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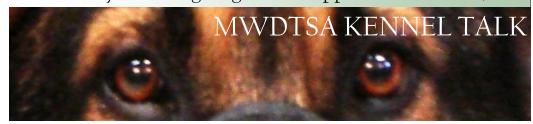
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What skills can you share to support our dog teams? We are looking for volunteers in:

- Fundraising
- Grant writing
- Giving presentations
- Soliciting in kind donations
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Military Working Dog Team Support Association, Inc.





During an attack on Tan Son Nhut Air Base, Vietnam, on Dec. 4, 1966, Air Force sentry dog, Nemo, helped hold off enemy forces, saving his handler, but losing an eye in the battle. A memorial constructed in 2005 was recently moved to the Security Forces Museum at Joint Base San Antonio- Lackland to help tell the story of military working dogs.

Heroic Canine Memorial Moves To New Location

By Mike Joseph JBSA-Lackland Public Affairs

A Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland memorial to military working dogs has moved from its original location to the United States Air Force Security Forces Museum.

Completed in late 2005 at the then 37th Security Forces Squadron kennel compound, the Nemo War Dog Heroes Memorial now resides outside the Security Forces Museum. The museum is located at the corner of Carswell Avenue and

Femoyer Street on the basic training side of JBSA-Lackland.

"The move was facilitated by the projected relocation of the 802nd Security Forces Squadron MWD kennels to the Medina Training Annex," said Bill Cummings, a former Air Force sentry dog handler and Nemo Memorial committee member.

"Moving to the Security Forces Museum will protect the integrity and heritage of an iconic memorial to military working dogs past, present and future," Cummings said.

The Nemo Memorial Committee partnered with several organizations on the relocation. They included the 802nd SFS, the 37th Training Wing, the 37th TRW Office of History and Research, and Tech. Sgt. Jason Adams, 802nd SFS kennel master.

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Canine Memorial Moves continued from page 1

Others who played a role in the project were past kennel masters Master Sgt. Jonathan Matthews, Master Sgt. Brian Hoglen, and retired Tech. Sgt. Uliani Bio.

"There were many members of the 802nd SFS, the former 37th SFS and the 37th TRW who were instrumental in preserving the history of this memorial," Cummings said.

The 802nd Civil Engineer Squadron also worked with the Nemo Memorial committee by helping to incorporate a section of the original concrete kennel pad, built in 1967, at the new location.

"Moving a section of the original pad to the new site continues the lineage of representing a home for the Vietnam era canine heroes," said Cummings, also a member of the Vietnam Security Police and Vietnam Dog Handlers Associations.

Along with the new kennel pad, the original kennel sign about the memorial has been reproduced and a Nemo sculpture was refurbished by Phil Brink. Cummings said the committee also plans to erect an additional marker at the new site.

"The Security Forces museum already had an exhibit about military working dogs," said Tracy English, 37th TRW Office of History and Research director. "Moving the Nemo Memorial next to it made perfect sense."

The original Nemo Memorial was dedicated Nov. 15, 2005

in remembrance of the Dec. 4, 1966 predawn attack on Tan Son Nhut Air Base, Republic of Vietnam. Nemo saved his handler's life in the assault and helped repel the Viet Cong while losing his right eye and suffering a gunshot wound to the face.

In June 1967, the Air Force directed Nemo be returned to the United States as the first sentry dog officially retired from active service. Nemo spent most of his retirement years at the Department of Defense Dog Center on Lackland assigned to a permanent kennel before dying at Andrews Air Force Base in late 1972.





Above Top: Nemo, the first Air Force Sentry dog officially retired from active service, was honored for his actions during an attack in Vietnam in 1966.

Metal Photo Process, 45° Angled

Mount on 2" Post, 20" x 16"

Above: The additional historical marker erected at the new site.

Left: Handler, Sullivan, and Nemo at Braniff.

Photos courtesy of William Cum-

Dog Handler's Homegrown Values, Environment Mirror Her K-9 Career

By Master Sqt. Leisa Grant

Air Force Staff Sgt. Jessie Johnson, a military working dog handler currently assigned to the U.S. Army 3rd Infantry Division Canine unit here, was born into an "animal house" and all the responsibilities of training the animals, playing with them, taking them to the vet and feeding them.

