

June 2014
Award Winning
Monthly Newsletter

Volume 6, Issue 6

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winning MWD publication!

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Military Working Dog Team Support Association, Inc.

MWDTSA KENNEL TALK



The June, 2014 issue of National Geographic magazine features Hero Dogs on its front cover. National Geographic magazine has graciously permitted us to reproduce an excerpt of the lead article 'The Dogs of War', as well as use some of their stunning photos by first-time National Geographic photographer, Adam Ferguson.

Graphic courtesy of National Geographic magazine.

National Geographic Magazine Features 'Hero Dogs'

By Avril Roy-Smith

There can be no doubt that there are few mag-
azines in the world as old and prestigious as
the National Geographic magazine. When that
publication chooses its cover photo and feature
article for an issue, always including in-depth
information, personal stories and a breathtak-

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ing selection of photographs, it brings the attention of the world to that story. This month the feature story is 'Dogs of War', the cover photo is labelled 'Hero Dogs' and the issue includes photo galleries covering the current 'Basic Training' and the historical with an archival 'A Loyal History'.

The article is available on the National Geographic magazine website, which also features two extras - videos: 'Soldier's Best Friend' and 'Left Behind'. 'Soldier's Best Friend' is a short video showing Layka, who was shot four times at point-blank range and lost a leg, in her adoptive family with her old handler, Staff Sgt. Julian McDonald. 'Left Behind' recalls a shameful episode of our past. When the U.S. pulled out of Vietnam, thousands of war dogs were abandoned, separated from their handlers forever. A group of vets remember the beloved friends who served with them.

The issue is truly an exploration and celebration of MWDs and their handlers., past and present.

The article can be accessed at: <http://ngm.nationalgeographic.com/2014/06/war-dogs/paterniti-text>.

The video 'Soldier's best Friend' can be viewed at: <http://ngm.nationalgeographic.com/2014/06/war-dogs/layka-video>.

The video 'Left Behind' can be viewed at: <http://ngm.nationalgeographic.com/2014/06/war-dogs/memorial-video>.

If you have the National Geographic magazine App on your iPad and/or iPhone, both videos are included in the June iPad edition of the issue. The iPhone edition includes 'Left Behind'. (The App is free, individual issues and subscriptions are available for purchase via iTunes.)

Johnny Mayo, a Vietnam-era MWD handler who is spearheading the construction of the South Carolina War Dog Memorial, is interviewed in the National Geographic video 'Left Behind'. Look for an interview with him in Kennel Talk in the near future.

Below: Johnny and Luke, his GSD. Photo courtesy of Dixie Whitman.



The following is an excerpt from the June issue of "National Geographic". The full article can be accessed online at :

<http://ngm.nationalgeographic.com/2014/06/war-dogs/paterniti-text>.

Out in front of America's troops, combat canines and their handlers lead the way onto the most dangerous battlefields on Earth.

Here is Marine Corporal Jose Armenta in his tent on the night before getting blown up in Afghanistan. He jokes with Mulrooney and Berry and the medic the guys have nicknamed "Christ." He feeds and waters his dog, Zenit, a sable-coat German shepherd. He lets Buyes, who will be dead in three months, ruffle Zenit's fur, for the radioman is crazy about the dog.

Then he takes Zenit outside in the waning light of this dusty, desert otherworld to train.

They're happiest like this. Jose has Zenit sit, which the dog does obediently, and then Jose jogs 50 yards down and hides a rubber toy, a Kong, up against a mud wall, covering it with dirt. On Jose's command, Zenit bursts forward, zigging in search of it, tail wagging. It's an intricate dance. Voice commands met by precise canine action, always with the same end goal in mind—to find the toy. Tomorrow, on patrol, the objective will be finding not a toy but an improvised explosive device, or IED, one of the Taliban's most brutally effective weapons against American troops here in what many consider the most dangerous province in one of the world's most dangerous countries. And no dog can find every bomb every time.

For the past three months Jose's been stationed at Patrol Base Alcatraz, at the edge of a town called Sangin in Helmand Province, without a "find." Despite his optimism—the man always beams a disarming smile—the lack of finds is beginning to wear on him almost as much as the 100-degree heat, which feels even hotter rucking 75 pounds of gear.

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These images are from the June issue of National Geographic magazine. A complete gallery of photos from the article may be found at:

<http://ngm.nationalgeographic.com/2014/06/war-dogs/ferguson-photography>.

Top Left: Marine Cpl. John Dolezal poses with Cchaz, a Belgian Malinois, at Twentynine Palms in California. Dogs bred at Lackland Air Force Base in Texas, the military's primary canine facility, are given names that begin with a double letter.

