

# 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



(07/15/2014)

**OVER EIGHT YEARS OF SUPPORTING OUR K-9 TROOPS!**  
**MORE THAN 400 MILITARY WORKING DOG TEAMS SUPPORTED!**  
**110 Deployed Military Working Dog Kennels Supported**  
**More than \$93,319.00 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 seventeen (17) deployed Air Force, Army, and Navy teams as of July 15, 2014. July 2014 brings us to eight years and ten 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 Al Udeid Air Base, Qatar; Ali Al Salem Air Base, Kuwait; Al Dhafra Air Base, United Arab Emirates (UAE); An Undisclosed Location in Southwest Asia, and Soto Cano, Honduras. We have no new pups to introduce this month.

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

**Al Udeid Air Base, Qatar:** SSgt Nicholas Lewis & MWD Body are heading back to the beaches of the eastern shore of Delaware and Dover AFB in the very near future.

SSgt Anthony Cruz & MWD Liza are due to rotate back to Moody AFB, Georgia, very soon!

SSgt Jason Albrecht & WMD Cigan are schedule for rotation back to Shaw AFB, South Carolina, to catch the remainder of the summer in the “deep south”.

SSgt David Yaronczyk & MWD Body are packing for their return trip to Scott AFB, Illinois.

SSgt Corey Alpage & MWD Ilay are on the “short list” for a ticket to JBMDL, New Jersey.

SSgt Justin Gonzalez & MWD Sjors have requested a “window seat” on the “Freedom Bird” back to Ellsworth AFB, South Dakota.

SrA Joshua Wise & MWD Gina are looking forward to the mountain breezes at Peterson AFB, Colorado.

SrA Alexander Nutting & Dina are headed back to the land of the Georgia peaches and Moody AFB.

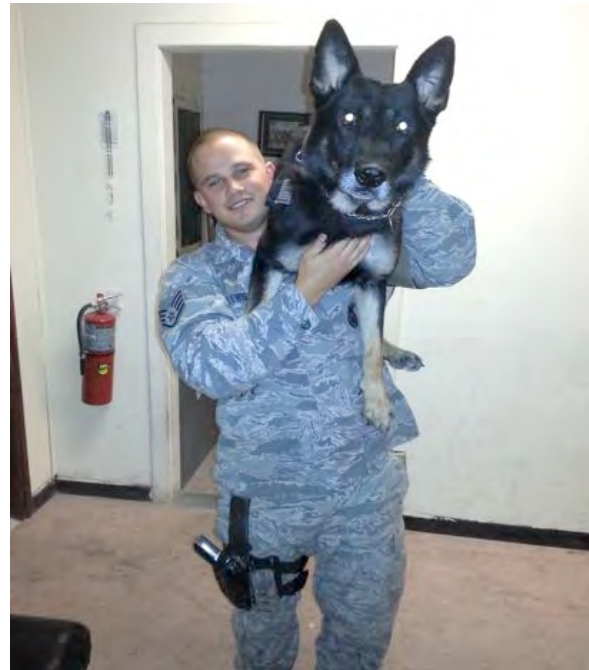
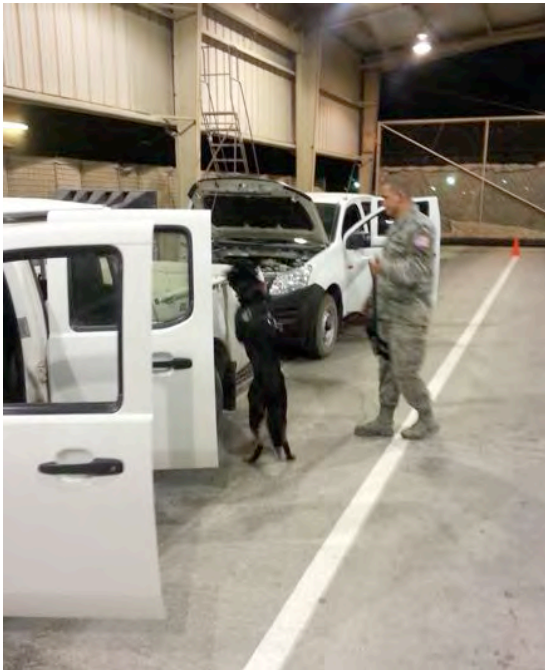
**Ali Al Salem, Kuwait:** SSgt Jesse Galvan & MWD Ritz are now stateside enjoying leave after returning to Tinker AFB, Oklahoma.

