

November 2015
Award Winning
Monthly Newsletter

Volume 7, Issue 11

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winning MWD publication!

Inside this issue:

Kadena Honors POW/ MIA	1
Michigan: Mayhem & Music	3
Safe and Secure	6
Remembering Steven Faust	7
New Team Protects, Defends	8
Veterans Day	10
Air Cav: Combat Tracker	11
Michigan Boxes Arrive	12
Facebook Shoutout	13
KONGs For K9s	14
Veteran's Honor	15

MWDTSA touches the
lives of dogs and people
near and far. This
month, our articles and
photos take us from
Michigan to New York,
Pennsylvania, North
Carolina and around the
world to Japan, the Phil-
ippines, Vietnam and
more. Archive photo
from WWII North Caro-
lina.

Subscribe to see where
we connect next month!

Military Working Dog Team Support Association, Inc.

MWDTSA KENNEL TALK



U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. Robert Evilsizer, 18th Security Forces Squadron military working dog handler, leads the military working dog team for the first lap of the run at Marek Park, Sept. 17, 2015, on Kadena Air Base, Japan. The run recognizes the sacrifices and contributions made by all veterans who have served our nation. (U.S. Air Force photo by Naoto Anazawa)

Kadena Observes POW/MIA Recognition Day

Story by AIC Zackary A. Henry

KADENA AIR BASE, Japan -- Every year, on the third Friday in September, the nation takes time to reflect on those Americans who paid the ultimate price for their country during National Prisoner of War/Missing in Action Recognition Day.

This day is a somber celebration of those who have returned and a remembrance of those who have not yet come home.

"Currently, there are over 83,114 service members still missing since World War II," said Senior Master Sgt. Caleb W. Ethridge, 31st Rescue Squadron superintendent. "What's more, 75 percent of those are from this theater, Pacific Command."

Ethridge went on to say with confidence, "...that one day we will be able to bring most of those folks home due to our advancements in technology and ability to identify remains."

To commemorate the 35th anniversary of National POW/MIA Recognition Day, members of team Kadena hosted multiple events around the base. POW/MIA Recognition Day events honor our missing service members and their families. These events highlighted our commitment as service members to account for them.

The Air Force Sergeants Association's Chapter 1553 hosted a 24-hour POW/MIA vigil run Sept. 17 and POW/MIA Remembrance Ceremony Sept. 18. The run started at Merrick

Veterans & POWs continued on page 2

Veterans & POWs continued from page 1



Left: The 18th Security Forces Squadron military working dog team escorts the Prisoner of War/Missing in Action flag on the first lap of the run at Marek Park Sept. 17, 2015, on Kadena Air Base, Japan. The flag will be continuously carried around the track by volunteers for the next 24 hours. Also during the run, the names of personnel who were POWs or MIAs, will be read by narrators. (U.S. Air Force photo by Naoto Anazawa)

Park and involved more than 600 civilian and military members from Team Kadena, each having the opportunity to carry the POW/MIA flag around the route for their portion of its journey.

Members of Team Kadena also paid their respects with a sky lantern ceremony at the Kadena Marina and the following day was the POW/MIA Remembrance Ceremony marking the end of the vigil run and the final destination point for the POW/MIA flag at the Kadena Officer's Club.

At the officer's club was a breakfast ceremony and the events concluded with a motorcycle memorial ride from the officer's club, around Kadena and then up to Cape Zampa at the northern end of the island.

"The events here on Okinawa are somewhat special to me," said Senior Master Sgt. Jesse Frank, 18th Security Forces plans and programs superintendent. "Being here in Japan, on Okinawa, it is as if moving about on hallowed grounds. It evokes sobering thoughts as one remembers the many soldiers, sailors, Marines, Airmen and civilians who went missing in action from the many battles that were fought on the very grounds upon which we tread."

As the Air Force Sergeants Association president, Frank, was responsible for ensuring this year's tribute on National POW/MIA Recognition Day was appropriate and exceptional. He had a hand in all the events; however he mentioned he was far from truly leading and organizing them.

"A great deal of credit goes to the immense work and effort contributed by the men and women of AFSA Chapter 1553 and the many joint service volunteers that devoted a lot to make it all possible," said Frank.

Below: U.S. Air Force Tech. Sgt. Ezequiel Rodriguez, and Tech. Sgt. Dustin Troyer, prepare to launch a sky lantern during the POW/MIA Sky Lantern Ceremony Sept. 17, 2015, at the Kadena Marina, Kadena Air Base, Japan. The lanterns were lit in remembrance of POWs and MIAs. (U.S. Air Force photo by Airman 1st Class Lynette M. Rolan)



Michigan: Mayhem and Music

Thanks to Board Member, Allison Merrill and this crack team of energetic Michigan volunteers, the 4th quarter care packages were packed and ready to go in record time. The theme for this box was Michigan: Mayhem and Music—think strumming a guitar around a campfire with S'mores and warm, comfy clothes.

On Saturday, October 3rd, they braved wind chills into the mid-40's near Traverse City, Mich. and got an amazing array of donated goods on their way to a record breaking number of supported handlers; pretty impressive performances all the way around.

