

February 2014
Award Winning
Monthly Newsletter

Volume 6, Issue 2

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winning MWD publication!

Inside this issue:

From the Balkans, with Love	1
What Do You Want to Be When You Grow Up?	3
Super Bowl Care Packages	4
Manufacturing Bandanas	6
Football Cookies for Care Packages	8
Arianna Weaves Her Support	9
Poinsettia Sale Fundraiser	9
Christmas Trees for Military Families	9
MWDTSA Virtual World Tour	10
Wreaths Across America	11
From the Archives	12

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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- Social networking

Contact us for more info:
info@mwdtsa.org

Military Working Dog Team Support Association, Inc.

MWDTSA KENNEL TALK



SSG Loretta Streichert is stationed in Europe and is currently deployed with MWD Edo, here photographed while flying with the Croatian military.

From the Balkans, With Love

By SSG Loretta Streichert

I have been a handler for over 5 years. Being a handler is rewarding to say the least. When you are first teamed with a dog that you are having issues understanding, and all of a sudden the 'light turns on' and both handler and dog know what they need to do to work together, those times make it all worth it.

Being deployed away from friends and family is rough on anyone. Being able to have your

partner there with you at the end of the day helps a lot. Supporters like MWDTSA make it that much easier with their care packages.

We do not always have a "store" where we are located; if we do it's not always stocked with needed or wanted items. MWDTSA is amazing, as I am sure you know. They take the time to contact the handlers to see how they are doing, if they need anything, when they are com-

From the Balkans continued page 2

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ing home. They find out what handlers like (coffee, tea, coco) and ensure that each package is 'personal' to that handler. (I don't drink coffee so MWD TSA makes sure there is a box of tea and coco). They make sure that the snacks in the care packages are small enough to be packed into our pockets for missions (walking patrols, times where we are not in our normal location while deployed).

Right: SSG Streichert and MWD Edo hoisting with the MEDVAC team.

From the Balkans continued from page 3



Above: MWD Edo

Right: SSG Loretta Streichert and MWD Edo train before their current deployment.



What Do you Want To Be When You Grow Up?

Story by Cpt Martha Petersante

Photos by Senior Airman Brett Clashman

TRANSIT CENTER AT MANAS, Kyrgyzstan - For most, the childhood dreams of becoming a firefighter, police officer, doctor, astronaut or some other "cool job" may not come true and have shifted to something else.

One Army Reservist here is living her dream, which began as early as 5 years old, every morning when she wakes up, puts on her scrubs and goes to work as veterinarian.

Capt. Angela Demaree, who is deployed with the 422nd Medical Detachment Veterinary Services at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait, and visits the Transit Center at Manas on a quarterly basis, always "wanted to be a veterinarian from the time I was little and took our family cat to the vet's office. This is

one of those childhood dreams that actually came true."

The captain did not initially raise her right hand to join the military directly after completing her studies at Purdue University. She found the calling to serve her country during an early morning run while working in Washington D.C., as a lobbyist for the American Veterinary Medical Association.

"When I was running by the [Lincoln] Memorial, I thought of the Gettysburg Address, which calls on every citizen to serve their country in some form. As I reflected on those words, I felt a patriotic duty to join the service."

Taking care of animals

Demaree is charged with oversight of the health and welfare

of military working dogs. She handles issues ranging from emergency care to routine medical treatment such as wellness checkups, health certificates and dental exams.

It is a passion and true love of her job that drives her to ensure the dogs receive the best possible care available.

Our MWD's are susceptible to many of the same ailments as our service members, she said. They can be affected by stress, experience dehydration or hypothermia, or sustain injuries such as sprain or tendinitis from a strained or overworked muscle.

MWD Celo, a 4-year-old German Shepherd, deployed from the 355th Security Forces Squadron at Davis-Monthan Air

Force Base, Ariz., and his handler, Staff Sgt. Robert Beaudoin, had "first-paw" experience in this recently when Celo came up lame after completing training, immediately causing Beaudoin to seek medical care for him.

"Celo is my teammate in everything we do. I trust him fully - to the point that my life is in his control and the same goes for him," he said. "That kind of bond only comes from time and experience with each other."

As a service member would be put on medical profile in order to heal, so was Celo when he was put on light duty and given extra time to recuperate. Arriving at the proper diagnosis and achieving the balance between ensuring the animal's health



Army Capt. Angela Demaree performs a follow-up exam on Military Working Dog Celo to check for any residual issues from tendinitis at the Transit Center at Manas, Kyrgyzstan, Aug. 11th. Demaree oversees the health and well-being of all Military Working Dogs assigned to the Transit Center and conducts quarterly training with handlers and members of the Transit Center medical clinic staff to ensure the dogs receive high-quality care in the event of a medical emergency.