© Adam Ferguson/National Geographic



Left: Sergeant Cartwright has Isaac sniff for weapons and explosives in a basement in Kandahar. A dog is trained to sit or lie down and not bark when it locates a target scent. The handler rewards the dog by letting it chew on its toy.

© Adam Ferguson/National Geographic

Bottom Left: Marine Gunnery Sgt. Kristopher Knight conditions Ronnie to the sound of gunfire at Yuma Proving Ground in Arizona, so that the dog will learn to remain calm during firefight. Some trainers don turbans, play calls to prayer, and bring in farm animals to prepare dogs for the sights, sounds, and smells of Afghanistan.

© Adam Ferguson/National Geographic

Bottom Right: Army Staff Sgt. Jason Cartwright bonds with his Labrador retriever, Isaac, during a mission to disrupt a Taliban supply route. Dogs are very sensitive to their handlers' emotions. Says Jay Crafter, a trainer for the military, "If you're having a bad day, your dog is going to have a bad day."

© Adam Ferguson/National Geographic



MWD TSA Virtual Visit to Buckley AFB

By Dixie Whitman

Buckley Air Force Base (AFB) outside of Denver, Colorado was the location for MWD TSA's second Virtual Visit. We connected with the Kennel Master (KM), Jeffrey Dausey, to see if we could include the Buckley Kennel in our 2014 World Tour.

Buckley AFB was named after 1st Lt. John H. Buckley, a World War I pilot from Colorado. The city of Denver donated the land for Buckley to the War Department during the height of WWII. It has been through several "landlords" since. In 1946 Buckley was transferred to the Colorado Air National Guard (COANG). Just a year later, the Navy took control and it became Naval Air Station (NAS) Buckley. It was decommissioned as NAS Buckley in 1959 and turned back to COANG again in 1960.

Buckley remained an Air National Guard base until early October, 2000 when the 821st Space Group became host and the base was renamed Buckley Air Force Base. The 460th Air Base Wing was activated Oct. 1, 2001, and assumed full control of the support mission in the Denver area. In August, 2004, it was designated as the 460th Space Wing and added an operational space mission to its responsibilities.

As part of the Air Force Space Command, Buckley AFB defends America through its air operations, space-based missile warning capabilities, space surveillance operations, space communications operations and support functions. Below are the stated mission and vision statements for Buckley.

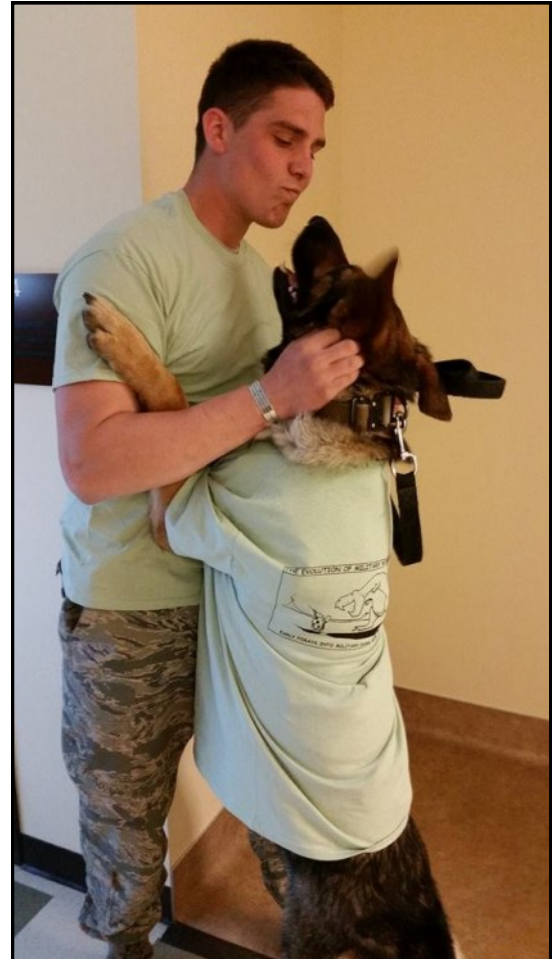
Mission Statement:

"We are ready forces providing space-based warning and awareness--protecting the homeland and global warfighters."

Vision Statement:

"America's premier space wing delivering unrivaled space operations and installation support for the Nation's Defense."

We connected with the KM, Dausey, who was very pleased to have some incoming goodies for his kennel with care packages arriving from both coasts filled with KONG toys, goodies and T Shirts. Buckley is a small but great kennel, filled with handlers who give of themselves to their base, community and country. We hope you enjoy learning a bit more about Buckley and the wonderful handlers and dogs who patrol this Colorado base.



Above: Devotion and loyalty go up and down the leash. SSgt Gunterman and MWD Rex enjoy a laugh as they both sport MWD TSA T shirts.