We had planned on items for 150 boxes—we always plan for a few more addresses than we anticipate receiving. This time we were a little surprised, though. Eventually, we ended up with closer to 170 boxes so there were a few adjustments, last minute runs to the stores, etc. to pull these all together.

A shout out to Allison Merrill and the entire MWDTSA Team who planned and executed this great box. MWDTSA has a truly dedicated group of volunteers who give selflessly all year of their time and energy.



Packing volunteers pose for a group photo with part of the nearly 170 boxes that were eventually completed in the Michigan pack.

What took months to pull together only took about 90 minutes to pack

These boxes were shipped on October 4-5 and should be arriving at their locations

over the next two to three weeks. Photos of some of the dog teams receiving these boxes will be posted via our social media and Kennel Talk newsletters; be sure to follow us there.



Above left: Allison, who is sporting one of the Watch caps, with Tank.

Center: Sheriff's Deputy Hornkohl and his partner Nico help pack.

Right: Volunteer proudly showing off the box and contents he is prepping.

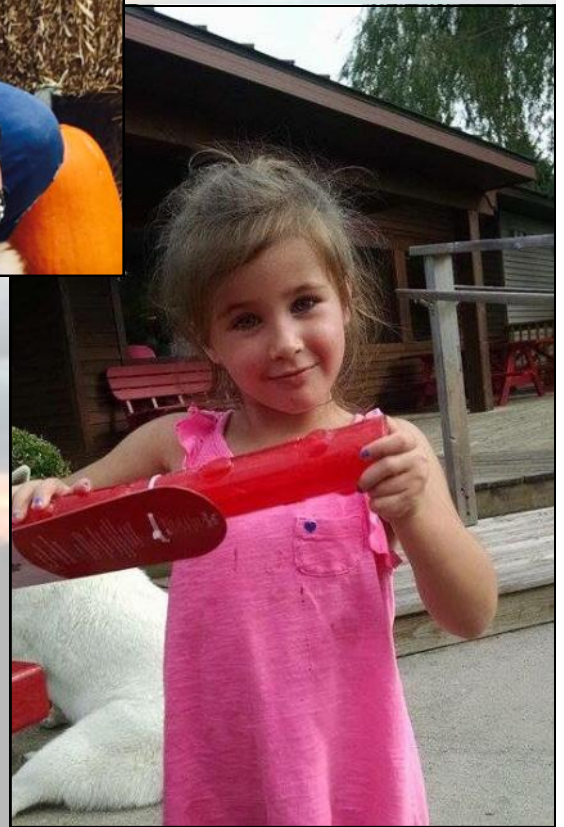


Michigan Mayhem continued from page 3



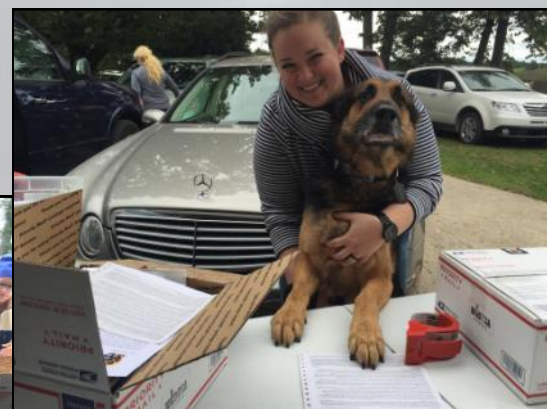
Left top to bottom: Pets Naturally donation, D.O.G. Bakery dog treats shaped like S'Mores, luscious, San Francisco Bay Gourmet Coffee & Cloud Star treats.

It takes a lot of donors and coordination to make a care packing go correctly. Below: Our intrepid volunteer, Allison, who coordinated all of the great gear. Right above: Tank poses with the folks at D.O.G. Bakery, the creator of our S'mores Dog Treats. Right below: Meet Taylor who rounded up donations of several KONG Sticks for the dogs.



Michigan Mayhem continued from page 4

Left to right: Michigan strong volunteers help pack boxes, load the van, and keep the mascot, Tank, from handling too much paperwork.



Below Left: Volunteers prep and pack the largest number of boxes we have shipped in one care packing event. Center: MWD TSA Camping Mug Right: Allison on the way to the Post Office with half the boxes.



Keeping Everyone Safe and Secure

Story by Dixie Whitman
Photos submitted by handlers.

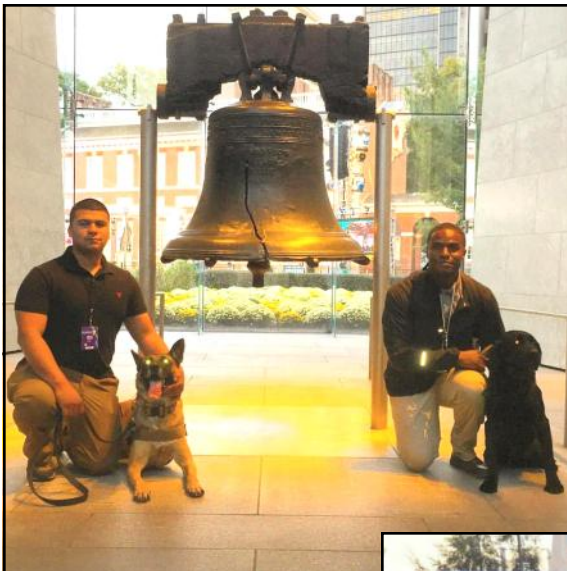
During the Pope's recent visit to the United States, many of our military working dog teams were kept very busy pulling security detail. They were sent to Washington, D. C, Philadelphia, Penn. and New York, New York.

