

K-9 Supply Program



OVER THREE YEARS OF SUPPORTING OUR K-9 TROOPS!

Hello everyone! We are currently supporting (7) kennels and fourteen (14) deployed Air Force and Army teams as of September 15, 2008. We have also picked up an additional handler at Ali Al Salem, Kuwait. September 2008 brings us to three years and one month of operation for our "Old Dawgs & Pups and K-9 Supply" 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.

Area of Operation Status

We are currently supporting troops at FOB Warrior, Rustamiyah, Camp Victory, Camp Taji, Iraq; Manus Air Base, Kygystan, Al Udeid Air Base, Qatar, and Ali Al Salem, Kuwait – man, we've got them all over the place!

SSgt Robert Starkweather & MWD Diego – FOB Warrior

We received this photograph of the "boys" working out in the training area at FOB Warrior and we thought you might enjoy seeing some of the training and "fun" that goes on there! SSgt Bob Starkweather is teamed with Dale and Debbie Burton for this deployment. SSgt Starkweather and Diego are deployed from Misawa Air Force Base, Japan. You know, it's been a long time since I've seen photographs of night training and I remember that I sure loved it – or course the heat might have a lot to do with it also! Man, those were the days and I know we all miss them – these guys are having toooooooooooooooooooooo much fun.



FOB Warrior K-9 Section awarded Tuskegee Airman Award



It gives me great pleasure that we have been notified by TSgt Benjamin Jones that “Our” team at FOB Warrior has been awarded the Tuskegee Team Award for the month of August 2008. According to TSgt Jones, each squadron chooses on team who has excelled in all aspects of their work functions. They had a “couple of significant events the past month that gave our section the extra edge we need to earn the award (a special mention also goes to SSgt Walter Lee and MWD Jess for their contributions).

Way to go guys! I read often of the teams that are recognized for this award – you all are in some pretty good company – we are really proud of all of you.

Hose Reels sent to FOB Warrior

TSgt Jones and SSgt Rufus Watson are always trying to keep the kennels in spotless condition, but they were experiencing a problem with the water hoses that are used to clean the kennel being all over the place. It was starting to be a little bit of a “concern” – you know dog handlers, hoses all over the place. SSgt Watson contacted us and we started looking around for something to help store the hoses. Off we went to Wal*Mart – and low and behold, there they were – exactly what was needed to help solve the problem at the new kennels – Hose Reels. Well, thanks to all of you for your donations, we were able to send two Suncast Garden Hose Storage Boxes that hold 150 feet of hose. One more problem solved by your support of our troops.



The “New” FOB Warrior Team

FOB Warriors – September 2008



Left to Right on the obstacle:

SSgt Robert Starkweather and MWD Diego, SSgt Brian Pope and MWD Ajax; SSgt Gregory Mobley and MWD Charlie; SSgt William Washer and MWD Doran; and SSgt Juan Felix and MWD Jimmy.

Left to Right on the ground:

TSgt Benjamin Jones, Kennelmaster, SSgt Walter Lee and MWD Jess, and SSgt Rufus Watson, Trainer.

The handlers at the 506th were awarded the Squadron’s Tuskegee Team of the Month for August 2008 – way to go guys! How’s that for a good looking K-9 section?

Other News concerning OD&P Graduates!

We recently heard from PFC Deborah Rush and it looks like she has really been busy since leaving FOB Warrior in November 2007. We recently heard this from PFC Rush "I am sending a picture of my reenlistment from Ft Bragg and a couple of pictures of where I work now. Even though what I do is beneficial to people all over the world and completely legal, it's still controversial"

So... "Where am I now"... I redeployed to Ft Bragg, NC when I left Kirkuk in November 2007. In Feb. 2008, I reenlisted for an assignment in Washington DC in Research & Development at Walter Reed Army Institute of Research. Since I'm actually assigned to the Navy, I'll be here for the next 3 years. I'm in the Department of Animal Resources and work with monkeys (Rhesus, Aotus, and African Greens). I love my job, but will always have the military working dogs first in my heart. I truly miss working with them.

With the monkeys, we have protocols that involve different vaccines. Some of the vaccines we are currently working with are malaria, SIV, dengue, and anthrax. We have other studies that don't include vaccines, as well. Besides the department I work in, other departments work with different animals and do really good things for the Soldier. For example, we are testing different HEMCON/quickclot bandages. We have studies that improve the protective gear that the military wear. All the new IBA and Kevlars that come out are because of the research that was done at NMRC/WRAIR. I'm proud of what I do because I know it has meaning and I can see the progress and results.

I know I'm not a dog handler, but I want to thank you with all my heart for "adopting" me into your program. Well, it's past my bedtime... I have to get up at 0400 to be at work on time. I have to in-process pigs in the morning! AND - I always have my Leatherman on me. It comes in handy quite often and when I use it I get to show it off and explain who gave it to me. Thanks!!"



Other News concerning OD&P Graduates!

Congratulations to SSGT (today) Kimberly Harting! Its official, she's gone south and got promoted on us! She and "Tommy" are getting settled in at their new assignment and everything is coming up roses for Kim.

I coaxed her into putting on "temps" for us so we could have a photo of the new stripes – and we have been promised a good photograph of her and Tommy for our next edition.

Kim was supported during her deployment at FOB Warrior in 2007 by David Priest and John and Joan Smith – See we knew she'd do GOOD!



New SSgt Kimberly Harting



MWD Tommy

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

At the time of this report we have **16** members of the "Old Dawgs & Pups" program actively supporting **14** handlers assigned to **seven** kennels in Southwest Asia.

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 635 pieces of equipment has been delivered to our K-9 troops serving in Iraq from August 21, 2005 to September 15, 2008. Over eighty-nine "Old Dawgs and Friends" have supported over **110** 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 **\$7,658.00** of supplies for the 24 kennels solely via your personal donations. Including the Leatherman corporate donation, the total is **\$18,760.00!**

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!**

- 138 Leatherman "Surge" Tools (91) Donated by Leatherman) *
- * The Leatherman "Surge" donation is valued at approximately **\$11,102.00**
- 75 Thailand Challenge Coins (Donated & Purchased)
- 57 Guardian Pet Beds
- 40 Sponges
- 40 Cleaning/Scouring Pads
- 39 Thailand Historical Base Patches
- 34 Kongs
- 22 Doggles (10 Pairs were donated)
- 19 VSPA Challenge Coins (Donated & Purchased)
- 16 Coastal Medium Firm Shedding Blades
- 16 Classic Long Tooth Undercoat rakes
- 12 Coastal Large Slickers
- 12 Heavy Guard Handled Water Pails
- 10 Muzzles
- 8 K9 Bluelight Supplement (2 pound bags)
- 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
- 6 24" Heavy Duty Floor Squeegees
- 5 Classic HG Food Dishes
- 5 Nozzles
- 4 Large Kongs
- 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 Kygen 2-In-1 Food/Water Bowls
- 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 Set of four Ruff Wear Bark'n Boots Grip Trex

Note: Some of you may receive this twice. I apologize - it's a data base thing!