

July 2016
Award Winning
Monthly Newsletter

Volume 8, Issue 7

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Kennel Talk is an award
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MWDTSA touches the
lives of dogs and people
near and far. This
month our articles and
photos take us from
Hawaii to California,
Texas, Missouri, Geor-
gia, Virginia, and from
West Virginia around the
world with our care
packages.

Our archived photos are
from individual WWII
war dog records.

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Military Working Dog Team Support Association, Inc.

MWDTSA KENNEL TALK



Orlando, Fla., native Cpl. Suzette Clemans, a military working dog handler with 1st Law Enforcement Battalion, I Marine Expeditionary Force, and Denny, her Belgian malinois patrol explosive detection dog, prepare to search for explosives on the beach aboard Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, California.

USMC photo by Lance Cpl. Caitlin Bevel.

Marine Dog Teams Sniff Out Trouble

Story and photos by Lance Cpl. Caitlin Bevel

CAMP PENDLETON, Calif. - The roar of an engine, the breaking of waves against a bulkhead, and the jarring shift from the rocking sea to solid land could disorient any Marine, but for military working dog handlers, keeping their canine partners focused presents an even greater challenge.

To overcome this obstacle, Marines constantly train to improve proficiency with the weapons and equipment needed for their specific job fields. For the Marine dog teams with 1st Law Enforcement Battalion (LEB), I Marine Expeditionary Force Headquarters Group, this includes any and every vehicle that could be used to transport them to where they are needed.

1st LEB Marine working dog teams used Landing Craft Air Cushions (LCAC) to perform am-

phibious landings and search for simulated explosives on a beach aboard Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, California.

"The LCAC is basically a hover craft that goes over water and lands on the beach," said Cpl. Suzette Clemans, a military working dog handler with 1st LEB. "It's good training because the dog goes from being on a vessel to working right onto the beach."

Amphibious landings often require Marines to adjust quickly from waiting in the vehicle to the explosive activity of the mission on dry land. This becomes more complex when dogs are involved.

"Some dogs can get nervous inside tight spaces, the waves might make them feel sick or uncomfortable, and getting on and off the

Marine Dogs Sniff continued from page 1



Left: Hebron, Ky., native, Sgt. Paul Johnson, a military working dog handler, and Rumor, his Labrador retriever specialized search dog, search for explosives on the beach aboard Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, California.

Right: Orlando, Fla., native Cpl. Suzette Clemans and Denny, her Belgian malinois patrol explosive detection dog, ride in a Landing Craft Air Cushion before searching for explosives on the beach.



Above left: Marines and their military working dogs with 1st Law Enforcement Battalion, I Marine Expeditionary Force, board a Landing Craft Air Cushion. Exposing dog teams to working with different equipment and scenarios enhances their skills across a range of security threats in support of Marine Air Ground Task Force operations.

Above right: Marines and their military working dogs explore the deck of a Landing Craft Air Cushion before searching for explosives on the beach.

vessel can be stressful for them," said Clemans, an Orlando native partnered with Denny, a Belgian Malinois patrol explosive detection dog.

The LCAC is large enough to hold multiple trucks or pieces of large equipment, but passengers like the dog teams ride in a compact room with only two small windows.

"When you first get off of something like that it's up to you to get the dog settled," said Gunnery Sgt. Chris Willingham, the Kennel Master for 1st LEB. "It's very important for handlers to understand their dog's capabilities and limitations."

The LCAC is one of the few vessels where the dogs experience a change of terrain without being able to explore or see what is happening around them. They boarded the vessel in one area and came ashore somewhere completely different where they immediately searched for possible explosives.

"Anything you can expose a dog team to prepares them for future unknowns," said Willingham. "What you don't want is to have your dog in a bland situation all the time where they know exactly what's going on and there's nothing with shock value or extra variables thrown in."

The dog teams train with everything from trucks to helicopters to make sure they are ready for whatever situations they might face, said Willingham, a Tuscaloosa, Alabama, native who has been with the program for 15 years.

"You can't plan for everything, but we always try to think outside the box to expose our dogs to different sights, sounds and smells," said Willingham. "If we identify any issues, we want it to be during training rather than combat."

Willingham said he could not be more proud. The handlers brought their partners' attention back to the mission immediately and conducted off leash searches

of roadways and vegetation where they gave positive responses to odors planted at the scene.

"Being part of the military working dog program, you are part of a very special legacy," said Willingham. "It doesn't matter what branch of service you're in, if you're K-9 then you're K-9 and that's something we take a lot of pride in."

