

September 2013
Award Winning
Bi-Monthly Newsletter
Volume 5, Issue 5
www.mwdtsa.org

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Kennel Talk is now an award winning MWD publication!

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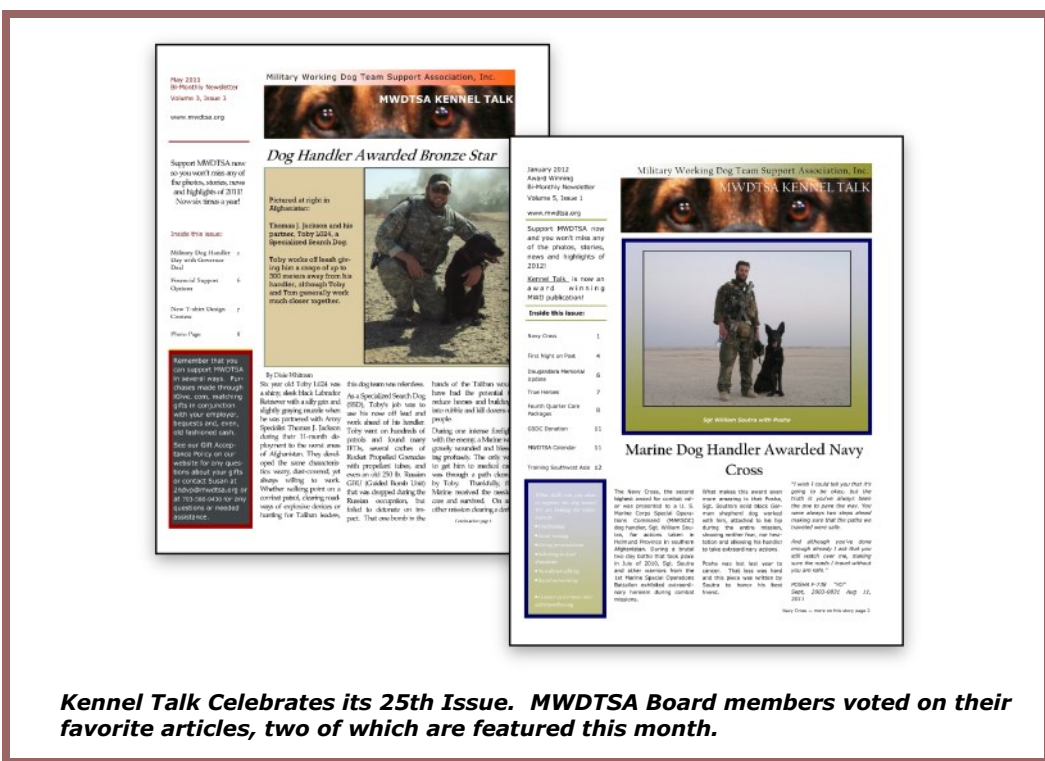
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What skills can you share to support our dog teams? We are looking for volunteers in:

- Fundraising
- Grant writing
- Giving presentations
- Soliciting in kind - donations
- Newsletter editing
- Social networking
- Contact us for more info: info@mwdtsa.org

Military Working Dog Team Support Association, Inc.

MWDTSa KENNEL TALK



Kennel Talk Celebrates its 25th Issue. MWDTSa Board members voted on their favorite articles, two of which are featured this month.

Kennel Talk Celebrates Its 'Silver' 25th Issue!

Our September 2013 issue of Kennel Talk is more than just "Volume 5, Issue 5." It is also the 25th issue since we first published back in February of 2009.

We started out as a quarterly and graduated to every two months starting in 2011. That first issue explained our name as follows: "We call the newsletter 'Kennel Talk' as it showcases our mission and reminds

us of a fabulous time walking through the kennels at Fort Gordon last year as Veteran and Active Duty Dog Handlers shared stories about their dogs and connected with each other."

We also considered "DogSpeak", "DogTalk", and "Tails and Bones" but we ultimately got it just right. And because of your continuing support we're still rolling

By Jonathan Wahl

through the kennels.

To celebrate, we take a trip down memory lane and republish some of our favorite articles. Please let us know of your own favorites that we should consider for republication in future issues.

<http://mwdtsa.org/memnews1.html>

MWDTSA Visits Kennel Staff at Davis-Monthan AFB, Tucson, AZ

By Dixie Whitman

On a July trip to the Tucson area, my husband, Jerry, and I visited the kennels at Davis-Monthan Air Force Base. Serving as an escort, local veteran dog handler, Bill Cummings, and his wife, Janice, guided us through the base, past many of the parked planes and choppers of the "Boneyard" and on to the working dog kennels.

We took a quick tour of the kennel facilities and met the handlers and some of the dogs. MWDTSA gifted the

attendees with a KONG toy and an MWDTSA T Shirt. Additionally, everyone went out to eat at El Molinito, a great Mexican restaurant near the base. (Jerry, who ate Mexican food at least once daily during the entire trip, proclaimed this restaurant as the best of the best.)

