

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"

(01/15/2015)

OVER NINE YEARS OF SUPPORTING OUR K-9 TROOPS!
MORE THAN 430 MILITARY WORKING DOG TEAMS SUPPORTED!
118 Deployed Military Working Dog Kennels Supported
More than \$95,919.00 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 twenty-five (25) deployed Air Force, Army, and Navy teams as of January 15, 2015. January 2015 brings us to nine 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 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 1st Cavalry Division, Afghanistan; An Undisclosed Location Southwest Asia. We have two (2) new pups to introduce this month.

Pups arriving in the AOR

Eskan Village Air Base, Saudi Arabia: SSgt Gilbert Lundgren & MWD Carla are deployed from the 52nd SFS, Spangdahlem Air Base, Germany and they are supported by Mike Diercks (Korat).

Undisclosed Location Southwest Asia: SSgt Robert Beaudoin, Trainer, is deployed from the 355th SFS, Davis-Monthan AFB, Arizona. He is supported by Bill Cummings (U-Tapao).

Pups heading home from the AOR

Al Udeid Air Base, Qatar: MSgt Gary Smith, Kennel Master, is rotating stateside to Tinker AFB, OK. SSgt Corey Rainge & MWD Cora are heading back to the "Sunshine State" and Hurlburt Field, Florida. SSgt Dustin Barnes & MWD Wax are looking forward to the heat of the desert at Luke AFB, Arizona. SSgt Sean Schwartz & MWD Robby are heading home to the "Garden State" and Jt. Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, NJ.

Al Udeid Air Base, Qatar: SSgt Miguel Marrero & MWD Renato are packing for the cold of the northeast in the "Bay State" and Hanscom AFB, Massachusetts.

SrA Zachary Byerly & MWD Ajax are returning to Seymour Johnson AFB, North Carolina.

Eskan Village, Saudi Arabia: SSgt Kyle Bernard & MWD FFrida are returning to Luke AFB, and the "Grand Canyon State" of Arizona.

379th ESFS - Al Udeid Air Base, Qatar

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

The “Ruff Ruck and BBQ” sponsored by the 379th ESFS Military Working Dog Section, Al Udeid, was completed on January 3, 2015. More than 50 troops and a “bunch of MWD teams” participated in the “Ruck”. The event is still being finalized. SSgt Schwartz is about to “Roll” and we will be receiving more photographs and information once he gets back to the “World”. We will make sure that they are published in forthcoming editions of the newsletter. We understand that the event was a great success.

SSgt Sean Schwartz headed the event and all of the proceeds will be donated to our “Old Dawgs & Pups” Program. These guys just “Paid it Forward” for handlers that will follow them down range – are they awesome or what? Here are a few photographs taken during the event. Shirts are being processed for shipping – so check your mailbox in the next few weeks.



Ready – Set – GO!



MWD teams joined in on the fun also!

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



Left: Captain McFee was the first Security Forces member to cross the finish line and he was awarded the “Air Police Prototype Badge” – how about that shirt? He just loved the badge! Thanks John Homa.

Right: Colonels even joined in on the ruck! Can you feel the burn? The event was greatly supported by the squadron personnel. Our thanks go out to everyone who assisted and participated.

Thanks to our Sponsors

SSgt Sean Schwartz has asked me to thank all of our “GUYS” for their support in ordering 67 “Ruff Ruck Shirts” and for the following donations:

The Vietnam Dog Handler Association provided 12 “Challenge Coins”, 12 VDHA hats, and 12 VDHA belt buckles for the first, second, and third place teams. They also provided SSgt Schwartz with a leather VDHA portfolio to help him organize the event – AWESOME – VDHA – Just AWESOME!

John Homa, Thailand Dog Handler, donated an Air Police Prototype Badge that the “Defenders” literally ran their butts off to win!

Remington Outdoor Company/Dublin Dogs provided 3 Dog Collars and Lights and \$30.00 Fit Card for 1st Place team. Thanks Ken Smerecki for the “hook up”!

The Military Working Dog Team Support Association (MWD TSA) donated Individual prizes for the event that included: T-shirts, Madra Mor Mud, dog treats, a KONG, and KONG Traxx toys, among other things.

OD&P Graduate, Sean McKenna (Al Dhafra 2014) and his family donated two (2) Base Exchange Gift Certificates.

TSgt Justin Kitts (Bagram 2009 & FOB Wilson 2010, Afghanistan) donated a copy of “War Dogs, Tales of Canine Heroism, History, and Love”.

Thanks again to everyone who made this event such a success. You guys at the Al Udeid kennels are just one great team – we really enjoyed supporting you during this deployment!

Again, thank you to the Vietnam Dog Handler Association (VDHA), Remington/Dublin Dogs for team prizes; TSgt Justin Kitts, SSgt Sean McKenna and family, MWD TSA, and John Homa for their very generous donations for the event. More details will be forthcoming!

