gen. Glen VanHerck, 7th Bomb Wing commander, presents Tech. Sgt. Rafael Rhodes, 7th Security Forces Squadron military working dog trainer, with the Purple Heart and Air Force Combat Action Medals Jan. 24, 2014, at Dyess Air Force Base, Texas. Rhodes was awarded for being wounded in action against an enemy of the United States and for directly engaging an enemy while his life was at risk of grave danger while deployed in Afghanistan. (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Richard Ebensberger/Released)

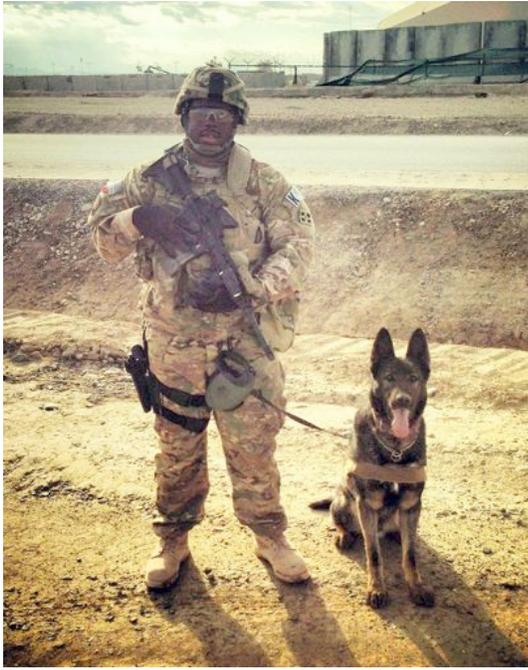


Tech. Sgt. Rafael Rhodes, 7th Security Forces Squadron military working dog trainer, was awarded the Purple Heart and Air Force Combat Action Medals Jan. 24, 2014, for being wounded in action against an enemy of the United States and for directly engaging an enemy while his life was at risk of grave danger while deployed in Afghanistan. Rhodes and his military working dog Nero both sustained injuries from an improvised explosive device explosion, while returning from a 12-hour outside-the-wire mission. (Courtesy Photo) MWD Nero was deployed and injured in the incident.

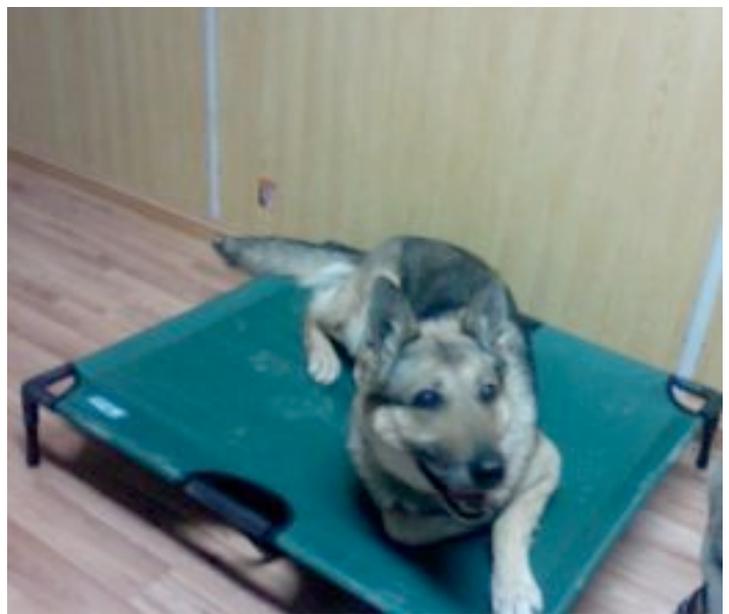
Then Staff Sergeant Rafael Rhodes and MWD Nero were assigned to the 455th EBDG MWD Kennel at Bagram Air Field, Afghanistan. The team was paired up with Kelly Bateman (Ubon) on July 19, 2013 for their first tour with Old Dawgs & Pups.

We have been very fortunate to be able to continue our contact with now TSgt Rhodes after his return to Dyess AFB, his home station in Texas. TSgt Rhodes will be heading out for a new assignment in the very near future at Creech AFB, Nevada, as part of the cadre where he will utilize his OTW experience and training to instruct outgoing handlers prior to their deployments at the Regional Training Center.