We had a chance to chat and meet a couple of handlers that MWDTSA supported on previous deployments. It was a golden opportunity and we loved Davis-Monthan.



Above: MWD Lana



Handlers, trainer and Kennel Master from Davis-Monthan.



Ahead of the pack: Military working dog and his handler to lead searches in Afghanistan

By Spc. Taryn Hagerman, 40th Public Affairs Detachment

Blackanther Military News

Photos by Spc. Taryn Hagerman

FORT BRAGG, N.C. — “Seek,” she says, and he goes to work.

The dark-furred dog quickly scans the old theatre with his nose barely off the ground, sniffing to detect possible threats. He knows what he is looking for, and he knows what he will get if he finds it.

She walks cautiously through the training scenario, calling him to search areas he has missed, like giving the drinking fountain a second look. He smells more closely, and with a stare of unfaltering concentration, he alerts his handler to the explosives.

Upon confirmation, she tosses him his blue chew toy and showers him with praise. Kobus wins again, and he relishes in his victory by gnawing on his favorite and most prized reward.

When Sgt. Holly M. Moore joined the 550th Military Working Dog (MWD) Detachment, 16th Military Police Brigade, last February, she did what most confident and skilled soldiers do: she volunteered to go to Afghanistan.

“As soon as I got there I told them that I’d deploy because I’m good at my job,” Moore said.

Still, as an MWD handler, she cannot expect to jump on a

plane and deploy with her dog right away. There is a process to work with dogs—one that Moore was already familiar with.

Moore has deployed twice before, once as military police and again as an MWD handler with a German Shepherd. However, because the dogs are considered equipment in the military, when the handler performs a permanent change in station as Moore did, the dog remains behind to be assigned to a new handler.

Moore came to Fort Bragg ready to deploy, which meant she would have to make sure she would have to make sure her new partner, a four-year-old Dutch Shepherd named Kobus, was ready to deploy as well.

Kobus has never worked with another handler and their deployment slated for August will be his first. Upon every encounter, Kobus was calm and focused—much like his handler.

“The way he works and the way he listens, people can tell that he’s very trusting,” said Moore. “His obedience to me tells me that he trusts me.”

At 76 pounds, Kobus could be a lot to handle, but his general disposition leaves



Sgt. Holly M. Moore, dog handler with the 550th Military Working Dog Detachment, praises Kobus after successfully detecting a hidden explosive June 12, in York Theatre at Fort Bragg. Moore and Kobus began working together in February and are slated to deploy to Afghanistan this August.

him acting more like a teddy bear. Still, when he is needed to serve as a patrol dog ready to attack fleeing assailants, a fierceness matching his tiger-striped coloring washes over him to perform as the tough teammate that Moore may require in situations.

Although they have not worked together long, their latest certification dispels any misconceptions about requiring a lot of time to become a strong team.

They scored 100 percent.

“They’ve only been together for about three and a half months, so we’re really proud of the gains they’ve made in such a short amount of time,” said 1st Lt. Matthew Rowell, officer in charge of the 550th Military Working Dog Detachment, 16th Military Police Brigade.

Moore attributes hard work as the main factor in making progress as a team; though

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Ahead of the Pack continued from page 3

her competitive nature doesn't hurt either.

"Whatever dog I think is the best, Kobus is going to be better than that," she said. "So that when I leave here, Kobus is going to be the best dog, and I know that handler better do good things with him."

Without a doubt, Moore loves her job and Kobus is a big part of why.

"It may sound weird, but I like coming to work," she said smiling. "Most people are like, 'oh, I'm jealous!' and I'm like, 'well, you should be, because it's fun.'"

Still, the fun aspects are mixed among hours of hard work that MWD handlers invest into training themselves and their canine counterparts.

Moore said she was happy to be Kobus' first handler and also to be taking him on his first deployment. She is confident in their strengths as a team and other Soldiers within the unit agree.

"They're a good team," said Sgt. Chris Burrell, a handler with the 550th Military Working Dog Detachment, 16th Military Police Brigade. "They work well together, and she's got a lot of experience. They will be a good asset to get used downrange."

MWD teams deploy together and meet the units that they will support after getting into country.

"Most of the other units are very supportive, which is good," she said. "It makes our job easier when they support us."

With one successful deployment as an MWD handler under her belt and loyal Kobus at her side, Moore is excited to serve on this deployment.

"I want all the units, whoever we might get attached to, to feel safe and comfortable knowing that we'll take them back home."

Though experienced, or perhaps because of it, Moore understands that this deployment will still hold all the same dangers to Kobus and her. And for MWD teams, those dangers may be even greater because when these teams go out on missions to search areas for explosives, they are always in the front.

