

# 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"

(02/15/2015)

**OVER NINE YEARS OF SUPPORTING OUR K-9 TROOPS!**  
**MORE THAN 440 MILITARY WORKING DOG TEAMS SUPPORTED!**  
**119 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 thirty-four (34) deployed Air Force, Army, and Navy teams as of February 15, 2015. February 2015 brings us to nine years and six 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

Due to the worldwide security issues and concerns for safeguarding our troops, we will not be listing the name of the bases, squadrons, or countries, in which our troops are deployed. All locations will be listed as "Undisclosed Location Southwest Asia" (UDL). We are currently supporting troops at seven locations in Southwest Asia. We have nine (9) new pups to introduce this month.

### Pups arriving in the AOR

**Undisclosed Location #1 Southwest Asia:** SSgt Josh Burnett & MWD Jecky are deployed from the 6<sup>th</sup> SFS, MacDill AFB, Tampa, Florida and they are supported by Rick Matott (Ubon).

SSgt Jonathan Calo & MWD Tilly are deployed from the 628<sup>th</sup> SFS, Jt. Base Charleston, SC., and they are supported by Christi Cryer (FoK) and Chuck Rogers (TSN).

SrA Katrice Acevedo & MWD Errol are deployed from the 55<sup>th</sup> SFS, Offutt AFB, Nebraska and they are supported by Jay D. and Lynda Jones (Udorn).

**Undisclosed Location #4 Southwest Asia:** SSgt Ryan Wiese & MWD Blitz are deployed from the 52<sup>nd</sup> SFS, Spangdahlem Air Base, Germany. The team is supported by Bob Sullivan (Phan Rang).

SSgt Jason McCarthy & MWD Kato are deployed from the 20<sup>th</sup> SFS, Shaw AFB, SC. The team is supported by our newest "Old Dawg" Sean McKenna (USAF).

SSgt Robert Coughlin & MWD Marky are deployed from the 20<sup>th</sup> SFS, Shaw AFB, SC. The team is supported by Mark Smoot (NKP).

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

**Undisclosed Location #5 Southwest Asia:** SSgt Alexandra Springman & MWD Dexter are deployed from the 355<sup>th</sup> SFS, Davis-Monthan AFB, Arizona and they are supported by Jon Hemp (TSN).

SSgt Brandon Gerrins & MWD Vivi are deployed from the 11<sup>th</sup> SSPTS, Jt. Base Andrews, Maryland and they are supported by Doug McCoy (47<sup>th</sup> IPSD).

SSgt Lucas Tripp & MWD Bak are deployed from the 11<sup>th</sup> SSPTS, Jt. Base Andrews, Maryland and they are supported by Jim Stastny (Korat).

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

**Undisclosed Location #2 Southwest Asia:** TSgt David Bieck has returned to Spangdahlem Air Base, Germany and some really cold weather! We'll have his Alpha Dog ceremony once he returns home.

SrA Laci Mendez & MWD Mega have returned home to Altus AFB, and the "Sooner" state of Oklahoma.

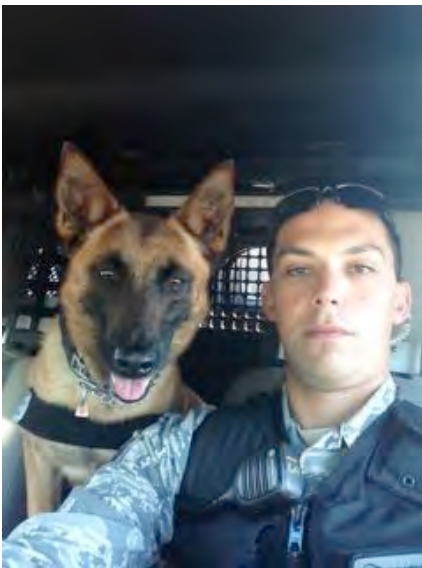
SrA Eric Formolo & MWD Rocky on the ground back in the "Deep South" and Maxwell AFB, Alabama.

SrA Raymond Esteves & Foxie are enjoying the breezes of the south Pacific and Andersen AFB, Guam.

SrA Teofila Ochoa-Hudson & Timo has rotated back at Tinker AFB, Oklahoma by now.

**Undisclosed Location #3 Southwest Asia – MWD HUB/Liaison Non-Commissioned Officer:** TSgt Heath Hinton is now back in the "Palmetto State" and Jt. Base Charleston, South Carolina.

## **Undisclosed Location Southwest Asia #1**



SSgt Jonathan Calo and MWD Ttilly are one of our newest MWD teams to arrive in the AOR.

Above left: SSgt Calo and Ttilly share a moment during patrol duties at Joint Base Charleston, South Carolina (it was Ttilly's birthday by the way).