SSgt Donald Nachand & MWD Kain should be heading for the dunes at Eglin AFB, Florida!

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



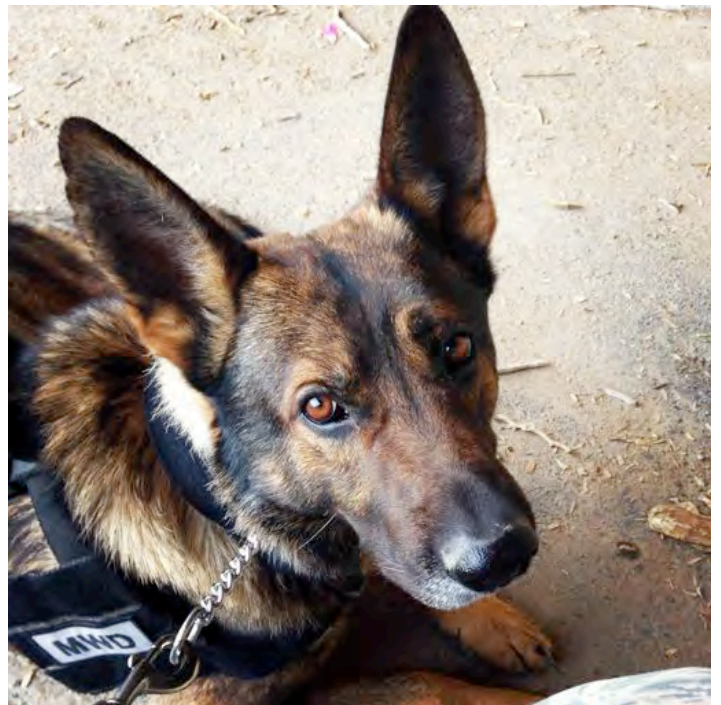
**Above Left and Right: SSgt David Yaronczky and MWD FFrey prep for the night shift at Al Udeid Air Base, Qatar. It sure looks like there is a lot of “fight and attention” in this team. The team is deployed from the 375<sup>th</sup> SFS, Scott Air Force Base, Illinois, and they are supported by Mike Diercks (Korat).**



**Above Left: SSgt David Yaronczky and MWD FFrey conduct a vehicle search problem prior to their assigned shift. It appears that there is nothing too small, too high, or unimportant for FFrey to consider during his search!**

**Above Right: SSgt Nicholas Lewis gives MWD Body “a lift” and a little attention. Hey! “He ain’t heavy – he’s your brother” – Right? The team is deployed from 436<sup>th</sup> SFS, Dover AFB, Delaware. The team is supported by David Priest (Korat)**

## 386<sup>th</sup> ESFS - Ali Al Salem - “The Rock”, Kuwait



MWD Egon (SSgt Dylan Finch’s partner) makes sure that there is no “communication issues” concerning the requirements to the entrance at the MWD area at Ali Al Salem Air Base, Kuwait. On the right – Egon just wants to make sure you know that he’s really serious about the sign! The team is deployed from the 72<sup>nd</sup> SFS, Tinker AFB, Oklahoma, and are supported by Jay D. Jones (Udorn).



Egon takes a break from the 115 + degree weather conditions at Ali Al Salem.

## 386<sup>th</sup> ESFS Ali Al Salem - “The Rock”, Kuwait – Continued



SSgt Jesse Galvan and MWD Ritz spend some time together before and after training at the “Rock”. That black Labrador is sure hard to photograph! On the right, SSgt Galvan is holding Ritz “hostage” with that tennis ball – OK, - the score is 40-Love – you just have to believe that Ritz is ready to do anything for that ball. This is one good-looking dog team. They are supported by James Cox (Bien Hoa).

## Cano Soto, Honduras



SSgt Brian Klein and MWD Bruno just received their signature Thailand Handler gifts that included a Leatherman M5 LED Lenser flashlight and Wave dog toy, a Thailand Challenge coin and Thailand Handler patch. SSgt Klein has deployed with us twice previously and has every gift in are arsenal! The team is deployed from the 355<sup>th</sup> SFS, Davis-Monthan AFB, Arizona, and they are supported by Mike Fink (FoK). As you can see from the photo above, Bruno proves that his Leatherman Wave is the bomb!

