

# 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



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

(11/15/2014)

## 100<sup>TH</sup> EDITION OD&P K-9 SUPPLY

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

**MORE THAN 425 MILITARY WORKING DOG TEAMS SUPPORTED!**

**116 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 six (6) kennels and twenty-one (21) deployed Air Force, Army, and Navy teams as of November 15, 2014. November 2014 brings us to nine years and two 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 and Ali Al Salem MWD Hub, Kuwait; Al Dhafra Air Base, United Arab Emirates (UAE); and Eskan Village, Saudi Arabia; and the 1<sup>st</sup> Cavalry Division, Afghanistan. We have seven (7) new pups to introduce this month.

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

**1<sup>st</sup> Cavalry Division (USA), Afghanistan:** SrA Andrew Woodard & MWD PPrada are deployed from the 99<sup>th</sup> SFS, Nellis AFB, Nevada. TSgt Justin Kitts (USAF) supports the team.

**Al Dhafra Air Base, United Arab Emirates:** SSgt Justin Leon Guerrero & MWD Oxigen are deployed from the 92<sup>nd</sup> SFS, Fairchild AFB, Washington. The team is supported by Jim Cox (Bien Hoa).

SrA Latisha Langley & MWD Lama are deployed from the 30<sup>th</sup> SFS, Vandenberg AFB, California. Dave Broeker (U-Tapao) supports the team.

SSgt Brandon Miller & MWD Zumba are deployed from the 319<sup>th</sup> SFS, Grand Forks AFB, North Dakota. John and Carolyn Risse (Pleiku) supports the team.

SSgt Nicholas Taylor & MWD Bessy are deployed from the 60<sup>th</sup> SFS, Travis AFB, California. Karl Niemeyer (NKP) supports the team.

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

SSgt Matthew Lenegan & MWD Kalo are deployed from the 99<sup>th</sup> SFS, Nellis AFB, Nevada. John and Joan Smith (U-Tapao) support them! The Smith's have supported fifteen (15) deployed troops and have earned their Alpha Dog Sponsor coins with SSgt Lenegan's sponsorship. Great job John and Joan!

SrA Steven Watkins & MWD Bob are deployed from the 366<sup>th</sup> SFS, Mountain Home AFB, Idaho. Jim & Nancy Stewart (TSN) support them.

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

### **Ruff Ruck & B-B-Q to benefit Old Dawgs & Pups**

Plans are in effect for a "Ruff Ruck and BBQ" sponsored by the 379<sup>th</sup> ESFS Military Working Dog Section, Al Udeid Air Base in January. The troops there have decided that all proceeds for the event will go to benefit our "Old Dawgs & Pups" Program – these guys are "Paying it Forward" for handlers that will follow them down range – are they awesome or what?

Here is the shirt that will be available for the participants of the "Ruff Ruck" run.

**If you are interested in purchasing a shirt - Please see the details below the photographs.**

**This is a one time – time sensitive opportunity! Don't put off tomorrow what you can order TODAY! Once they are available and printed – they will no longer be available!**



SSgt Sean Schwartz has created a CustomInk Sign-up Sheet for the K9 Ruff Ruck BBQ:

**GO TO THIS LINK:** <http://www.customink.com/signup/br153kzv>

**After going to the link, all you need to do is "CHOOSE YOUR SIZE", "ADD YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION", AND THEN HIT "FINISH" and Sean will contact you with the details.**

**The price is \$20.00 for each shirt – Sizes YS – 3XL by Jerzees.**

**REMEMBER – There will be ONE ORDER! – No reorders will be available!**

If you are interested in donating a prize or supporting the event in any other way, please contact Bill Cummings for details or information. This is going to be an awesome event and opportunity for us!

We'd like to thank the Vietnam Dog Handler Association (VDHA) and Remington/Dublin Dogs for team prizes and TSgt Justin Kitts for their very generous donations for the event. More details will be forthcoming!

