



<http://thailanddoghandlers.com> - "Old Dogs & Pups"

(10/15/2014)

**OVER NINE YEARS OF SUPPORTING OUR K-9 TROOPS!**  
**MORE THAN 420 MILITARY WORKING DOG TEAMS SUPPORTED!**  
**114 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 seven (7) kennels and eighteen (18) deployed Air Force, Army, and Navy teams as of October 15, 2014. October 2014 brings us to nine years and one month and 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 and Ali Al Salem MWD Hub, Kuwait; Al Dhafra Air Base, United Arab Emirates (UAE); Eskan Village, Saudi Arabia; and Soto Cano, Honduras. We have two (2) new pups to introduce this month.

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

**Al Udeid Air Base, Qatar:** SSgt Melissa Burns & MWD Iva, deployed from the 14<sup>th</sup> SFS, Columbus, AFB, Mississippi. This is her second tour with OD&P and she is supported by Janet Matthews (FoK).

**Ali Al Salem, Kuwait:** SrA Teofila Ochoa-Hudson & MWD Timo are deployed from the 72<sup>nd</sup> SFS, Tinker AFB, Oklahoma and they are supported by Joel Burton (USAF Retired). **SrA Ochoa-Hudson is the 400<sup>th</sup> deployed United States Air Force team that OD&P has supported during deployment!**

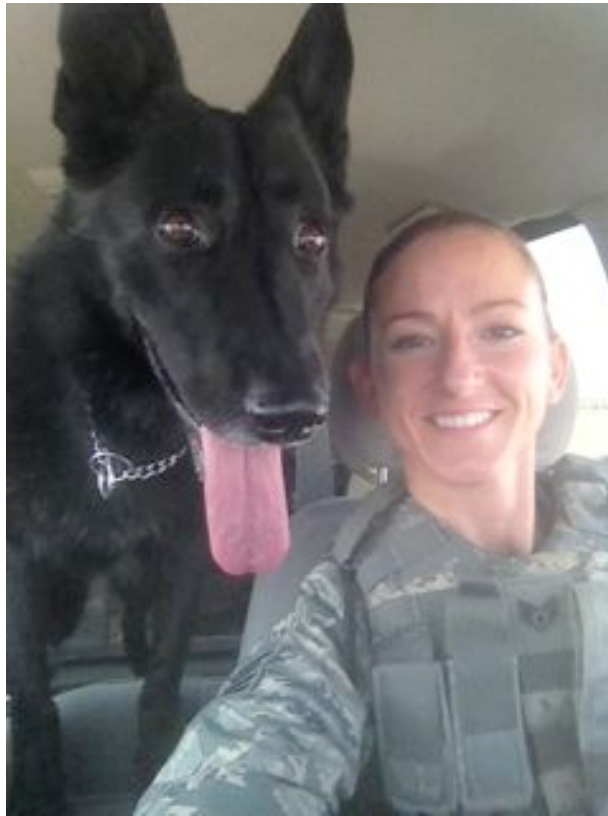
### **Pups heading home from the AOR**

NO troops heading home from the AOR this cycle



**U.S. AIR FORCE**

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



**We'd like to reintroduce SSgt Melissa Burns & MWD Iva, deployed from the 14<sup>th</sup> SFS, Columbus AFB, Mississippi. This is SSgt Burn's second tour with OD&P and she is again paired with Janet Matthews (FoK) as her sponsor for this tour! Welcome back Sarge!**



**You know – every now and then the team has to take a break! We'd like to welcome SSgt Dustin Barnes and MWD Wax, deployed from the 56<sup>th</sup> SFS, Luke AFB, Arizona, to our program. Partners just do everything together. Mike Regan – another 56th troop from years ago, supports the team.**

**379<sup>th</sup> ESFS - Al Udeid Air Base, Qatar**  
**We have great news!!!!**



It's been a pretty good month for SSgt Corey Rainge and MWD Cora, deployed from the 1<sup>st</sup> SOSFS, Hurlburt Field, Florida. Steve and Lise Gattis (CRB) support Corey and Cora. As you can see above, the team just received some special birthday gifts that were very well received. On the left, Corey shows off this Vietnam Security Police Association challenge coin and Security Forces shield that he just received from Steve and Lise. On the right, Cora is very, very preoccupied with a kong-type squeaky toy. You should see the video! She just loves the new toy.



One thing that beats a birthday is the birth of daughter – Nala Kristen Ranige – born in late September. She weighed in at 7 pounds thirteen and one half ounces, at a height of 19 and one half inches. Ok, lets make it clear – **WE HAVE A NEW DOG HANDLER HERE!**

We understand that dad is so proud he is about to burst! Word is that mother and baby daughter are both home and doing great. From all of us at Old Dawgs and Pups – Congratulations Corey!