Demaree is a reservist deployed from the 422nd Medical Detachment Veterinary Services from Rockville, Md.

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Manas Vet continued from page 3

Army Capt. Angela Demaree performs a follow-up exam on Military Working Dog Celo as his handler, Staff Sgt. Robert Beaudoin, looks on, Transit Center at Manas, Kyrgyzstan, Aug 11. Demaree checked for range of motion and any continued signs of inflammation or pain on the German Shepherd's front leg due to tendinitis. Celo was cleared to resume his duties.

In addition to ensuring the health and well-being of all working dogs assigned to the Transit Center, Demaree also performs audits of all approved food source providers, helping to maintain food safety standards and the health of all service members stationed at the Transit Center. Beaudoin is deployed from the 355th Security Forces Squadron at Davis Monthan Air Force Base, Ariz.



and meeting the mission needs is something that Demaree works hard to maintain.

Capt. Demaree is incredibly knowledgeable, Beaudoin said. She understands the bond between handler and dog, and along with asking the right questions, this allows her to glean as much information as she can to help the dog.

Taking care of service members, training providers

However, her job also takes her out of the exam room and into the local community where she audits approved food and beverage sources. Part of the military veterinarian mission, which some may not typically associate with a vet, is food safety, Demaree said. In this role, she visits approved sources to ensure they are

following the quality and sanitation standards outlined in their contracts.

Although this may not be as exciting as working directly with patients, I enjoy this type of work, she said. I know that my actions are directly contributing to the immediate welfare of the airmen, soldiers, sailors and Marines, both stationed here and those transiting through.

Training is another part of the veterinary corps' mission. During the quarterly visits to the Transit Center, the veterinarian on staff teams with members of the 376th Expeditionary Medical Group by training the medics to be able to handle a medical emergency with one of the MWDs.

"They are used to dealing with two-legged patients; we work to ensure they are equipped with the knowledge and training to react, should the need arise, to assist in the event of a medical emergency with one of our working dogs. Overall, the medical team here has been great in a reach-back, support role," she said.

Recently she was able to team with the Transit Center's dentist and dental technician to evaluate a dog with a fractured canine tooth. Together with our efforts, the medical group has the tools, training, and necessary facilities to support and ensure the dogs are receiving high-quality care in a deployed environment, she said.

It's one team

Our military veterinarians are a

big part of our kennels and security forces team, Beaudoin said. "Not only are they providing health care to our MWDs, as needed, but by inspecting the kennel facilities they ensure a safe, healthy living environment for our partners. Additionally, by training handlers in life-saving first-aid skills for our [canine] partners, similar in nature to the combat lifesaver course or self-aid and buddy care training we all receive, we are better equipped to complete each mission.

"Plus, [military veterinarian] first-hand knowledge of how the military operates, by living and working in that type of environment, allows for them to have a better understanding of what is expected of a MWD team and the fast pace of our deployments," he said.

First Quarter 'Super Bowl' Care Packages

The first quarter 'Super Bowl' themed care packages packing event took place in Pasadena, Calif. It was organized and arranged by MWD TSA Board member, Dick Baumer.

Packing with care were members of a local 4-H club and members of the La Salle High School Support Our Troops Club.



Above: Long lines of boxes stretched around the room as the youthful volunteers filled them.



Above: 4-H club members packed BilJack Breakfast Jacks.



Above: Natural Balance treats were added to the boxes by a student from the La Salle High School Support Our Troops Club.



Left: Volunteer Jodi Slotar and Kristen Schultz, Alumni Director at La Salle High School, sorted out the customs paperwork.

Right:

Top: A young 4-H club member, and her Mom, packed Air Kongs.

Middle: Brutus, MWD TSA VP Dick Baumer's dog, supervised, and otherwise hindered, the packing of the Super Bowl hats.

Bottom: As the boxes were filled, volunteers closed and taped them to be sent via USPS.



MWD TSA relies on the generosity of our donors, without whom we would be unable to make the care packages to the MWDs and their handlers happen. We would like to take this opportunity thank all the companies and individuals who gave recent donations, including:

Animal Hospital of Thousand Oaks,
Thousand Oaks, Calif.
(Staff and Clients)

Jody Ayers

Dick Baumer

Bethany United Methodist Church,
Smyrna, Ga.

Amy Berrier

Bil-Jac Foods, Medina, Ohio

Todd and Carrie Bilsadecki

Joan Boyce

Sheri Boyd

Tara Campbell

Caribou Coffee, Piedmont Rd., Atlanta, Ga.
(Staff and Customers)

Debeukelaer Corp., Madison, Miss.