4th Infantry Division – MWD – Kandahar, Afghanistan



We'd like to welcome SrA Brandon Hinton and MWD Dan to our program. In the photographs above, Brandon and Dan are involved in training "problem" at Kandahar. As you can see on the right, Dan has done his job and is focused on his reward. You can also hear Dan saying "OK – let's see that kong! I know it's coming – my work is just never DONE!" The team is deployed from the 377th SFS, Kirtland AFB, New Mexico and Mike Regan (NKP) supports them. Good looking dog team!



Left - MWD Lana looks just great on her new Guardian Pet Cot that just arrived at Kandahar. Lana is SSgt Ian Porter's partner during this tour. Jim & Nancy Stewart (TSN) supports the team.

Right – MWD Ema fits just right on the new Pet Cot that arrived at Kandahar. Ema is the partner of SSgt Tyler Wiseman and TSgt Justin Kitts (USAFA) supports the team.

Thanks to our friends at Pet Edge for turning around this order so quick to get them down range for us! This brings our total to 104 pet cots shipped to the AOR – that's a lot of dogs off the concrete! Don't forget them when you are ordering supplies for you dog – they have been great to us since 2006.

4th Infantry Division – MWD – Kandahar, Afghanistan - Continued



SrA Brandon Hinton & SSgt Tyler Wiseman show off the Thailand Handler gifts that just arrived at Kandahar. Each of them received a Leatherman Mut, M5 LED Lenser Flashlight, Thailand Handler Patch and Challenge Coin. From the looks of the smiles our gifts were very well received. Looks like these guys enjoy receiving them as much as we like sending the signature gifts. SrA Hinton and SSgt Wiseman are deployed from Kirtland AFB and Goodfellow AFB, respectively. SrA Hinton is supported by Mike Regan (NKP) and SSgt Wiseman is supported by Justin Kitts (USAFA).



OK – who lost the bet SSgt Wiseman? SSgt Ian Porter said it was YOU and YOU do good work!

386th ESFS Ali Al Salem - “The Rock”, Kuwait



OK guys – here’s what a team looks like! Look at that face – dedication and loyalty – that’s what that says. These photographs just don’t even need captions. SrA Angela Jones & MWD Chester are deployed from the 99th SFS, Nellis AFB, Nevada and Steve and Lise Gattis (CRB) support them.



SrA Jones and MWD Dog Chester put on a “demo” for The Great Divide band. Rumor has it that the demo was a hit for all involved. The Great Divide Band is an American Red Dirt/Texas Country music group, originally from Stillwater, Oklahoma.

Military Working Dogs of Ali Al Salem, Kuwait – 386th ESFS – 2013



Diesel M688
SSgt Andrew Montgomery



Chester M123
SrA Angelo Jones



Astov T546
SSgt Nathan Parks



Nira T410
SrA Ashley Wendler



Judi L656
SSgt Margaret (Hazel) Norotsky



Blecki N698
SSgt Henry Edwards



Buli J238 - SSgt Dwight Veon

386th ESFS - Ali Al Salem "The Rock", Kuwait – Continued 2014 Change Over



Top Left: TSgt Jason Fields and MSgt Donald Ellison take a moment to get us a photograph before MSgt Ellison boards the "Freedom Bird". Man, it was like pulling teeth to get this photograph!!!!

Top Right: MSgt Ben Jones is now boots on the ground (BOG) at Ali Al Salem. Looks like this was one of the many "change over briefings" before MSgt Ellison headed for Peterson AFB, Colorado.



Top Left: TSgt Fields, MSgt Ellison, and MSgt Jones compare notes before the KM change over.

Top Right: The new team! TSgt Jason Fields and MSgt Ben Jones carry on the reign at the 386th ESFS. MSgt Don Ellison, TSgt Jason Fields, and MSgt Ben Jones are supported by Phil Carroll (Takhli/NKP) and Jon Hemp (TSN), respectively. MSgt Ben Jones is deployed from 96th SFS, Eglin AFB, Florida.