Clemans said that she has been with Denny for a year and a half, since she joined the program, and it gives her confidence to know he has her back. The dogs and their handlers support the amphibious and expeditionary nature of the Marine Air Ground Task Force by enhancing the security environment.

"We are definitely ready," said Clemans. "Any time, any place, you name it and we're there."

Regional Training to Support Safer Big Events

Photos and story by
Linda Costa-Bryan, unless noted.

In May I was invited to a training event put on by the TSA for local DOD, Law Enforcement, Search and Rescue and, of course, TSA. Was I interested? Of course!

When I arrived at the site, Aloha Stadium on Oahu, Hawaii, it appeared to be controlled chaos. Trailers, vans, crates, dog equipment and people all over the place, and, of course, lots of dogs. I immediately started searching for my point of contact, Chief Marc Jones, the Kennel Master at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

Before I got very far, I was greeted by a group of Marines and their dogs. It must have been my MWD TSA t-shirt that caught their eye. These young Marines could not thank me enough for all of the coffee we have sent them and for the help we gave one of their teammates last year with his dog.

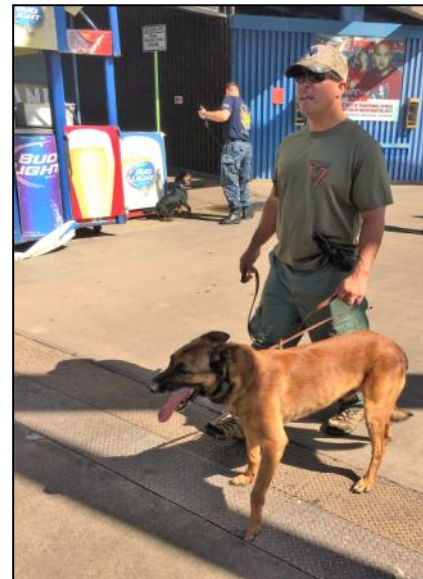
With my escorts, we soon located Chief Jones. He immediately took me under his wing, introduced me to the heads of the various groups, and explained to me exactly what was going on and where. I was also shown where the food and cold water were being hidden, just in case.

During the course of the day, I was able to

wander at my own pace, from activity to activity. I watched the TSA dogs detecting drugs on airplane "passengers." I watched the Search and Rescue dogs find "cadavers." I observed local law enforcement dogs chase down "suspects." The best part of all was watching our own military dogs in action. They searched for "bombs" in stadium seating, spent a lot of time searching for something around the empty beer stands, hunted for strangers hiding in a loading dock, and, my favorite, took down the bad guy with a lot of barking and growling. The dogs were almost outdone by a dramatic bad guy screaming and yelling.

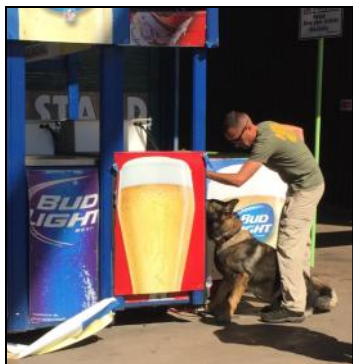
Watching these dogs is amazing to me. One minute they are ready to rip an arm off, the next they are getting belly rubs. I want to hug them all, but then think about losing an arm and restrain myself.

I had a great time watching one specific dog. As a reward for a good job, he received his KONG, which he immediately dropped into a bucket of water. Due to the depth of the bucket, he was unable to retrieve his reward; his handler reached in and retrieved the KONG. The dog immediately tossed his KONG back in the bucket. It was again retrieved by the handler and back again. What a sense of humor this dog had.



Above: One of the teams waiting for their turn to run a problem.

By the end of the day I was exhausted but excited. I love watching "our" teams in action. It makes me want to do even more for them. Time to rest up! I hear there is another training later this summer. I'm ready!



Left: A team searches vending areas for hidden weapons in a stadium.



Left: An Air Force dog received a reward for a job well done. Photo by Petty Officer 2nd Class Johans Chavarro.

Right: An Air Force dog searched the stadium seating. Photo by Petty Officer 2nd Class Johans Chavarro.



Right: Bonding time included belly rubs for this happy malinois.



San Antonio Stroll: A Visit to Two Memorials

Photos and story by Dixie Whitman.