Some people have dogs for protection, for comfort or for show. But for Johnson and her younger sister, they were raised by a single parent. The dogs and horses were an important part of their upbringing in rural Pennsylvania.

"I always made sure my daughters treated animals kindly and the importance of taking care of the animals," said Robin Keller, Johnson's mother who often worked two full-time jobs so her daughters could enjoy a comfortable life.

Keller's parents taught her to treat both people and animals with kindness and respect, and later Johnson would instill the same values in her own children.

Fortunately, Johnson's grandparents lived nearby and were able to help out. Still, the kids had a great deal of responsibility and independence.

"At a really young age, my sister and I learned to take care of the animals and each other," Johnson said.

With this much exposure to animals, it may have seemed fitting for Johnson to become a dog handler when she joined the military. However, back then it was not a seamless process. Her love of dogs would not be enough alone. If so, more people would be canine handlers. Another homegrown value from mom would come to light.

"When you start something, you should always finish it," Keller said, adding that she instilled this in her daughters along with the notion that there was nothing they couldn't accomplish so long as they set their minds on doing it, and doing it well, beginning to end.

The start of Johnson's canine career didn't officially take place until five years after joining the Air Force.

Because of her long-time yearning to work with a K-9 team, Johnson made it a point to immerse herself in their world as much as she could while she worked as a security forces journeyman at the 820th Security Forces Squadron, Moody Air Force Base, Ga.

While there, she took the initiative to visit the kennels and introduce herself as someone, not only interested in joining the team, but willing to stay involved regularly



Afghanistan - It's 6 p.m. and Chrach (pronounced Crash), a military working dog, is anticipating his evening meal. His handler has been feeding him twice daily for more than a year, since the two became a team. She is used to this routine, but not because she is his handler.

Photo by Staff Sgt. Marleah Miller.

with all aspects of caring for the dogs. Being a part of the feeding, grooming and training for about 20 dogs was nothing new for her, albeit a few more paws and wagging tails then she was used to all at once. There was one task she had to do to prove she could truly become a dog handler, one that simply not all can do.

"The big part was going out and catching the dogs, putting on the bite-suit and letting them bite me, and making sure I was comfortable Page 4 MWDTSA KENNEL TALK Volume 5, Issue 4

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Dog Handlers Values continued from page 3

with that," she said.

Furthermore, when her unit deployed she was selected to go out on patrols with the K-9 teams. For this, Johnson said she considered herself lucky and the experiences solidified her interest and determination even more so to become a dog handler.

"I got to see how [the dogs] led the troops and how everyone pretty much relied on their dogs to walk safely down a roadway," she said, recalling how amazed she was by this and that right then, she knew this was the job for her.

"That's what I want to do," Johnson said.

Soon after, she submitted a package with letters, memorandums, documentation of volunteer hours and various other required items. Just like her mom taught her, she was going to follow through and this meant all the way through - long after being selected, through the thickness of intense training, mission after mission.

Being a MWD handler demands a great deal of constant effort - ability to communicate effectively, displaying a high level of professionalism, remaining patient and calm under pressure, and perhaps most important at times, maintaining a high level of fitness.

"It's easy for dog handlers to become lazy," Johnson said, adding that teams can come here and do the bare minimum, but the laziness will reflect in their dogs and ultimately in the team.

"There is always something you can train your dog on, always something you can getter better at," she said. "It's really up to the handler to make the team."

Air Force Master Sgt. Jantzen Duran, kennel master and noncommissioned officer in charge of 3rd ID canine teams here, has the responsibility of selecting the most suitable teams for each mission. Whether the they are called to clear compounds of suspected caches, make roadways or helicopter landing zones safe or join air assault missions, they all have one thing in common no room for error and no excuses for falling out.

"Being conditioned and having your dog conditioned is really important," Johnson said, adding that they can easily fall back during missions, which is why she strives so hard to keep both her and Chrach is top condition.

Johnson and Chrach are often called on for missions as a top MWD team here, but Duran knew this before they arrived.

"I attended training with [Johnson] prior to our deployment and she was by far the best handler of thirteen dog teams there," he said. "She was awarded Top Dog Award not only for her actions as a handler, but also her actions as an NCO."