379th ESFS - Al Udeid Air Base, Qatar



Our Old Dawgs & Pups signature gifts just arrived at Al Udeid Air Base, Qatar. Above, MWD Arco, supervises as SSgt Sean King and Mr. Mike Kyker display the newly arriving gifts. The packages included Leatherman Surges, M5 LED Lenser flashlights, Wave dog toys, Thailand Handler challenges coins and patches. Just to quote Mike Kyker “Those Leatherman tools are GREAT! I use the heck out of mine. Yes those things are freaking awesome! King and I were surprisingly shocked that we received such a gift”. Mike Kyker is a civilian contractor Trainer and is supported by Doc Hodges (Ubon/Korat).



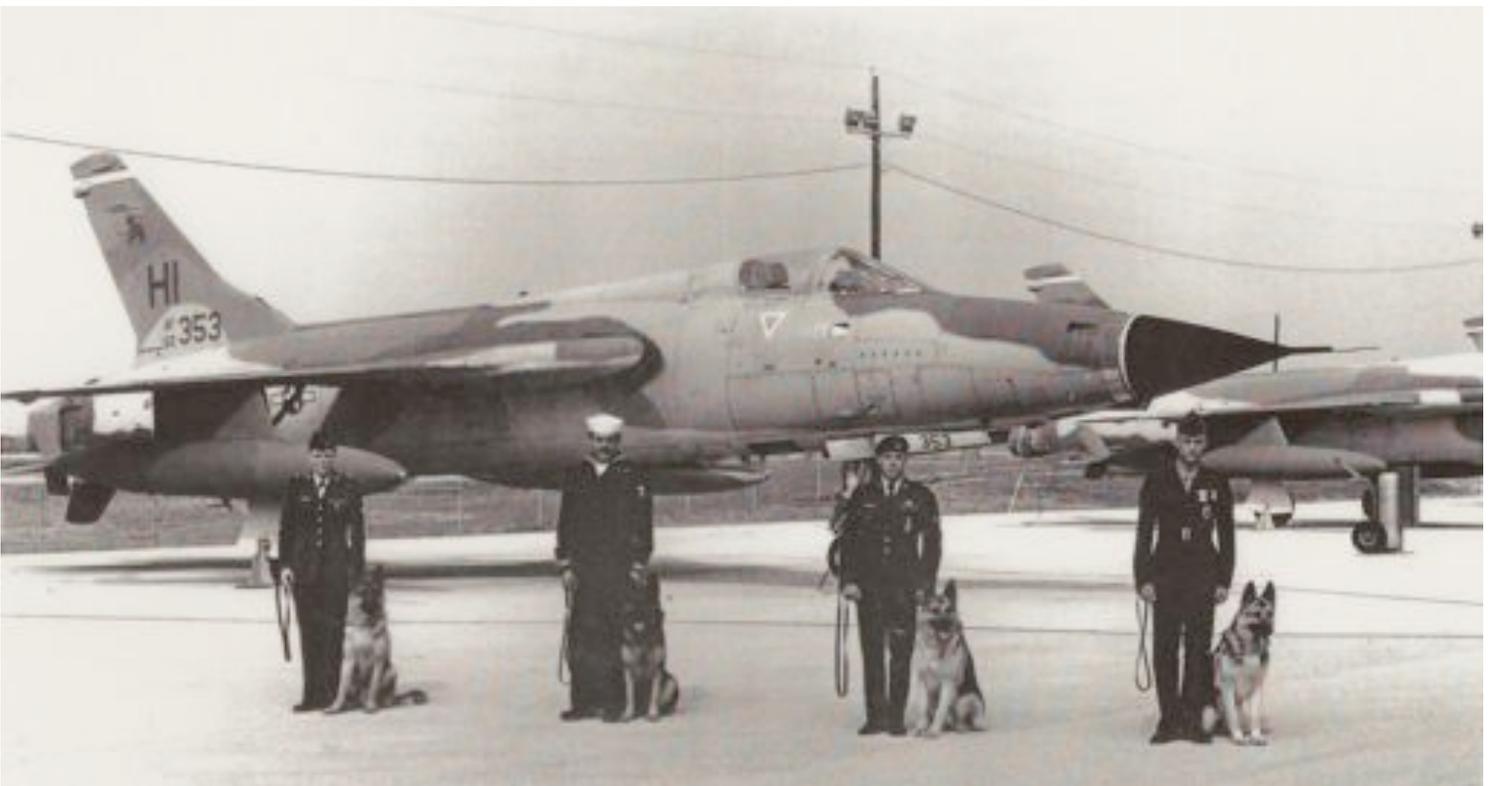
Seeking the Hight Ground – Nice bonding moment! SSgt Sean King and Arco are deployed from the 319th SFS, Grand Forks AFB, North Dakota and they are supported by Scotty Baker (Safeside).