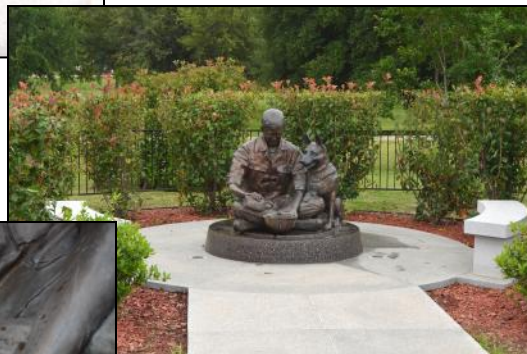
Above: This is the view approaching the memorial at Lackland AFB from the side,

Left: From the front.



Below: A photo of the Not Forgotten Fountain, a small fountain to honor the nearly 4,200 dogs who served in Vietnam. Our escort cleaned the fountain while we were there so in this photo the water was turned off.

Below left: The water was turned back on after the cleaning. The "dog folks" at Lackland take great pride in the memorial.



A recent visit to the great state of Texas ended with a visit to the Military Working Dog Teams National Monument at Lackland AFB in San Antonio. There are numerous military working dog memorials across the country, but this one is designated as a U.S. National Monument.

Dedicated in October of 2013, the memorial at Lackland AFB was spearheaded by John Burnam Monument Foundation, Inc. to recognize and honor military working dog teams across all five branches of the military. It features a large bronze sculpture of a current military working dog handler along with representations in bronze of four of the breeds of dogs that are most commonly found throughout American military history: the Doberman pinscher, the German shepherd dog, the Labrador retriever, and the Belgian malinois.

On the back side of the granite memorial is a mural of laser etched images of military working dog teams from WWII to the present day.

To one side is a smaller bronze memorial, "The Not Forgotten Fountain," which depicts a Vietnam era handler sharing water from his canteen with his partner. The fountain memorial portrays a very personal and emotional connection between handler and dog.

This national monument is located on a secure base; however, reasonable access to the public is granted. Please check with Lackland for access requirements as you plan your visit.

Below: The back of the memorial is filled with images of dog teams, taken from both historical and from contemporary photos.



San Antonio continued from page 4

My husband and I were fortunate to have been escorted onto base by a handler whom we have known for a number of years. He took us to the larger memorial and also to the Nemo's War Dog Heroes Memorial, an emotional memorial created by an inspiring group of Vietnam and Thailand-era Air Force handlers.

Nemo's War Dog Heroes Memorial is a small single kennel run with a representation of Nemo A534 and an accompanying marker outlining his compelling story from war-torn Tan Son Nhut Air Base in Vietnam.

The events leading up to Nemo's heroic action started before daybreak on December 4, 1966 when a large force of Viet Cong enemy attacked the air base at Tan Son Nhut. Sadly, during the initial attack one sentry dog handler and three dogs were killed.

The assault was quickly stopped and the attackers were killed or captured. As daylight appeared, security forces visually searched the area for any undetected infiltrators and found none.

Unfortunately, these security teams did not include K-9. As night fell and the dog teams were again being posted on the perimeter, one of the dogs, Nemo, soon caught scent of something...someone...trouble.

He alerted and almost instantaneously was released because he and his handler, Robert Throneburg, were under attack.

Throneburg was injured. Lying atop him in an attempt to protect his handler from further harm was Nemo, who was also seriously injured. Nemo suffered gunshots to his nose and ultimately lost his right eye. As they were assaulted, Throneburg was able to call for assistance. Security forces arrived immediately and finished the fight.

Nemo was retired and sent home to live his life as a heroic mascot at Lackland AFB. Thanks to a dedicated team of Vietnam-era Air Force dog handlers, this memorial kennel, plaque, and display were erected to honor and remember the spirit and the heroic actions of Nemo A534, a legendary Air Force Sentry Dog.

Right: Volunteer Jerry and escort, Steve Kaun, pose with the "Not Forgotten Fountain," located to the side of the larger memorial. This fountain features a Vietnam-era dog handler pouring his canteen water into his helmet to share a drink with his partner. Our sincerest thanks to our kind and attentive escort.

Below: Part of the image on the back of the memorial is of dog handler Mary and MWD Meki, who have been supported by MWD TSA.



Right: A well known photo of Air Force Sentry Dog Nemo A534, whose actions on December 4, 1966 were recognized as truly heroic.

Below: Nemo's War Dog Memorial was originally created on the spot where Nemo's retirement kennel was constructed after his injury. It has since been moved adjacent to the Security Forces Museum.



