

---

January 2016  
Award Winning  
Monthly Newsletter

Volume 8, Issue 1

---

Support MWD TSA now  
and you won't miss any of  
the photos, stories, news  
and highlights of 2016!

Kennel Talk is an award  
winning MWD publication!

---

**Inside this issue:**

K-9 Teams /Vigilant Ace	1
Snowmen	3
Night Training	4
Honor 13 Boxes	5
2015 Boxes	6
Volunteer News	8
Partnership with AHA	9
2015 Donors	10
Golf Tournament	11
If I Could Only Talk	12
Archive Photo	14

MWD TSA touches the  
lives of dogs and people  
near and far. This  
month, our articles and  
photos take us from Asia  
and the Middle East all  
the way back home to  
Massachusetts and  
Washington, D.C. .  
History takes us to Viet-  
nam and WWII-era  
Nebraska.

Subscribe to see where  
we connect next month!

Military Working Dog Team Support Association, Inc.

## MWD TSA KENNEL TALK

**Nnine, a Military Working Dog with the 51st Security Forces Squadron, pricks her ears forward as something captures her attention while on patrol during Vigilant Ace 16 at Osan Air Base, Republic of Korea, Nov 4, 2015. Osan has the second largest kennel in the Air Force. Vigilant Ace 16 is a U.S. and ROK combined exercise designed to enhance operational and tactical-level coordination through joint combat training.**



## K-9 Teams Sniff Out Opposing Forces During Vigilant Ace 16

Story and photos by Staff Sgt. Amber Grimm

OSAN AIR BASE, South Korea - As night falls, the task of defending the base from ground attacks becomes more difficult. All manner of sins can be hid in the dark, but you can't hide so easily from a Military Working Dog, especially if you don't know he's there.

Teams of Military Working Dogs and their handlers man listening and observing posts positioned at random points along the base perimeter.

"We're down and out of the way," said Staff Sgt. Michael Caruso, 51st Security Forces Squadron Military Working Dog handler. "We'll be able to see someone and before they know

what's going on, I can notify base security operations to dispatch responders to handle the potential threat."

Caruso and his MWD Zody are one of more than a dozen different MWD teams assigned to these scattered posts during the nights of the Vigilant Ace 16 exercise. Tasked with quite literally looking and listening for possible opposing forces, the success of this mission relies heavily upon the acute senses of the dogs.

Though occasionally interacting with roaming SFS patrols, the handlers and their partners spend the vast majority of these 12-hour

K-9 Teams Sniff continued on page 2



**Above:** Staff Sgt. Michael Caruso, 51st Security Forces Squadron Military Working Dog handler, and his partner Zody brave the cold nights of exercise Vigilant Ace 16 to man their assigned listening and observation post along the perimeter of Osan Air Base, Republic of Korea, Nov. 4, 2015.

shifts with only each other for company.

"It's more of a solitary thing, it's me and him, no one else," said Caruso.

While some would consider this a difficult, lonely assignment, Osan's MWD handlers are putting this time to good use.

"With the short turn over at Osan, you don't really get to spend a long time with the dogs and that can affect the relationship," said Staff Sgt. Nathaniel Williams, 51st SFS MWD handler. "These dedicated long hours help out a lot."

"You're only here a year but if you work at it, you can build that good rapport between yourself and your dog," said Williams as he glances down at Nnine, his MWD. "It's a lot of fun because you get that one-on-one time with your partner."



**Older Osan photos taken during daylight.**

Being stationed in South Korea has its own set of challenges. One is that the tours there are only a year long so the time to work and bond with the military working dog is much shorter.

**Left:** Fanta, a 51st Fighter Wing military working dog, stops for a photo op at Osan Air Base. Military working dogs work closely with their handlers and perform duties that range from drug and explosive detection to patrol. Photo by SSgt. Daylena Gonzalez.

**Right:** Military Working Dog Robbie inspects post office boxes for suspicious packages on Osan Air Base, Republic of Korea, Oct. 28, 2015. The MWDs conduct random inspections to ensure Team Osan is safe from drug and bomb paraphernalia. Photo by SrA Kristin High.





## Do You Want to Build a Snowman?



It looks like a lot of the dog teams are getting into the winter vibes. A handler from Fort Drum builds a snowman and Specialized Search Dog, while dogs from various branches huddle with their own Abominable Snowman, courtesy of our friends at Delca Corporation. (Photos courtesy of dog handlers.)

