

Support MWD TSA now and you won't miss any of the photos, stories, news and highlights of 2013!

Kennel Talk is now an award winning MWD publication!

#### Inside this issue:

Military Dog Handlers Honored	1
Goodies for Grek: Part II	3
Lejeune, Seymour Johnson and Bragg Visits	7
Run for the Fallen	12
Remembering Bak	14
John Douangdara Statue Dedication	15
MWD Photos of the Month	16

*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
- Newsletter editing
- Social networking

• Contact us for more info:  
[info@mwdtsa.org](mailto:info@mwdtsa.org)

## Military Working Dog Team Support Association, Inc.

### MWD TSA KENNEL TALK



***Military Working Dog handlers, veterans and supporters from around the state of Georgia were honored on 19 March 2013 with a proclamation of Military Dog Handler Day by Governor Nathan Deal.***

## Military Dog Handlers Honored by Georgia Governor Nathan Deal

By Dixie Whitman

Military Working Dog handlers, veterans and supporters from around the state of Georgia were honored on 19 March 2013 with a proclamation of Military Dog Handler Day by Governor Nathan Deal, the third Georgia Governor to proclaim a special day in honor of military working dog teams.

Present were Georgia-based handlers from the Marine Corps Logistics Base in Albu-

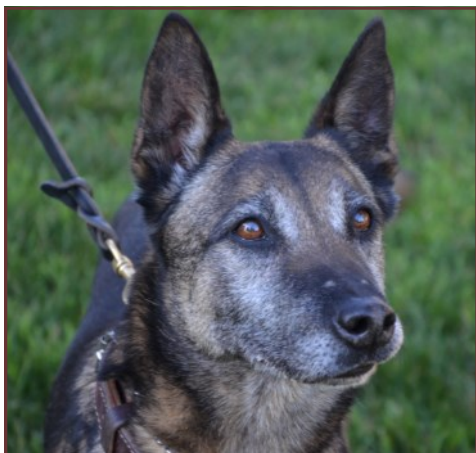
ny, Robins Air Force Base in Warner Robins and Fort Benning in Columbus. Two veteran dog handlers, Carl Walker (USAF) and Frank DiMartino (USA) joined the festivities. Additionally, several volunteers and donors joined in for a great day.

The oldest attendee in dog years was Barros K485. It takes a long time for a dog to become this sweet. All of the dogs were great ambassadors

for their installations and enjoyed receiving a KONG toy as a going away gift.

This is the twelfth straight year that dog teams have been honored by the state of Georgia with a special day. Dogs, such as Bbailey P265, and his handler, PFC Jackson, are honored for the hard work they do each and every day to keep America safe. (Bbailey's name is intentionally spelled with a double "B" to indicate

Military Dog Handler Day continued from page 1



***Left: The oldest attendee in dog years was Barros K485. It takes a long time for a dog to become this sweet.***

***Below: Bbailey P265, and his handler, PFC Jackson***



that he was born and raised in Lackland AFB's Puppy Program to become a Military Working Dog.

Military Working Dog Team Support Association, Inc. (MWD TSA) is proud to have sponsored this event again in 2013 with a chance to meet and greet new teams. The sequestration issue did affect the day, unfortunately, with three installations having to cancel their attendance making the participation of teams such as Asja R748 and SSgt Judkins even more special.

***Right: Asja R748 and SSgt Judkins***





## Goodies for Grek

*Goodies for Grek is a two-part story. In this month's Kennel Talk, Dick Baumer explains the steps to getting the care packages delivered to the troops at the COPS (Combat Out Posts) and FOBs (Forward Operating Bases). Grek, a 9-year old yellow Labrador, is an Army Specialized Search Dog. Grek and his handler, Jason, a 9-year Military Police veteran, are currently attached to a Special Forces Team in Afghanistan.*

### Part II: How The Care Packages Are Delivered To Our Troops

By Dick Baumer

**Thousands of letters and packages are shipped to service men and women deployed overseas every week. This is the story of just one of them.**

Good things come in small packages and the "goodies for Grek" are no different. Officially it is a "MIL-FRB--Priority Mail APO/FPO Large Flat Rate Box" supplied by the U.S. Postal Service. Once packed by our MWD TSA volunteers, Dixie completed and attached the required Customs Form 2976-A, and on acceptance at the Canton, Ga. post office it received Tracking Number 9505510417023036388280. This article follows package "8280" over its 9,000-mile journey to Grek.