Janet Deltuva

Gina Diodato

D.O.G. Bakery, Traverse City, Mich.

Megan Drake

Duke Cannon Supply Co., Ada, Mich.

Earthbath, San Francisco, Calif.

GSDC of Washington State

Lon Gilbert,

Jersey Village Agricultural Science
Dept/FFA, Houston, Texas

Sue Green

Jelly Belly Candy Co., Fairfield, Calif.

John Paul Pet Products, Las Vegas, Nev.

1st Qtr Packages continued from page 6

**Left:**

Top: Next, the address labels and customs forms were affixed.

Middle: The stacks of packages, ready to be handed over to the USPS, piled up as evidence of a day's work well done.



Left: Some of the array of items packed in the Super Bowl themed 1st quarter care packages. Football cookies were donated by both Ma and Paws and D.O.G. Bakery.

Pamela Kendrick
Alison King
La Salle High School Support Our Troops Club (Members and Moderator)
Leash on Life, Iowa City, Iowa
Claudia Leggette
Geraldine Lumsden
Patricia McGarvey
Ma and Paws Bakery, Salt Lake City, Utah
 (Customers & Store)
Allison Merrill
Joyce Moore
Arianna Morse
Mt. Olive Pickle Co., Mt. Olive, N.C.
National Football League, New York, N.Y.
Natural Balance Pet Foods, Los Angeles, Calif.
Newnan Kennel Club, Newnan, Ga.
Misty Nordale
Patrick and Sharon Oriel
Paradise fruit Co., Plant City, Fla.
Lori and Arianna Perez- Morse
Pet Supplies Plus, Tuscaloosa, Ala.
 (Customers and Store)
Popcornopolis, El Segundo, Calif.
Bonnie Pritts
Angela Ramage
M. R. Ramshur
Tanja J. Rapp
Stephen Redden
Rita Richardson
Roger's Family Coffee, Fremont, Calif.
Mark Rossetti
Linda Soro
Jan Slotar
Jodi Slotar
Linda Strickland
Sun Dog Kennels, Traverse City, Mich.
John Szucs
Tim's Cascade Chips, Algonia, Wash.
Vanessa Van De Venter
Jane Woodman

Manufacturing the Football Bandanas

By Jan Slotar

In November of 2012, a group of us went to downtown Los Angeles to the fabric district, to buy fleece to make no-sew "raggedy blankets". I wasn't planning on this, but I found some fabric & bought it - spur of the moment - a lightweight cotton fabric with a generic football pattern. The footballs had the words 'Football & USA' printed on them.

The Super Bowl themed first quarter care packages inspired me, and I thought we could make simple triangle bandanas for the dogs, ones that tie around the neck. I had no idea what size to make these, so I asked MWD TSA for help. Turns out the perfect size would be 21" x 21" x 31".

My sister-in-law, Jodi, volunteered to help. When we finally got together to make the bandanas, we discovered that 8 yards of fabric wouldn't be enough to make bandanas for all of the dogs. So the 8 yards turned into 20 yards as we re-engineered, re-designed, and made the design much more complicated. Instead of cutting out triangles to tie, we cut the triangles and also strips of fabric. We folded and ironed the strips and sewed them to the triangles. The strips would tie around the dog's neck, or could be looped around the dog's collar.

We ended up with 127 bandanas, enough for all of the dogs.

Right: Jodi Slotar

Below: Jan Slotar



Below: The bandanas take shape.



Football Cookies for 'Super Bowl' Care Packages



Included in the 'Super Bowl' themed first quarter care packages were some delicious football themed cookies. The cookies were a joint donation by D.O.G Bakery of Traverse City, Mich and SunDog Kennels, also of Traverse City, Mich.

The theme of the second quarter care packages is Goin' Fishing, and the business plan a donation of fish themed cookies for this round of packages.

Allison Merrill, owner of SunDog Kennels, will be hosting the second quarter packing.

Holding the box of Football Cookies for the 1st Quarter Care Packages are: (Left to Right) Karry Barolo, Owner of D.O.G Bakery; Katie Getchell, Cookie Decorator & Team Member of Bakery; Allison Merrill, Owner of SunDog

Arianna Weaves Her Support



A Maine native, Arianna Morse raised over \$50 making and selling bracelets. We are very thankful to Arianna for her kind and generous gift which will help us ship care packages. Way to go, Arianna.

Her mother adds: "My soon-to-be 8 yr old Autistic daughter is selling bracelets she has made and she will be donating money to this organization. She love dogs and how the military uses them."