"Absolutely, I think it makes you a bigger target," Moore said, "because you have the tool to find their [the enemy's] explosives that they're hiding, so of course they want to take you both out."

Regardless of the dangers, this Soldier loves deploying and remains assuredly confident in Kobus' abilities. She describes Kobus as a hard worker with a good nose on him.

His skill in detecting bombs and alerting Moore to their locations is likely to save lives while they serve in Af-

ghanistan later this year.

After considering the impending dangers of deploying, Moore's confidence never wavered.

"That's my job," she said.

"That's my passion; it's what's in my heart and what I want to do. I feel comfortable knowing that if me and Kobus are out there, we can save twenty lives behind us."



Kobus looks to his handler, Sgt. Holly M. Moore, for his next command.



Sgt. Holly M. Moore takes her MWD, Kobus, for his weekly ruck march.

One of the articles that was quickly picked as a favorite by MWD TSA Directors was from the Kennel Talk issue from May, 2011. It is reproduced below. Another favorite article was from January 2013 Kennel Talk, once again detailing the honoring of a MWD dog handler. Marine Dog Handler Awarded Navy Cross is reproduced on page 10 of this Kennel Talk.

Dog Handler Awarded Bronze Star

By Dixie Whitman

Six year old Toby L024 was a shiny, sleek black Labrador Retriever with a silly grin and slightly graying muzzle when he was partnered with Army Specialist Thomas J. Jackson during their 11-month deployment to the worst areas of Afghanistan. They developed the same characteristics: weary, dust-covered, yet always willing to work. Whether walking point on a combat patrol, clearing road-

ways of explosive devices or hunting for Taliban leaders, this dog team was relentless.

As a Specialized Search Dog (SSD), Toby's job was to use his nose off leash and work ahead of his handler. Toby went on hundreds of patrols and found many IEDs, several caches of RPGs (Rocket Propelled Grenades) with propellant tubes, and even an old 250 lb. Russian GBU (Guided

Bomb Unit) that was dropped during the Russian occupation, but failed to detonate on impact. That one bomb in the hands of the Taliban would have had the potential to reduce homes and buildings into rubble and kill dozens of people.

During one intense firefight with the enemy, a Marine was gravely wounded and bleeding profusely. The only

way to get him to medical care was through a path cleared by Toby. Thankfully, the Marine received the needed care and survived. On another mission clearing a darkened house, Toby went first, immediately sat at the door and would not allow anyone to enter. His educated nose had found several mortar rounds booby-trapped to explode when someone flipped on the light switch.

Pictured at right in Afghanistan:

Thomas J. Jackson and his partner, Toby L024, a Specialized Search Dog.

Toby works off leash giving him a range of up to 300 meters away from his handler, although Toby and Tom generally work much closer together.

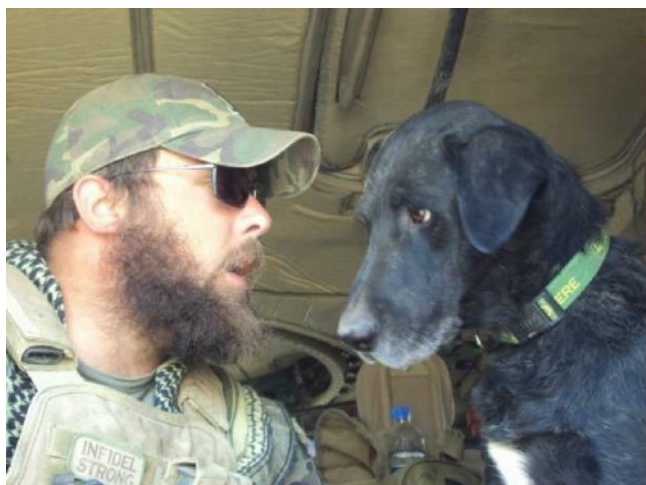


Due to the intense requirements of their duty, SSD Teams remain together until one of them retires. When a handler changes bases, the dog goes with him, unlike the narcotics, explosives or patrol dogs used in the military.

In talking with Tom, we asked him to share some of his and Toby's Afghanistan experiences.

"Toby located three 105mm artillery shells buried in the intersection of a road we were walking down. The amount of damage that IED could have done to a vehicle convoy could have easily disabled up-armored vehicles and had the potential to cause casualties inside the

Update: After years of working to save American Lives, Toby was lost to illness, despite valiant efforts by a very dedicated Army veterinarian. This hero will never be forgotten.



U.S. Army Sergeant, Thomas J. Jackson and Toby, his best friend, partner and Specialized Search Dog, worked, played and lived together for nearly a year on their last deployment.

Here they appear to be holding a serious conversation regarding the mission at hand.