#### Tuesday, Feb. 5

"8280" is accepted at the Canton, Ga. Post Office at 10:47 am and processed through the USPS Sort Facility in Atlanta, GA at 7:02 pm.



Courtesy U.S. Postal Service

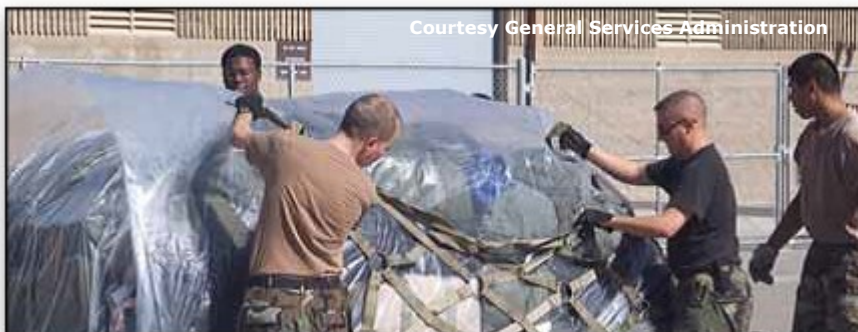
#### Wednesday, Feb. 6

Grek's package departs Atlanta for the military mail gateway in New Jersey the next morning on board a USPS truck.

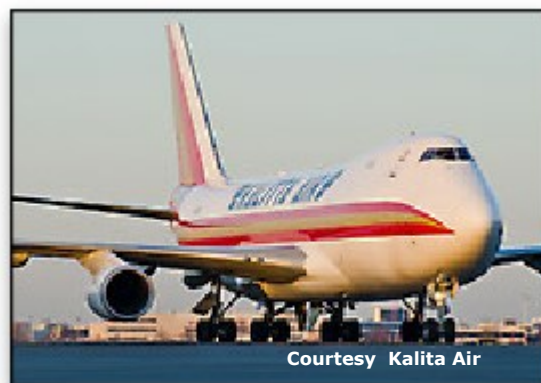
Goodies for Grek continued from page 3

**Thursday, Feb. 7**

"8280" arrives at the Military Mail Processing Facility in Kearny N.J. at about 4:00 pm and is received by Cargo Force, Inc. personnel, a civilian-operated ground handling contractor. Letter and packages are sorted before being loaded into "Tri-Walls," essentially pallet-size boxes strapped on pallets that hold about 600 lbs. of mail. The pallets are weighed, processed and then trucked to World Wide Cargo, cargo handlers for Kalitta Air, the air cargo contractor. World Wide personnel stack the "Tri-Walls" on large aluminum pallets called "cookie sheets," then load them onto the aircraft.

**Friday, Feb. 8**

"8280" departs at 4:00 am aboard a Kalitta Air Boeing 747-400 Freighter, bound for Manama, Bahrain. This charter carrier is owned by Connie Kalitta, the National Hot Rod Assn. legend. He has won five world championships and has set the world's speed record on more than one occasion.

**Saturday, Feb. 9**

"8280's" 6800-mile non-stop flight lands at Bahrain International Airport the next day after a 14-hour flight. An archipelago of 33 islands, Bahrain is a small island country strategically located near the western shores of the Persian Gulf. Bahrain International Airport is a premier airport hub in the Middle East with connections to major international destinations in Europe, Asia and Africa. On arrival in Bahrain, military mail including "8280" is received by the Military Mail Control Activity. There, personnel sort incoming mail bound for the two main aerial ports of entry into Afghanistan—either Bagram or Kandahar. Because "8280" was originally loaded into a so-called "direct freight ZIP Tri-Wall" it is simply unloaded from the plane and trucked to Kalitta's sub-contractor at the airport, DHL International, and staged for Kandahar.

Goodies for Grek continued on page 5

Goodies for Grek continued from page 4

**Monday, Feb. 11**

After a 1,251-mile flight, "8280" touches down on the 10,500 foot runway at Kandahar Air Field (KAF). KAF is home to some 12,000 military service members, contractors and civilians from 40 nations who are tasked with the job to assist NATO and Afghan nationals in gaining and maintaining security. The Kandahar region, at an elevation of over 3,300 feet, is one of the oldest known human settlements. Alexander the Great laid out the foundations of what is now Old Kandahar in the 4th century BC. It also served infamously as the "capital" of the Taliban government from late 1994 to 2001.