## 380<sup>th</sup> ESFS - Al Dhafra Air Base, United Arab Emirates (UAE)



**OK, I think I did good? – This kong is all MINE! It sure looks like Semmi is very pleased with the results of the training session that the team just completed! As you can see, Semmi still has his eye on the prize.**



**It's sure cool to take a ride in a HUMMWV, especially when you have this seat. Just like the old days, the training never stops. SSgt Jeffrey Hill and MWD Semmi are deployed from the 325<sup>th</sup> SFS, Tyndall AFB, Florida, and Chuck Rogers (TSN) and Christi Cryer (FoK) support them.**

## Alpha Dog Coin and Certificate Presentations



**Major Jim Cook (left) and Chief Larry Muncey (right) of the Madison City Police Department (Alabama) presented Officer Chris McCleskey (previously USAF SSgt) his Alpha Dog Certificate and Coin #12, recently. SSgt McCleskey was recognized by Old Dawgs & Pups for his heroic actions on January 28, 2006, that saved the life of MWD Katja (H377). The quarters at FOB Wilson, Iraq, where the team was deployed, caught fire trapping MWD Katja inside.**

**SSgt McCleskey stormed into the burning building to rescue his canine partner, Katja, from a barrack that was engulfed in flames. Assisted by his First Sergeant and armed only with a fire extinguisher, the pair crawled into the flames and smoke and was able to extract the unconscious MWD from her kennel.**

**SSgt McCleskey administered rescue procedures and was able to bring his partner back to life. Katja was then transported via a Blackhawk helicopter to Baghdad for veterinary care. Katja, due to the actions of SSgt McCleskey and his 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division teammates was later safely redeployed to Robbins AFB, Georgia, upon completion of their tour of duty.**

**This is a story of a hero who has carried on our K-9 traditions. Thailand handlers Charlie Berry and Charlie Blood (Udorn), traveled from Florida and Louisiana, respectively, to present a "Shadow Box" award to SSgt McCleskey at the 78<sup>th</sup> SFS, Robbins AFB, upon their arrival stateside. Phil Carroll (Takhli/NKP) and Bill Cummings (U-Tapao) supported the team.**

## Other News concerning OD&P Graduates

**Congratulations go out to our pups that were recently selected for promotion to Technical Sergeant:**



<b>Staff Sergeant</b>	<b>Deployed Location</b>	<b>Year</b>	<b>Sponsor(s)</b>
<b>Thomas Beers</b>	<b>Al Udeid Air Base, Qatar</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>Bill Cummings</b>
<b>Mary Boyer</b>	<b>Manas Transit CTR, Kyrgyzstan</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>Steve/Lise Gattis</b>
<b>Paris Carman</b>	<b>Manas Transit CTR, Kyrgyzstan</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>Larry Zacker</b>
	<b>Bagram Air Base, Afghanistan</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>Bill Cummings</b>
<b>Christopher Darrow</b>	<b>Al Udeid Air Base, Qatar</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>Danny Brusseau</b>
<b>Henry Edwards</b>	<b>Ali Al Salem, Kuwait</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>Joel Burton</b>
<b>Kristopher Hall</b>	<b>Al Udeid Air Base, Qatar</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>Ernest Childers</b>
<b>Victory Sanez</b>	<b>Manas Transit CTR, Kyrgyzstan</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>Jon Hemp</b>
<b>Caleb Snapp</b>	<b>FOB Azizullah, Afghanistan</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>Dale/Debbie Burton</b>
<b>Dwight Veon</b>	<b>Ali Al Salem, Kuwait</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>Bob Sullivan</b>

**Congratulations go out to our pup that was recently selected for promotion to Staff Sergeant:**



<b>Staff Sergeant</b>	<b>Deployed Location</b>	<b>Year</b>	<b>Sponsor(s)</b>
<b>Candice Colburn</b>	<b>Al Udeid Air Base, Qatar</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>Steve/Lise Gattis</b>

## Other News concerning OD&P Graduates - Continued

### Old Dawgs & Pups pin on stripes at Davis-Monthan AFB, Arizona



Above Left: Bill Cummings and MSgt Kurt Lugar “pin” on SSgt Paris Carman’s new Technical Sergeant stripes at the 355<sup>th</sup> SFS MWD kennel at Davis-Monthan AFB, Tucson, Arizona.

Above Right: MSgt Kurt Lugar, TSgt (Select) Paris Carman, SSgt Alexandra Springman, SSgt Ian Porter, and TSgt Jason Fields (all OD&P graduates) join in to celebrate SSgt Carman’s promotion.

