

October 2015
Award Winning
Monthly Newsletter

Volume 7, Issue 10

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Kennel Talk is an award
winning MWD publication!

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MWDTSA touches the
lives of dogs and people
near and far. This
month, our articles and
photos take us from
Washington to Texas,
North Dakota, North
Carolina, Michigan and
around the world to Af-
ghanistan & beyond.

Archive photo from
WWII Virginia.

Subscribe to see where
we connect next month!

Military Working Dog Team Support Association, Inc.

MWDTSA KENNEL TALK



Staff Sgt. Adam Serella (right) and Spc. Bruce Brickleff (left), both military working dog handlers, demonstrate the focus and strength of Serella's new MWD, Greco, by lifting him off the ground while he continues working on his bite during a training session on Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Wash.

Puppy to Police Dog

Story and photos by SSG Patricia McMurphy

JOINT BASE LEWIS-MCCHORD, Wash. - He jumps, he drools and he sheds like it's summer all year long, but this is no ordinary pup, this dog is an invaluable part of a team that could one day save lives and capture dangerous criminals.

Greco, a newly-acquired military working dog, is currently being trained by his handler, Staff Sgt. Adam Serella, a military working dog handler with the 95th Military Police Detachment, 504th MP Battalion, 42nd Military Police Brigade. Greco is fresh from Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio, Texas, where he was taught the basics, just like Soldiers in Army Basic Combat Training, and now he's ready to

learn what it means to really be a military working dog.

Serella, a seasoned handler and lead trainer for the kennels, has worked with and trained MWDs for five years and says he enjoys training new or green dogs as they are commonly referred to.

"I have seen how rewarding and also how frustrating it can be at times," said Serella. "Just like (new) Soldiers that come pre-trained or know the basics, I prefer that. I'd rather shape and mold a new Soldier. It's the same with dogs."

Puppy Dog continued on page 2

Puppy Dog continued from page 1

Serella said when he found out he was getting a new dog he was so excited he went to work extra early that day just to meet him.

After reading Greco's training record and some playtime in the yard, giving the two time to get to know each other, it was time for a bath.

"He smelled pretty bad, so I put him in the tub and gave him his toy to chew on, said Serella. "He just had this sad 'why are you doing this' look on his face."

After the bath, Serella took Greco to his first training session.

Like new Soldiers in the Army, these dogs must practice their skills to keep them proficient. The handlers and dogs also learn to work together as a team and complete required tasks.

According to Serella, finding what makes the dogs want to work is key. For these dogs it is all about the rewards.

"Unlike dogs at home, these dogs don't have toys laying around, so, all the working dogs have an extremely high desire for the toy or the reward, and we only play with that reward when they are working and after they have done a good job and have met the standard," said Serella. "That's their form of currency."

To assure the standards are met, each MWD team is tested on their proficiency during annual certifications, which they must maintain to conduct their garrison missions and in order to deploy.

"Certification is a weeklong process where every aspect of our work is evaluated," said Serella. "The standards are very strict, but they have to be. Bomb dogs can only miss one plant or hiding spot, anything more results in a failure."

Serella says his team has to meet these strict standards because he could one day lead units on patrol in dangerous locations

and even work with the secret service ensuring the safety of the POTUS.

Serella and Greco may have only been working together for six weeks, but Serella said he is confident when the time comes to test for certification, they will pass with flying colors.

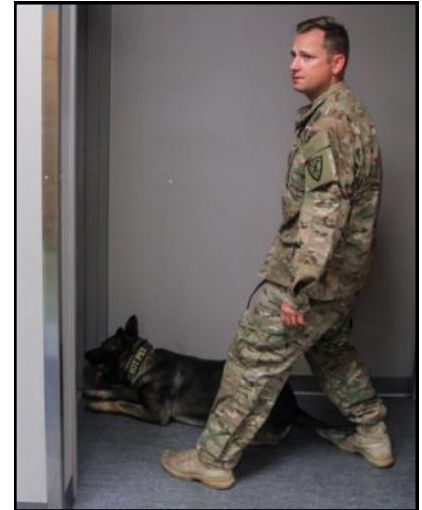
"I don't want to sound cocky, but there is no reason I can't pass certification with him," said Serella. "He is a good dog."

After certification, the team can be utilized for a variety of missions on Joint Base Lewis-McChord (JBLM) and on deployments around the world. They will also be able to add more advanced skills on top of what they already know.

An additional skill Serella is hoping to add is improving his obedience and extending the amount of time he can have Greco stay where he is told even if Serella is not in sight.

