

K-9 Supply Program

THAILAND DOG HANDLERS

USAF Dog Handlers Who Defended Front-Line Combat Air Bases In Thailand Throughout The Vietnam War

(08/15/09)

OVER FOUR YEARS OF SUPPORTING OUR K-9 TROOPS!

Hello everyone! We are currently supporting eight (8) kennels and thirty-three (33) deployed Air Force, Army, and Navy teams as of August 15, 2009. August 2009 brings us to four years of operation for our “Old Dawgs & Pups and K-9 Supply” program. Happy Birthday Old Dawgs & Pups! 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. Our program now supports Air Force, Army, and Navy K-9 teams – it just keeps getting better!

Area of Operation Status - K-9 Teams Arriving/Departing

We are currently supporting troops at FOB Warrior, Camp Cropper, Joint Base Balad, FOB Delta, FOB O’Ryan, and Bagram, Afghanistan, Al Udeid Air Base, Qatar, and Al Dhafra Air Base, United Arab Emirates (UAE). We have ten (10) new Pups to introduce this month. The big story is that the rotation cycle has begun and the planes are going to be filling up with troops coming and going to the AOR. We currently have fifteen (15) handlers in our pipeline waiting for information/and sponsor pairings.

Heading home: At the time of this report the following are either home or seriously packing: TSgt Gary Smith, TSgt Joe Throgmorton, TSgt Andrew O’Dell, SSgt Ron Harden, SSgt Daniel Wilson, SSgt Gary Laub, SSgt Phillip Mendoza, SSgt Angelo Reategui, SSgt Jeff Mastin, SSgt Chad Ditch, SSgt Dennis Luczak, SSgt German Lechuga, SSgt Brandi Throgmorton, SSgt Joshua Lewis, SSgt Sanford Gschwend, SSgt Pierre Delgado, SSgt Kimberly Harting, SSgt Justin Kitts, SSgt Scott Carpenter, and SrA Ted Carlson.

Joint Base Balad, Iraq: TSgt Mark Ochoa, Kennel Master, from the 319th SFS, Grand Fork AFB, ND. He is supported by Bill Cummings (U-Tapao).

SSgt Shiloh Bell & MWD Natz from the 49th SFS, Holloman AFB, NM. She is supported by Ron and Gerry Carlton (Pleiku & Feed the Dawgs).

SSgt Martin Campos & MWD Ikka from the 35th SFS, Misawa, Japan. He is supported by Gordon Johnston (Takhli).

SSgt Aaron DeMarte & MWD Arco from 31st SFS, Aviano, Italy. He is supported by Ernie Childers (Udorn).

FOB Warrior, Iraq: SSgt Martin Ducos & MWD Dandy from the 316th SFS, Andrews AFB, MD. He is supported by Jim Stastny (Korat) & Josh Foster (FoK).

SrA Eric Wakeland & MWD JJackson from the 316th SFS, Andrews AFB, MD. He is supported by Jim Stastny (Korat) & Josh Foster (FoK).

TSgt Jessica Sonnier the new Trainer is from 45th SFS, Patrick AFB, FL. She is supported by Lora Lacefield (Kentucky F&WL).

Camp Cropper, Iraq: SGT Chantel Razack, Kennel Master, & MWD Pindo, from 35th MP Detachment, Ft. Gordon, GA. She is supported by Bill Cummings (U-Tapao).

Area of Operation Status - K-9 Teams Arriving/Departing - Continued

Al Udeid Air Base, Qatar: TSgt Andrew Esparza (Second Tour with us), Kennel Master, from the 355th SFS, Davis-Monthan AFB, AZ. He is supported by Bill Cummings (U-Tapao).

SSgt Taylor Rogal & MWD Teri from the 12th SFS, Randolph AFB, TX. He is supported by John Risse (Pleiku) and Virginia Gilliam (FoK).