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



**U.S. AFCENT band goes out with a bite - Tech. Sgt. John Kukan, U.S. Air Forces Central Band Starlifter guitarist, takes a bite from military working dog Robby during a show of force demonstration by the 379th Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron, August 18, 2014, Al Udeid Air Base, Qatar. The demonstration was a first for the entire band. (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Shawn Nickel) SSgt Schwartz and MWD Robby are deployed from the 87<sup>th</sup> SFS, Joint Base MDL, New Jersey and they are supported by Bill Cummings (U-Tapao)**



**SSgt Sean Schwartz gets in a little “pre-training” bonding before a full-blown training session. As you can see, MWD Robby is ready to go – not sure if this dog needs too much motivation! Robby sure can catch some air – and we just have to believe that this team is “Good to GO”!**

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



SSgt Melissa Burns & MWD Iva, deployed from the 14<sup>th</sup> SFS, Columbus AFB, Mississippi share a little bit of shade – just like home cooking – it’s hard to come by at the “Deid”. SSgt Burns is with us for a second tour and she is once again paired with Janet Matthews (FoK) as her sponsor for this tour!

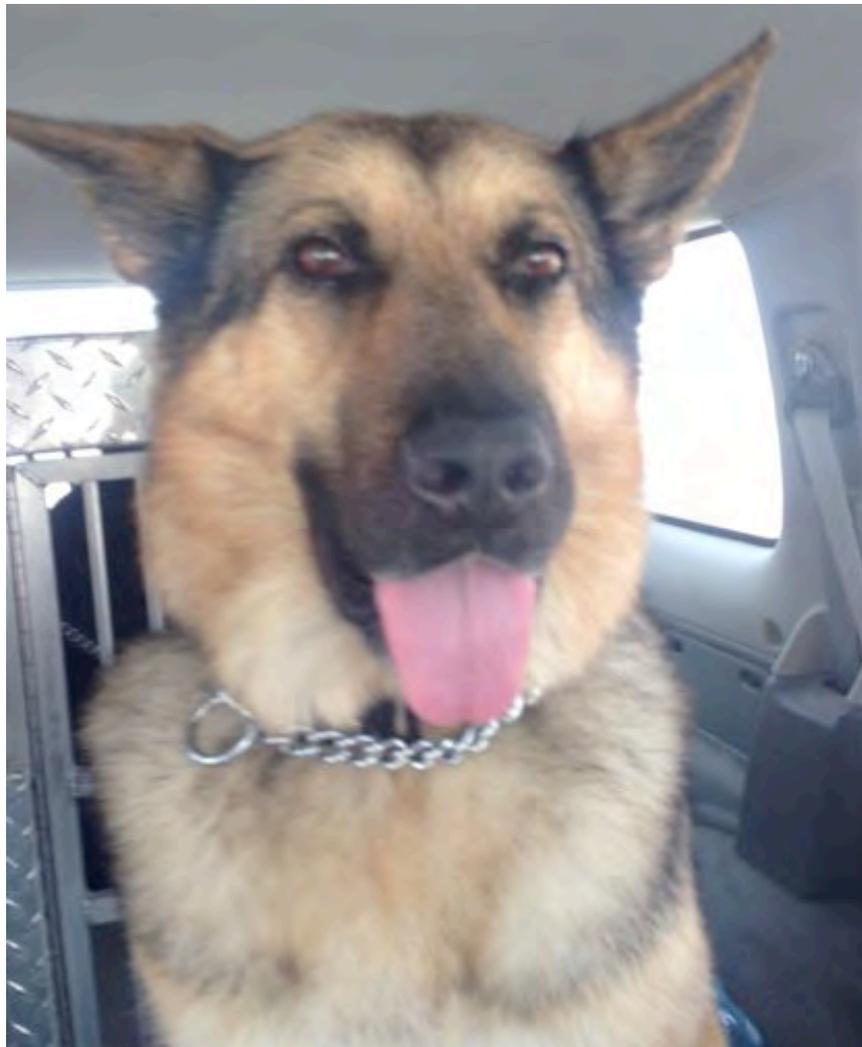


Our handlers at Al Udeid Air Base have just received their Thailand Handler gifts that included a “Signature” Thailand Handler Leatherman Surge, a Thailand Handler challenge coin, and a Thailand Handler patch. Thank you SSgt Corey Rainge and MWD Cora for showing us your gifts. SSgt Corey Rainge and MWD Cora are deployed from the 1<sup>st</sup> SOSFS, Hurlburt Field, Florida. Steve and Lise Gattis (CRB) support the team. Thank you SSgt Sean Schwartz for being our “Official Photographer”!