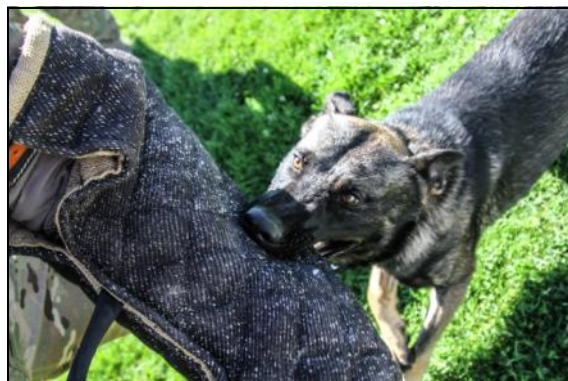
"I would like to be able to say 'stay' and walk away for 10 minutes then come back and him still be there, said Serella. "That is obedience, which is the basis of all dog training."

Serella and Greco are scheduled to certify at the end of August and when they succeed, as Serella predicts, they will become an asset to JBLM and those they may serve at home or abroad.



Above: Staff Sgt. Adam Serella a military working dog handler, waits for confirmation of a correct alert from his MWD, Greco, during training on Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Wash., July 29, 2015.

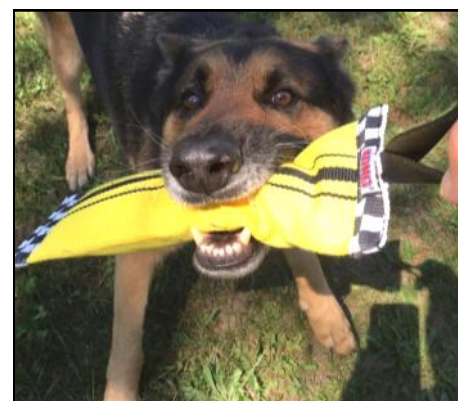
Below: Greco, a newly acquired military working dog bites into the specially designed protection sleeve worn by Spc. Bruce Brickleff with the 95th MP Detachment during training on JBLM, July 29, 2015.



2015 KONGs for K9s Drive

MWD TSA partners are collecting KONG toys in our annual KONGs for K9s toy drive taking place this fall at many locations across the country. Please check out these partners and stop by to purchase and donate a KONG toy. Locations are collecting specific KONG toys to support packing requirements for 2016. Thanks to everyone!

Month of Collection	Who's collecting?	Location	Which KONG toy?
September	Veterans United Brewery	Jacksonville, FL	Large Goodie Bone
September	Pet Supplies Plus	Royal Oak MI	Extreme Ball
October	Bethany United Methodist Church	Smyrna, GA	Fire Hose Sqwuggie
October	Dunbar Animal Hospital	Dunbar, WV	Cash for Blue KONGs
October	Top Dogs Pet Boutique	Kennesaw, GA	Extreme Ball
October	Top Dogs Pet Boutique	Roswell, GA	Fire Hose Sqwuggie
October	Sandhills Animal Hospital	Cherhaw, SC	Large Goodie Bone
October & November	Leash on Life	Iowa City, IA	Biscuit Ball
October & November	Leash On Life	West Liberty, IA	Fire Hose Sqwuggie
October	Ma & Paw's Bakery	Salt Lake City, UT	TBD
November & December	Pet Suites	Aliso Viejo, CA	TBD
November & December	The Animal Keeper	Encinitas, CA	TBD
November & December	The Animal Keeper	Poway, CA	TBD
November & December	The Animal Keeper	Oceanside, CA	TBD



Michigan: Music and Mayhem

Story by Dixie Whitman
Photos by Allison Merrill

If it's Michigan, it must include music and mayhem and maybe a bonfire. Yes, definitely a bonfire.

Fourth Quarter Care Packages will be packed early in October in the great state of Michigan near the shores of gorgeous Lake Michigan and the Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore—an area of sandy beaches, sky high dunes, lush forests and unparalleled beauty.

We love our packing volunteers who move the care package process around the country. Not only does this allow us a really regional flavor to the care packing, but it also allows the hard work to be divided among many hands. This event will be led by our always-hard-working Allison Merrill and supported by her generous friends, clients and community.

This year we have had volunteers from cool California, gator rich Georgia, nifty North Dakota and marvelous Michigan packing boxes all in support of our MWDTSA mission to let our handlers know that America supports them.

We are beginning to gather the goodies, gather addresses and will soon gather together in Traverse City to finish out the 2015 care packages with panache, well, panache and a bonfire.