After the aircraft is unloaded, another civilian contractor, WorldWide Language Resources (WWLR) moves the pallets to the KAF Operations Center. There military and WWLR personnel sort it for delivery to the outlying Combat Outposts (COPs) and Forward Operating Bases (FOBs).



## Mail, Mail, and More Mail

The Military Postal Service (MPSA), provides mail service around the world to Department of Defense and most Department of State locations. Mail is moved on commercial and military aircraft and commercial sealift vessels to nearly 2,000 military post offices located in over 85 countries.

According to the MPSA's Navy Commander Shane Dietrich, mail from the US to troops deployed in Afghanistan, Pakistan, Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan, takes an average of 12-13 days to be delivered. Mail delivery frequencies to U.S. Service Members assigned to remote forward operating bases (FOBs) within Afghanistan are determined by unit commanders.

Combat operations, weather, and enemy threat are considered when planning for re-supply missions to FOBs, and are significant causes of mail delays.

Goodies for Grek continued page 6



Goodies for Grek continued from page 5



#### Thursday, Feb. 14

Mail bound for troops at remote locations is loaded into 20-foot shipping containers. Once a container is full, or about every 3 days, the units pick up their mail container as well as other supplies and convoy them via Tactical Ground Movement (TGM) to the FOB.

#### Friday, Feb. 15

"8280" departs Kandahar Air Base aboard a truck bound for the FOB. Although it's only about 60 miles "as the crow flies," the actual road distance is probably twice that.

"8280" arrives at the FOB and Jason picks it up with his Camp mail—only 11 days after it was mailed! This is much better than the estimated 12-13 day benchmark and a testament to the hard work of everyone in the military mail pipeline.



Grek, a 9-year old yellow Labrador, is an Army Specialized Search Dog. Grek and his handler, Jason, a 9-year Military Police veteran, are currently attached to a Special Forces Team in Afghanistan.

Jason works Grek off-leash on patrols to clear areas and roads of IEDs and other threats.



Above: Jason and Grek.

Grek tries on some of his and Jason's goodies — a knit cap and "Doggles" he and Jason received in "8280."



*Special thanks to CDR Shane Dietrich, USN, MAJ Robert Carlborg, USMC, and Mr. Aurelio Campos of the DoD Military Postal Service Agency in Arlington, Va., without whose timely help and expertise this story could not have been written. The MPSA was created in 1980 to manage the mail services for all branches of the U.S. military. Prior to the creation of MPSA, each service managed its own flow of mail. MPSA is the single point of contact between DoD and the U.S. Postal Service and it funnels mail for service members to one of three gateway cities where a military mail processing facility is set up to direct it from there. There is no need for the sender to know the actual location of the military addressee, only the correct coding for the APO/FPO.*

## LeJeune, Seymour Johnson and Bragg Visits

By Dixie Whitman

While on a recent trip out of town, I made arrangements to stop by three bases in North Carolina for handler recognition events.

These visits allow MWD TSA to honor dog teams, to meet and greet the kennel staff and to get first-hand knowledge of areas in which MWD TSA might be able to assist deployed teams or kennels. At each of the bases that we visited, we were welcomed by handlers that we had supported while

they were down range working in Afghanistan and it was great to put faces to the names that are so familiar.

The first kennel visit was at Camp LeJeune, the largest kennel outside of the Lackland AFB training kennels. Several teams provided dog demos and we enjoyed time spent talking dogs and training with the handlers. MWD TSA provided lunch for the handlers and a brand new KONG toy for their dogs.

Joining MWD TSA for the event were two Vietnam-era dog folks: Perry Money, a USMC dog handler, and Robert Hughes, a Combat Tracker from Vietnam. Perry and Robert were able to share insight and stories with a rapt audience of young handlers on some Vietnam history. Perry presented each Camp LeJeune handler with a Challenge Coin.

MWD TSA was fortunate to be able to support the last teams deployed out of Camp LeJeune

to Afghanistan. The Kennel Master on that deployment made a special effort to get back to the kennel while we were there to personally thank MWD TSA for all of the support he received. He spoke warmly of receiving the care package boxes and what they meant to him and all of his handlers on that especially difficult deployment: "Everything we asked for, you sent."