Most people know that dog teams keep

bases safe and are part of our efforts in Iraq, Afghanistan and wherever our military goes, but they also coordinate with other government agencies to keep visiting Heads of State safe and work with the Secret Service to provide security to our politicians.

Once the campaign season kicks into full swing, these teams will be kept busy working to protect the presidential candidates, as well.

We thought we would share some of the great photos that we received from various locations over the past few weeks. Enjoy!

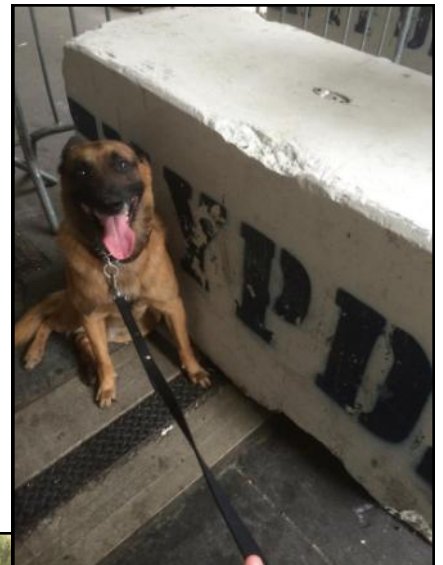


Left: Two dog teams flank the Liberty Bell in Philadelphia during a busy time for security forces. (Left-unknown AF team, right: SSG Vaughn and SSD Taz.)

Right: MWD T-Rex working with the NYPD barricades.

Center below: SSgt Gazillion and MWD Nirvana securing the Popemobile

Bottom left and right: SSG Neese and MWD Igor keep visitors to Lady Liberty safe



Remembering Steven Faust

Story By Holly G.

Steven M. Faust was born in September of 1965 in Akron, Ohio and joined the Air Force in 1986. He was an Airman First Class who had worked at Clark AFB near Manila in the Philippines since Feb. 20, 1986, as a security policeman and dog handler assigned to the 3rd LES/SPS/SPG. Those who knew him at the time remember Steven as a friendly, happy guy who enjoyed running and whose partner MWD, Bandit, wasn't only his dog but his buddy.. his friend.

Steven's brother, Butch Faust, grew up with Steven and remembers those days fondly. He says "Steven was a great kid who had a talent of making difficult things look easy. He got good grades and excelled in all sports without really applying much effort. He was very charismatic and just took over a room when he entered. I'm not sure why he entered the Air Force. Our mother told me he wanted to be like me. Truth be told...I wanted to be like him."

On October 28, 1987 while commuting through the subdivisions near the base, Steven Michael Faust was gunned down in a cowardly ambush that was coordinated with other attacks which also took the lives of two other American servicemen and a Filipino civilian. The civilian was reportedly trying to help the victims when he was also shot. These acts were alleged to have been performed by the local terrorist group, the New People's Army (NPA). Steven was only 22 and had just gotten married in August of that same year.

These senseless murders highlight the dangers that our servicemen and women face all over the globe every day, not just in highly publicized combat zones but even in relatively peaceful surroundings performing security tasks. The attacks signaled the beginning of the end for Clark AFB and the American-Filipino partnership. At the time, there were over 20,000 Americans living on base at Clark and nearby in off-base housing. Recent political instability had led to other local attacks and an attempted coup in August. While the terrorists responsible for this shooting had previously avoided any attacks on



SrA Steven Faust and his partner.

Americans, they had more recently begun making threats against Americans who supported counter-insurgency efforts and were believed to be responsible for more than a dozen total deaths in just the three days surrounding Steven's murder. As these incidents escalated, travel warnings were issued; Americans were no longer comfortable shopping or socializing in town and instead kept on base. Clark AFB was closed in 1991 and handed over to the Philippine government.

The dangers experienced at Clark AFB and Steven's short life and death are not forgotten by his friends and colleagues in several online forums. His memory is also celebrated by family. As Butch states, "I think about him often...even 28 years later. My son, Michael, was named after his uncle Steven (his middle name). Sometimes I see Steven in my son. They look very similar and have that same outgoing personality. I think of the relatively short time I had with my brother as a gift.

His life and death gives me strength, motivation, and compassion. Steven's spirit lives on in me, his brothers, his nephews and nieces, and in all the brave men and women who had the opportunity to know him."

If there is a silver lining to these events, it could be that Steven's death inspired his friend David Ferguson to stay in the security forces. As David said, "October 28 1987 I was working a swing shift and around noon to 1pm we were heading out to our areas when word came out about Steve. I was going to get out of the Air Force after serving four years and when Steve was killed it re-blued me and I re-enlisted." David later was assigned to be in charge of AF handlers in Iraq in 2007 when MWDTSA first became official and has served as a liaison for MWDTSA to many dog teams over the years.

RIP Steven.