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Above Left: Kennel Master Jeffrey Dausey handling MWD Nina on a few last problems before her retirement. Nina's favorite reward? Her KONG toy. Enjoy your well-deserved retirement, Miss Nina.



Above Right: Staff Sgt. Jordan Gunterman (center) and his military working dog Nina, stand with the Wulfers family Jan. 23, 2014, in the 460th Security Forces Squadron kennels at Buckley Air Force Base, Colo. Gunterman was the first responder to a drunken driving car accident that affected the Wulfers family. Gunterman is a 460th SFS military working dog handler (U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Riley Johnson/Released)

Link to full story: <http://www.af.mil/News/ArticleDisplay/tabid/223/Article/484244/hero-to-three-nco-saves-lives-from-drunken-driving-accident.aspx>

Below: Kennel staff enjoys opening the care boxes that came to them as part of our Virtual Visit. The shirt they were sent was our cartoon shirt that we call "Early Forays". It's a lighthearted look at the history of military working dogs – dinosaur style.



Gone Fishin' Care Package Event

Photos by Allison Merrill

The second quarter care packaging event was held on April 26th and was hosted by MWD TSA volunteer, Allison Merrill in Traverse City, Leelanau County, Mich. MWD TSA VP, Dick Baumer, flew in from California to help.

Despite temperatures in the mid-30's, a willing band of volunteers tackled the job with energy and efficiency. In record time, half the boxes of the Gone Fishin' themed care packages were at the Post office, ready to be mailed, the same day.

The Gone Fishin' Care Packages were loaded with many items from Traverse City, Mich., including fish decorated cookies, and a variety of fish decorated or themed items for the MWDs.

The packages were not only sent in record time, by May 4th the boxes were being received downrange. Look for more photos of recipients, both human and canine, in next month's Kennel Talk.



Above: Hardy volunteers sealed boxes in the mid 30's weather.

Right: Packing the D.O.G Fish Cookies.

Below: Volunteer Dr. Kelly Clark added Madra Mor Mud to the care packages.



Below: Vietnam Vet, Doug Davis, and his wife, Pam, showed up to help with Re-tired MWD, Remmy.



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 to thank the following companies and individuals who gave recent donations:

Advanced Veterinary Dentistry, Pasadena, Calif.
All K-9 Inc., Fresno, Calif.
Blair Allen
Alpharetta First United Methodist Church, Alpharetta, Ga.
American Instants, Inc., Flanders, N.J.
Animal Hospital of Thousand Oaks, Thousand Oaks, Calif.
Lois Anderson
SeDonna Asbury
AVID Products, Middletown, R.I.
Dick Baumer
Bonnier Corporation, Winter Park, Fla.
Mrs. Millard's 2nd Grade Class, Butler Elementary, Butler, Mo.
Patricia Carter
Coastal Pet Products Alliance, OH.
DOG Bakery, Traverse City, Mich.
Duluth Trading Co., Belleville Wis.

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Dr. Foster and Smith, Rhinelander, Wis.
Greg and Ana Friewald
Lee and Candy Gardner
Chris Garvey
Great Lakes Potato Chips, Traverse City, Mich.
Allison King
KVP International, Inc., Irwindale, Calif.
Madra Mor Mud, Palm Beach Gardens, Fla.
Materne, USA, NYC, N.Y.
Louann Merrill
Miracle Corp Products, Dayton, OH.
Natural Balance Pet Foods, Pacoima, Calif.
NaturVet, Temecula, Calif.
Oleson's Food Store, Traverse City, Mich.
OPI Products, Inc., North Hollywood, Calif.
Panama Jack, Orlando, Fla.
Pets Naturally, Traverse City, Mich.
Stephen Redden
Reynolds Corp., Charlotte, N.C.
Nikki Rohrig
Ronlo Engineering, Camarillo, Calif.
Avril Roy-Smith
Pattie Salan
Sierra Madre Animal Hospital, Pasadena, Calif.
Jimmy Buffet Casino, Bossier City, La.
Thorlo, Inc., Statesville, N.C.
Usinger's Sausage, Milwaukee, Wis.
Virbac Corp, Fort Worth, TX.
Washington County Library, Abingdon, Va.
Kathie Woodring
Zututh, LLC., Oneonta, N.Y.

Right: Awesome MWD TSA volunteer, Tom Young, delivers packages to the Post Office.

Below: The last box went out on Monday. It took a total of 5 hours between Saturday and Monday at the Post Office.



Below: in just over a week, the packages began to arrive downrange. From L to R: MWD Bbailey, Handler and MWD teams of Judkins and Soyer, Cahall and Iggy, and MWD Mushe with contents of their care packages.