For this reason, we are nominating Toby to the AKC as an Award of Canine Excellence Hero dog with the following comments from his handler, Thomas J. Jackson:

"If I had to say anything about Toby's work, I would say this: I walked in front of everyone on countless missions, was engaged by enemy fire, had to run through fire to safety and then return fire to allow others to make it to safety. I've crept through the night to enter and exit enemy houses while looking for Taliban and weapons caches. I've ridden helicopters into fields next to houses full of insurgents moments before storming them, then waited patiently for them to return to pick me up after the mission was over. I've done all of those things, but Toby did them by my side, and in most cases while walking in front of me. He saved my life and the lives of the men I worked with. I am an American Soldier and he is my Hero."

vehicle due to the amount of shrapnel and military grade explosives used.

He also found several small caches of weapons and munitions including: machine guns, grenades, artillery and mortar rounds as well as home made explosives.

Toby found countless IEDs made up of various kinds of HME (home made explosive) buried in the roadways or in fields preparing to be staged. We located several caches of RPG heads and the propellant tubes. Toby was an active participant on numerous raids to collect Taliban leaders and was actively engaged by small arms and RPG fire along with myself."

Tom continued, "Toby learned to ride on my ATV (all terrain vehicle) without armor around us to protect us from fire or explosions to better facilitate the needs of the teams we worked for. We were used on hundreds of patrols many times being out for well over

24 to 48 hours in the performance of our duties.

On one occasion we went for what was supposed to be a three day operation that turned into a week. With both people and dog food running low, we killed local animals and cooked them for food, while ever vigilant. Toby used his senses to alert us to the presence of wild dogs that would sneak into our compounds at night while on those missions outside the lines of safety.

Toby has since provided security for the Secretary of the Army on two different occasions, and has been utilized to clear the route that the President of the United States of America used to enter and exit the United Nations General Assembly in New York. He has worked a Secret Service checkpoint to secure foreign dignitaries' safety at the same UN Assembly. His work to clear the President's route occurred moments before his arrival. We were the last

security measure ensuring his motorcade was unobstructed."

For his work, Toby received special playtime with a ball.

For his work, Sergeant Thomas J. Jackson was awarded his Bronze Star Medal for exceptionally meritorious service/ Toby was also nominated for this award, his service and value recognized by the Special forces Captain, but our military does not recognize the heroism of dogs.



Toby all cleaned up above. Keeping MWDs clean in the ever-present sand and wind is a challenge.

Grooming wipes and shampoos were always welcomed.

Soldier, Wartime Buddy Reunited in Eagle River

By Matt Tunseth / Chugiak-Eagle River Star July 11, 2013

EAGLE RIVER, Alaska — In Iraq they were inseparable, a daring duo whose mission was to seek out dangerous explosives hidden in the desert. But as often happens after a combat deployment, the two friends drifted apart. In the years following Iraq, new assignments and advancing age sent them down separate paths.

That's how the story of Rob and Aron might have ended if it hadn't been for a New Mexico retiree's dogged determination to bring the former battle buddies back together one more time.

Inseparable

MSgt. Rob Black has trained and handled Military Working Dogs (MWD) for much of his time in the Air Force. A life-long animal lover, the Eagle River resident said working with dogs is the best job he can imagine.

"What other job in the military can you play with animals?" Black said. "Plus, where else do you get to do something as good as saving people and finding explosives?"

While stationed at Kirtland Air Force Base in New Mexico, Black was assigned a MWD named "Aron," a young German Shepherd whose bark was worse than his bite. That's not always such a good thing for MWD's, animals often tasked with attacking the bad

guys and not letting go.

"We determined he wasn't a street dog," Black said. "He'd bark his head off and come after you, but."

Black said Aron could look the part, but the dog didn't have much of a killer instinct. But Aron's sense of smell was second to none, and Black soon realized the canine's uncanny nose would make an outstanding bomb detector. Aron found his niche.

"He was an awesome bomb dog," Black said.

Rob and Aron deployed to Iraq in 2005 in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, where they first got an unwelcome reception from the Army unit they were assigned to. On their first patrol, Aron barked nonstop while confined to the vehicle. After that, not a lot of soldiers wanted to ride with the dog handler and his noisy partner.

"Nobody wanted to hang with Aron," Black said.

That changed in Jan. 2006, when Black and Aron were called in to help clear a village of danger. Sniffing into the wind, the German Shepherd followed the ground with his nose before alerting to something buried underground. It turned out to be 17 pounds of powerful C-4

explosives. After that, Black said commanders began asking for Aron by name.

"They said, 'For what we get we'll put up with the barking,'" he said.

The pair developed a strong bond. That doesn't always happen with handlers and dogs, Black said, but there

was something special about his partnership with Aron.

"Me and him worked really well together," Black said.

Everywhere Black went in Iraq, Aron was at his side.

"Except to eat or take a shower, we were together 24-7," Black said.