4th SFS' Newest Team Protect, Defend base

Story and photos by Airman 1st Class Shawna Keyes

For Senior Airman Austin Craven, the day begins with the sound of barking and wagging tails before the sun even rises.

"Hey buddy! How you been boy?" Craven says in a high-pitched voice.

As he slides a collar on his four-legged wingman, Craven heads for the exit, followed closely by the source of the barking sounds and tail wagging. After a quick stint of exercise, Craven grabs his gear, complete with tactical vest, Kevlar and radio, as well as a bowl and chew toy. Next, it's on to the patrol car.

This will be the routine for Craven, a 4th Security Forces Squadron military working dog handler, and his partner in crime, MWD Ronni, for the foreseeable future as they build a bond of friendship and a partnership of trust, working side by side to protect the members of Team Seymour.

"I love being around dogs all day," Craven said. "That eight to nine hours I'm on shift doesn't really feel like work. I can't picture myself doing anything else but working as a military working dog handler."

Craven began his Air Force career as a security forces Airman in 2010 at Vandenberg Air Force Base, California. Now, almost five years and three deployments later, he was finally granted an opportunity to live his dream job after he was accepted into the Department of Defense MWD School at Joint-Base San Antonio, Texas, in October 2014.

"I didn't even know K-9 was an option," Craven said of when he decided to join the Air Force. "The day I left for basic training, I went into my recruiter's office and saw a life size cardboard cutout of an Airman with a dog on a leash and I asked him what that was, and he told me that was security forces and that was their K-9 section. I knew right then that's what I wanted to do."

After completing the 11-week course, Craven was assigned to Seymour Johnson

Right: Senior Airman Austin Craven, 4th Security Forces Squadron military working dog handler, measures out dog food for two of the squadron's MWDs, Sept. 8, 2015, at Seymour Johnson Air Force Base, N.C. All MWDs are on a strict eating schedule arranged by what shift they are presently working. (Photo by AIC Shawna Keyes)



AFB and arrived on station in January 2015. After completing Airman Leadership School and other training requirements, he was paired up with MWD Ronni, a Dutch Shepherd, in May.

"Senior Airman Craven is a welcomed addition to our kennels and we are happy to have him," said Tech. Sgt. Forrest George, 4th SFS kennel master. "He recently made staff sergeant so we will be demanding more from him as he continues to grow. He is paired up with our only Dutch Shepherd and they are spinning up faster than the average new team. In fact, myself and Staff Sgt. [John] Makripodis believe he has come together with MWD Ronni faster than any previous handler on that dog."

Craven and Ronni have spent countless hours working together both on- and off-duty to become a solidified unit. He noted that handlers must spend numerous hours

training to ensure their dog is 100 percent mission capable.

"Ronni is a very easy dog to deal with," Craven said. "He is very respectful to people and their space when we're out and about around base. "He has a great nose for detection, and he loves bite work. It doesn't get much better for him, although I may be a little partial."

Ronni, who is a near 3-year veteran at Seymour Johnson AFB, is Craven's first canine partner outside of his training dogs at the DOD MWD School, where he learned how to work with MWDs and perform various procedures.

As part of their training together, Craven and Ronni are required to be proficient in multiple types of procedures, all of which require refresher training and requalification on a continual basis. One of the more difficult procedures is validation testing, which evaluates the team on their ability



Left: Ronni, 4th Security Forces Squadron military working dog, rides in the back of the squad car, Sept. 8, 2015, at Seymour Johnson Air Force Base, North Carolina. As part of their patrol, Ronni and his partner, Senior Airman Austin Craven, 4th SFS MWD handler, conduct random building inspections and sweeps on base.

Below: Senior Airman Austin Craven gets ready to perform line drills with MWD Ronni. Performing these types of drills is just one of a variety of training components that Craven and Ronni perform together to both enhance their job skills and their bond as partners



Left: Senior Airman Austin Craven patrols the base with MWD Ronni, Sept. 8, 2015, at Seymour Johnson Air Force Base, N.C. Although Craven has only been at Seymour Johnson AFB since January, Ronni is a near three-year veteran of the base.



to detect explosive odors.

"Validations are more challenging than regular training and prove the team to be reliable at a minimum of 95 percent proficient, and all our teams here are at 100 percent," George said.

Along with validation testing, Craven must be proficient in training Ronni to attack on command, which involves pursuing, biting, and holding a perpetrator until the handler gives the command to release.

Ronni is also trained to pick up on more than 12,000 possible explosive odor related combinations.

Although they've only been working together for a short time, Craven said the bond he's developed with Ronni is everything he dreamed it would be when he decided he wanted to become an MWD handler.

"I love my job and Ronni is both an awesome dog and partner," Craven said.

"We've only been working together for about four months, but we've come together really well and I'm looking forward to continuing to work together and growing closer as a military working dog team."

Their alliance may still be fresh, but with each passing day, this dynamic duo only grow stronger, closer together and dependent on each other. This is more than man's best friend ... This is a partnership. Six legs, four eyes, two hearts, one team.