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



SrA Teofila Ochoa-Hudson and Timo prepare for an upcoming shift at Ali Al Salem. Team Timo is deployed from the 72nd SFS, Tinker AFB, Oklahoma, and Joel Burton (USAF Ret.) supports the team.



Those reindeer are around here somewhere – and I’m going to find them. MWD Timo was full of Christmas spirit and ready to lead the sleigh if Rudolph wasn’t found in time! Those darn Military Working dogs can do anything – especially at Christmas time in the desert.

386th ESFS - Ali Al Salem Air Base - "The Rock", Kuwait – Continued



SrA Eric Formolo and MWD Rocky sent out their Holiday Greetings to everyone – Now, that's the spirit! The team is deployed from Maxwell AFB, Alabama and they are supported by Doug McCoy (47th IPSD).

Undisclosed Location Southwest Asia

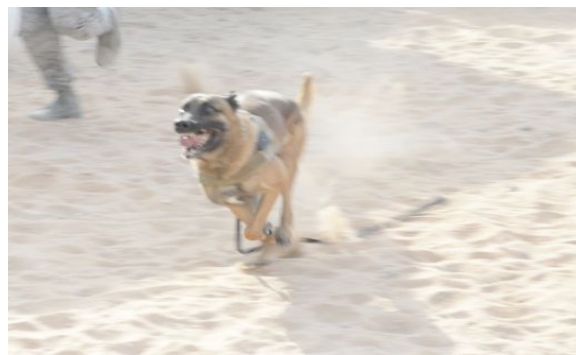


SSgt Brandon Miller & MWD Zumba (forward deployed to an Undisclosed Location Southwest Asia). The team is deployed from the 319th Security Forces Squadron, Grand Forks, AFB, North Dakota, and John and Carolyn Risse (Pleiku) support them. This is one cool photograph of one cool dog team!

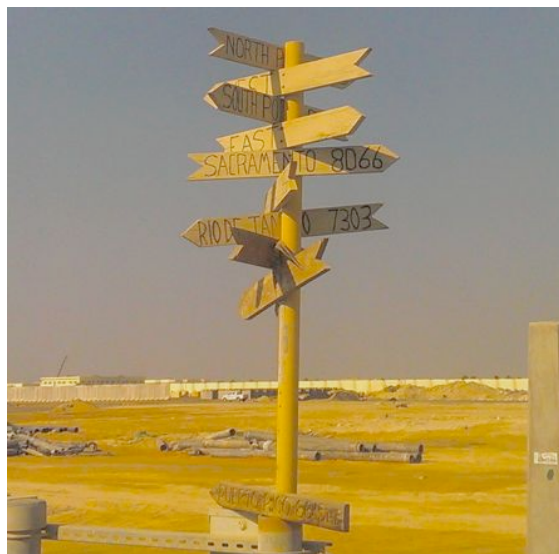
380th ESFS - Al Dhafra Air Base, United Arab Emirates (UAE)



SSgt Benjamin Fouts, SSgt Nicholas Taylor, and MWD Bessy, show the proper use of “cover and concealment” as the team holds their position at a barrier. On the right, SSgt Brandon Miller and MWD Zumba await their turn for a standoff drill during a demonstration for the “Red Horse” Detachment.



Who let the dogs out? Nope – “Ain’t staying behind that barrier”! As you can see, MWD Bessy (L) and Zumba (R) make sure the pursuit phase of the exercise goes without a hitch – Launch sequence complete!



Heading home? Check out the directional signs for major “Home” cities.

380th ESFS - Al Dhafra Air Base, United Arab Emirates (UAE) – Continued



This is going to be a ball! SSgt Matthew Byrnes, Trainer, knows what's about to happen and as you can see the look on his face – this is going to be fun. Matt's sponsor, Bob Citrano (NKP), sent the troops at Al Dhafra Air Base a case (40+) of tennis balls! According to SSgt Byrnes "The dogs will love you guys forever! These tennis balls are gonna' make for some good training". SSgt Byrnes is deployed from the 319th SFS, Grand Forks AFB, North Dakota, and he has a personality that just brings excitement to this career field. We can't wait to see and hear the stories of these tennis balls in the training area.



Plans are in effect to replace the kennel compound at Al Dhafra and there is concrete on the ground and iron in the sky. We'll keep you posted on the project. It sounds like our troops and their canine companions are ushering in a state of the art kennel facility.

380th ESFS - Al Dhafra Air Base, United Arab Emirates (UAE) – Continued

Thailand Handler Group gifts arrived at Al Dhafra

Each troop received our Thailand signature gifts that included: A Leatherman Surge, Leatherman M5 LED Lenser flashlight, at Thailand Handler challenge coin and patch. Those patches sure look great on those dog collars don't they? From the smiles in the photos, it looks like the gifts were very well received.