MSgt. Rob Black spends time with former Military Working Dog, Aron, outside of his home in Eagle River, Alaska. Aron's owner, Jo Johnson, drove more than 3,600 miles from New Mexico to reunite the two. (AP Photo/Alaska Journal of Commerce, Matt Tunseth)

A memorable photo op

Black and Aron continued as a team after their return state-side, working high-profile duty like presidential appearances or major events. During his bomb-sniffing duties, Aron rubbed noses with big-name celebrities like Susan Sarandon and David Bowie.

Aron even met the Dalai Lama.

Black said he and Aron had just finished sweeping the Tibetan Buddhist leader's hotel room during a visit to New York City when Secret Service members told them to make themselves scarce.

"We're supposed to be kinda behind the scenes," Black said.

He and Aron ducked into an adjacent room while the Dalai

Lama entered. Black kept still and quiet, but he couldn't keep the dog from introducing himself to the global icon.

"He comes in and Aron goes (Bark! Bark! Bark!)," Black said, doing his best imitation of a wildly-barking Aron.

Black said the Dalai Lama took things in stride. In fact, the monk walked up and gently offered his hand to the animal — then made a surprising request.

"He wanted to get a picture," Black said.

In the photo, Black stands proudly between his partner and His Holiness. The Dalai Lama wears a wide grin; Aron wears a muzzle.

Retirement

The duo parted ways in 2008, when Black was trans-

ferred to Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson. Unlike civilian police K-9 units — which typically live and retire with their handlers — MWD's are assigned by base and have several handlers. After leaving New Mexico, Black figured he'd seen the last of Aron.

"You never get to see the dogs again," he said. "Most of the time you only hear when they pass."

After a career that included three tours in Iraq and numerous presidential details, a 9-year-old Aron was retired from active duty in 2011.

The Department of Defense operates an adoption program for working dogs that gives priority to civilian law enforcement agencies and former handlers. If they're still available after that, dogs are adopted out to the public — alt-

hough they're often highly sought after. More than a thousand applications for MWD adoptions are processed each year, according to the DOD. In addition to an application process, potential owners are screened to make sure they're good candidates for adoption. The adoptions are free, but new owners must pay to have the dogs transported to their new home.

Albuquerque's Jo Johnson heard about MWD adoptions online. After doing some research, she realized there was an Air Force kennel just down the road at Kirtland AFB. Having lost her last German Shepherd in 2005, Johnson said she was hoping to find a similar dog to fill the void when she applied for a MWD.

When a representative from



Aron on his first day at his forever home in Albuquerque, NM, with Jo Johnson, July 15, 2011.

Photo courtesy of Jo Johnson

Kirtland called and said a dog was available, Johnson's heart jumped. Then she heard the dog's name: Aron.

"I about fell out of my chair because my other two shepherds were Arnie and Augie," she said.

Johnson soon scheduled a meeting with Aron, and the two hit it off immediately.

"I just knew he was for me," she said.

In their two years together, Johnson said Aron has been an ideal canine companion. He's friendly to family members and protective of Johnson around strangers. And unless there's a motorcycle nearby, he doesn't even bark as much as he used to.

"I lucked out," Johnson said.

Road trip

Although she was thrilled to have a new companion, something about Aron's past nagged at Johnson. From the handlers at Kirtland, she knew of Aron's wartime heroics, and she wanted to know more about the dog's former life. So she again went online, and it wasn't long before she heard from Black.

During their first phone conversation, Johnson said she put Black on speakerphone. Sitting nearby, Aron's ears came to attention.

"He recognized him," Johnson said, her voice cracking with emotion. "I knew when he ran

to get some toys."

Black and Johnson hit it off right away, sharing stories about Aron's unique personality over the phone.

"We talked for a good long time about the escapades of the dog," Black said.

Johnson said she knew what she had to do.

Earlier this spring, she told her boss she was retiring from her longtime job as a bookkeeper and buying a motor home.

"He thought I was nuts," she said.

Reunion

In June, Johnson and Aron began the trip from New Mexico to Alaska. On July 2, they arrived in Eagle River, pulling into Black's driveway after a 3,600-mile journey. There, they waited for Black to return home from work.

After five years apart, Black said he wasn't sure what Aron's reaction would be to seeing him. Black needn't have worried.

"I just let Aron go and he ran up to him," Johnson said, recalling the reunion.

Black said it was as if the pair had never been separated.

"I pulled up and he just came right up to me and hung out," he said.



Former Military Working Dog, Aron, outside MSgt. Rob Black's home in Eagle River, Alaska. Aron's owner, Jo Johnson, drove more than 3,600 miles from New Mexico to reunite the two. (AP Photo/Alaska Journal of Commerce, Matt Tunseth)

Johnson spent the first part of July camped out in Black's driveway, letting Rob and Aron spend time together rekindling a bond they shared while serving their country. For Black, Johnson's commitment to making the reunion happen was a unique gift.

"You just don't get this kind of

opportunity," he said.

Johnson said getting to see dog and handler reunited made the long journey worthwhile.

"This is one of the best adventures I've ever had," she said.