Photos courtesy of respective MWD handlers.



PAWS for Reading

By Dixie Whitman

Natasha Millard, a second grade teacher in Butler, Missouri reached out to MWD TSA's Webmaster, Jonathan Wahl. Her father was a dog handler in Vietnam, and she was looking for some information about his time working as a dog handler. As a result of their communication, Natasha was kind enough to focus on a fundraising event for our organization. The fundraising was comprised of three parts: a "jeans day" for the teachers at her school, T-shirts sales and book reading/test taking for the students.

The final results are spectacular for a group of second graders: during a nine week period, 892 books read on students' level with a requirement of passing that same number of comprehension tests from those books. The students earned \$446.00 for MWD TSA to help the dog teams in any way possible.

Mrs. Miller explained, "I consider the 892 a huge number-- due to my students in turn earning 488.8 Accelerated Reader (AR) Points (which is how they measure themselves). The purpose of Accelerated Reader (AR) is a software tool that assesses a student's reading level, and then assess whether a student has completed reading the book by asking a series of questions.

Each book at this age level (2nd grade) is mostly rated at a .5 point value. The point value is determined by the age level of book and the de-

gree of difficulty of the text. The students try to earn as many points as they can throughout the year as a motivator. In this fundraiser, every test that they passed, they earned 50 cents from a sponsor to be donated to MWD TSA.

The students then counted the change and got to put it in the PAWS for READING jug. Counting the change and writing the money amounts earned, helped the students learn identification of coin value, counting different money amounts, and writing money amounts in different ways. The students then kept track of their earned point value by filling in their own individual bar graph along the nine weeks of reading.

In the end, this fundraiser enhanced concepts in their cross-curricular core subject areas and applied those learned concepts.

An average class size in that same amount of time should have a target passing estimate of 120-130 AR Points; our class earned 488.8 AR Points. You can see that they really worked for MWD TSA and the military working dog teams."

A sincere thank you to Mrs. Natasha Miller and all of the wonderful kids in her Butler, Mo. school. MWD TSA is simply overwhelmed by their generosity and delighted with their smiles. Thank you, Butler students! We love you!

Right: Natasha Millard's father, a SGT. With the 47th. Scout Dog unit in Vietnam, was the inspiration for her class's fund raising effort.



Below: Students from the Butler, Mo. 2nd Grade class hard at work on their fundraising efforts.



PAWS for Reading continued page 9

The Baddy Visit

By Dixie Whitman

Every once in a while the stars align and without any extra special effort something wonderful happens. To be sure, it's a rarity, but such a cosmic coincidence happened recently when a returning dog handler, Jeremy Rice, realized that his extended family lives nearby. On a visit to his family, we made arrangements to meet and I not only had a chance to meet him, but his mother and two of his retired partners, Baddy and Sara. This means that I could more correctly have titled this article with a comprehensive name to include Jeremy, Jeremy's mother and his gorgeous dog, Sara, but who doesn't fall in love with the name "Baddy"?

I try never to introduce myself to new military working dogs without having dog treats in hand for them to enjoy. Baddy was quite polite, Sara was very, very excited at the prospect of treats and I did count my fingers after I left to make sure she didn't opt to take one with her. I am kidding, of course, she was delightful. The duo also received KONG toys, along with a package of KONGs and T-shirts to take back to their home kennels in Florida.

Jeremy asked me to let everyone know how much he and all of the deployed handlers appreciate the support from the folks back home. They can feel it, thanks to all MWD TSA sponsors and supporters.

Jeremy, it was truly an honor to meet you, Baddy and Sara and what a great testament you are to the quality of handlers we entrust with America's dogs.



Left: Jeremy tried to get the dogs to look at the camera, but they only have eyes for the "KONG" toys in his hands.

Below: Sara and Baddy finally got to enjoy their new KONG toys.



PAWS for Reading continued from page 8



Left: 2nd Grade students, and their teacher, from the Butler, Mo. School proudly wear their 'We Read for Their Paws' t-shirts as they display a giant check for the money they raised to support MWD TSA.

Military Working Dog Team Support Association, Inc.

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

From the Archives

During the Vietnam War, over 4000 MWDs were sent to Vietnam. At the end of the war, around 200 were brought back to the US. None of these were placed with families, to live out their lives. The rest of the dogs, those that had survived the combat, were euthanized or left behind in Vietnam.

***The National Geographic magazine video 'Left Behind' can be viewed at:
<http://ngm.nationalgeographic.com/2014/06/war-dogs/memorial-video>.***

Below: These dogs and handlers were photographed, during the Vietnam War, at Fort Benning, Ga.

Photos courtesy of the Department of Defense.