Photos of the packing event itself will be included in the November issue of Kennel Talk, but we thought we would give you a sneak preview of some of the many items our deployed K9 teams can anticipate receiving in October: take a peek.

A huge shout out to Allison Merrill and her merry band of friends, all Michigan strong, for taking the lead on this box.

Above: Tank shows off the location of the bonfire and 4th Quarter packing in Traverse City, Mich. Lots of great items are going in this Music & Mayhem box including socks from Fox River Mills, Snicky Snaks and our ever popular Earth Bath Pet Wipes.





Top to bottom: dogsID bowls, KONG Squeezz Stixx and Solvit collapsible water bowls.

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:

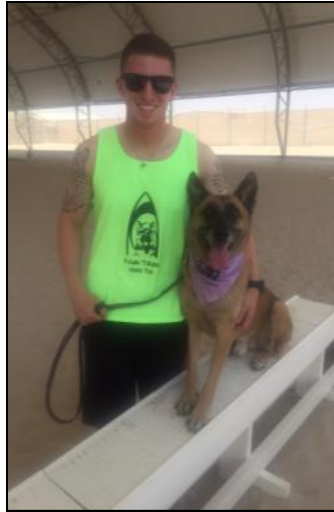
Allison Merrill
 Amanda and Jake Tomlinson
 Animal Hospital of Thousand Oaks
 Dr. Elizabeth Barr, staff and clients
 Thousand Oaks, CA
 Bank of America
 Carter Williams
 Chris Rogers
 Chris Varner & Peter Romeo
 Christa Ursini
 Christian Print Shop, John's Creek, GA
 Deirdre O'Moore
 Dick Baumer
 dogIDs Fargo, ND
 D.O.G. Bakery, Traverse City, MI
 Dunbar Animal Hospital, Staff and clients, Dunbar, WV
 EarthBath Pet Wipes, San Francisco, CA
 Fox River Mills, Osage, IA
 The Friewalds
 Gateway DockDogs, Greater St. Louis, MO
 Gemini Publications, Grand Rapids, MI
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 Tela Brackins
 Teton Dog, Park City, UT
 Veterans United Brewery and clients
 Jacksonville, FL
 Whitebridge Pet Brands, St. Louis, MO
 The Young Triplets

Totally Tubular: Surfing Boxes

Thanks to all of the great donors, corporate sponsors and the very dedicated Air Force handlers from North Dakota for the creation of our Totally Tubular boxes. Each quarter our wonderful supporters help us make these boxes happen.

A huge and very special thank you to the Betsy Ross Foundation for a wonderful grant which helped us immensely with sending out these boxes and bringing a bit of home to foreign shores and ensuring these handlers know we have their backs.

Here are some more photos of the recipients enjoying the goodies they received.



Above left: One of the handlers and his dog pose with their "Totally Tubular" Tank tee shirt and bandana.

Above right: Hundi poses with handlers and the contents of both of their boxes. Handlers' tees say "Hang Ten", Dogs' bandanas say "Hang Twenty".

Left: MWD Wwill catches a ride on the back of his handler, Taylor Song. Looks like a Chuck It Flying Squirrel in the background, an important component from a training session.

Below left: MWD Bad enjoys some playtime with his handler. He looks like he's pretty focused on the Chuck It Flying Squirrel, one of two toys that went out to dog teams in the 3rd quarter boxes.

Below right: Dog handler, Thomas, poses with his dog Lex and the Snout Soother donated by two of our board members.



More Surfing Box photos bottom of page 7

Dog Tagz Store Debuts New Shirt for 4th Quarter



As MWD TSA volunteers, we do work our tails off for our military working dog teams. To help us in this mission, our fabulous new "Tails" shirt is for sale.

Printed on the back only of Prairie Dust Gildan shirts, this artwork shows the back side of a dog and its handler with the tag line "If by my life or death I can protect you, I will." A quote from J. R. Tolkien.

The goal of every dog team is to save lives so this shirt epitomizes the credo that each dog handler lives and works by daily.

Stop by our website store to purchase at:

<http://www.mwdtsa.org/estore.html>



More photos of 3rd quarter care package recipients. These are a few of our favorite things: KONG Tails and Chuck It Flying Squirrels, Dog treats, and bandanas. Thank you to the great handlers who submitted photos of their dogs with some of the care package components. Additional photos were published in the September issue of Kennel Talk.