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



**SrA Zackary Byerly and MWD Ajax share some work and down time together at the “Deid”. The team is deployed from the 4<sup>th</sup> SFS, Seymour Johnson AFB, North Carolina; Mark Smoot (NKP) supports them.**

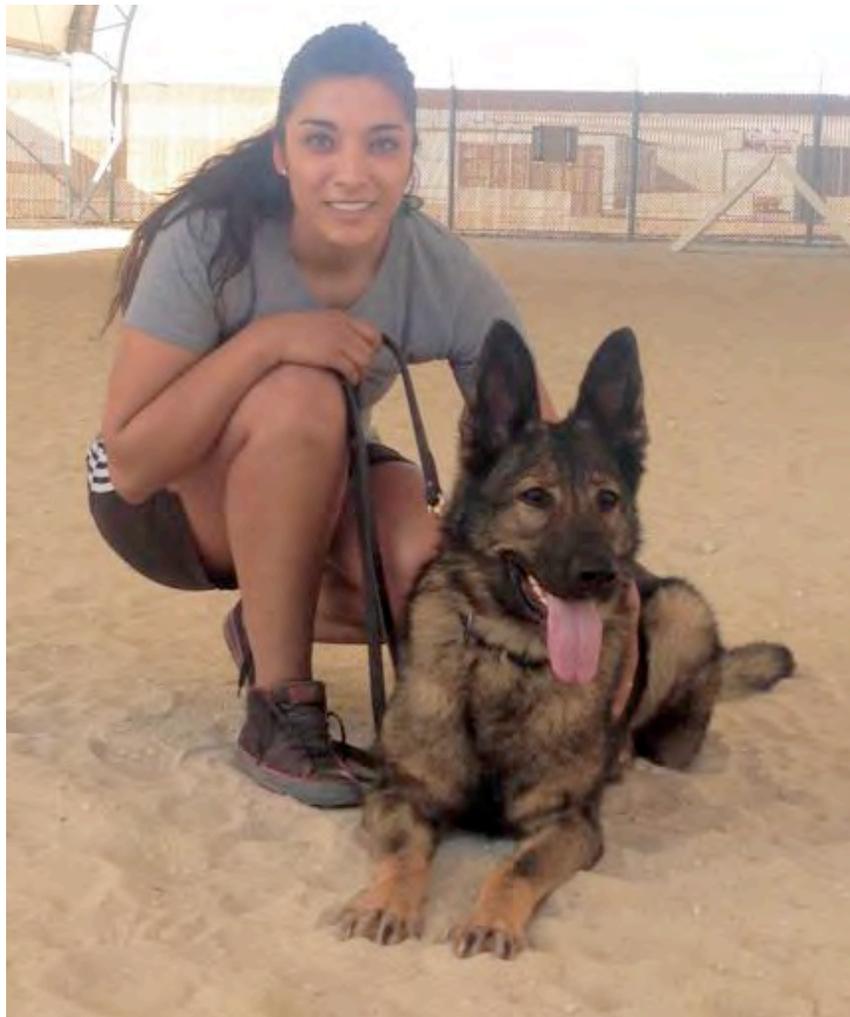


**“Did you see those photographs of me and SrA Byerly – are we just cool or what?” You sure are Ajax!**

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



**Who let the dogs out? That would be SrA Teofila Ochoa-Hudson! Just getting in a little training and some “release time” for Timo. If you are keeping score – it’s “Team Timo” 1 – Decoy 0. The team is deployed from the 72<sup>nd</sup> SFS, Tinker AFB, Oklahoma. Joel Burton (USAF Ret.) supports the team.**



**SrA Teofila Ochoa-Hudson and MWD Timo just hanging out following a demo at Ali Al Salem Air Base.**

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



SrA Teofila Ochoa-Hudson, SrA Eric Formolo, SSgt Kench, SrA Laci Mendez and SSgt Cheadle “strike a pose” following a demo they performed for the U.S. Air Forces Central Band “Starlifter”.



SrA Laci Mendez and MWD Mega share some down time following the demo. On the right, Laci and Mega celebrate Mega’s fifth birthday! Something tells us that there was a party later to celebrate the event. The team is deployed from the 97<sup>th</sup> SFS, Altus AFB, Oklahoma. Steve and Lise Gattis (CRB) support them.

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



MWD Mega relaxes with some of the treats and toys that were sent to her by her sponsors. Rumor has it that Mega has a new "best friend" in her Wubbakong! Mega and SrA Laci Mendez are deployed from the 97<sup>th</sup> SFS, Altus AFB, Oklahoma. Steve and Lise Gattis support Team Mega.