Dale & Debbie Burton, David Adams, Dave Broeker, Ernest Childers, Jim Stewart, Phil Carroll, Don Graham, Larry Zacker, and Bill Cummings supported the above troops during their deployments. The pups have completed nine tours with our program while deployed to Iraq, Afghanistan, Kuwait, Kyrgystan, and Saudi Arabia between 2006 and 2013.

## Other News concerning OD&P Graduates – Continued



SSgt Richard Lynn has a bunch of dogs now that he’s stateside. On the left is Gulash, his new “Ft. Living Room” retired MWD and on the right Dick takes MWD Zero for a little “ruck” at Grand Forks Air Force Base, North Dakota. How about that puppy Gulash – Hard not to love that face isn’t it? Steve and Lise Gattis (CRB) supported SSgt Lynn during his deployment to Afghanistan in 2012.



## **Other News concerning OD&P Graduates – Continued**

### **New Dawg handler just arrived!**



We have a new dog handler! It is our pleasure to announce the arrival of Mia Lynn Lokelani Martinez. She was born on June 16<sup>th</sup>, weighing in at 7 pounds and 10 ounces and a height of 18 ½ inches. She is the daughter of MSgt Pablo and Roz Martinez. Mother, daughter, and father are doing very well. Congratulations Pablo and Roz. Pablo was deployed with OD&P two times and has been sponsored by Bill Cummings (U-Tapao) and the Robertson's (FoK) during his deployment to Kirkuk Air Base (101<sup>st</sup> ABD), Iraq and Osan Air Base, Korea in 2006 (Bill Cummings (U-Tapao) and Phil Carroll (Takhli/NKP)).

### **Retired MWD Figo celebrates Independence Day!**



Retired MWD Figo spent Independence Day camping in Massachusetts with the parents of SSgt Sean McKenna (now deployed at Al Dhafra Air Base, UAE). Figo deployed three times with OD&P; first to Al Dhafra Air Base (UAE) in 2010 with SSgt Jose Valdez; Bagram Air Base, Afghanistan with SSgt Manuel Rodriguez in 2011; and finally at Eskan Village, Saudi Arabia, with SSgt Dan Sayarot in 2013.

## **Other News concerning OD&P Graduates – Continued**

### **MWD Olix (N152) crosses over the Rainbow Bridge**



**It is our sad duty to report that MWD Olix (retired) has succumbed to Lymphoma on June 26, 2014.**

**On behalf of SSgt James Worley and SrA Scott Menadue (above with Olix) their heart-felt thanks goes out to each and everyone who assisted in the treatment and care for Olix during his fight with cancer. There will be a full story on Olix and his handlers in next month's edition of K-9 Supply.**

**Contributions for his care was greatly appreciated and each and every message we received were transmitted to SSgt Worley. His family is extremely grateful for all of the thoughts, prayers, and assistance shown by our organization.**

## **August Newsletter**

**Due to circumstances beyond our control – the August newsletter will be published on August 18<sup>th</sup> instead of the regular 15<sup>th</sup> of the month!**

**No explanation needed!**



**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](mailto:jmhemp@feedthedawgs.com)  
<http://thedawgsproject.com>

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

Kevin Sonka - [kevinsonka@comcast.net](mailto:kevinsonka@comcast.net)  
<http://www.rockymountaindawgsproject.org>

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

Frank Wehner – [nwdawgs@fcwehner.com](mailto: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](mailto: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"**

**26 July**

**Kirtland AFB, Albuquerque, NM**

**2 August**

**Joint Northern Feed Event (Travis/Beale), CA**

**23 August**

**Joint San Diego Regional Feed Event (Miramar/MCRD/Navy San Diego), CA**

## 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 **17** 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 2,149 pieces of equipment has been delivered to our K-9 troops serving in the AOR from August 15, 2005 to July 15, 2014. "Old Dawgs & Friends" have supported **110** kennels and **406** 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 **\$26,885.00** worth of supplies to **110** kennels solely via your personal donations. Including the Leatherman corporate and other noted major donations, our program has supplied at total of **\$93,319.00** 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
- 133 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
- 54 Retractable Leashes (Pet Edge)
- 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)
- 24 Kygen 2-In-1 Food/Water Bowls
- 24 Rolls 26"x78" 20% Dark Limo Window Tint (Checker Auto Supply)
- 20 160 oz Stainless Steel Bowls (Pet Edge)
- 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**