Veterans Day

Story by Jan Slotar

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:

Allison Merrill
Animal Hospital of Thousand Oaks
Dr. Elizabeth Barr, staff and clients
Thousand Oaks, CA

Anne Blanco
Anthony Mercante
Bomi Chae
The Carter-O'Moore Family
Catherine Howell
Christa Ursini
Debbie Pluss
Dick Baumer
Donna Derakhshan
Gavin Boomer
Gloria Molina In Honor of MWD Britt,
Ft. Drum Kennels, NY

Jan Slotar
Julie Windham
Karen McGrail
Kathy Woodring
Kendra Hogrefe
Kristin Hooper & Julie Windham
Laurie Newton
Lisa Aaron
Lynn Rives
Mary Clark
Nikki Rohrig
Pets Naturally, Traverse City, MI.
Pet Supplies Plus, Royal Oak, MI.
Richard Snyder
Sherry Uroff
Siobhan Hill
Suzanne Julian
Stanton Bost
Stephen Redden
Sun-Dog Kennels, Traverse City, MI

What is Veterans Day? Some may not know this, but Veterans Day, started out in 1918 as Armistice Day to commemorate the end of World War I. President Woodrow Wilson chose November 11, because the war ended at the 11th hour, of the 11th day, of the 11th month.

The name was changed by Congress to Veterans Day in 1954. It became a legal holiday in the U.S., and on this day we honor all who have served in the Armed Forces.

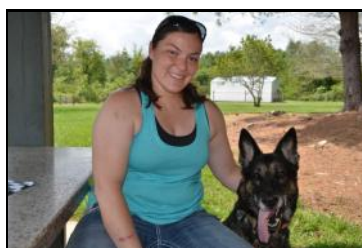
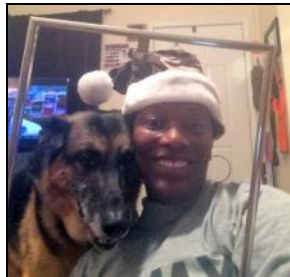
On this day, Veterans Day, we remember our veterans, and those who are still serving. We want to thank veterans of wars fought in different times, for protecting our freedoms, for serving our country, and for defending the United States.

We want to remember the veterans, your dedication, your courage, and most of all, your sacrifices. And, we want you to remember this... **You Are Heroes.**



With love and respect to just a few of our great volunteers who are also military veterans. (Clockwise from left): Dick, Jonathan, Jerry and Isaac, Ken (on a base visit), Megan and Alexis.

Thank you.



Air Cav Vietnam vet recalls life as Combat Tracker

Story by Sgt. Christopher Calvert

FORT HOOD, Texas – Growing up with World War II veterans as close friends and a Battle of Manila hero as a father, John Dupla had little doubt what he wanted to do when he grew up. It was his turn to give back as a soldier like those who sacrificed so much before him.

Surrounded by a rich military history, Dupla said hearing war stories of the past from friends and family inclined him to volunteer for enlistment in 1966, despite the ongoing Vietnam War.

"I grew up influenced by men who parachuted into Normandy with the 101st Airborne," Dupla said. "Hearing of their valor, as well as of my dad's in the Philippines as an MP (Military Police), really made me feel like it was my turn to serve. They had done their share, and it was just natural for me to do mine."

Upon graduating initial entry training and the U.S. Army Airborne School at Fort Benning, Ga., as an airborne infantryman, Dupla was immediately deployed to Vietnam with the 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile), 9th Cavalry Regiment.

No sooner than Dupla hit the ground, he was given the opportunity to volunteer for a new and upcoming program which was being developed that he knew little about.

"They were looking for jump qualified air troopers to parachute into the jungle as part of Combat Tracker teams," Dupla said. "I volunteered for it because I was always told while growing up to get into the smallest unit possible, as small, tight-knit groups are closer and often take better care of themselves."

Dupla and his fellow volunteers were then sent under provisional orders to the British Jungle Warfare School in Malaysia, where they were trained as Combat Trackers by contracted British Soldiers alongside New Zealanders and Australians.

"We were broken up into teams which included a team leader, a dog handler, a Labrador retriever, a visual tracker, and a cover man to watch the visual tracker's back," Dupla said. "As visual trackers, we were taught to develop a sixth sense utilizing many methods Native American scouts

used, such as looking for broken twigs and turned over leaves and rocks; only difference was we were in the jungle."

After graduating the two-month course, Dupla returned to Vietnam and his Combat Tracker Team was placed on call for the entire 1st Cavalry Division. He then began executing missions with Long Range Reconnaissance Patrol Teams.

"When a group of Soldiers were ambushed and killed, they'd call us," Dupla said. "Our job was to track the enemy down and see where they were hiding at, as well as to locate lost or missing friendly personnel. Our Labs were great for this, as they were trained not to bark and alert the enemy, unlike bloodhounds and beagles, so our position was never compromised."

As the Combat Tracker program matured, soldiers never parachuted into the jungle as originally planned, and when the contract with the British Jungle Warfare School expired, U.S. soldiers who graduated the course became the teachers for future Combat Trackers.

Estel Matt, one of the last trackers attached to 1-9 Cav with the 62nd Infantry Platoon Combat Trackers, was trained by Dupla's graduating class and would go on to engage in numerous dangerous missions. He even used the same British black Labrador, Sam, as Dupla had before him.