Above center and right: The team participated in training at their "Regional Training Center (RTC)" prior to their deployment. The team is supported by Christi Cryer (FoK) and Chuck Rogers (TSN).



## Undisclosed Location Southwest Asia #2

# Marauders rebuild K9 memorial

By Tech. Sgt. Jared Marquis, 386th Air Expeditionary Wing Public Affairs / Published January 05, 2015



**SOUTHWEST ASIA - Airmen from the 386th Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron stand behind the rebuilt Security Forces K9 memorial here Dec. 28, 2014. The original memorial, dedicated to Tech. Sgt. Jason L. Norton and Staff Sgt. Brian McElroy, was damaged in a vehicle accident in September. (U.S. Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. Jared Marquis/released)**

**SOUTHWEST ASIA -- With the help of the 386th Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron, members of the 386th Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron rededicated a memorial here Dec. 28, 2014, honoring two fallen defenders.**

**The original memorial, dedicated to Tech. Sgt. Jason L. Norton and Staff Sgt. Brian McElroy, was damaged in a vehicle accident in September. Both Airmen were deployed to Iraq from Elmendorf Air Force Base, Alaska, when their vehicle struck an improvised explosive device near Taji, Iraq, in January 2006.**

**Marauder's worked together to rebuild and improve the memorial. "The memorial was important to all of us in the K-9 section because we feel that at times these dogs aren't praised enough for all their hard work," said Staff Sgt. Juan Hinojosa, 386th ESFS. "The (military working dog) program is a vital asset to completing the Air Force mission, whether it's at a deployed location or in garrison."**

**The memorial itself is surrounded by rocks designed in the shape of a dog paw, at the corner where Norton and McElroy streets converge. The original plaque was in front of the paw. "These MWD's deserve all the recognition possible for all the abilities they provide," Hinojosa said. "By providing this memorial recognizes all the MWD's and past handlers who have served."**

**Note: SrA Eric Formolo and MWD Rocky represented the MWD section in the photograph above. Doug McCoy (47<sup>th</sup> IPSD) supported the team during their deployment.**



## Undisclosed Location Southwest Asia #3



**SSgt Matthew Lenegan & MWD Kalo participated in required training time that focused on an aspect of “Controlled Aggression” under the guidance of Trainer SSgt Matthew Byrnes.**

**Left: Released on the decoy, MWD Kalo goes “ballistic” on this decoy. Great training and as you can clearly see, that canine drive just kicks in automatically.**

**Right: Immediately upon the apprehension, MWD Kalo is placed in the guard position and is ready to resume the attack if the situation requires additional action. John and Joan Smith (U-Tapao) support the team. Great job Team Kalo – As you can see, all involved in the training session had a great time.**



**Left: Pop goes the decoy! MWD Bessy, also participating during the training exercise, makes a textbook take down of the “perp”. For those of you keeping score – It’s Bessy 1 – “Perp” 0. That my friend is a take down! Karl Niemeyer (Nakhom Phanom - NKP) supports SSgt Nicholas Taylor and Bessy.**

**To complete the exercise, SSgt Nicholas Taylor and MWD Bessy execute a “K-9 over watch” as the apprehension team (SSgt Matthew Byrnes) takes control of the “perp” (SSgt Brandon Miller). SSgt Matt Byrnes is supported by Bob Citrano (Nakhom Phanom (NKP) and SSgt Brandon Miller is supported by John and Carolyn Risse (Pleiku). Don’t these guys just make you proud?**

**Training, training, training – that’s what continues to make these Military Working Dog teams sharp both stateside and OCONUS. The techniques depicted in the photographs on this page are “tried and true” to the canine career field. Time passes, but K-9 attack, guard, and hold still passes the test of time. It is a great way to make a living and spend a career – YOU bet it is!**

## **Fallen Warrior Ruck – Undisclosed Location Southwest Asia #3 - Continued**

Members of this MWD Section participated in a 4 miles “Ruck March” for “Fallen Warriors” TSgt Jason Norton (K-9) and SSgt Brian McElroy. Both Warriors were deployed from the 3rd SFS, Elmendorf AFB, Alaska. Both Sergeants were “Killed In Action” on 22 Jan 2006 in when their Humvee struck an explosive device (IED) during convoy escort duties in Taji, Iraq. The remains of TSgt Jason L. Norton and SSgt Brian McElroy were placed in the same coffin and were buried at Arlington National Cemetery, sharing a headstone. What a great tribute guys – you make us all very proud!



Security Forces members and their allies form up to take a moment to remember the “Fallen Warriors”



SrA Steven Watkins & MWD Bob and SSgt Justin Leon Guerrero & Oxigen, joined by a SFS member participate in a ruck to honor “Fallen Warriors”. Way to go K-9! Those dogs look like twins.