**Top left:** A MWD Handler from Ft. Drum creates her own snowman and a tiny SSD from the year's first snowfall.

**Center left:** Marine MWD Mira says thanks for her Delca snowman.

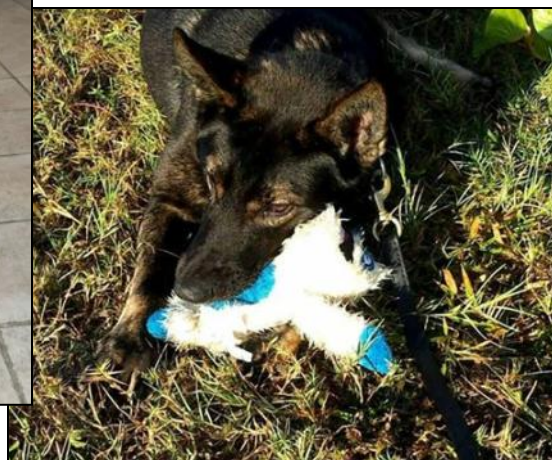
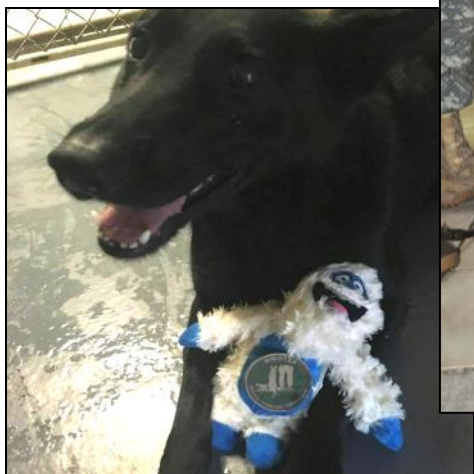
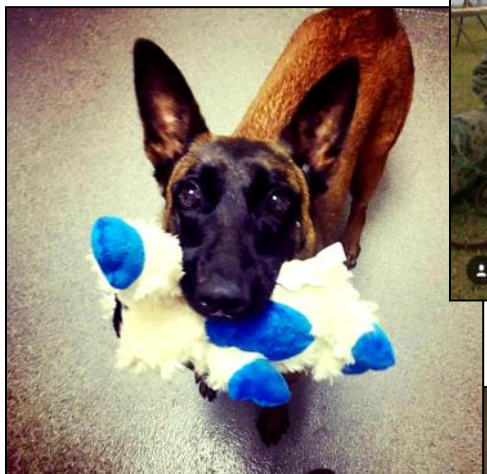
**Bottom left:** Army MWD Cessy poses for a picture.

**Center middle:** Marine team enjoy the Delca snowman they received.

**Bottom middle:** Army MWD Varato showcases his new toy.

**Left center:** Air Force T-Rex hugged his toy "with his mouth".

**Bottom right:** MWD Digo didn't rip his toy to shreds. He loves it and sat there hugging it!!



## Night Training Gets K-9 Out of 10

Story and Photos by Lance Cpl. Aaron Henson

IWAKUNI, Japan - Military working dogs are trained in multiple specialties such as locating narcotics or explosives and conducting patrol work. The K-9s are also trained in the five phases of aggression, basic obedience and building searches which aid in a variety of potentially dangerous situations.

"The K-9's are trained with multiple specialties and they all have different capabilities," said Cpl. Brendon Teague, military working dog handler with Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron (H&HS). "They have the ability to search through buildings, find drugs, explosives, and attack a fleeing suspect."

To ensure the safety of personnel on the air station, this training is conducted to keep military working dogs familiarized with the installation as its landscape continues to develop with the Defense Policy Review Initiative.

"This benefits the air station and the general populous by allowing us to conduct more advanced training than we would be able to during the day while everyone is working," said Lance Cpl. Landon Gilliam, military working dog handler with H&HS. "Night training gives us different scenarios in which the (military police), K-9 unit and everyone else can operate together just in case such events were to happen."

Handlers and their dogs must train regularly in order to maintain combat readiness, become a more effective team and ensure the safety of everyone on the air station.

"We conduct night training once a month to stay familiar with the installation," said Sgt. Adrian Nanez, kennel master with H&HS. "Training at night provides us with the capability to utilize buildings that we would not be able to use during the day. The mission of PMO is to protect every person on this installation so the base can keep functioning."



**Above: Lance Cpl. Colten Corsetti, a military working dog handler with Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron, escorts Cpl. Brendon Teague, military working dog handler with H&HS, while Corsetti's K-9 provides security during night training at Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni, Japan, Dec. 9, 2015.**



**Above: Lance Cpl. Colten Corsetti, right, keeps his K-9 at the ready while instructing Cpl. Justin Stockton, military working dog handler with H&HS, to come forward and present his identification during night training.**

Night Training continued on top of page 5



Night Training continued from page 4



The location and types of training are changed each time to broaden the capabilities of the dogs as well as the handlers.

"We are able to go in, get our dogs familiarized, and leave knowing that our dogs and handlers progressed to a new level as a team," said Teague.