"It was a very unique situation, as we rotated throughout Vietnam with our small team, and we would see other members of our platoon only a few times during the course of the deployment," Matt said. "It was pretty intense. We only went in the field to reestablish contact, so every mission was an extremely dangerous situation."

Matt said the bonds he and his fellow Combat Trackers developed while undergoing such extreme situations in Vietnam still exist today, despite the program ending and soldiers living for more than four decades separated from each other.

"We were closer than brothers," Matt said. "It's something you can't describe. We shared such fear and stress together; we'll always have love for each other."



John Dupla, a combat tracker during the Vietnam War with Combat Tracker Team 7, attached to the 1st Cavalry Division, 9th Cavalry Regiment, poses with a confiscated North Vietnamese Army recoil-less rifle in Vietnam between 1967 and 1968. The purpose of a CTT was to reestablish contact with the enemy and locate lost or missing friendly personnel. (U.S. Army Courtesy photo/Released)

Being so close as friends, yet far away in distance now, Vietnam veteran Combat Trackers pioneered official organizations in the 1990s, including the Vietnam Dog Handlers Association and Combat Tracker Teams of the Vietnam War, whose members meet annually across the U.S. to gather and exchange stories. "We had our first large-scale gathering in St. Louis in 1999, and have been meeting at a different location every year," Dupla said. "Our organizations not only help members stay in touch, but they also promote the fact that 54 Labradors contributed to saving multiple lives in Vietnam and were the forefather to today's more advanced K-9 programs."

During the war, Dupla said he and his fellow battle buddies didn't think a lot about what they were doing, but now, looking back, they couldn't be any more proud of their accomplishments.

"When we were in Vietnam, we took it one day at a time and just kept focused on making it out alive," Dupla said. "In hindsight, what we did was amazing and really saved lives. There are approximately only 300 Combat Trackers left, and I hope they all know they're unsung heroes."

Michigan Boxes Arriving



MWD TSA is excited to share some of the early photos submitted by dog handlers who are now receiving their "Michigan: Mayhem and Music" boxes.

Please enjoy all of these joy-filled photos and, if you helped with our boxes, these are specifically intended as a thank you from the handlers and dogs to our supporters and donors.

SSD Sam, an Army dog, poses for a couple of great photos. Left: Sam sporting her new "lumberjack" look thanks to volunteer Holly who hand crafted each and every one of these amazing bandannas.

Right: Sam poses with the entire contents of the package she shared with her handler. Toys, treats and goodies for both ends of the leash.



Dog teams show off some of their favorites from the Michigan box. Left to right: MA3 Scully and MWD Bak wearing his handmade bandanna. MA3 Martin with some treats & MWD TSA campfire mug. MWD Lilli sporting the MWD TSA patch. MA2 Casaulong flexing with his salmon jerky. MWD Akim2 enjoying his new KONG Stick. MA1 Barajas and his MWD TSA watch cap and care package. Jackson R380 said thank you for the gifts! Wwill and his handler showcase the contents of their box. Bobek balances his new toy. The dogs really enjoyed carrying their new toys around, squeaking them incessantly. (You're welcome for all of the noise.) We anticipate showcasing more photos in our next issue.



Sharing A Facebook Post from Soldier Dogs

Thanks to Maria Goodavage, award winning author of Top Dog, for this great shout out on her Facebook page: **Soldier Dogs**.

"Tank, the dog of a deployed Airman, keeps watch over a portion of the 157 care packages put together by the Military Working Dog Team Support Association, Inc., a wonderful nonprofit organization that has been sending military dog handlers care packages since 2007. (They even sent care packages to Mama Lucca and friends back in the day!) These packages are heading to dogs and handlers overseas -- most of them deployed.

If you'd like to help with future care packages, the group has an Amazon Wish List! You can order items directly on the list and they'll be sent directly to the organization and will be used in care packages and taken on base visits. Go to Amazon.com and in the top right corner, click on Wish List and type the org's full name in the search box: Military Working Dog Team Support Association. The list will pop up, and you can add items to cart. They'll be shipped directly to the group for future packages. Organization head Nikki Bales

Rohrig asks that you provide your mailing address in the note section during check-out so they can send you a proper thank-you note. (A m a z o n doesn't provide donor info.) All donations are tax deductible.

To learn more about the group, or to help thru monetary donations, visit www.mwdtsa.org. Check out their FB page, too! Oh, and that handsome German shepherd, Tank, has his own FB page, The Adventures of Tank. Allison, a devoted board member who coordinated the care package assembly in the photo, is fostering Tank while his dad is deployed.

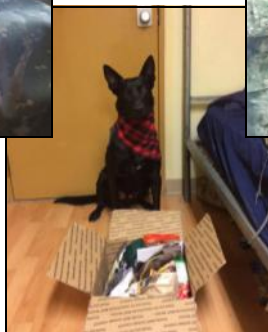


Tank's original caretaker apparently fell through at the last minute, and Allison opened her heart and home to him when his dad came to her at the 11th hour to ask for help. From everything I've seen and heard, Tank is having a magnificent time in her care."