That deployment provided



**Pictured above is just a part of the Camp LeJeune Kennel staff, along with their leader, GySgt McDaniel, and Vietnam veterans Perry Money and Robert Hughes. Many from the kennels were out on the range training, on Temporary Duty or at schools. This is a huge kennel filled with wonderful folks and we appreciate all they did to make us feel welcome.**

Visits continued on page 8



Visits continued from page 6

three of the dog teams that were featured in the documentary, "Glory Hounds." That was a particularly tough deployment for this great group of very close-knit Marines as they also lost one of their own, Sgt. Joshua Ashley.

**Right: We were grateful to have some time out in the soggy training field to watch Military Working Dogs (MWD) and Specialized Search Dogs (SSD) and handlers hone their skills. USMC Handler Pearson and his handsome and talented Labrador, SSD Indy, pose for a quick snapshot.**



**At left: MWD Sirius, a breathtaking Marine dog, worked hard at giving us a great demo, even though the training yard was a quagmire from all of the coastal rains.**



Our next stop was at Seymour Johnson Air Force Base in Goldsboro, North Carolina. As members of the Air Combat Command, the mission of this base is to provide "Dominant Strike Eagle Airpower...Anytime, Anyplace." The dog handlers' mission is that of security for this small base, yet they seem to be everywhere, "anytime and

anyplace" as we've supported deployed Seymour Johnson teams in various locations around the world, including two of the handlers that were able to join us for lunch.

The same Kennel Master is there this time as the last time we stopped at this kennel and his team made us feel especially welcomed. At lunch, we exchanged some good infor-

mation and learned about gear and training aids that they felt to be very helpful in training scenarios. Excellent training saves lives and these dogs train almost daily.

Our last visit was to Fort Bragg, home of the Airborne and Special Operations Commands. This base is large, covering parts of four counties, but centered around

Fayetteville, North Carolina. We were delighted to again provide lunch, KONGs for the dogs and to meet up with the handlers from this large kennel who gave us a great demo. It was the perfect end to a whirlwind tour of three great kennels filled with some of America's finest military working dogs and dog handlers.

Visits continued on page 8



Visits continued from page 7

At each base we visited, the handlers and kennel staff asked that I pass along their gratitude to all of our supporters. They are keenly aware that MWD TSA could not provide the care and comfort packages, recognitions or other support without the financial and in-kind contributions of all of our donors. It is because of individuals who believe in our missions and stand with us, that we are able to complete the missions that we do for the military working dog family. Each of you, who has in some way assisted our organization, was represented at all three kennels; I was only one individual speaking on behalf of hundreds of our supporters who honor and respect what these gallant dog teams do each and every day to keep us safe and secure.



**Two Air Force teams from the Seymour Johnson kennels posed for photos.**

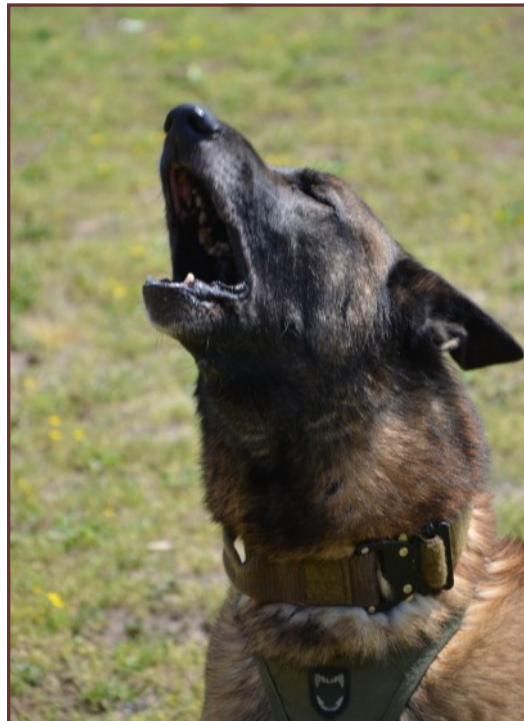
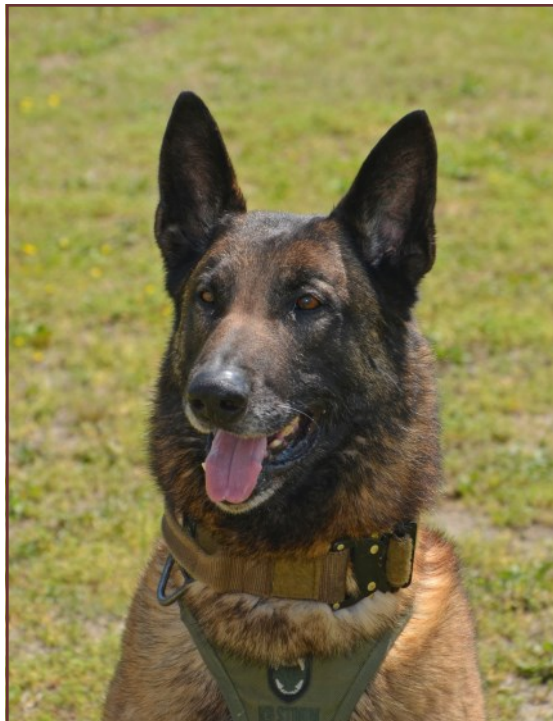