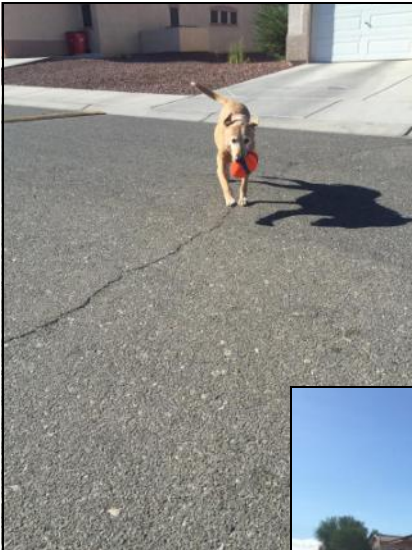
Toy Council Tests New Toys

Two new toys were sent to a few retired MWDs for testing.

The first toy is the Chuck It Football and the second is the West Paw Bumi, a tug toy.

Two of our testers sent photos back to us with their comments. Looks like both toys are winners!

Lucy, the lab, and Eny, the German Shepherd dog, gave the toys a good once over and two "paws up".



Right: From Adam and Eny (Former Army Patrol and Explosives Dog):

"The Bumi is awesome. If she were younger it would be even more fun, but she just doesn't play tug as much.

She looooves the Chuck It ball. The Chuck It is pretty darn durable, it can definitely take a chewing."



Left: From A. J. and Lucy (Former Marine Combat Tracker Dog):

"The football has won out, she takes it everywhere! She's tried to chew it and break it, but it hasn't broken nor showing that much wear and tear, considering she's always playing in the road."



Amazon Wish List and Amazon Smile

MWD TSA has been very busy on Amazon.com and is proud to announce two different ways to use this popular shopping website to benefit the dog teams. Here's a bit more information about both programs.

By Jan Slotar

When you shop at AmazonSmile, Amazon donates 0.5% of the purchase price to Military Working Dog Team Support Association Inc. Bookmark the link: <http://smile.amazon.com/> search for "Military Working Dog Team Support Association" and support us every time you shop for anything, anytime at Amazon: books, shampoo, clothes, electronics....anything. Quarterly, we send out anywhere from 125-175 care packages; every penny helps with our postage costs.

We now have an Amazon Wish List on Amazon.com. This Wish List benefits our amazing Military Working Dog Teams, both Handlers and Dogs. And now, you can purchase items on our Amazon Wish List, and mail them directly to MWD TSA. All items that are purchased will be included in our quarterly care packages or taken on our upcoming base visits. Prices range from \$6 - \$33, and we have a variety of different dog toys, and handler items from which to choose.

Here are some great samples of products that we hope to collect via our Wish List: Chuck It and West Paw dog toys, Gold Bond and Dr. Scholl's foot care, EarthBath Pet Wipes, Safari Nail Trimmers and Lotrimin creams. Items will be updated as our care packages are shipped and new packages are planned for the future.

You can either go to www.amazon.com, look for Wish List in the upper right corner, drop down to "Find a Wish List", and enter our name "Military Working Dog Team Support Association", or you can use the following link to visit Amazon.com, and our Wish List https://www.amazon.com/gp/registry/wishlist/QKBSKWEVTY33/ref=topnav_lists_1

Please be sure to let us know via email or Facebook if you are participating so we can be on the lookout for a box coming in and can include you in our list of donors and send you a thank you!

Our MWD teams greatly appreciate your support and this Amazon Wish List will make it easier for us to get items to our awesome teams at home and abroad. Thank you for your continued support.



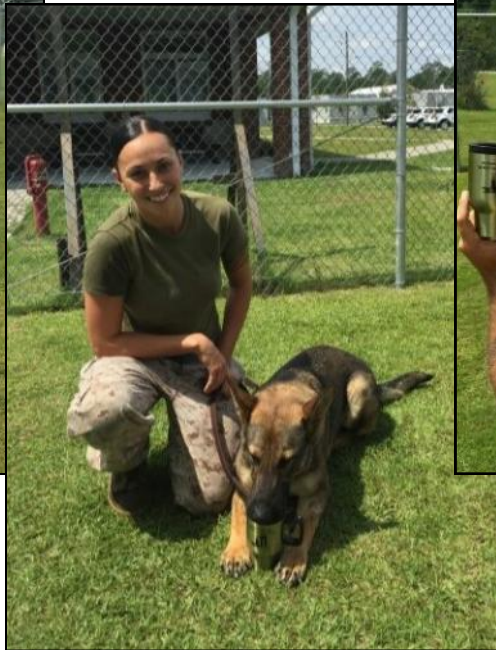
Above: West Paw is another great American company that makes terrific toys that you can purchase from the Amazon Wish List for the Military Working Dogs. Shown above are the West Paw Hurley and Jive balls. Both toys can be used by the handlers for games of fetch with their partners. The Jive ball isn't round and the indentations cause it to bounce erratically, creating a great guessing game for these amazing dogs.