American Legion, Hurst-Eules-Bedford Post 379 – Bedford, Texas



Our “BOYS” from Texas are at it again. In their effort of continued support for Old Dawgs & Pups, American Legion, Hurst-Eules-Bedford Post 379, from Bedford, Texas has made another contribution to our program. Mike Regan (NKP 1971-72) a member of the Post just presented us with a check in the amount of \$600.00. Again, we have promised the post that “We will spend it will all down range!” Their committee will continue to review our program and hopefully our partnership will continue to support our deployed troops. Thanks Mike and all of the members of Hurst-Eules-Bedford Texas American Legion. Stay tuned for more information!

FOB O’Ryan – Iraq



Short timer! It’s been a while but we just received this photograph of SSG Audra Rose and MWD Folti. Her tour is winding down but she’s doing fine – great to hear from you Audra – just great! SSG Rose is supported by Mike Diercks (Korat).

Profiles and Photographs of members of Old Dawgs & Pups



Left – Doc Hodges – Kentucky Fish & Wildlife. Doc served at Ubon & Korat Royal Thai Air Bases from 1970-73 and handled Gray X769 & Rebel 8M12. He hails from Franklin, Kentucky

Right – Mike Diercks – Served at Korat Royal Thai Air Base in 1975-76 and handled Lighting 77A2. Mike is from Sleep Eye, Minnesota.

These two guys are the life blood of OD&P – they have always stepped to the front and supported our programs and troops. Together they have supported seventeen (17) troops since our program started – What a team – thanks guys for all you do!



Left – Ron & Gerri Carlton – Quail Valley, California. Ron was a handler at Phu Cat Air Base 37th SPS and Pleiku 633rd SPS and handled Rex 766E in 1967. Try to keep up with Gerri – NOT!

Right – Jon Hemp – Redlands, California. Jon handled Sarge 46X4 at Tan Son Nhut Air Base, RVN (1968-69), 377th Security Police Squadron.

This trio run a very, very successful program called “Feed the Dawgs” where they throw a first class steak bar-b-que and support the handlers from stateside bases in the southwest United States – if you’re interested in this program let us know and we will put you in contact with the fantastic threesome! Trust me, these are real DOG PEOPLE.

Joint Base Balad – Presentation to Old Dawgs & Pups



One their way out – the Joint Base Balad “crew” of January – October 2009 presented this beautiful gift to Old Dawgs & Pups – when it arrived, I for one was just speechless!

This photograph really doesn't do the shadow box justice – it is just breathtaking. In case you can't read the inscription – here it goes!

“This Flag accompanied the Military Working Dog Handlers on over 30 Combat Missions while in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom – Joint Base Balad, Iraq.

Presented in Honor of Thailand K-9 Old Dawgs & Pups - Thank You For All Your Support
January 2009 – October 2009”

OK guys – I'm going to take me a minute to compose myself. I can not begin to tell you how honored we are to receive this beautiful gift. I have never, I repeat, NEVER seen any this beautiful!

For the Joint Base Balad team - thanks for the photographs and keeping your end of the bargain while staying in communications with your "Old Dawgs & Friends of K-9". We are so proud of all of you. From the bottom of our hearts - thank you so much for serving our country and keeping us safe - we will forever be in debt to you for your service.

TSgt Joe Throgmorton and the “Crew” - You guys are just a "Class Act" - Hooooooha Joint Base Balad K-9!

332nd ESFS – Joint Base Balad, Iraq



**SSgt Mark Campos & MWD Ikka
Supported by Gordon Johnston (Takhli)**



**SSgt Jarred Johnson & MWD Tino
Supported by Lonnie Beeson (U-Tapao)**



MWD Tino and his new Cooling Vest



SSgt Jarred Johnson & MWD Tino “Catching a ride”!

The cooling vest is supplied by Helping Udders and the team is supported by Lonnie Beeson.

332nd ESFS – Joint Base Balad, Iraq - Continued



SrA Eric Vegas' MWD Eddy (or as he is formally known "Edward") showing off his new cool vest during one of the missions at Joint Base Balad. Eric said to check out the photo on the left – “after another long dismount through a dust storm.....he (Eddy) is very, very dusty....almost looks a different color. Trust me gang – these vests work. Thanks Helping Udders – thanks a bunch!