**Fort Bragg MWD Bridge works on bite work with Trainer, Andrew Wolf, and is rewarded with the sleeve. Bridge pranced and showed off for several victory rounds with the sleeve in his mouth. I was so happy to meet Wolf as we had supported him on his last deployment.**



Visits continued on page 9

Visits continued from page 9



**Above: Handsome Fort Bragg MWD Baron shows off his threat posture. He also gave us a chance to watch him on the obstacle course, working both stairs and jumps.**

**Below: Agile MWD Tina demonstrates skills jumping through windows and climbing stairs at Fort Bragg.**





## MWDTSA Event—Woodstock, GA

By Avril Roy-Smith

MWDTSA was able to take part in a 20 year celebration at the Crossroads Veterinary Hospital in Woodstock, GA on April 20. The Veterinary Hospital provided space for an educational booth showcasing what we do.

T-shirts and artwork were available for sale to the public, whose donations will be put towards our packages to MWDs and their handlers.



**Sue Melit, a supporter from Australia, joins Jerry Whitman in front of the MWDTSA banner.**



**A trio of young folks stopped by with two adorable chocolate labs to have their paw print "artwork" done by Invisible Fence's, Jody McGlothlin.**

**Jody was busily showing an approximate measurement to a client. Funny moments, like these, make partnering with Invisible Fence so much fun.**

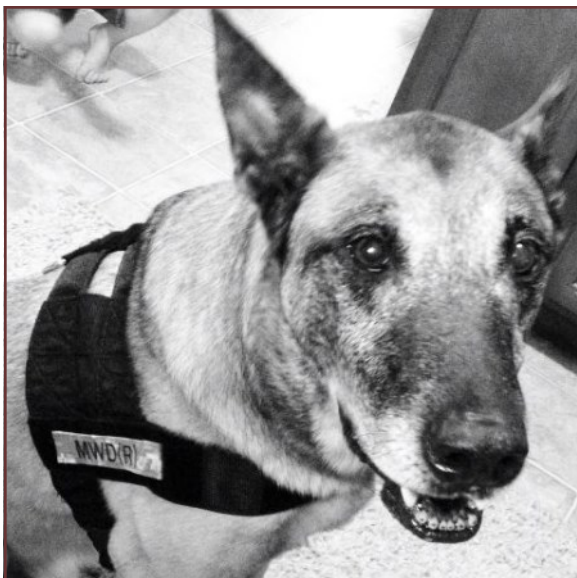


## Run For the Fallen

By Maureen Tolley

*The Fort Rucker community showed its support for the Families of fallen heroes during the installation's second Survivors and Fallen Heroes 5k run on April 20. The run is a collaborative effort by the Directorate of Family, Morale, Welfare and Recreation, the members of Bravo Company, 1st Battalion, 145th Aviation Regiment and the Survivor Outreach Services program. Held at the Fort Rucker Physical Fitness Facility, it was designed to honor survivors and those who made the ultimate sacrifice.*

**Went and got name tapes made for Fons' harness, he's ready for race day!!**



**Fons with his race day harness on! Weird to see him in his old work attire after so long! I will say this, he was beyond excited to see and put on the harness :)**