**Left: Lance Cpl. Kevin Kelly, on the right, military working dog handler with Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron, gives praise to his K-9 after successfully attacking Cpl. Justin Stockton, who played a simulated noncompliant suspect.**

## Honor 13 Boxes to Fete Thirteen Retired MWDs

March 13th is the day set aside each year to honor the contributions of our military working dogs. To recognize this day, one of the projects that MWD TSA undertakes is to send out Care Packages to thirteen retired military working dogs as a thank you.

These care packages are different from our normal care packages and have goodies for the veteran K9 only.

We will be creating Honor 13 boxes for 2016. To enter our random drawing for one of our Honor 13 Box for your retired Military Working Dog, please send an email to: **K9info@mwdtsa.org** by February 15, 2015.

In your email, please include the name and tattoo number of your K9, your dog's age, and any details about how and where your dog served and when s/he retired. Recipients selected in the random drawing will be notified and will then need to provide a shipping address.



**Above: Retired MWD Tomy was supported by MWD TSA while he was deployed. We have enjoyed a great relationship with this guy since his retirement and we were delighted to include him as one of thirteen recipients last year.**

## A Year of Support in 2015:

Story by D. G. Whitman; photos by various handlers

What a whirlwind of a year! Four quarterly care packages, shipped. Special requests from multiple kennels, shipped. Honor 13 boxes, shipped. Winter coffee boxes, shipped. And, so much more: base visits, support requests, public education, social media and veterans' events, among other items on our agenda.

It's not always easy giving so much time and effort. None of us are paid. We balance what we do with the needs of our families. Sometimes we disagree, vehemently even, about how things should be handled. It means we all care deeply. Important things are not always easy.

We want to make sure these dogs and their handlers know that we have their backs. And, every once in a while, we get a breath-taking note that makes us sit back and, eyes brimming with tears, remember why we do what we do at MWD TSA. Here is one recent note:

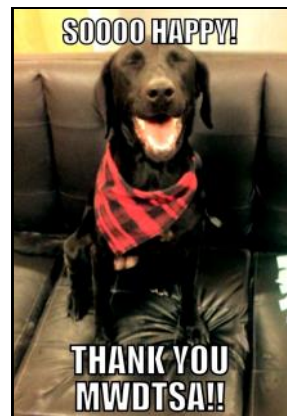
"Hello, I am a MWD handler stationed in South Korea. You have recently sent my soldiers care packages. I don't know how to thank you enough for that. I am an experienced veteran and have spent many months away from home.

As for my soldiers, this is the furthest they have ever been away. I am blessed to be able to see their faces as they open the boxes. As a leader I step in and remind them that this is all given and packaged and sent to them in thanks for their service.

Ma'am, I can not thank you enough. Thank you for what you have done. Thank you for what you do. Thank you for all that you will do. Side note to this all. As the boxes came in, I noticed one thing. Traverse City, MI. God bless the people of my home state..."

We share this "thanks" with all of our wonderful donors who are supporting us each and every quarter. We hope you will take notice of those who support us with large in kind donations on our [Sponsors Link](#) and support them when you shop.

Here's to a successful 2016 filled with good things and great times.



Clockwise starting at top left:

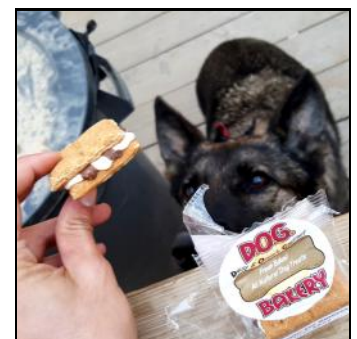
A note received with our Michigan mug.

A handler working with dog and new toy.

D.O.G. Bakery outshines even itself with their custom made "S'mores" dog treats. One handler said they looked good enough for him to eat.

Our retired MWDs were remembered with our Honor 13 boxes.

And lastly, SSD Sam, was pretty happy with all of the boxes she received while she was deployed.