Wild & Wonderful West Virginia Packages Arrive

On Saturday, May 21st, MWD TSA celebrated Armed Forces Day by gathering volunteers at the home of our president, Nikki Rohrig, in West Virginia and pulling together 200 care packages. These boxes were bursting at the seams with goodies for both ends of the leash: toys, treats, grooming products, and gear.

A couple of days later, a truck from the United States Postal Service pulled up to Nikki's home and stacked the boxes neatly into the back. They started these care packages on their way to the hands and paws of deserving dog teams.

Over the next two pages, we are sharing some photos of the teams who received these boxes. Thanks to our many donors, partner companies and organizations, the kids who colored pages, and the adults who created cards or wrote letters of support. This is what we do with your donations and, thanks to all of you, these teams know that America has their back.

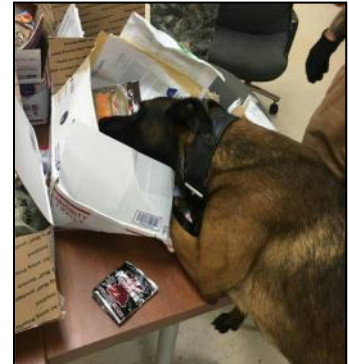
Alex, one of the handlers, felt the package was so representative of West Virginia, he said, "All we were missing was the coal." As an organization, we enjoy getting photos and messages back from handlers, like this one from a handler named Burt: "You guys are awesome. We just got one of your care packages. Lots of much needed goodies in there for our furry partners."

Below left: MWD Devil poses with everything that came in his care package: including coffee and a Wonderful West Virginia magazine.

Right center: An Air Force handler and her partner, Gina, pull out a new KONG toy and a hat.



Above: Thanks to our great partners at the United States Post Office, we had a pick-up at our packing location for nearly 200 boxes, with a few more headed out as the remaining addresses trickle in to our packing team.



Two photos above: MWD Harry opens his own package. We suspect his favorite items involved snacks: Zuke's Jerky, Dynamo Dog, and D.O.G. Cookies.

Below right: Another Air Force handler poses with his dog. Both of the toys, a blue KONG and a West Paw Hurley, are sitting in front of the box next to the new sports water bottle. On top of the box is the new T-shirt and hat. Inside the box are many more goodies.



Care Packages continued from page 6



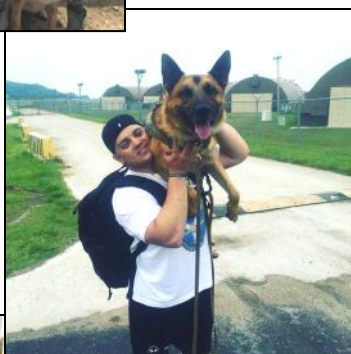
Left: Teams posed with care packages and their partners.

Right: MWD Bora is with her new Hurley toy by West Paw Design. The handler reports that she is bonkers for this new toy.



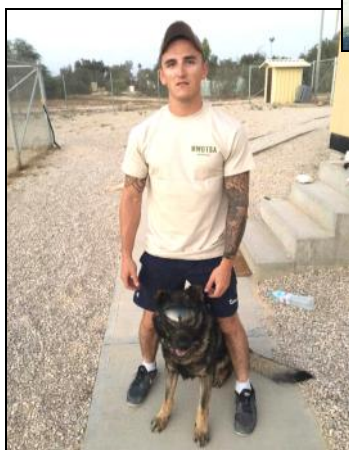
Right: This is the message we received from this team:

"You guys are awesome. We just got one of your care packages. Lots of much needed goodies in there for our furry partners. This is my boy here, MWD Bonus. He thanks you, too."



Left: Marine teams were supported, such as this team of Madrigal and SSD Saber.

One team focused their appreciation on the "Big Ass Brick of Soap" donated by Duke Cannon, stating: "This is the first time in my life that I've ever been excited over soap."

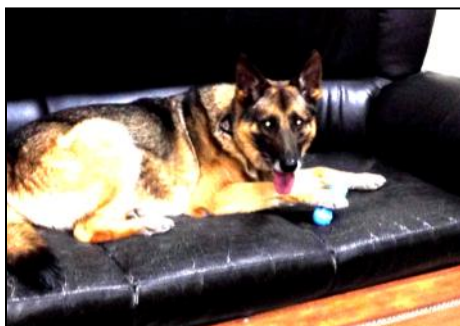


These care packages were sent out to Army, Navy, Air Force and Marine dog teams deployed around the world. You can see from the smiles that these are truly appreciated. More photos are located on our Facebook and/or Twitter pages.

