

K-9 Supply Program



(10/17/06)

NEWS FLASH – Dateline Iraq, Kyrgyzstan, and Africa!

As most of you know, approximately 29 handlers from Thailand and Vietnam just got together at the VSPA reunion in Las Vegas – and we had a ball. The most exciting thing about the VSPA reunion is how the VSPA troops put their hands around our program. All of the numbers aren't in yet, but it looks like we received somewhere in the vicinity of \$500.00 worth of donations from raffles, sales, and just outright donations. President Steve Gattis also recognized our program and we answered questions all week about what we are doing for our deployed K-9 troops "downrange." How about those "straight legs" that just jumped all over this K-9 program!

Another huge highlight of the reunion was realized during the special K-9 demonstration put on by the 99th SFS K-9 unit at Nellis AFB. Two of the handlers there were wearing their Surges, received from us during their last rotations to Iraq. SSgt Kerry Warren and SSgt John Danser both proudly wear and use those tools, and will have them if/when they rotate back to what they lovingly refer to as the "Armpit." We are in the process of contacting another handler from Nellis who is deployed in Kyrgyzstan concerning "OD&P".

Once again, I'd like to recognize some very special people that have just gone above and beyond the call to assist in our "OD&P" program. Dave Szody, Ed & Zack Warr, Terry Anderson, Janet Wise, Bob Citrano, Virginia Gilliam, Phil Carroll, John Homa, and the Leatherman Corporation (and of course our personal representative at Leatherman – Juli Warner), are but just a few who have donated and worked tirelessly to make sure our program continues to serve our canine partners in the sandbox. Thank you to everyone who has made this program so very special.

You may recall that we made a special plea last month for donations to help out one of our old adoptees, SSgt Pablo Martinez, who is now stationed at Osan, Korea. Pablo saw a few serious lacks of grooming and training supplies, asked for our help – and once again you all came through. We've sent the 51st SFS K-9 unit's 24 dog teams some new grooming tools as well as Kongs and Gum-Gum Bars for training aids. With our usual luck, both the Kong Company (Kongs) and Ethical Products Company (Gum-Gum Bars) found ways to give us huge discounts to stretch the effectiveness of your donations. Pablo promises to send us some pictures when the last of the goodies arrive at Osan.

If you remember, the kennel at Camp Lemonier, Africa, asked for K-9 Bluelite – and we all said "What in the hell is that?" – We finally located the product and found out that it is "Gatorade" for dogs! Who would have thought? One of our suppliers – Dressler's Dog Supplies, Kansas City, Kansas, not only found it, but they reduced the price and helped us out on shipping – to the tune of about an \$80.00 savings to us. Kevin Cobb helped us on our "first order" when we started the program over a year ago. The address for Dressler's Dog Supplies is www.dresslersdog.com. They can be reached at 1-800-622-4669 and ask for Kevin Cobb (kevin@dresslersdog.com). Tell him Bill Cummings sent you! Thanks also to Michelle Sarabia for turning us on to Dressler's.

SSgt David Gum also presented his troops with their new Leatherman tools - special edition "Surge" multi-tools –engraved with "Thailand K-9", way to go Leatherman! Man, are those troops in Africa squared away and grateful for our support.

SSgt David Gum and Tucker



SSgt David Helmbrecht



SSgt Patrick Schue "models" his new "Thailand K-9" Leatherman Surge



We will be working with the new group as soon as we can coordinate the effort with them. Stay tuned for details.

We also have paired our Old Dawgs with troops at Manas Air Base (SSgt Damon Tripp & Rexo), and LSA Diamondback, Mosul, Iraq (TSgt Matt Rebholz & Ori and SSgt Gwen Dodd & OOlivia).

We are in the process of “hooking up” a few more troops at Balad, Manas AB, FOB Warrior, and Camp Bucca. As soon as all I get myself squared away from my vacation – OK, I’m working on it!

Here’s the total update on the K-9 Supply Program to date.

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 312 pieces of equipment has been delivered to our K-9 troops serving in Iraq from August 21, 2005 to October 15, 2006 – Yes, everyone – it’s been a year! Over seventy “Old Dawgs and Friends” have supported over fifty-seven 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 **\$3,737.10** of supplies for the three kennels solely via your personal donations. Including the Leatherman corporate donation, the total is **\$7,523.10!**

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!

* The Leatherman “Surge” donation is valued at approximately **\$3,786.00**

- 60 Thailand Challenge Coins (Donated & Purchased)
- 41 Leatherman “Surge” Tools (30 Donated by Leatherman) *
- 40 Guardian Pet Beds
- 16 Coastal Medium Firm Shedding Blades
- 16 Classic Long Tooth Undercoat rakes
- 13 VSPA Challenge Coins (Donated)
- 12 Coastal Large Slickers
- 12 Doggles
- 8 K9 Bluelight Supplement (2 pound bags)
- 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
- 3 100’ Foot Water Hoses
- 3 Nozzles
- 3 24” Heavy Duty Floor Squeegees

- 3 20" Heavy Duty Cleaning Brushes
- 3 12" Heavy Duty Cleaning Brushes
- 3 5" Heavy Duty Cleaning Brushes
- 2 Spray Bottles & Sprayers
- 1 Drink Mixes & Snacks (Large Box)

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