Support continued on page 7



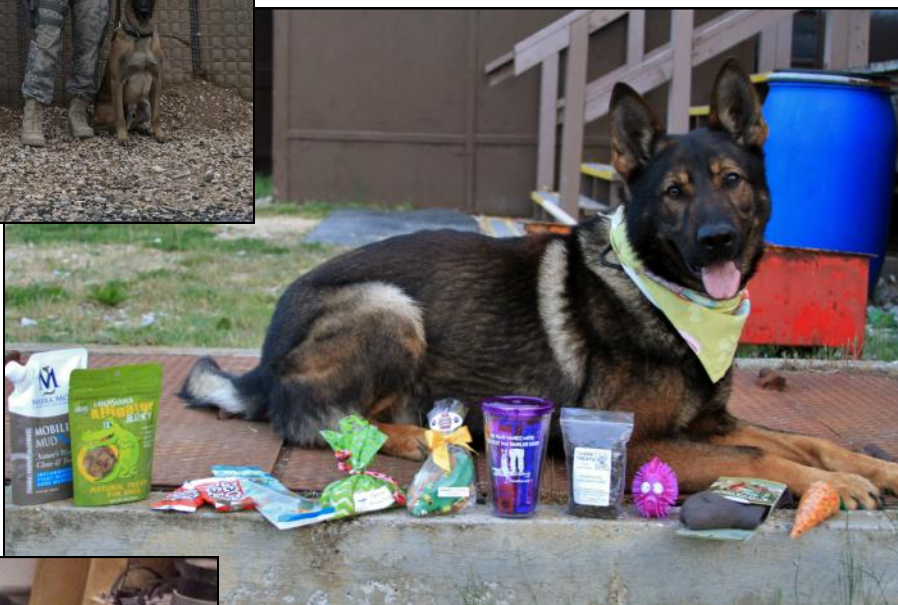
## Directly to Hands and Paws of our MWD Teams

Support continued from page 6



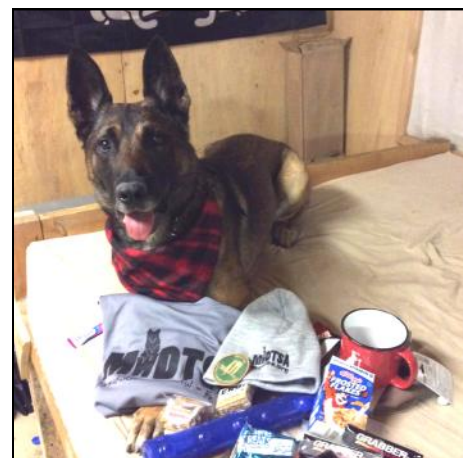
**Left:** Air Force handlers enjoying some of the highlights of our first quarter care packages. The first quarter, which was packed by Volunteer Jan and friends in southern California, was themed "A Night at The Movies" to take advantage of the connection with Hollywood. And, Hollywood did not disappoint. Thanks to a couple of great t-shirts, one donated by the Stuntmen's Association of Motion Pictures, and so much more, these boxes were a "reel" favorite.

**Right:** Second quarter was originally planned for Florida, but was moved to Georgia and heavily featured the humble alligator and lots of tropical flavors and colors. What a great array of donated items showcased in front of handsome Hundi. Thanks to Volunteer Dixie and a huge group that came in to pack, this colorful and fun package was a huge hit.



**Left:** Adorable SSD Sam shows off the contents of her surfing package during third quarter. Thanks to volunteer Jessica and dog handlers from a couple of North Dakota bases, these great packages featured two dog toys, a surfing themed tank top and tropical snacks and gifts. Surf's up in North Dakota! Who knew?

**Right:** This handsome guy is showcasing the wonderfully warm fourth quarter box. Intrepid Michiganders joined volunteer Allison during wind chills hitting in the 40's to pack this box of warmth: mugs, hot chocolate, a watch cap, hand and foot warmers, and a warm flannel bandanna. I'd say it was a great success!



**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:**

Michael Antol Jr.  
 Dick Baumer  
 Stanton Bost  
 Lori Burdoo  
 Julie Burnett  
 Connie Callahan  
 Patricia Carter  
 Cha-Ching Consignments Millersville, MD  
 Suzanne Core  
 Daisie DeBono,  
 dogIDs Fargo, ND  
 Bill Doiron  
 Mary Dressel  
 Kelli Fields and friends  
 Aaron and Lyndsy Fischer  
 Christine Ford  
 Sheryl Griffin  
 Robert Hahn  
 Mariea Hoy  
 Elizabeth Husband  
 Mark Johnson  
 Charlie and Terrie Kipp  
 Paula Lee  
 Beth Lehman  
 Hilary Lohrman  
 Brent and Jody McGlothlin  
 Kimberly Meyers  
 Kerri Moss  
 Laurie Newton  
 Crystal Pearson  
 Richard and Lynn Perry  
 Megan Petrash  
 Prima Plauche  
 Stephen Redden  
 Sandra A. Romaszewski  
 Lawrence and Betty Rotters  
 San Francisco Bay Gourmet Coffee Lincoln, Calif.  
 Richard Snyder  
 Robert and Patricia Stacker  
 Linda Strickland  
 Devonie Townsend  
 Heather Trapasso  
 Christa Ursini  
 Heidi Welch  
 Jonathan Wilcox  
 J. & Delia Willms  
 Susan P. Wilson  
 Kathie Woodring

## Volunteer News



**Above: Christina Roberts takes over the Webmaster position on the board.**

**Christina Roberts**, our new Webmaster and Board Member, has been developing websites and designing print materials for clients since she was 16. She graduated from Washington State University in Vancouver in 2011 from the Digital Technology and Culture program: focus web design. She's always worked for herself and greatly enjoys the independence and flexibility contract work provides. For hobbies, she enjoys reading and working on creative projects. Christina will be taking over for **Jonathan Wahl**.