“Edward” preparing to dismount a MRAP – damn, big truck and beautiful dog!
Wonder if the air conditioner works?
This team is supported by Jon Hemp (TSN) and Cathy Mays (FoK)



Helping Udders!

August 15, 2009

It is with great pleasure that the Thailand Dog Handlers announce a new partnership with “Helping Udders” to provide cooling vest for our deployed Airmen, Soldiers, Sailors, and Marines down range! Through the generosity of “Helping Udders” we have shipped six more cooling vests and extra cooling packs to our troops at Qatar and Bagram, Afghanistan. That’s a total of **sixteen** vests down range! Thanks Helping Udders and thank you for being part of Old Dawgs & Pups!

New vests have been shipped to:

SSgt Dustin Vigil, SSgt Jason Adams, SSgt Taylor Rogal, SSgt Steven Gonzalez, Sra Nichole Jensen, and SrA Lauren.

To date, we have shipped vests to FOB Delta, FOB Warrior, Joint Base Balad, and Camp Victory, Iraq; Bagram, Afghanistan; Al Udeid Air Base, Qatar; and Al Dahfra, United Arab Emirates.

These vests have been purchased and shipped through the generous donations to Helping Udders. To date Helping Udders has shipped **299** to the AOR – way to go Mikel & Helping Udders!

Mikel gets very excited when she calls me to tell me that donations have been received. Thanks also go out to President Pam O’Day and the members of the Talcott Mountain Agility Club of Connecticut. Check their site <http://www.tmacagility.org/>. They donated four vests to OD&P!

Helping Udders, through their donations have donated (16) Cooling vests and extra cooling packs to our OD&P Program! CHECK THEIR WEBSITE: <http://www.helpingudders.com/> AND <http://www.helpingudders.com/MWD.htm> - They sell “cool dog stuff” – Check them out!

We’ve heard nothing but great comments about these vests by the handlers that have received them. We’ll have some photographs posted now and then of the dogs, handlers, and their new vests. The vest and extra cooling packs are \$228.00 each. Now that our program is up and running – please watch for our continual updates. Stay tuned for more details on this one! **The total value of the donation is now \$3,648.00.**



SrA Manuel Rodriguez and MWD Diesel show off their new vest at the Davis-Monthan AFB, Arizona, training area before they deploy to Al Dahfra, UAE, later this month. This team can also use their vests when they return home from their deployment due to the extended heat in Arizona.

Cooling Vests at the 379th ESFS – Al Udeid Air Base, Qatar



Left and right above - SSgt Taylor Rogal and MWD Teri “Working with the new cooling vest. It was quite hot and humid today, and I know he enjoyed having the vest. I wanted to thank you again for everything.” This dog team is deployed from the deployed from 12th SFS, Randolph AFB, TX. SSgt Rogal & Teri are supported by John Risse (Pleiku) and Virginia Gilliam (FoK).

Camp Cropper – Iraq

SGT Chantel Razack, the Kennel Master at Camp Cropper has a “whole handful” of Air Force troops and from what we understand she is keeping those “dudes” in line. Seriously, she advised us that the heat has been taking a toll on them. So, we put the wheels in motion and shipped them “booties” purchased from Ray Allen (thank you Chawntell for the price break and getting them out so quickly – we really appreciate your help!), window tint from Checkers for their patrol vehicles, and a few squeegees for their kennels. Hopefully this equipment should be on the ground in a few weeks to help with the heat. Also, welcome aboard SGT Razack!



**379th ESFS K-9 Section – Al Udeid, Qatar
August 2009 – Our “Pipeline Troops”**



**Four of our soon to be new Pups - handlers at the 379th ESFS K-9 Section, Al Udeid, Qatar
Left – SSgt Kristopher Hall & MWD Hhart deployed from the 37th SFS, Lackland AFB, TX.
Right – SrA Carrie Dowdy & MWD Ciro deployed from the 325th SFS, Tyndall AFB, FL.**



**Left – SrA Nichole Jensen & MWD Rex deployed from the 17th SFS, Goodfellow AFB, TX.
Right – SSgt Taylor Rogal & MWD Teri deployed from 12th SFS, Randolph AFB, TX.**

Dog handler team 'lose an Airman'

by Staff Sgt. J.G. Buzanowski
AFCENT Combat Camera Team

8/13/2009 - BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan -- The 455th Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron security forces dog handler team have lost an Airman. Or at least the 134-pound equivalent of one.