## **Fallen Warrior Ruck – Undisclosed Location Southwest Asia #3 – Continued**



**What a great honor to participate in this type of event. Thank you SrA Steven Watkins and SSgt Justin Leon Guerrero for representing our canine career field. Jim and Nancy Stewart (TSN) support SrA Watkins and MWD Bob. SSgt Guerrero and MWD Oxigen are supported by Jim Cox (Bien Hoa).**



**Ever wonder what happens when someone's sling breaks or a weapon is dropped in a "Ruck"?**



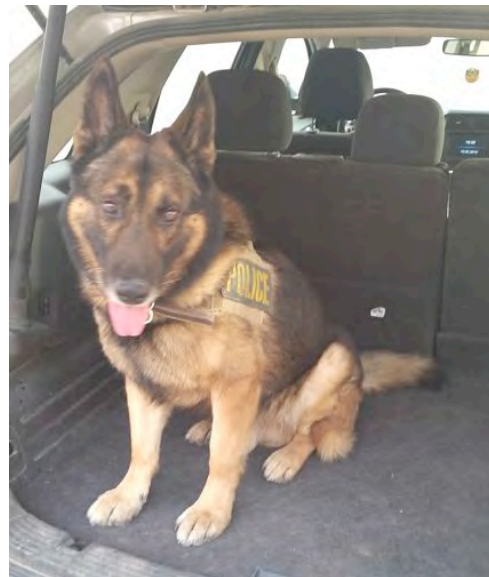
**The "Final" formation at the conclusion of the "Fallen Warrior Ruck" – is this awesome or what? Congratulations to all of the Warriors who participated in the event.**

**Undisclosed Location Southwest Asia #3 – Continued  
Congratulations SSgt Latisha Langley!**



**SrA Latisha Langley & MWD Lama work a detection problem and look what Lama found at the end of the exercise! He found a set of Staff Sergeant stripes for his handler and best pal. February 1, 2015 – Great day Sarge. Congratulations SSgt Langley from all of us at Old Dawgs & Pups. Pat and Dave Broeker (U-Tapao) support the team.**

**Undisclosed Location Southwest Asia #4**



**We'd like to welcome SSgt Robert Coughlin & MWD Marky, deployed from the 20<sup>th</sup> SFS, Shaw AFB, South Carolina, to our program. Mark Smoot (NKP) supports the team.**



## Undisclosed Location Southwest Asia #5



Is this anyway to run an airline? You bet it us! Here are some troops enroute to the AOR. And YOU thought flying commercial was rough? This could be a very long flight. Thanks to all of you. Why in the world are they smiling? Dedication, professionalism, and their willingness to serve – that’s the answer! Something just tells us that they weren’t asked to put their seatbacks in the upright position for the flight. That’s our newest “returning pup”, SSgt Alexandra Springman, on the right. Jon Hemp (TSN) supports her and her partner, MWD Emor. They are deployed out of the 355<sup>th</sup> SFS, Davis-Monthan AFB, AZ.



SSgt Robert Beaudoin (Trainer), MWD Emor, and SSgt Alexandra Springman are now “Boots on Ground” at their deployed location. They are kennelmates at the 355<sup>th</sup> SFS, Davis-Monthan AFB, Arizona. They are supported by Bill Cummings (U-Tapao) and Jon Hemp (TSN), respectively.



## **Undisclosed Location Southwest Asia #6**



**It doesn't get any better than this! His "boys" welcome TSgt Heath Hinton home. This photograph just doesn't need a caption – it says it all. TSgt Hinton completed his second tour with OD&P at the MWD Hub at an Undisclosed Location Southwest Asia. Welcome home Heath. TSgt Hinton is assigned to the 628<sup>th</sup> SFS, Joint Base Charleston, South Carolina and Jim Stastny (Korat) supported him.**

## **Undisclosed Location Southwest Asia #7**



**SrA Andrew Woodard and MWD PPrada take a break after doing some "severe mountain climbing" during a recent mission. They've topped peaks in excess of 2,000 feet during their missions. "PPrada loved it, but she is more of a mountain climber than myself". This team is going to be in "awesome shape" upon their return to "the world". TSgt Justin Kitts (USAFA) supports them.**

## **Other News concerning OD&P Graduates Colonel Billy Jack Carter Award**



**TSgt Daniel P. Wilson, Jr., Kennel Master, 377<sup>th</sup> SFS, Kirtland AFB, New Mexico, (Air Mobility Command) has been recognized as the 2014 recipient of the Colonel Billy Jack Carter Award. TSgt. Daniel P. Wilson, NCO In Charge, Military Working Dog section/kennel master, Air Force Material Command, 377th Air Base Wing, 377th Security Forces Group, Kirtland Air Force Base, New Mexico.**