Many thanks to the steady leadership of Jonathan Wahl and his nearly decade-long commitment to handling all of the "tech-y" stuff at MWD TSA. We wish him a fulfilling retirement from MWD TSA and happy trails as he heads off to his great hiking destinations. He will be greatly missed and always appreciated.

**Christa Ursini** takes over the role of 2nd Vice President. Christa is a graphic designer working in the advertising industry. She lives in Brooklyn, NY with her German Shepherd, Eli. They both enjoy exploring the outdoors and traveling to new places. She began volunteering with MWD TSA after reading Top Dog, and loves being able to combine her passions of dogs, military support, and design. **Avril Roy-Smith** takes over well wishes with her as she steps down from her positions as both 2nd Vice President and Kennel Talk Editor after four years of working on our highly regarded newsletter. Under her leadership, Kennel Talk went from a bi-monthly to a monthly publication. We wish her the best in all of her future endeavors.



**Above: Christa Ursini and her pal, Eli.**



**Above: Joyce Gibson shows off one of several original pieces supporting MWDs.**

**Joyce Gibson** has spent a lifetime creating artwork, specifically dog and nature-inspired artwork. She showcases her work and the work of others in her Atlanta-based art gallery. Please visit **Illusionsgallery.com** to see some of Joyce's original paintings, sketches, block prints and all of the wonderful images that she frames and ships worldwide. Recently, MWD TSA created a new logo inspired by one of Joyce's portraits. Our new logo is centered around a creative piece showing a dog and handler from the rear.



## MWD TSA Partners with AHA

**WASHINGTON, D.C., December 3** — Building on a 100-year-legacy of helping active duty heroes, veterans, their families, and military animals, American Humane Association (AHA) today announced that it is teaming up with MWD TSA to provide vitally needed care packages for America's active duty military dog teams while deployed to combat zones overseas. Some of these teams only have a rucksack to live out of for weeks at a time, and American Humane Association's K-9 Battle Buddies™ program will work with MWD TSA to provide care packages to these heroes, containing vital necessities as well as the comforts of home. Each care package is created for the dog and handler with their favorite things from home, packed with love by volunteers.

MWD TSA is an all-volunteer organization with a mission to "support both ends of the leash." The group sends hundreds of care packages to military dog teams around the world every quarter. In 2014 alone, they sent 518 packages, helping some 1,100 dogs and handlers. American Humane Association paid for the postage to ship the fourth quarter 2015 packages, and will continue to support this effort at an even higher level in 2016, underwriting postage costs, donating supplies for the packages, and hosting "packing parties" at its offices in Washington, D.C. and Palm Beach, Florida.

"America's brave military working dogs live, fight, and sleep with their human handlers and forge a bond that cannot

easily be broken," said Dr. Robin Ganzert, American Humane Association's President and CEO. "They save lives both on and off the battlefield and it is our duty to support these K-9 Battle Buddy teams that keep America safe. We are honored to work with MWD TSA to provide care packages to active duty military dog teams because we have long admired their committed group of dedicated volunteers and we share their mission of honoring heroes on both ends of the leash."

"We are thrilled to partner with American Humane Association to continue to provide much needed items to the brave men and women who have taken up arms with their canine partners to secure, defend, and maintain this great nation," said MWD TSA president, Nikki Rohrig. "These teams are leading the pack while patrolling on foreign soil and they deserve everything that we can provide for them. Our volunteers are active because we believe in these dedicated teams and we want them to know that we support them not only while they are overseas, but also when they come home. Our volunteer 'paycheck' comes in the form of smiles and tail wags!"

To learn more about American Humane Association please visit [www.AmericanHumane.org](http://www.AmericanHumane.org) and to learn more about the Military Working Dog Team Support Association, please visit [www.MWD TSA.org](http://www.MWD TSA.org).



**MWD TSA**



## New Logo, New Look, New Year

Military Working Dog Team Support Association, Inc. (MWD TSA) is proud to unveil a new logo as we move towards our 10th year of "supporting both ends of the leash." The new logo showcases a modern, authentic feel of a Military Working Dog team. The team faces the unknown, side by side, showcasing an unbreakable bond.

MWD TSA is an all volunteer non-profit organization which supports active and retired MWD teams through quarterly care packages, public education, memorial funding, advocacy and more. We are committed to ensuring our dog teams have the best that we can offer.