This is the other article picked as a favorite by MWD TSA Directors. Originally printed in the January 2013 Kennel Talk, it details the honoring of a MWD dog handler.

Marine Dog Handler Awarded Navy Cross



Sgt William Soutra with Posha

The Navy Cross, the second highest award for combat valor was presented to a U. S. Marine Corps Special Operations Command (MARSOC) dog handler, Sgt. William Soutra, for actions taken in Helmand Province in southern Afghanistan. During a brutal two day battle that took place in July of 2010, Sgt. Soutra and other warriors from the 1st Marine Special Operations Battalion exhibited extraordinary heroism during combat missions.

What makes this award even more amazing is that Posha, Sgt. Soutra's solid black German shepherd dog worked with him, attached to his hip during the entire mission, showing neither fear, nor hesitation and allowing his handler to take extraordinary actions.

Posha was lost last year to cancer. That loss was hard and this piece was written by Soutra to honor his best friend.

"I wish I could tell you that it's going to be okay, but the truth is you've always been the one to pave the way. You were always two steps ahead making sure that the paths we traveled were safe.

And although you've done enough already I ask that you still watch over me, making sure the roads I travel without you are safe."

*POSHA F-738 "YO"
Sept, 2003-0831 Aug 11,
2011*

Below: Posha has been nominated by MWD TSA to the AKC's Award of Canine Excellence.

Although, we lost Posha to cancer, we fully support honoring this amazing dog for his role in his handler's receipt of a Navy Cross, the second Highest Combat Valor Award that can be received after the Medal of Honor. Their Navy Cross is the highest award ever received by a dog handler while actually working his dog.



MWD TSA's Third Quarter Care Packages Begin Arriving

By Dixie Whitman

With huge thanks to our packing and shipping crew, MWD TSA has closed up the third quarter packing run; boxes are making their way through the mail system to individual hands and paws of deployed dog teams down range.

Wonderful items were donated, purchased, shared and created all to benefit America's Military Working Dogs and Handlers. The theme of this quarter's box was "Trails and Tails" and the challenge was met by items reflecting that theme: KONG Tail toys, Trail Mix, Bandanas and many more items to use as these teams hit the trail this summer.

MWD TSA thanks our dedicated donors and amazing corporate partners who continue to sup-

Below: MWD TSA volunteer, SeDonna Asberry, completes customs forms.



Below: SeDonna displays one of the many colorful bandannas decorated by La Rosa Elementary School students.



port this huge quarterly event. These boxes bring a sense to the deployed that they remain in our hearts and minds, even though their chosen trails may take them far from home. These boxes absolutely would not have been possible without the steadfast assistance of SeDonna Asberry who worked tirelessly to complete documents and, along with Pamela Kendrick, spent hours with me packing. A special thanks to my ever-amazing husband, Jerry Whitman, who lugged a vanload of boxes to the Post Office with me on five different trips.

We are beginning to receive feedback and photos from our dog teams as the packages are just beginning to arrive and wanted to share it with you.

Above: MWD TSA Treasurer, Pamela Kendrick, with some of the boxes ready for delivery to the Post Office.

Right: Pamela with one of the boxes of Kong toys donated to MWD TSA to include in the packages.



MWD TSA would like to thank these companies and dozens of individuals for in-kind donations, which made this round of care packages possible:

American Peanut Council
<http://www.peanutsusa.com>

Backcountry.com
www.backcountry.com

Blue Marble Brands
www.bluemarblebrands.com

Dexas International, Ltd.,
www.dexas.com | www.popwareforpets.com

Diamond Wipes Intl. Inc.,
<http://www.diamondwipes.com>

The Duck Commander Company
www.duckcommander.com

Earthbath, San Francisco, CA
www.earthbath.com

Enjoy Life Company, Schiller Park, IL
www.enjoylifefoods.com

Ergodyne, a Division of Tenacious Holdings, Inc.
www.ergodyne.com

Falcon Trading Company, Inc. DBA SunRidge Farms™
www.sunridgefarms.com

Family Dollar Stores, Lake Charles, LA,
www.familydollar.com

Fox Outdoor Products,
<http://www.Foxoutdoor.com>

John Paul Pet Products, L.L.C.
<http://www.johnpaulpet.com>

The KONG Company
www.kongcompany.com

La Rosa Elementary School (11 K to 4th grade classes)