**In September 2013 Staff Sgt. Daniel Wilson deployed to Bagram Air Base, Afghanistan, to the 455th Security Forces Group as a military working dog handler. Wilson and MWD Dan completed more than 60 outside-the-wire missions, working with Army Pathfinders, 1st Calvary and an Air Force security forces unit, call sign “The Reapers.” Through each of these complex missions, Wilson and Dan recovered 14 landmines, 12 rockets and three improvised explosive devices.**

**On the night of Sept. 10, 2013, Wilson reported a lone gunman standing on their intended route of travel. While reporting this situation, Wilson’s K-9 spotter witnessed the gunman running away from their position after detecting the movement of the patrol. Wilson released Dan to pursue and attack the unknown gunman. During the chase Dan caught the odor of a 107mm mortar and alerted on the IED. Wilson quickly noticed Dan’s response and spotted the gunman standing behind a nearby tree observing the situation. Wilson engaged the insurgent with his M4 carbine, knocking him to the ground. The area instantly erupted in automatic machine gun fire from approximately 12 insurgents from multiple directions. During the firefight, Wilson observed his spotter lying approximately 10 feet away from the IED. While providing suppressive fire with minimal cover, Wilson made contact with his spotter and warned him of the imminent danger of the IED. After approximately 20 minutes of continuous small arms fire, Wilson’s fire team broke contact with the enemy to regroup with the squad leader. After Wilson and Dan cleared a narrow path, he directed his fire team to relocate. Wilson then recalled the other two fire teams to his safe position, where they quickly established 360-degree security, coupled with laying down suppressive fire on the enemy. After almost 90 minutes of intense combat, Wilson secured a route back to the safety of the squad’s mine-resistant ambush-protected vehicles. It was later discovered there were vehicle-borne IEDs on motorcycles in the Bagram Security Zone along with a possible insurgent “hit” out for a MWD without a tail. Dan does not have a tail.**

**Almost one month after the Sept. 10 event, Wilson and Dan went on a similar mission. On Oct. 9, 2013, with the “hit on a MWD without a tail” information in his mind, Wilson maintained acute awareness of his surroundings. His keen observation skills helped identify a motorcycle traveling at a high rate of speed and gunning for Dan. Wilson immediately put Dan’s safety first and shoved the MWD out of the path of the oncoming motorcycle. He absorbed the impact of the oncoming motorcyclist intent on harming Dan. This accident resulted in critical injuries to Wilson’s shoulders, knee and ankles.**



## Other News concerning OD&P Graduates - Continued

### Colonel Billy Jack Carter Award

Wilson's courage under fire and constant vigilance prevented two terrible situations from becoming catastrophic. His actions directly contributed to saving the lives of 12 Airmen as well as his partner, Dan. For his extraordinary actions, dedication to the mission and service to his country, Wilson was awarded the Air Force Commendation Medal with Valor and the Air Force Combat Action Medal.

**Colonel Billy Jack Carter Award:** The award goes to the individual judged to have made the most significant contribution to protecting AF personnel or resources during the fiscal year. The award is for a specific act, contribution, or event. Colonel Billy Jack Carter commanded the 377th Security Police Squadron, which distinguished itself at Tan Son Nhut Air Base, South Vietnam, during the Tet Offensive. Colonel Carter was the first career Security Police officer to be named the Air Force Director of Security Police.

TSgt Wilson has been recognized by Old Dawgs & Pups as an "Alpha Dog" for his actions that saved the life of MWD Dan (N689) during his tour at Bagram Air Field, Afghanistan in 2013. In addition, he has completed two tours with OD&P at FOB Warrior, Iraq and Bagram Air Field, Afghanistan. Ernest Childers (Udorn) supported him during his deployments. TSgt Dan Wilson, you've made us proud!



## Other News concerning OD&P Graduates

### Trainer of the Month – 341<sup>st</sup> Training Squadron



Congratulations go to TSgt Paris Carman on his selection as the "Trainer of the Month" at the 341<sup>st</sup> Training Squadron, Dog Training School (DTS), Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, Texas. TSgt Carman has deployed with OD&P on two occasions; Manas Transit Center, Kyrgyzstan (2011) and Bagram Air Base, Afghanistan (2013). Larry Zacker (U-Tapao) and Bill Cummings (U-Tapao) respectively, supported TSgt Carman. Great job Paris!

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

At the time of this report we have **34** members of the "Old Dawgs & Pups" program actively supporting **34** 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 February 15, 2015. "Old Dawgs & Friends" have supported **119** kennels and **440** 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 **119** 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