"Being deployed with mostly Army, I couldn't ask for a better NCO to represent the Air Force."

Duran is not the only one who draws this conclusion about Johnson.

At the 56 SFS, her home station at Luke AFB, Ariz., her leadership quickly noticed her strong character and capitalized on it.

"Jessie's unique personality and great attitude made her stand out amongst her peers," said Capt. Tony Short, 56 SFS operations officer, adding that from the beginning it was evident with a little pushing and quality training Johnson would become one of the best handlers in the unit.

"In the first months she was eager to learn and excelled," he said, adding that she moved through the responsibilities and roles of being a new handler to an experienced

one quickly. And when she is not deployed, she applies her same personality and professionalism in preparing new handlers for combat environments, just like the one here.

Whether new or old, on a combat mission or training stateside, the handlers aren't the only ones doing the schooling.

"The dogs teach you something every day," Johnson said. "There is never a time you can say you've taught a dog everything or that a handler knows everything. I learn every day."

With a hearty smile she admits the K-9 world is like no other, and enjoys the challenges and the camaraderie that come with the job.

"I've never been so happy to want to go to work," she said.



U.S. Air Force military working dog, Chrach, plays with his ball after a day of training, April 24, 2013, at Forward Operating Base Pasab, Afghanistan. (U.S. Air Force photo/Staff Sgt. Marleah Miller)

Kennels Dedicated to Fallen Fort Rucker Soldier

By Nathan Pfau Fort Rucker Public Affairs Office

FORT RUCKER, Ala. - Five years after a Fort Rucker soldier was killed in Afghanistan, the installation ensures that his legacy lives on with a dedication ceremony in his name.

The Fort Rucker Military Working Dog kennels will now be known as the Tabb Kennels in honor of Sgt. 1st Class Donald T. Tabb, who served with the 6th Military Police Detachment as a military working dog handler, in a decision that was deemed by Fort Rucker officials as "the right thing to do."

"This was a no-brainer," said Lisa Eichhorn, Fort Rucker public affairs officer. "Sergeant Tabb was really important to Fort Rucker and it was important to us that the family knows that we still think about him, and that the MPs still highly regard his service."

"After all these years, it gives us great comfort to know that his work was appreciated," said William Smith, Tabb's brother. "This is a great honor and we're grateful to Fort Rucker for all the hard work that they've done to get it done."

Tabb volunteered for his second tour to Afghanistan and deployed in 2008. During his deployment, Tabb was in his vehicle with his military working dog, Bo, when they ran over an improvised explosive device. Despite the devastation, Bo survived the blast with only minor injuries because he was in his kennel at the time.

Capt. Brian Wheat, 6th MP det., said that the process to get the building dedicated to Tabb was well worth the wait, and that no one was more deserving of the honor. Wheat served with Tabb in

2005 as a junior NCO and said that he was someone that many looked up to.

"He was a role model and one of those NCOs that young soldiers aspire to be," he said. "It was a long process and a great feeling of accomplishment. I'm glad that we could do this for him and his family, and I'm glad that his family was able to make it down to see it."

The dedication process was started several years ago when the idea was submitted to the Fort Rucker memorialization committee. The de-



Staff Sgt. Donald T. Tabb, 29, was killed in action on Feb. 5, 2008, in Afghanistan while serving with the Combined Joint Operations Task Force. His specialized search dog, Bo, a black Labrador retriever, was wounded. Staff Sgt. Tabb was a native of Norcross, Ga., and on his fourth deployment, having served in Kosovo, Iraq, and once previously in Afghanistan. He was a dog handler with the 6th Military Police Detachment, 1st Battalion, 13th Aviation Regiment.

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Kennels Dedicated continued from page 5

layed process was reenergized upon Wheat's return to Fort Rucker in 2011 and the decision to dedicate the building was unanimous, said Eichhorn.

Tabb's family didn't have to wait that long, however, to find comfort in a companion that remained by the sergeant's side until the end.

About six weeks after Tabb's death, it was decided that his family would be allowed to adopt Bo, a decision that Smith said was bittersweet,

but brought a lot of comfort to the family.