Donors contin-



3rd Quarter Packages continued from page 12

Leatherman Tool Group, Inc.
www.leatherman.com

Mercer Processing
www.mercerfoods.com

Miracle Corp.
www.miraclecorp.com

Natural Balance Pet Foods
www.naturalbalanceinc.com

Outdoor Products,
www.outdoorproducts.com

Rainbow Metals.com
http://www.rainbowmetals.com

Sierra Trading Post,
www.sierratradingpost.com

Veteran's Flag Depot,
www.VeteransFlagDepot.com

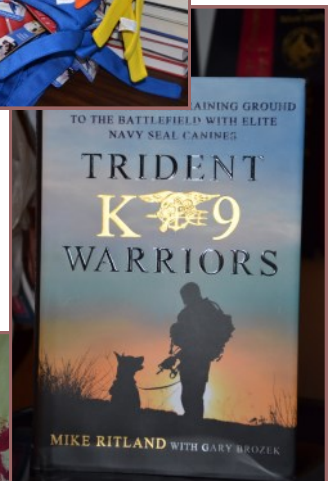
Trikos International
www.trikos.com

West Paw Design,
www.westpawdesign.com

Westgate Resorts Foundation
http://www.westgateresorts.com

Also:

The Baumer Family
Anthony Bonfiglio
Bill DeWitt
Lorilei Felix
Christie Ferris, The Animal Keeper, Orange County, CA
The Foster Family
Dr. Lynn Gabriel
Pamela Kendrick
Allison Merrill, Sun Dog Kennel, Traverse, MI
Sue Merritt, Combat Tracker Teams of the VN War, Inc.,
Maria Navarro
Jan Slotar,
Mr. & Mrs. Jim Walshe



3rd Quarter Packages continued on page 14

3rd Quarter Packages continued from page 13



Left: MWD Lola. "Whatever Lola Wants, Lola Gets."

Right: MWD Bak received the first box to arrive at its destination. Bak is four and loves his work and his new toys.



MWD Edo:

Below: The handler thinks that Edo will be willing to share with her.

Right: The package included two new toys, a KONG Tails and a West Paw Hurley. Edo was so excited to get both at the same time. He would chew on one and then go to the other, but kept them both within reach.



Below: MWD Hatos sporting the new bandana and Hurley that were sent out in the 3rd Quarter Care Packages.



Dental Squadron Gets Into the Roots of Military Working Dogs

by Airman 1st Class Andrew Moua, 2nd Bomb Wing Public Affairs
(U.S. Air Force photos/Airman 1st Class Andrew Moua)

8/1/2013 - BARKSDALE AIR FORCE BASE, LA.-- -- Dentists from the 2nd Dental Squadron recently performed a root canal on a 2nd Security Forces Military Working Dog named Zzeki at the Veterinary Treatment Facility, here.

MWDs like Zzeki go to the Vets for bi-annual health checkups and receive any care they need to stay mission ready.

"Zzeki came to the facility for a canal because of worn down teeth," said Dr. Darrin Olson, the base veterinary medical officer. "After a while, and especially in older dogs, a dog's teeth wear down through constant use and this

can cause the dog pain which can impact their ability to bite."

When the vet requires more advanced equipment and a broader skill set for their patients, like dental care, the 2nd DS is there to lend its expertise.

"My job as a vet is to provide the best medical care for the MWDs on Barksdale, so they can remain fit to perform their duties," said Olson. "The assistance of the 2nd DS brings over more specialized equipment and skill sets that we don't have here at the clinic, and in this particular case, performing

root canals."

Being able to operate on a canine patient is not always easy; there are difficulties involved in crossing species.

"The largest difference in patients is the length of the tooth," said Maj. (Dr.) Richard Howard, 2nd DS chief of endodontics. "In this case of performing a root canal, the tooth is longer and thinner, requiring us to change the tools and techniques we use."

Working together with the base vet introduces and refreshes skills the dental squadron doesn't exercise often, and their impact is one

that cannot be ignored.

"During dental school there are lectures and pictures to familiarize us with canine anatomy," said Capt. (Dr.) Stephen Boh, 2nd DS dental resident. "The best way to learn this is to actually perform the operation. I feel what I'm learning now will have an impact in my career when I'm down range and I could possibly be the only dental specialist in the area to help keep MWDs mission ready."

The care provided by the joint effort of the base vet and 2nd DS provides peace of mind to 2nd SFS as well.



Maj. (Dr.) Richard Howard, 2nd Dental Squadron chief of endodontics, trims a tooth filling after performing a root canal on Zzeki, 2nd Security Forces Military Working Dog, on Barksdale Air Force Base, La., July 24, 2013. Howard must trim the filling to make sure it fits right inside the canine's mouth.



Maj. (Dr.) Richard Howard, 2nd Dental Squadron chief of endodontics, uses paper points on Zzeki's tooth. Paper points are used to dry the inside of a tooth.

A Century of Service to Mankind: The Versatile German Shepherd

Beginning on October 6th with a tracking test in Elkton, Maryland, which will be attended by only the heartiest of souls, and ending on Saturday October 12, 2013 with the naming of the Grand Victor and Victrix, the German Shepherd Dog Club of America will showcase the German Shepherd Dog breed in a wide variety of venues: Tracking, Herding, Conformation, Obedience, Agility and Rally.