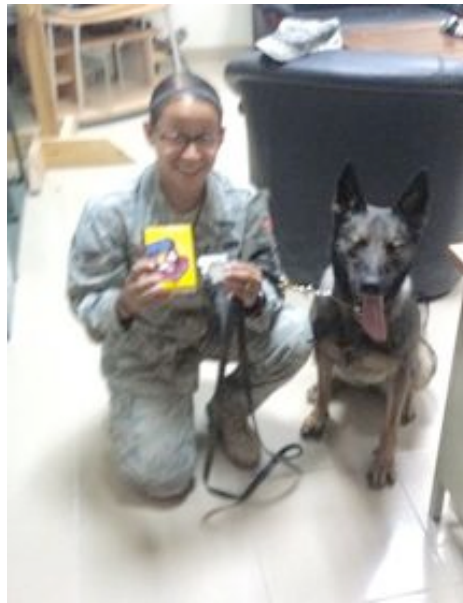
We also hope the rest of your tour goes quickly so you can get home and give mom and daughter a great big hug and some real quality time.



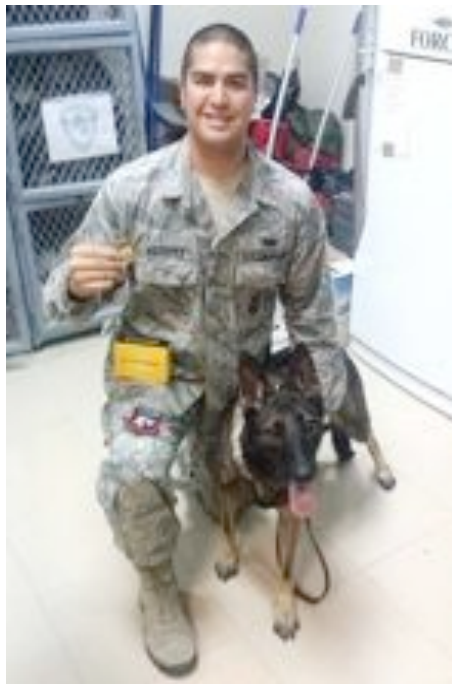
## **386<sup>th</sup> ESFS - Ali Al Salem - “The Rock”, Kuwait**



**SrA Teofila Ochoa-Hudson  
MWD Timo  
72<sup>nd</sup> SFS – Tinker AFB, Oklahoma  
Joel Burton (USAF Retired)**



**SrA Laci Mendez  
MWD Mega  
97<sup>th</sup> SFS – Altus AFB, Oklahoma  
Steve & Lise Gattis (CRB)**



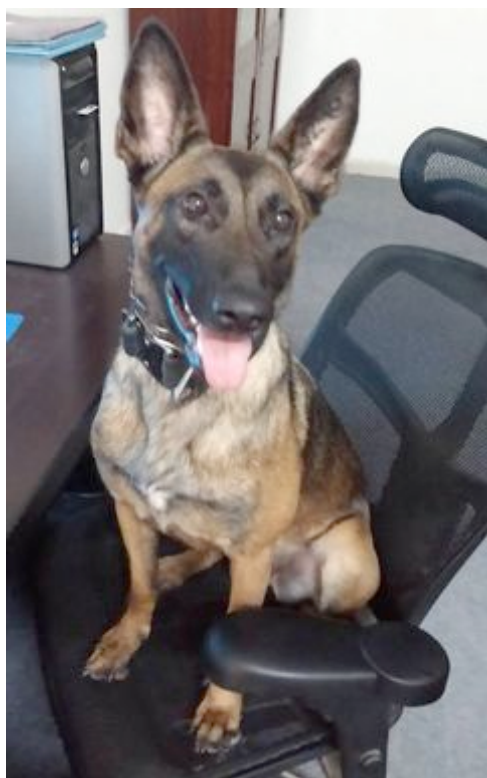
**SrA Raymond Esteves  
MWD Foxy  
36<sup>th</sup> SFS – Anderson AFB, Guam  
Scotty Baker (Safeside)**



**SrA Eric Formolo  
MWD Rocky  
42<sup>nd</sup> SFS – Maxwell AFB, Alabama  
Doug McCoy (47<sup>th</sup> IPSD)**

**Our handlers at Ali Al Salem Air Base just received their Thailand Handler gifts that included a “signature” Leatherman Surge, a Thailand Handler challenge coin, and a Thailand Handler patch. TSgt David Bieck, Kennel Master, deployed from the 52<sup>nd</sup> SFS, Spangdahlem, Germany, (supported by Bob Sullivan – Phu Cat) received his second tour gifts and was our “Official Photographer”. Thank Sarge for making the presentations and for the fantastic photographs.**