Left: MWD Elo and Handler Chase pose with the new shirt and hat.

Right: Another Marine team supported and loving their new Hurley toy, Handler Seelin and MWD Jade.

Thanks to all of you who made these packages possible.



Above: This is MWD KitKat. A message from his handler: "Here's a picture of him protecting the toy that was sent. He loves anything he can chew on. I have to ensure he can't destroy it easily and these, he cannot."

Below: This is SSD Camo. She's showing off some of the artwork received in her care package along with her spiffy new KONG toy. Thanks to all of our supporters for their cards and creative artwork and drawings.



Above: SSgt. Daniel and MWD KitKat enjoy the contents of their Wild and Wonderful West Virginia care package.

Thanks to our great donors

MWDTSA relies on the generosity of our donors, without whom we would be unable to complete our missions and prepare care packages. We would like to take this opportunity to thank the following companies and individuals who gave recent donations:

A Tail Away—Linda Standard
Canton, Ga.
Anonymous
Dick Baumer
Stanton Bost
Butler Elementary School,
Butler, Missouri
Mrs. Millard's Second Grade
Patricia Carter
Valerie L Cole
Daughters of the American Revolution
John Bell Chapter, Madison, Wisc.
Ana, Gregory, and Ralph Friewald
Stephanie Gallagher
Elizabeth Greenberg
Krista Hernandez

Immediate Results, LLC
Port Orange, Florida
Laura Judd
Justin Loffio
Carol Matre
Kerri Moss
Frances Murch
Laurie Newton
Shane Parker
Randel & Shelli Patty
Stephen Redden
Roswell North Elementary School Music
Roswell, Georgia
Jay Schneider
Robert Schnell
Karenbea Sewell, Dawg Ties
Richard Snyder
Phyllis Springfield
Christa Ursini
Jerry and Dixie Whitman
Eileen Williams
Jonathan Wilcox
Kathie Woodring

Thank You Alpha Tech Pet of Littleton, Massachusetts

Last month we included the Alpha Tech Pet company of Littleton, Massachusetts in our list of donors. Shortly after the newsletter was pulled together, we received this great photo of SPC Beau Andrea and his MWD, Leo, posed at their undisclosed location with the Alpha Tech Pet donation.

MWDTSA received a shout out for some help from a kennel that needed some supplies. Budgets have been slashed to the bone and sometimes we are called upon to help plug holes. There are certain things that no kennel should be without and one of those is disinfectant to maintain a clean kennel.

When the call came in, Nikki Rohrig, our president, reached out to Dick Baumer, our 1st vice president. One of Dick's family members is a veterinarian and strongly recommended the Kennel Sol product. A call was made and we had a dozen bottles of disinfectant donated by Alpha Tech Pet to help the handlers maintain the cleanliness that is required in a working dog kennel.

Thanks to all of those who stepped in to help us get these items down range. It is through these very personal connections that we are able to support our dog teams.



Artwork and Letters Sought for Q3 & Q4 Care Packages

Nearly ten years ago, the foundations of MWD TSA were put into place with care packages being one focus of our mission to support deployed dog teams.

Hand-in-hand with that care package mission was including creative and personal letters and artwork. Over the years, we've received letters, coloring pages, artwork and crafted bandanas made by kids and adults from across the country to insert into the boxes. We've heard back, that quite often, it is the artwork and letters that touch the heartstrings of those deployed in harm's way, and often the first things for which war-weary hands reach.

Our care package themes are set for the remainder of 2016: Quarter 3 boxes will feature the theme of "Talk Like a Pirate" and 4th Quarter boxes will feature items in support of the theme "Ice, Ice Baby."

We need groups of kids and adults to commit to sending us artwork and letters for both boxes. It's easy to find appropriate coloring pages by searching online for "Pirates" (Q3) or "Ice Hockey" and "Frozen Ice" coloring pages (Q4.)

To get more ideas or to sign up for one or both of the care packages, please connect with us at:

info@mwdtsa.org



Roswell North Elementary Music Kids Support

After an opportunity to talk first hand to one of our Military Working Dog handlers via Skype, students of Ms. Weingart's Roswell North Elementary School Music program decided to gather donations for MWD TSA to share in upcoming care packages.

Partnering with Top Dogs Pet Boutique in Roswell, Georgia, the kids were able to solicit funding for three of our MWD TSA staples: grooming wipes, Chuck It Balls, and undercoat rakes.

A total of 63 items were received, which is a huge amount of donated goods to go in our care packages, especially from the hands of kids.