Undisclosed Location Southwest Asia



SSgt Jeremy Rice and MWD Kanjer took a moment to provide us this photograph. The team is deployed from the 96th SFS, Eglin AFB, Texas, and they are supported by Ernest Childers (Udorn). This team, and especially this DOG, have the most personality of any MWD team that we have every supported. It is such a pleasure to watch them work together – those of you who attend the VSPA reunion in Florida in 2012 can attest to this – they just “have fun together”. Sometimes you really think Kanjer is going to talk to you. Thanks SSgt Rice, from all of us at OD&P, thanks for showing us that the “special dog/handler relationship” still exists. SSgt Rice is a second-generation USAF Military Working Dog handler.

Four Services Standing Tall at Lackland!



A New Very Special OD&P Challenge Coin, Available for Purchase

This one's for you!

OK, last month we promised you that something special was coming, and hinted that it would be something you could get your own hands on. Here it is. This is a 1 $\frac{3}{4}$ -inch (by 3.5mm) coin with the OD&P side identical to the same side of the bigger "Alpha Dog" coin we showed you last month, including the photo of Air Force Security Police Sgt Alexander Liverano and Sentry Dog Dante 632M on a Takhli RTAFB perimeter post during the war. On the back, this one has the same 3D snarling dog's head surrounded by a beautiful diamond wave-cut border and new text, all on antique brass. It's a very good-looking, high-quality challenge coin. And yes, you can buy some.



Here's all you've got to do:

1. Make out a check payable to **Phil Carroll** for the correct amount.
2. Mail it to Phil at **P.O. Box 8, Gladstone, OR 97027**
3. Enclose a note saying how many coins you want, and giving Phil your full name and correct mailing address.
4. The coins will cost you \$20 for the first one, and \$15 for each additional coin on the same order. Feel free to add a donation to that amount if you like, we can put it to very good use.
5. Be quick, we have a limited number available for now.



The coin(s) you order will be shipped as soon as Phil gets your check. They'll go by Priority Mail, with USPS tracking and insurance. All proceeds from this coin will be donated to support the activities of the Old Dawgs & Pups program.

We won't be sending these coins to the Pups that you all adopt - so if you are supporting a Pup, giving him or her one of these coins is up to you. The OD&P program will continue to give each Pup in our program one of the older TDH/OD&P coins that we've been giving out for several years. No change.

However, the OD&P program is going to send one of these 1 $\frac{3}{4}$ " new coins to a few Old Dawgs and supporters that we've selected for special recognition because of their extraordinary support for the OD&P program. Some of these folks have adopted more than 25 Pups over the eight-plus years we've been up and running (you'll have to support at least 15 Pups to earn this recognition). Some have also donated lots of good old U.S. dollars to support the program, or significant amounts of their own off-duty time, special skills and effort. Those who are being awarded one of these coins by the Old Dawgs & Pups program, as an expression of our heartfelt thanks for the outstanding level of support, are:

Kelly Bateman, Dave Broeker, Phil Carroll, Ernest Childers, Bill Cummings, Mike Diercks, Lise Gattis, Steve Gattis, Jon Hemp, Doc Hodges, John Homa, Jay D. Jones, The Leatherman Tool Group, Inc., Kitri McGuire, Ken Neal, Don Poss, Dave Szody, Jim Stastny, Bernie Turnbloom, Juli Warner, Dixie Whitman, and Keith Young.