The event to honor our Military Working Dog representatives will take place on Friday evening, October 11, 2013. The evening will begin with a cocktail and hors d'oeuvres reception and will intro-

duce and recognize Military Working Dogs, Search and Rescue, Law Enforcement, Assistant and Seeing Eye German Shepherd Dogs and their handlers.

If interested in attending, please see the following website for additional information:

<http://>

www.germanshepherd100years.com

As of press time, MWDTSA plans to have a public education booth with T Shirts and other items available. If you live in the greater Philadelphia area, please stop by.



Dental Squadron continued from page 15

"Just like any other Airman, the MWDs are going to be distracted by pain from an untreated tooth," said Tech. Sgt. Clayton Tebbetts, 2nd SFS MWD kennel master. "If they don't have the proper care, it directly affects their safety and duties. Additionally it impacts our ability to safeguard Barksdale."

When it comes to keeping Barksdale's furry compatriots healthy and ready to react to

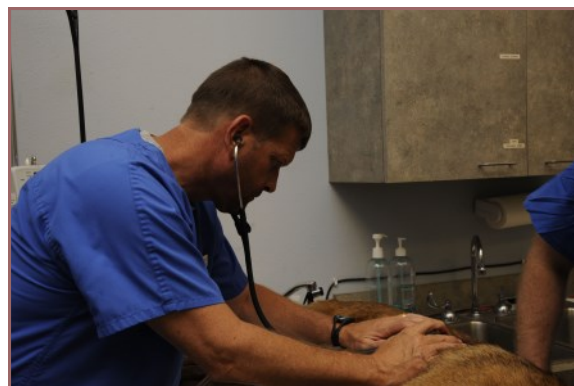
any situation, the efforts of the base vet and 2nd DS pay off.

"In the end, it's all for the best quality of care," said Olson. "With both the base vets and dental squadron working together, we can provide the 2nd SFS MWDs with the best possible care and keep them ready to protect Barksdale and its assets."



Top: Capt. (Dr.) Stephen Boh, 2nd Dental Squadron, checks an X-ray of a. Boh used the X-ray to check for any gaps or air pockets in the tooth after placing the filling.

Bottom: Mike Bridges, Veterinary Treatment Facility veterinary technician, checks Zzeki's vital signs as THE MWD underwent a root canal.



Urmel and Monkey

As told by a deployed dog handler



My three year-old son, Mason, sneaked 'Monkey' into my bag as I was deploying.

Monkey, one of his favorite stuffed toys, has been on every mission I have completed and I have taken pictures with him at each Forward Operating Base (FOB) and area I've been. This is not a new phenomenon, as I also have a slinky I've taken on two previous deployments.

Monkey has made it through all missions on the deployment, so far, without an injury, that is until yesterday, when he lost a battle with Urmel.

Urmel, who is not my partner, was roaming around the office yesterday because he is a dog everybody enjoys. Well, it was real quiet and we got worried, like when you have kids. I go into my room and Urmel is on my bed, going to town, chewing on Monkey. Urmel knew he messed up too! You could almost see the "I'm sorry, Dude," in Urmel's eyes.

Monkey is currently in the "hospital" for repairs.

(Note: MWD TSA wishes Monkey a full and speedy recovery.)

Erich and the 2X4's

by Dick King



My first dog in Nam was named Erich... for whatever reason, Erich loved to chew on the 2x4's that made up the sleeping surface of the wall mounted bench in his kennel... every few weeks it would get to the point that one of the E-5's would go into his kennel and replace all the 2x4's...

Finally someone suggested I soak the boards with Tabasco sauce... sounded logical, he'd burn his tongue with the hot sauce and then leave the boards alone...

So I stole a bottle of Tabasco sauce from

the chow hall, soaked and the boards one day... went to his kennel the next time and he had not only ignored the hot sauce and chewed the boards anyway... he devoured them... only thing left was the angle iron brackets w/ bolts hanging loosely in them that had been used to hold the 2x4's in place... his water bucket was empty as well...

E-5's never replaced the boards after that, and poor Erich spent the rest of his time sleeping on the concrete floor when he was in the kennel...

1st US Navy K-9, Naval Support Activity, DaNang, RVN, February 1968. Photo of Erich and Dick within days of Dick's arrival in Nam and picking up Erich... "Navy took pictures to be run in our home town newspapers... they took them early, cause they may not have had the opportunity to take them later."

Military Working Dog Team
Support Association, Inc.

Sit. Stay. Support.

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MWD Photo of the Month

Bandit, one of a only a few Spaniels employed as MWDs, might be smaller than your typical MWD, but his job doesn't require great size, only heart and a strong work ethic.

Bandit is seven years old and serving his second tour. He has been involved in a lot of firefights during his tours but serves as a calming presence in the stressful environment to everyone on his team.

Bandit is wearing a green bandana created by children at the La Rosa Elementary School and was included in the 3rd quarter care package sent to him and his handler by MWDTSA.



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