## **879<sup>th</sup> ESFS - Eskan Village, Saudia Arabia**



**Things are looking up at Eskan Village. MWD FFrida, SSgt Kyle Bernard's partner is really getting involved in participating in Old Dawgs & Pups. She has already emailed their sponsor, Bob Curnick (NKP) and from what we hear, the commutation lines are open. The team is deployed from the 56<sup>th</sup> SFS, Luke AFB, Arizona. The career field just keeps getting smarter and better prepared!**

## **Cano Soto, Honduras**

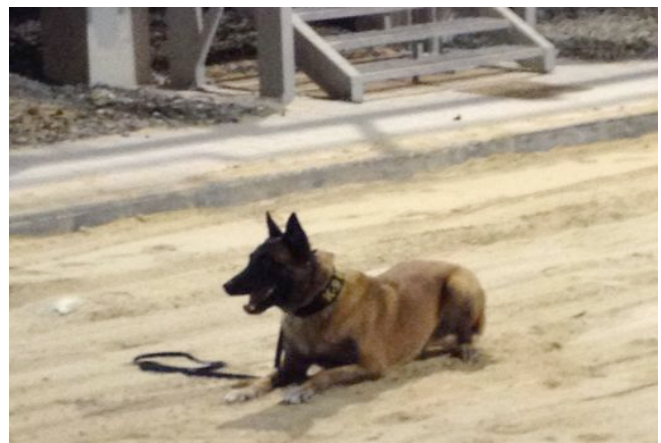


**Old Dawgs Ernest Childers (Udorn), returning "pup" SSgt Bryan Klein, Kelly Bateman (Ubon), Bill Cummings (U-Tapao), and TSgt Jason Fields (another of our pups) welcomed home SSgt Bryan Klein and MWD Bruno at Tucson International Airport, Tucson, Arizona. It sure is great getting our troops home! Mike Fink (FoK), supported SSgt Klein and Bruno during their deployment.**



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

SSgt Sean McKenna and MWD Mushe get in some last minute training before they headed home to the desert of Davis-Monthan AFB, Arizona. This is going to be the team's last deployment together and Sean wants to make sure Mushe is "Good to Go" when he gets back to the states. SSgt McKenna and MWD Mushe are supported by David Priest (Korat). This pairing has been very successful!



## **Ali Al Salem, Kuwait – MWD HUB/Liaison Non-Commissioned Officer**



**TSgt Heath Hinton (628<sup>th</sup> SFS, Jt. Base Charleston, SC) just received his Thailand Handler gift for his second deployment with OD&P. The gifts include a Thailand Handler patch and coin. A special thanks goes out to TSgt David Bieck for making the presentation for Old Dawgs & Pups. TSgt Hinton is supported by Jim Stastny (Korat) during his second tour.**

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



**Bill Cummings (U-Tapao) and Ernie Childers (Udorn/Barksdale) take a moment during the VSPA “K-9 Tour” at Barksdale AFB, Louisiana, to finally meet SSgt Mark Chojnacki (our cook for the day) who was deployed to the 379<sup>th</sup> ESFS, Al Udeid Air Base, Qatar with his MWD partner Mila in 2013. Ernie was his sponsor – you just can’t keep those ole Barksdale guys separated! We found out that Mark was just as good of a cook as he is a dog handler – awesome burgers and hotdogs were served to the VSPA K-9 troops during the visit to the 2<sup>nd</sup> SFS MWD kennel during the VSPA reunion at Shreveport! Our VSPA Kennel Master, Jim Stastny (Korat), did a great job and all of our guests had a great time and we also enjoyed the K-9 demonstration and tour of the Barksdale kennels.**



## Alpha Dog Coin and Certificate Presentations



**Bill Cummings (U-Tapao) and Ernest Childers (Udorn) presented SSgt Ted Carlson with his “Alpha Dog” Certificate and Coin #6 from Old Dawgs & Pups on October 9, 2014 at the Vietnam Security Police Association reunion at Shreveport, Louisiana. SSgt Carlson completed three tours with OD&P to earn his “Alpha Dog” designation. SSgt Carlson was deployed at the 332<sup>nd</sup> ESFG, Joint Base Balad, Iraq, in 2009 and 2011. Dixie Whitman (FoK), Greg Gines (Ubon), Bill Gunter (NKP) supported Ted during those tours. He deployed again in 2012 to FOB Lagman, Afghanistan, and was supported by Dixie Whitman (FoK).**



**Ernest Childers and Major David Watts, Commander, 2<sup>nd</sup> SFS Barksdale AFB, presents TSgt Clayton Tebbetts with his “Alpha Dog” Certificate and Coin #8 from Old Dawgs & Pups on October 10, 2014 at the Vietnam Security Police Association banquet at Shreveport, Louisiana. TSgt Tebbetts was deployed at the 506<sup>th</sup> ESFS, Kirkuk Air Base, Iraq, in 2005 and 2006. David Clark (U-Tapao), Jay D. Jones (Udorn), and Jo Ann and Dar Robertson supported Clayton during those tours. He deployed again in 2008 to Camp Victory, Iraq, and was supported by Scotty Baker (Safeside) and Dixie Whitman (FoK). His three tours with OD&P qualified TSgt Tebbetts for his Alpha Dog selection.**