"It's hard to explain, but it's like [Bo] took away some of the pain of losing [my brother]," he said. "He just mended that piece of it and it helped us. Bo played a strong part in comforting us, and everyone, even the children, sees Bo and thinks of Donald. "Bo meant a lot to Donald," he continued. "He gravitated toward him and [Donald] always talked about him – Bo is our connection to Donald. Donald was a very funny

guy, and the only thing Bo can't do is joke."

The process to get Bo to Tabb's family was not an easy one because in the eyes of the service, Bo still had a lot of service to give to his country, said Eichhorn.

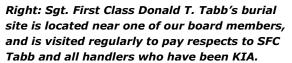
"Bo was a very young dog [when this happened], he was only 2 years old, and training is very expensive and it takes a long time, so that had to be considered," she said. When Bo was evaluated, it was determined that he suffered

from post-traumatic stress disorder associated with loud noises and large crowds.

"He still has issues with thunderstorms and has some lingering issues with any loud noises that might sound like an explosion," said Eichhorn. "That was taken into consideration and it was decided that even though he was young, it was OK to give him to the family, and it was absolutely the right thing for Bo, the Tabb family and Sergeant Tabb."



Left: Staff Sgt. Craig Miller, 6th Military Police Detachment military working dog handler, hold on to Bo, Sgt. 1st Class Donald Tabb's MWD, as Tabb's nephew, Ukarrie, gets ready to throw a ball after the ceremony that named the MWD kennels at Fort Rucker, Ala., in Tabb's honor, May 17, 2013. (U.S. Army photo by Nathan Pfau)





The Excellent Adventures of Brutus

By COL Dick Baumer, USA (Ret.)

The difference between a fairy tale and a war story is that a fairy tale begins "Once upon a time..." A war story begins "this really happened, no s@#t..."

This really happened...

During the Vietnam War, while I was Commander of the Combat Tracker platoon attached to the 1st Air Cavalry Division, our "mascot" disappeared for about a month. His mysterious disappearance was only exceeded by his miraculous return.

Brutus, a German Shepherd mix, wandered into our platoon area one day in mid-1969. Drawn either by the smells or the potential of a meal, he arrived as a large puppy of indeterminate age. We didn't know where he came from but from his long hair, floppy ears, Shepherd-like face and large paws, he

was obviously the off-spring of an illicit romance that featured a Scout Dog or Sentry Dog. None were kenneled on base at the time, so how he got to Phouc Vinh is still a mystery.

Brutus hung around our platoon area, slept in my office in the kennels and enjoyed playing with Moose, our 25 lb. Macaque. He also played with Bruce (6B45) who was about his size and Lucky (B383) but was only tolerated by Sam (5A15).

Brutus grew through the summer and loved to chase the Vietnamese water tanker crew. As soon as one would step down, Brutus commenced a change from Dr. Jeckel to a furiously-barking Mr. Hyde, chasing the workers back onto the truck accompanied by a screeching, teethbared Moose. We finally promised the water tanker crew that we'd keep the dogmacaque duo in the kennels on water days so their threatened boycott wouldn't leave us dry.

Although we worked with Brutus on basic military obedience commands, when not on leash he tended to have a very short attention span. But he was still a puppy, probably still less than a year old at that point. He also liked to ride in my Jeep on trips across the base to the 1/9 Cav bun-

ker for briefings. Soon, I thought it might be a good idea to take him with me when I picked up the monthly platoon payroll in Bien Hoa. It was one of those "seemed like a good idea at the time" sorts of things.

On our first trip south, we caught a ride on a 1/9 Cav Huey and Brutus loved the attention of the air crew and being able to sit by the open door. When asked by everyone who saw me (knowing my call sign and nickname was "Black Dog 6"), I told them that Brutus was one of the new experimental "super dogs" from the Aberdeen Proving Grounds breeding program. There really was

Right: Moose on my shoulder. He weighed about 25 lbs., maintained by regular meals, banana chips sent by my Mom and supplemented with Gaines Burgers which he ate in rotating bites from one in each hand and one in each foot.

Photo by Dick Baumer,

Far Right: The Water Tower Gang: Moose, Spec4 McInturf and Brutus. Photo by CPT Rudy Pascucci.



Excellent Adventures continued from page 7

such a program, but that's another story.