"That's the funny thing - that's about what one of our guys weighs," said the NCO-in-charge of the team, Tech. Sgt. Drew Odell. Collectively the team has lost 134 pounds since their deployment began in the spring. They're here as part of the 455th ESFS and in addition to patrols, the dogs search for drugs and explosives on the base.

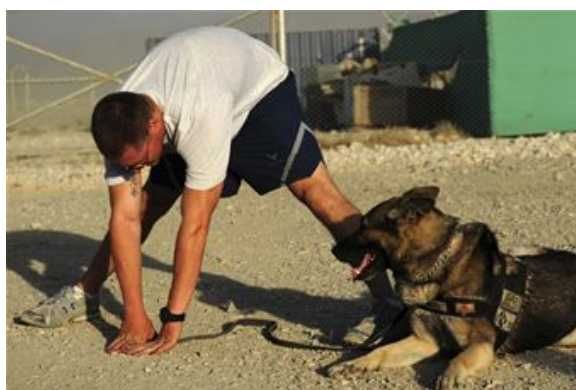
When they're not training with their German shepherds or making improvements to their compound, they spend their time staying fit. For fun, they go on group runs, sometimes up to eight miles at a time. "Patrolling the base and keeping it secure are our jobs," said Sergeant Odell, deployed here from Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, Ariz. "But the dogs have to stay in shape too, so they run with us."

Staying in shape is an important aspect of the defenders' every day mission, said the squadron superintendent, Chief Master Sgt. David Makowski, also deployed from D-M. "Fitness is one of my top three priorities for all my Airmen," the chief said. "And for the dog handlers, if either they or their dog is out of shape, their performance suffers. It gives me a great sense of pride to see what they've done not only on duty, but off duty as well. Especially Sergeant Kitts."

Staff Sgt. Justin Kitts, deployed from Luke AFB, Ariz., has lost almost 50 pounds since the start of his deployment back in March. Like the other handlers, the 8-year Air Force veteran regularly exercises with his German shepherd, Mayo. "I knew when I came here I needed to lose weight," Sergeant Kitts said. "I was living an unhealthy lifestyle before I came here and one of my goals was to change that."

Sergeant Kitts and his wife were eating a lot of fast food since she was pregnant and it was easier to make those kinds of compromises after he'd come off a 12-hour shift. But after seeing his newborn daughter, he's "got something more to live for now." "I don't want to just be fit to fight for my team, I want to live a long and healthy life so I can see my little girl grow up," he said. "I'm eating better, exercising regularly and also working to become a certified personal trainer. I had a lot of people motivate me, so this will be a way to give back and help others stay fit to fight."

Staff Sgt. Justin Kitts stretches with his German shepherd, Mayo, Sergeant Kitts an eight-year Air Force veteran is a dog handler with the 455th Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron and is deployed from Luke Air Force Base, Ariz. He and his dog patrol the base and inspect mail, luggage, and vehicles for narcotics. (U.S. Air Force photo/Staff Sgt. J.G. Buzanowski)



NOTE: Those of you going to the VSPA reunion will get to meet SSgt Kitts & Mayo at Luke AFB. This team is supported by Phil Carroll (Takhli & NKP) & Patsy Perrotto (NKP)

Other News concerning OD&P Graduates!

SSgt Kimberly Harting is short and should be heading home from Honduras in the near future. She has been supported by Juli Warner and Jim Stastny. Here are a few photos of Kim and Kanto! She's teasing Kanto and he loves it! A quick bath? A great looking dog team wouldn't you say? Kim's been with us for several deployments and we hope she gets some "stateside time" now.



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

At the time of this report we have **33** members of the "Old Dawgs & Pups" program actively supporting **33** handlers assigned to eight (8) kennels in Southwest Asia. We have five (5) kennels where a major rotation is still in progress. We'll have plenty of pups for all of you Old Dawgs this rotation – so please stand by for incoming mail!