Michigan photos continued from page 12

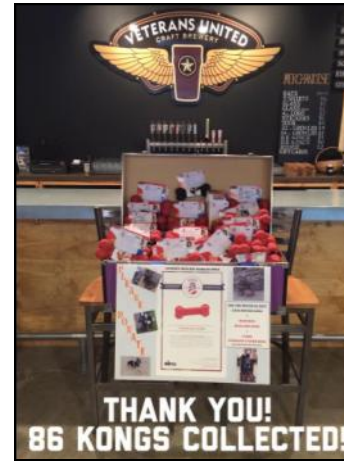
These are a few our favorite things:

High quality socks are the favorite gift of one Army handler. MWD Lee is excited to open his care package. Navy teams read the Michigan Blue Travel Magazine, showcase the campfire coffee mug, while the third handler simply sniffs the San Francisco Bay Gourmet Coffee. MWD Gina enjoys her new toy while surrounded by the remaining contents of her box. Gina looking forward to her first S'more treat from D.O.G Bakery of Traverse City, Mich.



2015 KONGs for K9s Drive Continues

Month of Collection	Who's collecting?	Location	Which KONG toy?
October & November	Leash on Life	Iowa City, IA	Biscuit Ball
October & November	Leash On Life	West Liberty, IA	Fire Hose Squuggie
November & December	Pet Suites	Aliso Viejo, CA	Toy TBD
November & December	The Animal Keeper	Encinitas, CA	Toy TBD
November & December	The Animal Keeper	Poway, CA	Toy TBD
November & December	The Animal Keeper	Oceanside, CA	Toy TBD



It's not too late to join in on the fun! Stop by one of our KONGs for K9s partners and make a donation. Thanks to our great partners, Veterans United Craft Brewery in Jacksonville, FL for 86 KONG Bones.

We Love Photos

The old adage "A picture is worth a thousand words." is true when it comes to most things dealing with MWDs. To help us tell our story, we enjoy sharing photos of our great dog teams.

Recently, we had a special item available donated by Working Dog Dry Goods and were able to share that with one of the dog handlers and her dog, Wwill. She sent in some great photos of her partner with the decorated muzzle.

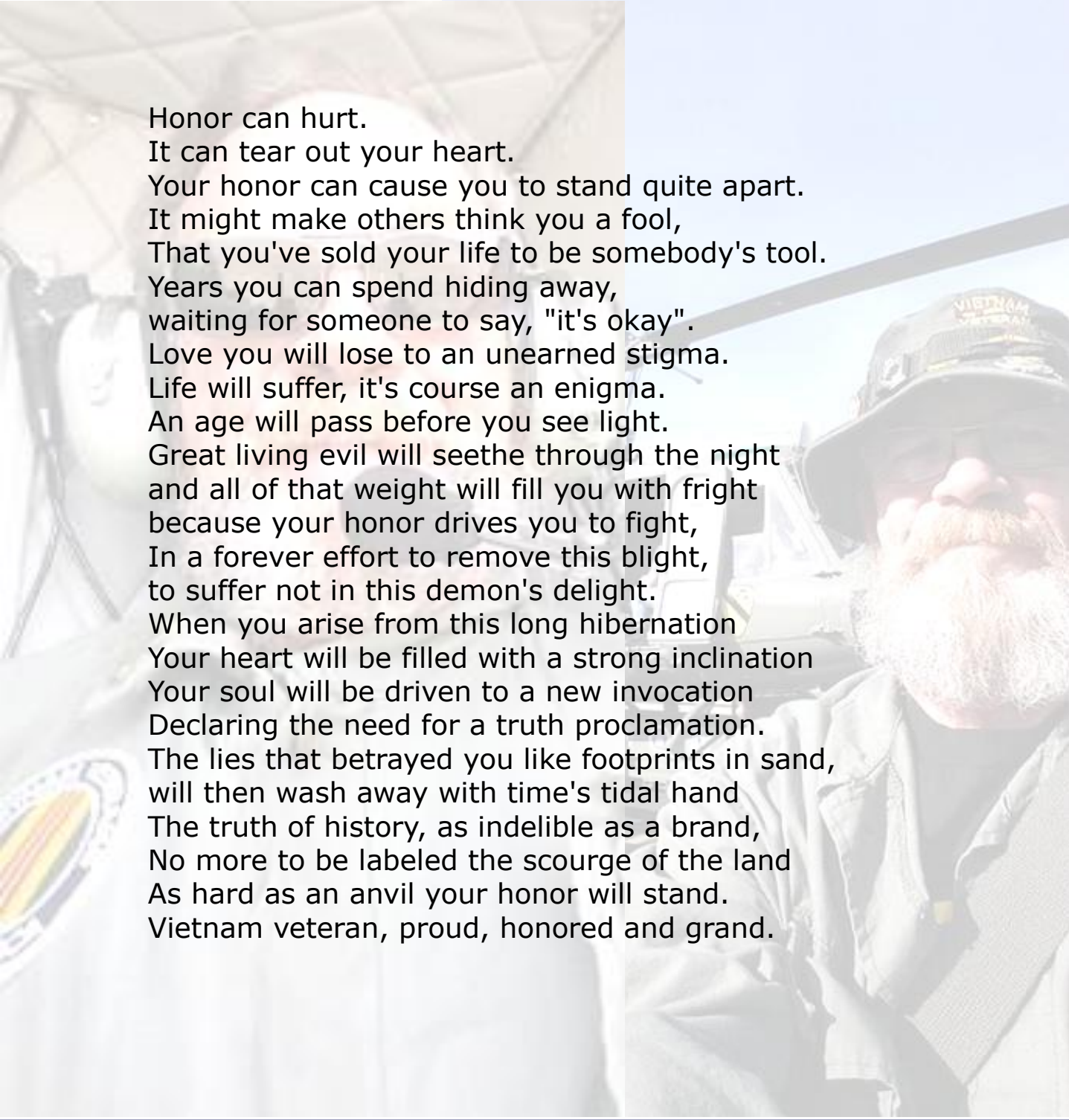
Below: MWD Wwill is modeling his prize for winning our Q3 care package contest...a muzzle from Working Dog Dry Goods!! We want to thank them for donating. If you are a K9 or MWD handler, check them out. If you can dream it, they can paint it.