**Fons running in honor of his fallen MWD brother and sisters.**





Run for the Fallen continued from page 12

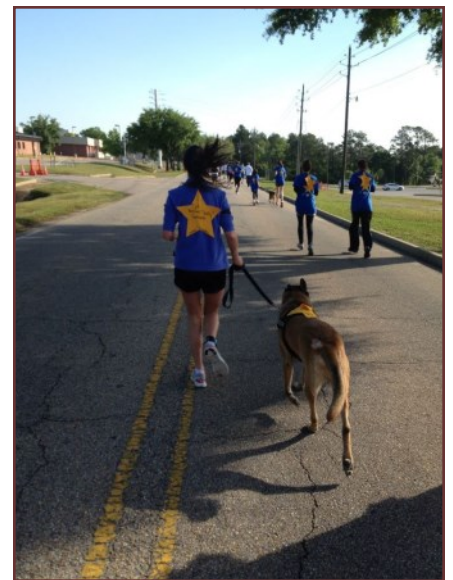


**James running in honor of his friend SSG James Ide who was KIA in Afghanistan**

**I ran for Cpt. Walter "Wally" Gutowski. A name I heard numerous times growing up, a man I never met but truly admire. He was my dad's friend who died in Vietnam.**

**Successfully finished the Run for the Fallen with James and Fons. What an amazing race! I feel so honored to help support such a great cause. I can't even tell you what it felt like to run through the Patriot Guard and see all the waving American flags, just awesome.**

**Coming up to the finish line, Patriot Guard and Boy Scouts lined the road. Awesome sight.**



**Finished! What an amazing race and amazing cause! Never forget those who have fallen for our freedom! —**

## Remembering Bak



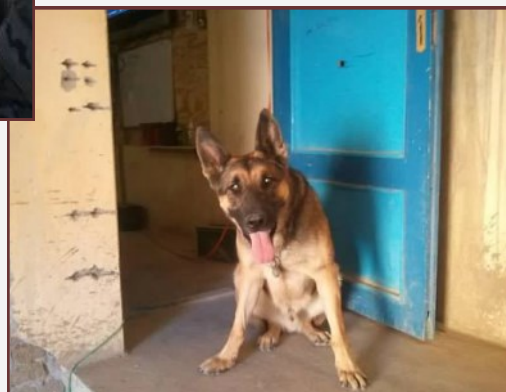
We are saddened to report that a dog from Fort Stewart, Ga, MWD Bak, was Killed in Action on March 11 in Afghanistan. A young, energetic dog, Bak was ambushed by the insider attack that also took the lives of two American soldiers and two Afghani policemen.

The handler was wounded, but is expected to make a quick recovery. The photo above shows Bak with his trainer while learning the ropes.

Bak and his handler were on MWD TSA's list of teams being supported with Care Packages.

**Left: TSgt Angel Landrau and MWD Bak during Bak's training.**

**Below: Pictures are of Bak on deployment in Afghanistan.**





# John Douangdara Statue Dedication

## Siouxland Freedom Park, South Sioux City, Nebraska

May 27, 2013 1:00 PM



**Everyone is invited to attend the dedication ceremony on Memorial Day of the sculpture of John Douangdara and his partner, Bart, who were killed in action when the helicopter they were on was shot down in August of 2011. Along with this team, 30 other Americans, many members of Seal Team Six, were killed.**

**A luncheon begins at noon with the dedication planned for 1:00 PM. MWDTSA congratulates our Board Member, Chan Follen, on the culmination of her hard work to bring this statue to Siouxland Freedom Park in honor of her brother, John. Contact [info@mwdtsa.org](mailto:info@mwdtsa.org) with any questions.**

Military Working Dog Team  
Support Association, Inc.

---

## Sit. Stay. Support.

MWD TSA  
P. O. Box 5864  
Canton, GA 30114  
Editor: Avril Roy-Smith

Phone: 404-451-2539  
Email: [info@mwdtsa.org](mailto:info@mwdtsa.org)



We are on the web!! See our Blog!  
[www.mwdtsa.org](http://www.mwdtsa.org).

We are also on Facebook at  
<https://www.facebook.com/MWD TSA>

Kennel Talk is the proud recipient of GSDCA Special Newsletter Award!

---

Please Recycle by Sending to a Friend



---

## MWD Photos of the Month

**Below:**

**Left: Dyngo relaxing; isn't he adorable?**

**Right: Dyngo and his handler, Travis, at work.**

**These great photos were shared by Travis.**