After that successful "mission" with Brutus, I began taking him with me on admin and payroll visits to my teams at Tay Ninh, Quon Loi and Song Be. The teams enjoyed seeing him on these visits. On these rounds I also drew blood and fecal samples from each of my Labradors for testing at the Vet hospital in Bien Hoa. I began including samples from Brutus with a fake tattoo number. No one ever noticed and they reported his satisfactory blood chemistry and parasite results every month.

In the Fall I couldn't hitch a Huey ride so took a C-7A Caribou, fixed- wing flight to Song Be. This aircraft had a ramp at the rear supplemented by a metal extension plank. Brutus, having practiced on our pla-

toon obstacle course, had no difficulty in getting onboard. The Air Force crew loved having him as they did anytime we had a dog along.

Song Be was infamous for its landing approach. Beginning at about 5,000 feet, the pilot would execute a wing-down tight spiral almost to the ground it seemed, followed by a snap roll-out for short final and a "carrier" hard landing. Usually everyone aboard was so glad to be on the ground they never thought about the possibility of the enemy .51 caliber or 23mm anti-aircraft guns that required such maneuvers. Brutus performed with better aplomb than a lot of the other passengers.

Our return to Phouc Vinh a few days later on a CH-47 Chinook helicopter was the

last time I took him with me. By the time a repeat of the "rounds" next month, Brutus had disappeared. He was by then well-known around our area by the 4th Aviation guys and by the 1/9 Cav troopers, but no one could recall seeing him or knew where he had gone. Fearing the worst that he had been "rustled" by some hungry local or wandered into one of the old French mine fields — we figured we would never see him again. Life went on, missions went on and even Moose probably forgot him.

About a month after his disappearance, one of my trackers was at the landing strip "arrivals lounge" to pick up supplies from an in-bound flight. He saw a C-7A arrive, taxi to the apron and drop the rear ramp. Once the extension plank was in place, soldiers

began filing off and at the end of the column was Brutus. He trotted to the Jeep and hopped in. My guy was astonished and when he asked the air crew, they said that Brutus had just walked onboard their aircraft. They didn't know whose he was but he accompanied them on many flights around the III Corps area during the next month.

We welcomed Brutus back to the unit and he was still our "mascot" until the day I left in late January 1970. I didn't take him on any more helicopter or airplane rides and the Air Force personnel were asked to watch out for him in case he decided he needed another joy ride. I never learned where he had been or whether he decided to add to his frequent flier miles again.



C-7A Caribou showing the type of ramp extension used by Brutus to board and exit the aircraft.

Photo courtesy of the C-7A Caribou Association (provided by Pat Hanavan, Association President and Newsletter Editor).



Brutus and Moose on the floor of my "office" in the kennels. Moose would groom him several times a day. Brutus never had any problems with fleas or ticks.

Photo by Dick Baumer.

2nd Quarter Care Packages

Left: The 2nd Quarter packages had the theme of 'Play Ball'. We included baseballs, baseball books, baseball decorated dog cookies, a dog ball and bandana



Above (three): Students at the La Rosa school in Temple City, Ca decorated some amazing bandanas for the MWDs. MWDTSA has heard that these are now being worn by the recipients.

Below: Earthbath was a great supporter of our 2nd Quarter care packages



Above: Volunteer, Courtney, with Jive Balls donated by Bethany United Methodist

Below: Xylitol donated peppermint flavored gum.



MWDTSA would like to thank the volunteers who responded to a last minute call for help. The 2nd quarter care packages were assembled by SeDonna Asberry, Courtney Griffin, Tommy and Sheila Langley and Jerry and Dixie Whitman.

2nd Quarter Packages continued on page 10

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2nd Quarter Packages continued from page 11

MWDTSA would like to thank these companies, along with dozens of individuals and companies with financial donations, who made this round of care packages possible:

American Peanut Council - samples of Georgia and Virginia peanuts

Andover Healthcare Inc. - Moleskin and Pet Flex wraps

The Animal Keeper, Southern California - Funding and In Kind Donations

Bethany United Methodist Church, Smyrna, GA - Jive Balls

Burt's Bees - Burt's Bees Toothpaste and Tips and Toes Kits

Chattam, Inc. - Gold Bond Body Powder Samples **Corelogic** - Financial contributions and large miscellaneous donation drive