We pride ourselves on a legacy of transparency, high standards and a level of ethics in everything we do. MWD TSA is honored to be among the select few non-profit organizations to receive the GuideStar Gold Participant seal.

We would love to share more information about our amazing organization, our dynamic team and what we do each and every day to support our dog teams. Visit us at <http://mwdtsa.org/mwdtsa-one-click.html> to find out more. Our new logo is courtesy of [christaursini.com](http://christaursini.com). The dog and handler basic artwork is courtesy of [illusionsgallery.com](http://illusionsgallery.com).



**MWD TSA**

## Thanks to Our Donors

MWD TSA is very proud of our relationship and long history with many of our sponsors and donors. We are also appreciative of new donors who have stepped in to help fund our efforts – all because they give freely in support of military working dogs and their amazing handlers.

Please enjoy a few photos, thanks to our great sponsors.



**Right top:** Thanks to Suzette Lindsay and Betty Lou Stokes of Top Dogs Pet Boutique. They and their customers have supported with funds totaling more than \$25,000 over the years in addition to great donations of in kind products.



**Left center:** MWD TSA Challenge coins given to long term volunteers and long standing donors. This coin was approved last year, but we were just recently able to coordinate the presentation to Top Dogs Pet Boutique owners.

**Below right:** Volunteer Kelli Fields and some of her friends joined in to gather some KONG Extreme Balls for one of our planned 2016 Quarterly Care Packages. The dogs enjoy balls and they adore KONG toys, so what's not to love?





## First Annual “Dawgs 3 Clubber” Tournament

On November 1, the first annual “Dawgs 3 Clubber” tournament was held at the Back Nine Golf Course, a par three track located in Lakeville, MA. It was a cloudy, but mild day, in the 60’s when we began at 9:30 with 15 teams participating. The format was team scramble with each player only allowed three clubs; which means that no matter what clubs you choose.....they are never the correct three clubs.

Proceeds from the tournament, totaling \$2200.00, were presented to MWD TSA (Military Working Dog Team Support Assn.), to support our quarterly Care Packages to deployed MWD teams.

I was extremely pleased with the turnout, seeing old friends and meeting new ones. Special thanks are sent to Mike Lemish, former Vietnam Dog Handler Association (VDHA) historian, and special guest Lucy N430, the celebrity of the day. Thanks to my wife Linda, my brother and sister-in-law Dave and C. J. Farrell, our Rhode Island friends Barry and Helen. The Whitman American Legion, Brockton VFW, Abington Legion, and restaurants Town Spa and Damians were especially generous, and old friends, Joe and Deke went

above and beyond.

The week prior to the tournament my wife and I attended the VDHA reunion in Nashville and reunited with guys I last saw in 1971. I dedicated this tournament to my K9 brothers from the 483<sup>rd</sup> SPS, Cam Rahn Bay, and the wonderful and loyal dogs who were with us, night after night, protecting us.

**Left to right: Bill Doiron, 483<sup>rd</sup> SPS Cam Rahn Bay and MWD TSA Volunteer who organized the event, Mike Lemish, author and MWD historian, with Lucy N430 and Bill’s nephew and Army veteran, Erik Pereira. Thanks to Bill and all of his wonderful supporters and the golfers for this great fundraiser.**

Story and photos by Bill Doiron



Thanks to Donors continued from page 10



**Left: Bannix donations were sent out to various kennels. I think we have a thumbs up.**

**Below: Delca Corporation supported us with toys and treats and San Francisco Bay Gourmet Coffee supported with awesome coffees. The end result is that we sent some of our kennels a year-end surprise.**



## If Only I Could Talk

Story and Photos by Pete Peters

My military career began in late 1965 or early 1966. I can not be sure of the exact date because as a civilian I had no use for calendars. My life consisted of sleeping and waking up whenever I felt like it, getting fed, and having the run of the house. I had it made and I knew it. I would gladly have gone through my whole life there with my job title of "Pet." But that was not to be. My life was to drastically change. One day two strangers appeared at my house. I had never seen people dressed exactly alike before, and I guess that made me a little uneasy. My natural instincts were to be wary of them so I raised the hairs on my back just enough to make them aware of just who was boss here. It didn't go un-noticed, but nothing was said. After signing a bunch of papers, my owner was given a leather, basket-like contraption that I had never seen the likes of before. When he held it out and called "here, Budda" I went to him eagerly to get what I thought was a new toy. I will never forget the shock of that thing going over my face and being buckled in place. This was the first time I had ever been muzzled. To make matters worse, a silver chain was put in place over my head and my old leather collar with the brass name and address plate on it was removed and discarded. Immediately after that I was led out the front door of the only home I had ever known, never to return. I was led to the street and placed in an aluminum box with air holes in it. If I could only talk I would have let them know that this must be some sort of mix-up or something. The box was then placed in the back of a truck, and away I went to my new life in the military.