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



Above Left: Mushe was a little startled, but everyone was glad to be back in Tucson. Bill Cummings and Kennel Master Jason Fields, along with members of the 355<sup>th</sup> SFS, Davis-Monthan AFB, Tucson, Arizona, welcomed home "Team Mushe" on October 17, 2014. On the right, SSgt Sean McKenna and MWD Mushe "chilled for a moment" after flying half way around the world. Sean and Mushe were supported by David Priest (Korat) during their tour at Al Dhafra. The team is going to take some well-deserved rest and some leave before returning to duty at the 355<sup>th</sup> at Davis-Monthan.

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



**SrA Latisha Langley and MWD Lama are just getting settled in at Al Dhafra Air Base. This is their first deployment together; MWD Lama has deployed four times previously. The team is deployed from the 30<sup>th</sup> SFS, Vandenberg AFB, California and Dave and Pat Broeker (U-Tapao) support the team.**

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



**US Marine Corp LCPL Peterson, TSgt Heath Hinton, and LCPL Hoffman completed a training exercise at the “Hub” – can you believe how beautiful these dogs are? Activity at the “Hub” is ongoing with all of our military services contributing to the effort. Jim Stastny supports TSgt Heath Hinton deployed from the 628<sup>th</sup> SFS, Jt. Base Charleston, South Carolina.**

## Other News concerning OD&P Graduates



It sure is nice to be home! SSgt Sean McKenna and retired MWD Figo share those feelings as SSgt McKenna returns home from his recent deployment. It's been about seven months since they have seen each other. Figo has kept the campfires burning at "Ft. Living Room" and sure was glad to see his old military partner return home. Sean's parents have made sure Figo was well cared for and rumor has it that it might be a "shared custody agreement" concerning MWD Figo's future plans! This is what the DoD MWD Adoption program looks like in action – It's a WINNER!

**No explanation needed!**



## A look back at our first edition of our “K-9 Supply” newsletter – 3/21/06

### K-9 Supply Program



(03/21/06)

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 219 pieces of equipment has been delivered to our K-9 troops serving in Iraq from August 21, 2005 to March 21, 2006. Fifty-five “Old Dawgs and Friends” have supported thirty-four K-9 personnel via our program. For additional information on the program please go to: [http://www.pbase.com/635thk9/old\\_dawgs](http://www.pbase.com/635thk9/old_dawgs) for photos, press releases and more about the program.

Supplies were purchased for USAF & US Army K-9 personnel and dogs assigned to 407<sup>th</sup>, 506<sup>th</sup>, and 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division stationed at Ali and Kirkuk Air Bases. We have purchased and shipped \$2,465.70 of supplies for the three kennels solely via your personal donations.

\* The Leatherman “Surge” donation is valued at approximately \$3,180.00

- 30 Leatherman “Surge” Tools (Donated by Leatherman) \*
- 28 Guardian Pet Beds
- 23 Thailand Challenge Coins (Donated)
- 12 Coastal Large Slickers
- 12 Coastal Medium Firm Shedding Blades
- 12 Classic Long Tooth Undercoat rakes
- 12 Doggles
- 8 Muzzles
- 8 Kygen Port-A-Bowls
- 8 Cooling Wraps
- 8 PSI Water Holes
- 8 Cooldanna Cooling Mats
- 8 Sets of Flood Light Bulbs
- 7 Digital Thermometers
- 5 Classic HG Food Dishes
- 5 Heavy Guard Handled Water Pails
- 4 Kygen 2-In-1 Food/Water Bowls
- 4 Large Kongs
- 2 VSPA Challenge Coins (Donated)
- 2 12” Heavy Duty Cleaning Brushes
- 2 18” Heavy Duty Cleaning Brushes
- 2 5” Heavy Duty Cleaning Brushes
- 2 24” Heavy Duty Floor Squeegees
- 3 100’ Foot Water Hoses
- 3 Nozzles
- 1 Drink Mixes & Snacks (Large Box)

**Editor’s Note: Here it is – warts and all. It looks like we’ve come a long way since our first edition of “K-9 Supply”. Thank you to everyone who has deployed, supported troops, and sponsored programs since we first started. Man, was this a crude newsletter or what? We sure were winging it back in 2006 – we’re working on making our newsletter better each month. With your help – we can continue support troops as they continue to deploy in harm’s way. Here’s to another 100 editions!**

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

At the time of this report we have **22** members of the "Old Dawgs & Pups" program actively supporting **21** handlers assigned to six (6) 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 November 15, 2014. "Old Dawgs & Friends" have supported **116** kennels and **423** 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 **116** kennels solely via your personal donations. Including the Leatherman Corporation and other noted major donations, our program has supplied a 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