www.workingdogdrygoods.com



Veteran's Honor

Poem by Michael Hurder



Honor can hurt.
It can tear out your heart.
Your honor can cause you to stand quite apart.
It might make others think you a fool,
That you've sold your life to be somebody's tool.
Years you can spend hiding away,
waiting for someone to say, "it's okay".
Love you will lose to an unearned stigma.
Life will suffer, it's course an enigma.
An age will pass before you see light.
Great living evil will seethe through the night
and all of that weight will fill you with fright
because your honor drives you to fight,
In a forever effort to remove this blight,
to suffer not in this demon's delight.
When you arise from this long hibernation
Your heart will be filled with a strong inclination
Your soul will be driven to a new invocation
Declaring the need for a truth proclamation.
The lies that betrayed you like footprints in sand,
will then wash away with time's tidal hand
The truth of history, as indelible as a brand,
No more to be labeled the scourge of the land
As hard as an anvil your honor will stand.
Vietnam veteran, proud, honored and grand.

Sit. Stay. Support.

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Here's more about how to support, learn and volunteer:

To support us while shopping, bookmark the link <http://smile.amazon.com/> search for "Military Working Dog Team Support Association" or donate via our Wish List: https://www.amazon.com/gp/registry/wishlist/QKBSKWEVTY33/ref=topnav_lists_1

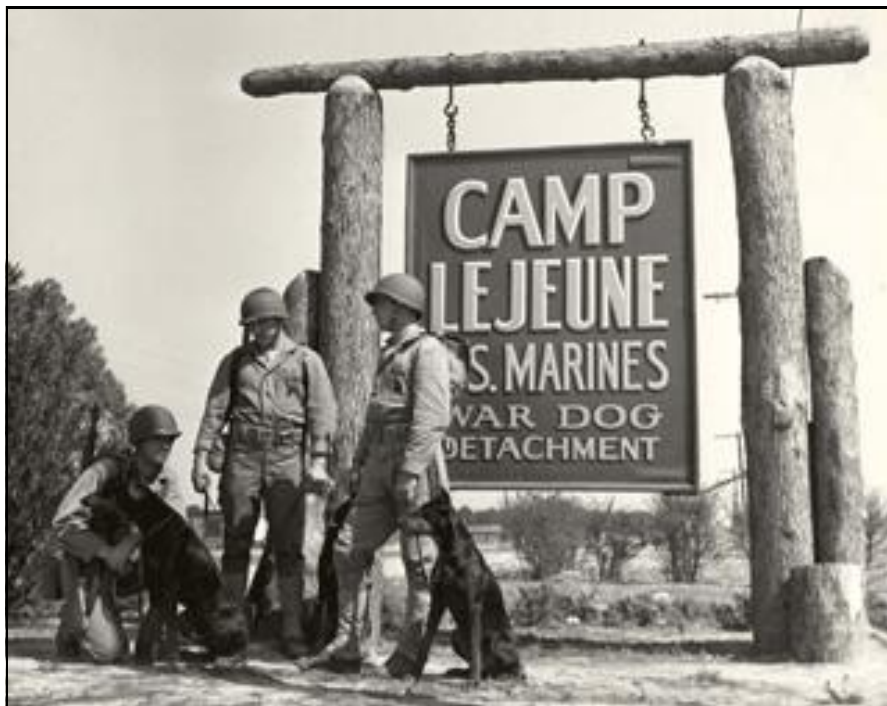
Join our Volunteer Team: <http://mwdtsa.org/volunteer.html>

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Follow us on Twitter: Sign up for a Twitter account at <https://twitter.com/> and click the "Follow" button for @MWD TSA

From the Archives

Camp LeJeune and World War II Dogs



Left: The Marine Corps' war dog training program was initiated by a letter from the Commandant of the Marine Corps to the Commanding General, Training Center, Fleet Marine Force, Marine Barracks, New River, North Carolina (designated Camp Lejeune on 20 December 1942), dated 26 November 1942, directing the latter to "inaugurate a training program for dogs for military employment when personnel and material become available." At that time 1 officer and 19 enlisted Marines were under training at the dog school at Fort Robinson, Nebraska, and 4 enlisted Marines were on temporary duty at Fort Washington, Maryland, in connection with training with dogs.