Below: MWD TSA has sent care packages, quarter after quarter, of high quality supplies to our deployed military working dogs. Each box contains items for both ends of the leash: the dog and the handler. Boxes are themed to help make them more unique and interesting. Themes have ranged from our famous "Super Bowl in a Box" to "Fishing" and sometimes are a reflection of where they are packed. In 2015, our first quarter packing in southern California reflected the movie industry history and one of the favorite items was a T shirt donated by the Stuntmen's Association of Motion Pictures. The second quarter was themed Florida-Georgia Line and included a lot of alligator items. For third quarter, our theme involved surfing and was packed in North Dakota (an unknown surfing hot spot) and our last care package for this year will be leaving from Michigan around the first week of October.



Mugging with Marines

Story By Dixie Whitman



We made a visit to Camp LeJeune earlier this year, but these mugs didn't make the trip as originally planned. We were finally able to ship them off; the Kennel Master said the handlers love the mugs and use them a lot when they're working in their police cars.

Left: Cpl Egelston with Joey.

Center: LCpl Roach with Frodo

Right: Richard Skalko and his dog Chico. He is former Army & Air Force.

Below left: Sgt. Poledniak and his partner, Mira, recreate the mug design with mug in hand! I think we have a winner.

Below right: A close up mug shot



Today Our Family Grew By One

Story and photos by Karisa Serella



Today our family grew by one. She did 12 years of service to the United States Army as a patrol explosives detection dog. In those 12 years she deployed 4 times protecting countless soldiers, provided security for former presidents and presidential candidates. With all the work she has done it is time for this sweet girl to lie on her bed, toy in mouth, and enjoy countless hugs, kisses, and belly rubs. Welcome to the family, Eny. Job well done, sweetie.

Eny Day

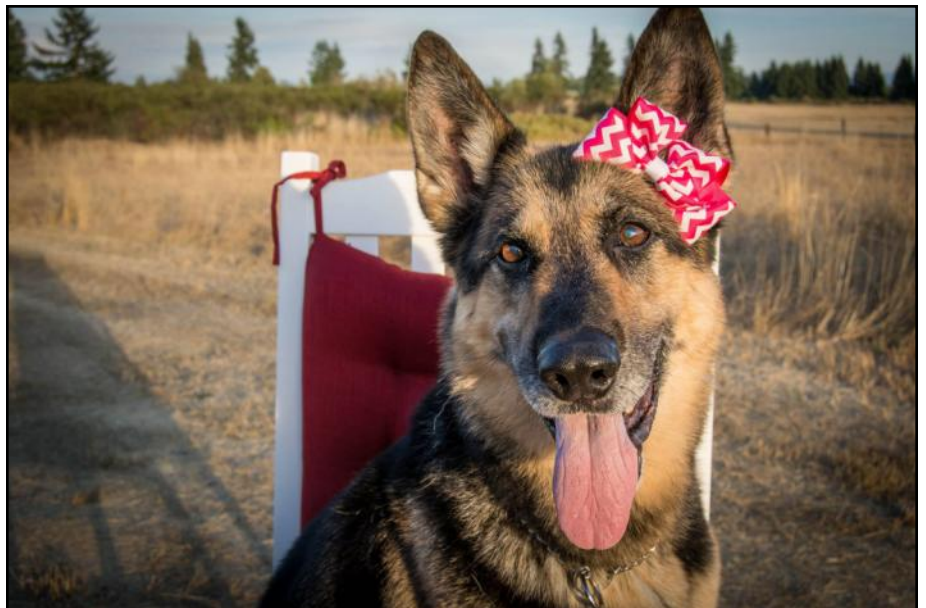
Four times I've passed
Through fields of war
Keeping soldiers all secure.

Enlistment's o'er,
But where to go
That I will find so apropos?

To wag my tail
And bark with glee.
My new folks have set me free.

Squirrel.....

Dixie Whitman



Sheppard Bids Farewell to A 4-Legged Hero

Story and photos by Senior Airman Kyle Gese

SHEPPARD AIR FORCE BASE, Texas - It was Sunday March 22, 2012, at 2:30 p.m. when military working dog Larry, 82nd Training Wing Security Forces Squadron, was called for explosive support by the Wichita Falls police department.