SSgt Joshua Hayes
Kennel Master
Travis AFB
John Hemp (TSN)



SSgt Matthew Byrnes
Trainer
Grand Forks AFB
Bob Citrano (NKP)



SSgt Justin Leon Guerrero
MWD Oxigen
Fairchild AFB
Jim Cox (Bien Hoa)



SrA Steven Watkins
MWD Bob
Mountain Home AFB
Jim & Nancy Stewart (TSN)



SSgt Matthew Lenegan
MWD Kalo
Nellis AFB
John & Joan Smith (U-Tapao)



SSgt Nicholas Taylor
MWD Bessy
Travis AFB
Karl Niemeyer (NKP)

**380th ESFS - Al Dhafra Air Base, United Arab Emirates (UAE) – Continued
Thailand Handler Group gifts arrive at Al Dhafra**



**SrA Latisha Langley
MWD Lama
Pat and Dave Broeker (U-Tapao)**



Staff Sergeants Justin Leon Guerrero and Matthew Byrnes show their appreciation for the holiday “Care Packages” that they received from the “Lucier Clan” from Massachusetts. The Lucier’s are the family of SSgt Ryan Lucier, 355th SFS/S4, Davis-Monthan AFB, Arizona. Thanks also goes out to American Legion Post #129, Gardner, Massachusetts, for their assistance in making sure the boxes were shipped downrange. From all of us at Old Dawgs & Pups, thank you “Luciers” for supporting these troops during the holiday season. We think you can clearly see the appreciation on the faces of these troops!

Old Dawgs & Pup Program Overview – September 2005 - December 2014

Well, it's been nine years and four months since we started Old Dawgs & Pups due to a call for help from some troops down range at Ali Air Base, Iraq, specifically SSgt Jon Sarabia. If you don't remember, Monty and Cathy Moore first started matching up troops via the VSPA website and other venues. We kicked off OD&P as we supported eight troops (seven AF and one Army personnel) on September 18, 2005. Our original troops and sponsors on September 18, 2005:

KM TSgt Matt Rebholz (Langley AFB):	Supported by Ben Cox & Donald Graham
Trainer SSgt Jassen Dongon (Langley AFB)	Supported by Fred Cobb
SSgt Carl Wolf (Langley AFB):	Supported by Ben Cox & Jim Hannon
SSgt Jon Sarabia (Whiteman AFB):	Supported by Bill Cummings & Marie Zeak
SSgt Jake Bolton (Whiteman AFB):	Supported by Gary Logsdon
SSgt Damon Tripp (Mountain Home AFB):	Supported by David Adams & Dave Broeker
SSgt Jeffrey Mastin (Seymour Johnson AFB)	Supported by Gordon Johnston & Janet Wise
Sgt Randy Jensen (Ft. Hood):	Supported by Kelly Bateman, Ernie Childers, & Terry Strickland

Now Senior Master Sergeant Matt Rebholz has completed three (3) tours with OD&P (2 Iraq & Kuwait); SSgt Damon Tripp completed two (2) tours with OD&P (Iraq & Kyrgyzstan), and SSgt Jeff Mastin completed two (2) tours with OD&P (Iraq). Senior Master Sergeant Matt Rebholz is now assigned to Kirtland AFB in New Mexico as he continues his military career. MSgt Jon Sarabia retired in November of 2014 from Whiteman AFB, Missouri. Staff Sergeants Tripp and Mastin have left the Air Force and Sergeant Randy Jensen is pushing dogs and troops with the 341st Training Squadron at Joint Base San Antonio, Texas.

Our dear friends Ben Cox passed away on March 16, 2009 and James T. (Terry) Strickland passed away on May 5, 2012 and we really miss them both – what great men and supporters of our program! Just thought we'd give you a quick overview of our program today. We have supported 106 kennels, and 388 military personnel since August 2005:

Air Force MWD teams	409
Other Services MWD teams	20 (Army 15, Navy 3, and Civilian MWD trainer 2)

The deployments have been assigned in the following countries:

Qatar	71
Iraq	184
Djibouti – Africa	4
Honduras	2
Kyrgyzstan	20
Kuwait	43
Afghanistan	68
Korea	1
United Arab Emirates	21
Saudi Arabia	4
Undisclosed Location AOR	11

The deployments originated from:

USAF	55 – CONUS
USAF	10 – OCONUS (Germany, Guam, Italy, England & Japan)
Other Services	14 – (Army 9 – CONUS, Navy – 3 CONUS/OCONUS, Civilian – 2)

We have shipped 2,189 pieces of equipment valued at \$95,919.00 to 116 kennels and 429 personnel.

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

At the time of this report we have **25** members of the "Old Dawgs & Pups" program actively supporting **25** 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 2,189 pieces of equipment has been delivered to our K-9 troops serving in the AOR from August 15, 2005 to January 15, 2015. "Old Dawgs & Friends" have supported **118** kennels and **431** 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 **118** kennels solely via your personal donations. Including the Leatherman Corporation and other noted major donations; our program has supplied a total of **\$95,919.00** 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

- 312 Leatherman "Surge" Tools (145 donated by Leatherman)
 - The Leatherman "Surge"/MUTS/Flashlights/Knives/Toys donation is valued at **\$65,614.00**
- 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
- 90 * Leatherman M5 LED Lenser Flashlights
- 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)
- 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