Thank you, Arianna.

Arianna poses with her bracelet kit.

Poinsettia Plant Sale Fundraiser

Allison Merrill of SunDog Kennels, Traverse City, Mich, organized a Poinsettia plant sale fundraiser for MWD TSA in mid-November, 2013. The poinsettias were from Plant Masters also of Suttons Bay, Mich. The event raised \$575.

(Left to Right): Tara & Eric of Plant Masters; Allison Merrill holding Moose, a SunDog client; Moose's owner, Simone, holding Trixie. Simone was a supporter of the plant sale.



Christmas Trees for Military Families



Some of MWD TSA's supporters also find other ways to show their support for the military.

La Salle High School in Pasadena, Calif. holds an annual Christmas Tree Sale. This year 130 of those trees were purchased for military families stationed at Fort Irwin in Barstow to help make some of the soldiers and their families' Christmas' a little bit

brighter. This was a joint effort of Student Life, the La Salle High School Support Our Troops Club and the La Salle Community.

The La Salle High School Support Our Troops Club provided volunteers, along with volunteers from a local 4-H Club, for the 2014 First Quarter Super Bowl Care Package packing event. (See First Quarter Care Packages on page 5.)

MWD TSA 2014 Virtual World Tour

By Dixie Whitman



One of beats of MWD TSA's heart is to honor and recognize active duty dog teams. Over the years, we have fulfilled this mission through diverse channels, such as: nominations of individual teams as Hero Teams, care packages dispatched to deployed dog teams, recognition events and base visits to what seems like a legion of military working dog kennels.

We have visited installations in Arizona, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Louisiana, Missouri, Mississippi, Montana, North Carolina, North Dakota, Nebraska, New Jersey, Texas, Utah and Wyoming. There have been more trips made than I can recall and each visit has been brimming with awe-inspiring moments spent in the company of amazing dog teams. It never seems to matter which kennel I'm with, the conversation is always wonderful and the handlers are ever appreciative. When MWD TSA stops by, we usually provide a T shirt for the handlers, a dog toy for the dogs and, more often than not, we provide a luncheon.

Because we take our fiduciary responsibility very seriously, MWD TSA members are responsible for their own travel to and from various bases. We retain your contributions for the tasks that you intended: our mission goals. It also means that base visits happen only when installations are nearby or happily coincide with a personal planned trip. This has also limited our reach in the past, but no longer.

Beginning in 2014, MWD TSA will be initiating a program which allows us to coordinate a virtual recognition event. We are excited about the prospect of impacting American military working dog teams who are stationed across the United States and around the world. We anticipate "virtual visits" with military working dog kennels throughout the 2014 season and will do everything that we can to bring the same sense of celebration to them that we try to bring to an "in-person" visit. Although not being on the base and in person to watch a dog demonstration, talk with a handler or experience the noise explosion in a kennel when you walk through, the events will not be quite the same. In the end, however, the goals are to recognize the handlers and their devoted K9 partners and we think our virtual world tour trips will do just that.

Please wish us luck as we embark on this new mission of showing appreciation throughout America's mighty reach. We promise to keep you posted on our "adventures".



Above: One of my favorite visits of 2012 was to Fort Leonard Wood (affectionately known as Fort Lost in the Woods).

MWD TSA had an opportunity to meet this great team whom we have just supported on their recent deployment.

Welcome home, Sterling and Bandit.

Below: A base visit to Barksdale AFB in Louisiana back in 2010.



Virtual World Tour continued on page 11

Wreaths Across America

By Dixie Whitman

I try to make it a point to visit this national cemetery close to us a few times each year. I find it a humbling and very intense visit each and every time. During the holiday season, Wreaths Across America places wreaths at each grave site. One Operation Enduring Freedom Dog handler, SSGT Donald T. Tabb, is buried here. His Specialized Search Dog, Bo, was adopted by SSGT Tabb's family after his death.



Virtual World Tour continued from page 10

Handlers from Columbus AFB, near Columbus, Mississippi at a local eatery. I love this photo – notice Elvis (stained glass window) who appears to be lined up with the handlers? You never know exactly who or what you are going to experience at a base visit.



Military Working Dog Team Support Association, Inc.

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From the Archives

In the photo below, dating from May 23rd, 1944, 'Pal' gets fitted for a parachute harness at the military dog reception facility in San Carlos, California.

Although dogs had been used by the US military prior to WWII, their use was not officially recognized until after Pearl Harbor. Originally they were incorporated under the 'War Dogs' program. Fifteen War Dog platoons served overseas during WWII—seven in Europe and eight in the Pacific.

Photo courtesy of the National Archives.