We thank them, and all of you, for your continued support of this very successful program for our active-duty K-9 troops downrange!

We'd like to welcome a new partner to Old Dawgs & Pups



Friends, Patrons, and the Staff of two pharmacies in Connecticut have stepped up to the plate to assist Old Dawgs & Pups in providing some “comfort equipment” for the Military Working Dog teams that we support. The two are Professional Pharmacy of Stamford, and Palmer Pharmacy of Greenwich.

U. S Army Lt. Colonel (Ret.) Domenic Sammarco and his “friends, patrons, and staff” have been raising funds to assist OUR troops. We’ve put out an “equipment call” to all of our kennels and they will be receiving some great support and needed equipment during the upcoming months as we identify items and equipment that they need.

With the help of their fundraising and our great pricing from our suppliers – we can really make an impact on the needs of our deployed MWD teams. Let us thank you in advance “Team P & P Pharmacy” for making sure our troops are well taken care of during their deployments. Photographs of the equipment purchased and shipped will be identified in our monthly newsletter – Keep your eye open for the results of our team effort! Also, anyone in the Stamford or Greenwich, Connecticut, area – make sure you stop in and say “Hello and Thanks” to these fantastic volunteers that have stepped up!

Super Bowl packages sent down range by MWDTSA



MWDTSA *Military Working Dog Team Support Association, Inc.*

A tax-exempt organization under IRS code section 501(c)(3). All donations are tax-deductible.

<http://www.mwdtsa.org>

Once again, we'd like to extend a VERY BIG THANK YOU to Dixie Whitman and everyone associated with the Military Working Dog Team Support Association who has sent “Super Bowl” packages down range to support our deployed troops. They have sent packages to our troops at five deployed kennel locations in southwest Asia! This organization is a “CLASS ACT”! Please visit their website!

Other News concerning OD&P Graduates



We have new Technical Sergeants!

TSgt Daniel Wilson just returned to work this week following his recovery from surgery following his injuries while deployed at Bagram Air Base, Afghanistan, while protecting MWD Dan from injury during an OTW incident. We were just informed that he was STEP (Stripes for Exceptional Performers) promoted on January 14, 2014. Dan was our POC at Bagram and just did a fantastic job helping us to support the final team deployed to Bagram. He was deployed from Kirtland AFB.

We can now report that he has returned to duty and is doing very well. He still has some “healing” to do, but his future in the career field looks very bright. TSgt Wilson & MWD Dan were supported by Ernest Childers (Udorn). Great job Sarge! Congratulations from all of us at OD&P.



More good news! We were also just informed that SSgt Rafael Rhodes, deployed from the 7th SFS, Dyess AFB, Texas, was promoted to Technical Sergeant! He was Wounded In Action (WIA) and received a “Purple Heart” Medal while deployed with the 455th EBDG at Bagram Air Field, Afghanistan. Rafael is healing well and is looking forward to continuing to be on the “end of the leash” for many years to come. TSgt Rhodes and his MWD Nero were supported by Kelly Bateman (Ubon).

Congratulations to our newest Technical Sergeants Dan Wilson and Rafael Rhodes. Another example of good things happening to good people! Keep up the great work guys.

Old School (1970's) - No explanation needed!



Yes, that's a cloth wrap!

Feed the Dawgs Project 2014 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 Dogs. 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.

2014 brings new adventures for *Feed the Dawgs* – They are expanding to **THREE** regions! Here are the contacts for the regions – if you are interested in participating in an event – just ping the POC and they will put you to work and make sure you share some quality time with the TROOPS!

Southwest Dawgs (CA, AZ, NV, & TX)

Jon Hemp - jmhemp@feedthedawgs.com
<http://thedawgsproject.com>

Rocky Mountain Dawgs (CO, NM, MO, & TX)

Kevin Sonka - kevinsonka@comcast.net
<http://www.rockymountaindawgsproject.org>

Northwest Dawgs Project (NV, UT, ID, & WA)

Frank Wehner – nwdawgs@fcwehner.com
<http://northwestdawgsproject.com>

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 2014 – Get Involved!