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 **1,041** pieces of equipment has been delivered to our K-9 troops serving in the AOR from August 21, 2005 to August 15, 2009. Over **215** "Old Dawgs and Friends" have supported **173** K-9 personnel via our program. For additional information on the program please go to:

http://www.pbase.com/635thk9/old_dawgs

Please review the photos, press releases, and more about our ongoing programs.

We have purchased and shipped **\$11,511.00** of supplies for the 33 kennels solely via your personal donations. Including the Leatherman corporate and Helping Udders donations, the total is **\$42,421.00!**

Who would have ever thought we would get to be this size? We started out four years ago just trying to help out Ali Air Base. Thanks Monty and Cathy Moore for getting our program started! Thanks to everyone, Old Dawgs, Friends of K-9 (Fk), Leatherman Tool Group, Helping Udders, and the rest of our suppliers, PetEdge, Dresslers', Ray Allen, and our contributors for allowing us to assist these deployed dog teams. What a team helping dog teams!

Please note that this figure does not include all the goodies some of you have sent directly, or which came from other organizations we've been involved with but who shipped their donations independently. **WAY TO GO K-9 SUPPLY!**

List of Supplies Shipped by Old Dawgs & Pups

- 181 Leatherman “Surge” Tools (125) Donated by Leatherman) *
- * The Leatherman “Surge”/Flashlights/Knives donation is valued at approximately **\$27,262.00**
- 75 Thailand Challenge Coins (Donated & Purchased)
- 75 Guardian Pet Beds (Pet Edge)
- 75 * Leatherman Knives (Models: c33T, e55, e55B, e33L)
- 52 Kongs (Assorted sizes)
- 45 * Leatherman Serac S3 Leatherman Flashlights
- 40 Sponges
- 40 Cleaning/Scouring Pads
- 39 Thailand Historical Base Patches
- 30 Kygen Port-A-Bowls (Dressler’s)
- 30 PSI Water Holes (Dressler’s)
- 24 Kygen 2-In-1 Food/Water Bowls (Dressler’s)
- 24 Rolls 26’x78’ 20% Dark Limo Window Tint (Checker Auto Supply)
- 22 Doggles (10 Pairs were donated)
- 19 VSPA Challenge Coins (Donated & Purchased)
- 16 Cooling Vests & Extra Cooling Packs (**Helping Udders - Valued at \$3,648.00**)
- 16 Coastal Medium Firm Shedding Blades (Dressler’s)
- 16 Classic Long Tooth Undercoat rakes (Dressler’s)
- 15 Classic HG Food Dishes (Dressler’s)
- 12 Coastal Large Slickers (Dressler’s)
- 12 Heavy Guard Handled Water Pails (Dressler’s)
- 10 Muzzles (Dressler’s)
- 10 Heavy Duty Handled Pails - 9 Qt. - (Pet Edge)
- 10 Stainless Steel - 3 Qt Dura-weight Bowls (Pet Edge)
- 9 Hose Nozzles
- 8 K9 Bluelight Supplement (2 pound bags) (Dressler’s)
- 8 Cooling Wraps (Roshgo Corp)
- 8 Cooldanna Cooling Mats (Roshgo Corp)
- 8 Sets of Flood Light Bulbs
- 8 24” Heavy Duty Floor Squeegees
- 7 Digital Thermometers
- 5 Set of four Ruff Wear Bark’n Boots Grip Trex (Ray Allen)
- 3 100 Foot Water Hoses
- 3 20” Heavy Duty Cleaning Brushes
- 3 12” Heavy Duty Cleaning Brushes
- 3 5” Heavy Duty Cleaning Brushes
- 3 Ceremonial K-9 Badges (Memorial)
- 2 Hose Reels - Wheels
- 2 50 Foot Water Hoses
- 2 Spray Bottles & Sprayers
- 2 150 Foot Enclosed Hose Reels
- 1 Drink Mixes & Snacks (Large Box)
- 1 Case Toilet Paper (30 Rolls)
- 1 Syntek Hidden Sleeve (Ray Allen)