I was taken to the K-9 Processing Center at Lackland Air Force Base in Texas where I met many others who had met the same fate as I. We were constantly poked, prodded, measured, and weighed during this period of our induction. The guys in the uniforms called it "physical and emotional profiling". I called it "BS!!!" They wrote in my records that I had an "attitude problem." After a couple of weeks of this it was determined that I was physically fit, and had the required attributes to remain in the military and become a Scout Dog. I wish I could have told them my thoughts on the subject, especially about what the veterinarian did with that thermometer. Ouch!!! Next, it was back into the aluminum crate and off to basic training.



**Left: An image of Budda 4 A82 in 1966 at the beginning of his military career.**

**He had a reputation that preceded him: alert, attitude and aggression. He excelled in everything he did.**

**The author of this article was part of the 39th IPSD (Infantry Platoon Scout Dog) and knew Budda and his handler.**

The flight to Georgia was uneventful and lasted only a couple of hours. Upon our arrival there we were assigned to the 39th Infantry Platoon (Scout Dog). This unit had seen action in the Philippines in WWII and in Korea. Now, in March 1966 they were being reactivated for Vietnam and I was to be a part of it all. Sgt Bob Brown was assigned to be my handler. We had loads of conflicts over just who was to have control over whom. Eventually we came to the understanding that for the time being, we would merely tolerate each other and hope for the best. After all, he was the one who fed and cared for me. Basic training was the pits. We were green dogs being trained with, and by, equally green handlers. What a circus! It was day after day of nothing but "circle training". We had a steady diet of "NO", "HEEL", "SIT", "STAY", and "DOWN". The only one I had a problem with was "NO". It just wasn't in keeping with my nature. If I could only talk I would tell them that this was all BS, and they could send me back home any time. Then one day we didn't do that circle thing. Sgt Brown strapped me into a leather harness and removed my choke chain. Then he took me for a walk

down a narrow path through the woods. Not too bad so far. He kept saying things like "SEARCH", and "EASY". I had no idea what he was talking about at the time, and was unable to ask. Suddenly I sensed that we were not alone there. I had caught a whiff of someone else, and that made me nervous. My natural instincts took over, causing me to raise my head slightly and smell into the wind to detect whoever was there. My ears perked up and rotated forward to detect any sound that might help me pinpoint this person. As I was unsure of his intent, my muscles tensed and the hairs on my back stood up. Sgt Brown quickly moved forward, kneeling just behind me and with both arms outstretched pointed in the same direction that I was looking. He began patting my shoulder and said "attaboy Budda, attaboy". Then we advanced upwind and suddenly somebody burst from the bushes and ran away. We both gave chase, but I guess Sgt Brown was a bit slower than me because I couldn't quite catch up with the decoy because the leash restrained me. If I could talk I would have said "damn, this is

If I Could Talk continued on page 13



If I Could Talk continued from page 12

FUN!" But all I could do was bark and jump around. We did this a few more times and it finally sank into my hard head that this was what we were supposed to do. Hey, this is easy. And the more we did it the easier it was. I was having fun, and suddenly Army life didn't seem too bad.

This all went on until July of 1966. Then one day as we were taken out in the morning we saw a line of those aluminum crates again. There were 27 crates in all, one for each of us. I knew we would be traveling again. I had no idea that I had a one way ticket to a combat zone. The platoon had three 2 1/2 ton trucks, a jeep, and a utility trailer. We, in our crates, were loaded into two of the trucks. Our rations, water cans, veterinary supplies, tents, and other gear went into the trailer. The remaining deuce and a half was for all of our handlers and their duffel bags. We set out from Fort Benning bound for Warner Robins Air Force Base near Macon, Georgia. The 80 mile convoy trip was hot in those darned crates. If I could talk I sure would have told them a thing or two. I was really tired of this crate business! But we all thought we would be out of them now that we were here. WRONG! Our little convoy split into two groups and they drove right onto the flight line and right up the rear ramps on the two C-141 Starlifters that were waiting

there for us. As soon as everything was chained down and secure, we took off. This was a far longer trip than any of us had expected. After a 2 hour refueling stop in Alaska and another in Japan, we finally landed at Ton Son Nhut airbase in Vietnam after 27 hours. Damn, did those planes ever stink by then!

Our arrival date was July 26, 1966. We stayed there at "tent city B" for a couple of days and then our orders came down. We were being assigned to the 173rd Airborne Brigade at Bien Hoa. When we got there, our area was just a clearing in the woods, just inside the perimeter. The squad tents went up for our handlers, and we were staked out next to our crates. Construction of my new home was started almost immediately. We were attached to the Engineer company and they had the materials, equipment, and know-how to build my kennels and the hootches for the men. Items that we couldn't get through normal channels were gotten either by trading out some extra dog food, or by a "midnight requisition." I think that was how the emergency fire pump appeared behind the kennels one morning. It was just the thing for washing down our runs each day. A little over-kill though.