During that afternoon call, Larry helped the local police find several different explosives including fuses, black powder, smokeless powder and other military-grade munitions.

"I was pretty shocked," said U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. Daniel Flores, 82nd SFS MWD kennel master. "I was like, 'Wow, this is local and he found something off base. That's a big deal,' and sure enough because of that find, he won the Elizabeth Jacobson Award that year."

At a unique ceremony Aug. 12, 2015, Larry was recognized for his contributions to the Air Force and granted an early retirement from military service.

Calls such as the request in March 2012 were not unusual for Larry, trained as an

expert in detecting and locating explosive odors. During his six years at Sheppard he executed more than 8,000 working hours and 2,000 explosive detection search time. Throughout his career, he completed four deployments, one to Manas, Kyrgyzstan, and three to Afghanistan.

Larry's first handler U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. Tyler Jones hadn't seen Larry for several years until his retirement ceremony at Sheppard.

Jones recalled one of his fondest memories from a deployment together when they found improvised explosive devices on a night mission assisting one of the local Army units.

"They knew there were IEDs out in the area, they just didn't know where they were, so we started going out and sweeping roads," he said.

Larry had already found two IEDs that night and Jones realized he had come across a third under a group of rocks in the desert.

"I got behind the smallest twig of a tree because I realized what had just happened and I'm calling 'Larry! Larry!' trying to keep it quiet," only the wrong Larry responded.

"One of the guys I was with was also named Larry," Jones continued. "So he comes up and said, 'What!?' then looks at Larry and said, 'Oh shoot!' and runs in the other direction. Finally I just pulled my Kong out and basically did an emergency recall."

During the ceremony, several more of Larry's Security Forces friends and colleagues recognized him by reading his accomplishments and a MWD poem. They also played a service video and he conducted his final search as a service dog.

At the conclusion of his ceremony, Jones, who is now with the 325th Security Forces Squadron from Tyndall Air Force Base, Fla., adopted him. To signify Larry's retirement he placed a new collar around his neck and fed him his first meal as a retired MWD.



Left: U.S. Air Force Military Working Dog Larry waits to make his appearance on stage during his retirement ceremony at Sheppard Air Force Base, Texas, Aug. 12, 2015. Larry served overseas for four deployments, one to Manas, Kyrgyzstan, and three to Afghanistan and assisted in providing security for the President and Vice President of the United States for ten missions.

"What's going to happen now is that he is going to be able to be a normal dog," said Flores.

"My goal is to keep him comfortable and as healthy as possible," Jones said. "I think it's going to be fun ... I'm really looking forward to it."

Larry will now enjoy a relaxing retirement on the sunny beaches of Florida, with his new owner and old friend Jones.



Above right: U.S. Air Force Military Working Dog Larry performs his final search as a MWD during his retirement ceremony at Sheppard Air Force Base.



Left: U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. Tyler Jones, 325th Security Forces Squadron from Tyndall Air Force Base, Fla., plays with U.S. Air Force retired Military Working Dog Larry, after his retirement ceremony at Sheppard Air Force Base, Texas, Aug. 12, 2015. Larry conducted more than 150 outside-the-wire missions during his deployments overseas. Jones adopted Larry during the ceremony.

Right: Airmen attend the retirement ceremony of military working dog Larry at Sheppard Air Force Base, Texas, Aug. 12, 2015. Larry was granted an early retirement after more than 8,000 working hours and more than 2,000 explosive detection search time.

Larry served four deployments, detecting numerous Improvised Explosive Devices, ensuring the safety of nearly 75,000 U.S. and NATO Forces in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.



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MWDTSA

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From the Archives



Dog Beach Patrol

In 1942, the Coast Guard recognized that the use of dogs, with their keen sense of smell and their ability to be trained for guard duty, would help enhance the patrols. The Coast Guard eventually received about 2,000 dogs for patrol duties. The dogs and their trainers were schooled on the 300-acre estate of P.A.B. Widnener, at the Elkin Park Training Station in Pennsylvania. Others trained at Hilton Head, S.C. The first dog patrols began at Brigantine Park, N.J., in August 1942. The dogs were so successful, that within a year, the animals and their handlers were on duty in all the districts.

"Dog Beach Patrol, Parramore Beach.(VA)"; Coast Guard Photo No. 699; 21 October 1943; photographed by "Gates."