Earthbath - Earthbath pet wipes

Esthetic Dentistry in Los Angeles, CA - dental hygiene kits

Family Dollar Stores—Zip Lock bags

Globe Pequot Press - 48 copies of "The Greatest Baseball Stories Ever Told"

Guyot Designs - Collapsible water bowls

The Hygenic Corporation - Biofreeze Pain Relief Gel

Jan Slotar - in kind donations

JelSert Co. - Wyler's Light drink mixes

Krisellen Wilson - donation of John Paul Dog shampoos and pet wipes

Kurgo Products - Collapsible water bowls

La Rosa School, Temple City, CA - decorated doggy bandanas

Loud Truck EFT, LLC - Energy Gummi Bears

MLB -Community Affairs Assistant - one dozen official MLB baseballs

Simon & Schuster, Inc - 100 baseball books - "Long Shot" and "Inside the Baseball Hall of Fame"

Small Planet Foods - 800 LÄRABAR Samples **Sun Dog Kennel LLC,** Traverse City, MI - Miscellaneous in kind donations and funding

Xylitol USA, Inc. - Xylitol Chewing Gum

Links to sponsoring companies may be found at http://www.mwdtsa.org/sponsors.html



Above: Small Planet Foods donated 800 Larabars.

Below: Sun Dogs Kennels sent lots of great goodies from Traverse City, Michigan.





Above: The handlers are always pleased to receive the personal care items donated by various generous individuals.

2nd Quarter Packages continued from page 10

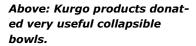


Left: Christine of Core Logic is pictured with items collected in their donation drive. CoreLogic also gave a financial contribution towards the 2nd Quarter care packages.

BURT'S BEES



Generous donations were also received from Burts Bees (above), American Peanut Council (Left), Esthetic Dentistry (Below, Left) and Chattam Inc (Below).



Below: The van crammed with packed boxes ready to be driven to the post office.





Above: Our newest supportees send MWDTSA this picture

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American Legion Ladies Auxiliary Fundraiser

The Ladies Auxiliary of the American Legion, Cartersville, GA, held a BBQ fundraiser for MWDTSA. They raised \$250.00. These funds were immediately put to use in sending care packages to deployed dog teams. MWDTSA is appreciative of this great group of folks.

Below Left (L to R): Jeff "Curly" Kornow, Nick Rogers, Todd Haygood, Russ Wells

Below Right (L to R): Sharon Bell, Joan Fortenberry, Britni Hoyt, Jane Aycock, Debbie Kornow, Betty Thompson, Nancy Gullick, Sylvia Hess





Hall of Heroes

MWDTSA supports veterinary staff and vet techs as well as military working dog teams. We recently got this great photo of the Hospital Hall of Heroes from one of the veterinary surgeons at the Bagram Vet Clinic.

"Literature throws us many great heroes. Real life invariably outdoes them."

Wilbur Smith



John Douangdara Statue Dedication

On May 27th, Memorial Day, the dedication ceremony of the sculpture of John Douangdara and his partner, Bart, was held. John Douangdara and Bart were killed in action when the helicopter they were on was shot down in August of 2011. Along with this team, 29 other Americans, many members of Seal Team Six, were killed.

MWDTSA Board Member, Chan Follen, worked hard to bring this statue to Siouxland Freedom Park in honor of her brother, John. The MWDTSA family congratulates Chan on the completion of this project.



Left: Plaque on the base of the statue.

Below: Chan Follen, John Douangdara's sister, spoke at the dedication ceremony.



Below: Statue of John Douangdara and his MWD partner, Bart, at the Siouxland Freedom Park, South Sioux City, Nebraska.



Military Working Dog Team Support Association, Inc.

Sit. Stay. Support.

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https://www.facebook.com/MWDTSA

<u>Kennel Talk</u> is the proud recipient of a GSDCA Special Newsletter Award!

MWD Photo of the Month

Military Working Dogs Chrach (on left) and Cuki (on right) demonstrate a double dog bite on decoy SGT Vasquez. The demonstration of patrol work took place at FOB Pasab in Afghanistan to showcase the dogs' capabilities to another unit.

Chrach (pronounced Crash) is handled by SSGT Johnson and Cuki (pronounced Cookie) is handled by SGT Sanchez