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

### **Four-legged Airmen retire, find new homes**

By Ryan Stark- Nucleus staff writer (Excerpts from Stark article 8/28/2014 - Full Story <http://www.kirtland.af.mil/news/story.asp?id=123422945>)

**8/28/2014 - KIRTLAND AIR FORCE BASE, N.M. --** Two military working dogs that received retirement honors on Monday were accorded much the same testimony, certificates and applause as two-legged Airmen. Military working dogs N689 and P357 -- better known as Dan and Joeri, respectively -- received honors from President Obama, Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Mark Welsh III, Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force James Cody and 377th Air Base Wing Commander Col. Tom Miller. The dogs were also adopted into new homes.

Both German shepherds, 377th Security Forces Group commander, Col. Richard DeMouy said it is always sad to lose dogs because they are considered to be fellow Airmen and "family members." "They go in, day in, day out, and perform their mission sets," DeMouy said. "And they ask nothing in return." The dogs performed combat work as part of Operation Enduring Freedom, a Secret Service detail in the 2012 presidential elections, nuclear airlift missions and more.

Dan, age 6, did 66 combat missions, sniffing out improvised explosive devices, rockets, enemy ammunition stores, among other tasks. He is also credited with thwarting a Taliban ambush in Afghanistan and saving many lives, including that of Tech Sgt. Daniel Wilson. Wilson is the non-commissioned officer in charge of the 377th SFS's military working dog section. He and his family adopted Dan. It is the least he can do for an Airman that saved his life, Wilson said.

The ceremony was attended by Air Force Nuclear Weapons Center commander Maj. Gen. Sandra Finan, Miller, DeMouy, Command Chief Master Sgt. John Dougherty, police dog officers of the Albuquerque Police Department and many others.

Brandon Wilson, new owner of Dan, a retiring working dog, shares his pet with Maj. Gen. Sandra Finan, Air Force Nuclear Weapons Center commander. (Photographs above and below by Dennis Carlson)



Brandon Wilson gets a good look at his new pet, Dan, a retiring military working dog. Wilson's father, Tech. Sgt. Daniel Wilson, served with the working dog and credits him with saving his life in combat.

**Note\*** TSgt Daniel Wilson, served tour with OD&P; the first at FOB Warrior, Iraq (2009) and again at the 455<sup>th</sup> ESFG, Bagram Air Field, Afghanistan (2013). Ernest Childers (Udorn) supported the team during both deployments. TSgt Dan Wilson and his partner, MWD Dan (N689), were presented our "Alpha Dog" Award and Challenge Coin #14 on February 18, 2014 at Kirtland AFB, New Mexico.

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

### **We have a new “dawg handler”**

TSgt John Pillarella, and his wife Tatiana, just welcomed to the world our newest “dawg handler”. Dominic Marco Pillarella came into the world kicking and screaming for the leash in August, weighing in seven pounds and a height of 20 inches! He is pictured below with the very proud dad and his sister Gia. John was deployed with OD&P at Camp Cropper, Iraq in 2009 and was sponsored by Bill Cummings and Dale & Debbie Burton. He was deployed from the 56<sup>th</sup> SFS, Luke AFB, Arizona. Congratulations from all of us John on the newest edition to your family. He even looks like a dog handler!



### **Technical Sergeant Jose Valdez Retires at the 355<sup>th</sup> SFS - Davis-Monthan**

TSgt Jose Valdez, 355<sup>th</sup> SFS, Davis-Monthan AFB, Arizona, celebrates his retirement with Old Dawgs and fellow pups! Ernest Childers (Udorn) and Kelly Bateman (Ubon) supported TSgt Jose Valdez and MWD Figo during their deployment. Left to Right below: For the record, SSgt Ian Porter, Kelly Bateman, MSgt Angel Landrau, TSgt Jose Valdez (Guest of Honor), Bill Cummings, MSgt Kurt Lugar, and Ernest Childers attended the retirement ceremony in Tucson to officially escort TSgt Valdez to “Ft. Living Room”. It was a great ceremony and an awesome “after party” for all of the dogs handlers.





**No explanation needed!**



**Sentry Dog Posting Truck – Circa 1970's  
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"**

**18 October**

**Joint Nevada Feed Event (Creech/Nellis), Nellis AFB, NV**

## 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 seven (7) 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 October 15, 2014. "Old Dawgs & Friends" have supported **114** kennels and **420** 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 **114** kennels solely via your personal donations. Including the Leatherman Corporation 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)
8	Cooldanna Cooling Mats (Roshgo)
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