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

1	March	Arizona Joint Feed Event (Luke AFB/Fort Huachuca/Davis-Monthan AFB), AZ
22	March	NAS Lemoore, CA
12	April	YPG IASK/MCAS Yuma @ Yuma Proving Ground, AZ
26	April	Naval Air Station Fallon, Nevada

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

At the time of this report we have **18** members of the "Old Dawgs & Pups" program actively supporting **19** handlers assigned to five (5) kennels in Southwest Asia.

Our K-9 Supply program has been coordinated and funded by the "Old Dawgs & Pups" program volunteers. The supporters are members of the VSPA, VDHA, and friends of K-9. A total of 2,076 pieces of equipment has been delivered to our K-9 troops serving in the AOR from August 15, 2005 to February 15, 2014. "Old Dawgs & Friends" have supported **107** kennels and **391** K-9 personnel via our program. For additional information on the program please go to:

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

Please review, photographs, press releases, and more about our ongoing programs.

We have purchased and shipped **\$25,867.00** worth of supplies to **107** kennels solely via your personal donations. Including the Leatherman corporate and other noted major donations, our program has supplied at total of **\$92,289.00** to deployed Military Working Dog teams. Please note that this total does not reflect all of the "care packages" that have been sent directly by team sponsors and other organizations that we have been so fortunate to be involved with for this program.

Major List of Supplies Shipped by Old Dawgs & Pups

(For a complete list of supplies shipped contact Bill Cummings)

- 312 Leatherman "Surge" Tools (145 donated by Leatherman)
 - * The Leatherman "Surge"/MUTS/Flashlights/Knives/Toys donation is valued at **\$63,014.00**
- 287 Thailand Challenge Coins (Donated & Purchased)
- 266 Thailand Historical Base Patches
- 163 * Leatherman Serac S3 Flashlights
- 105 Guardian Pet Beds (Pet Edge)
- 102 Alpha Dog Challenge Coins
- 79 * Leatherman MUT Tools
- 75 * Leatherman Knives (Models: e33T, e55, e55B, e33L)
- 56 Kongs (Assorted sizes)
- 55 * Leatherman Wave Dog Toys
- 50 * Leatherman M5 LED Lenser Flashlights
- 46 Sponges
- 44 PSI Water Holes
- 40 Cleaning/Scouring Pads
- 33 Kygen Port-A-Bowls
- 31 Doggles (10 Pairs donated)
- 29 Retractable Leashes (Pet Edge)
- 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 Classis Long Tooth Undercoat Rakes
- 15 Classic HG Food Dishes
- 12 Coastal Large Slickers
- 12 Flat Sided Stainless Steel Water Pails (Pet Edge)
- 12 Bucket Clips (Pet Edge)
- 12 Heavy Guard Handled Water Pails
- 10 Muzzles
- 10 Heavy Duty Handled Pails – 9 Quart (Pet Edge)

- 10 **Stainless Steel – 3 Quart Dura-weight Bowls (Pet Edge)**
- 10 **Helping Udders Reward Toys (Helping Udders)**
- 9 **Hose Nozzles**
- 8 **K-9 Bluelight Supplement (2 pounds)**
- 8 **Cooling Wraps (Roshgo Corporation)**
- 8 **Cooldanna Cooling Mats (Roshgo Corporation)**
- 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)**
- 6 **20”/12” (3 each) Heavy Duty Cleaning Brushes**
- 4 **Carabiners**
- 4 **5” Heavy Duty Cleaning Brushes**
- 3 **100-Foot Water Hoses**
- 3 **Ceremonial K-9 Badges (Memorial)**
- 2 **Hose Reels – Wheeled Cart**
- 2 **50-Foot Water Hoses**
- 2 **Spray Bottles & Sprayers**
- 2 **130-Foot Enclosed Hose Reels**
- 2 *** Leatherman EOD MUT Tools**
- 1 **Large Patrol Harness**
- 1 **Medium Patrol Harness**
- 1 **Case Toilet Paper (30 Rolls)**
- 1 **Case Drink Mixes & Snacks**
- 1 **Syntek Hidden Sleeve (Ray Allen)**
- 1 **Armor Carrier Shoulder Pads**
- 1 **Molle Dump Pouch**