My first combat mission was during Operation Toledo in August, 1966. When we

returned to the kennels after the 28 day operation all of the handlers were awarded their Combat Infantryman Badges. Although we dogs were not eligible for military awards or decorations, many of our handlers passed them along to us in appreciation of a job well done.

There was little rest for us at the kennels. Dogs needed to be worked on a daily basis to maintain their sharpness and physical conditioning. New training was initiated to build on what was learned during the previous missions. There was a 30 acre area adjacent to the kennel area that was all woods and a stream. This made an excellent training area to run our practice patrols. We got some deactivated VC mines and "potato masher" grenades from the EOD team to help us. They were either buried in a pathway or rigged with tripwires attached to a rat trap for us to detect. Probably due to this continual training between missions, no scout teams from the 39th were injured by booby traps during my first year in country. Many traps were detected though.

***Next month, read on to learn more about Budda's experiences in the combat zone, including secret missions and adapting to new handlers.***

## Year End Boxes Shipped

A few boxes were shipped to various military installations to include some coffee and treats. We included a few cards from supporters in these boxes, too.

Coffee, pretzels, cookies and Chex Mix Muddy Buddies... what was not to love?

**Right top: Air Force MWD checks out the array of goodies that arrives in time to celebrate the holiday season. Thanks to the great coffees that we had donated from San Francisco Bay Gourmet Coffee.**

**Left center: Navy Kennel Master gives her box two thumbs up.**

**Below right: Marine handlers send their thanks to our supporters.**



## Sit. Stay. Support.

MWD TSA  
P. O. Box 5864  
Canton, GA 30114  
Editor: D Whitman

Phone: 470-585-9254  
Email: [info@mwdtsa.org](mailto:info@mwdtsa.org)



MWD TSA is committed to ethics in everything we do. We are honored to be among the select few non-profit organizations to receive the GuideStar Gold Participant seal.

All of our volunteers sign a code of ethics which outlines how we do our business. We are committed to transparency, but also handle the monies and goods you donate with efficiency, respect and appreciation.

Our missions include supporting active duty dogs and handlers, veteran dog handler causes and events, and war dog memorials where handlers can gather to remember, recognize and heal. We offer educational opportunities for the general public and advocate on behalf of retired military working dogs. Please support us!

Kennel Talk is the proud recipient of multiple  
GSDCA Special Newsletter Awards!

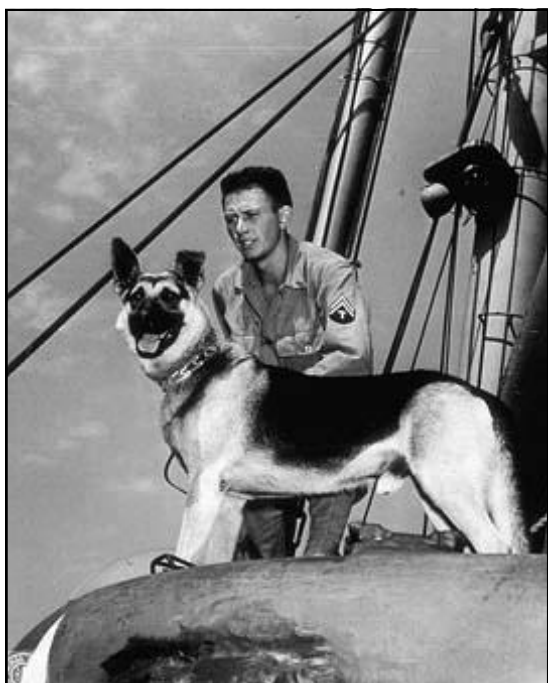


We invite you to join the ever-growing MWD TSA family!

To learn, volunteer, engage or subscribe, click here for info:

<http://mwdtsa.org/mwdtsa-one-click.html>

## From the Archives



## From Nebraska to Italy

This team, on its way to World War II Europe, is reported to be from the 37th Quartermaster War Dog Platoon out of Fort Robinson, in the northwest corner of Nebraska.

In 1919 Fort Robinson became a quartermaster remount depot. The Quartermaster Corps is the branch of the U.S. Army responsible for supplies, equipment, and most military animals. Fort Robinson became an animal intake center for the cavalry and artillery—think mules and horses, mostly.

In the fall of 1942, when dogs became part of the Quartermaster Corps, a K-9 Corps reception and training center was established at Fort Robinson and eventually a significant number of dogs were trained there for all branches of the military.