Thank you to all of the Roswell North Elementary Music students who worked so hard to make this happen and thanks to the great handler and amazing friend, AJ Nieto, who inspired them.

Right: Many hands make light work! These are just some of the donated goodies coming to us from Roswell North Elementary School students from Roswell, Georgia. Chuck It balls, grooming wipes and grooming supplies, such as the undercoat rake, are always favorite items to receive.



Talk Like a Pirate, Shop Like a Supporter

Our 3rd quarter Care Packages will be themed "Talk Like A Pirate" and have been a couple of years in the planning. We think this will be a hugely successful box with lots of fun items for both the dogs and the handlers. Wouldn't you love to help us put smiles on the faces of the dogs and handlers and a bit of swashbuckling in their step?

Our Wish List is now open for your support. There are two items which will be requested via our Amazon Wish List:

Death Wish Coffee and The Nero Ball.

To help us get our "chest filled with plunder" to be shipped out to our "mateys," be sure to stop by our [Wish List](#) at the following link and shop early and shop often.

Use discount code MWDTSA16 when ordering the Nero ball for a discount. Immediately before the last page for checkout, there is an opportunity to apply the discount code which will save you \$1.60.

https://smile.amazon.com/gp/registry/wishlist/ref=cm_wl_search_rvp_wl?ie=UTF8&cid=A31AV9MMNZ11HZ



Left: Spokesdog Tank encourages all of our MWDTSA friends and supporters to consider purchasing something from our Wish List for the 3rd Quarter Care Packages.

Below: Items requested via our Wish List include the Nero Ball and 1 pound bags of Death Wish coffee. Please join in and help us fill dog handlers "Treasure Chests" with plunder.



Coast Guard K9 Explosive Detection Dog Retires



Left and above: Chief Sirius, a Coast Guard K9 explosives detection dog, retired from service after six years at a ceremony held in Chesapeake on May 15. Sirius, a female Labrador retriever, is handled by Petty Officer 1st Class Joseph R. Tokarsky of the Maritime Security Response Team.

USCG photo by Petty Officer 2nd Class Wes Shinn

Paws for Reading Fundraiser

Story and photos by Mrs. Millard

Two years ago, I created a program to help motivate my students to achieve mastery in reading comprehension and the mathematical concepts of money and graphing. The program is called "Paws for Reading." Students read books on their individualized reading levels, then take short comprehension tests via computer.

For every test they pass, they earn Accelerated Reader (AR) points and money from an individual sponsor who has volunteered to support the program. Students then count their earnings and graph their progress throughout the duration of this program in terms of number of books read and money earned. They demonstrate mathematical mastery in the concepts of identification of coins, writing money amounts two different ways, bar graphing skills, exchanging different money amounts, and more.

They demonstrate literacy mastery with the concepts of reading fluency, accuracy, and comprehension. Even more importantly, they learn to love reading and the doors it can open in their lives and others.

The funds they earn are donated to support the Military Working Dog Team Support Association. This non-profit organization sends care packages to our troop handlers and their four-legged soldiers. The students and their sponsors give 100% of their funds to this organization.

Students not only work towards mastery of academic content, but they also learn life skills necessary to be caring and productive citizens of their city, their state, their country, and their world. They learn to care for others, to think of others before themselves, to think about what it looks like to be patriotic towards our country, to work for our freedom, and to respect what we have due to the sacrifices of others.

In the end, students receive a shirt to commemorate their participation in this activity. They wear their shirts as a class one day at the end of the year and celebrate their success with a photo op and other fun events.

These kiddos have amazed me beyond my expectations. They made a goal as a class to read 3,000 books (which meant passing 3,000 comprehension tests.) They have met and surpassed that goal and have had 4,040 in their hands since the start of the program in November. They have counted and kept track of \$1,040 dollars to support our soldiers and military dogs. Two of my students read over a million words this year, alone!

Students received accolades from across the country, beginning here at home with our governor congratulating them, and with laudatory videos from local meteorologists (Karlie Ritter and Michelle Boggwith). The author of Buck's Heroes, Johnny Mayo, athletic students from Mrs. Millard's Alumni at the Pittsburg State Athletic Department, a past paw student

(2013-2014) from Leavenworth Kansas, and an Air Force handler from North Dakota also sent them videos of congratulations. They even received a letter from the Kennedy Library.

I really want people to understand that this program is not about AR points. Its about three things:

1. Placing both books and words in the children's hands and minds.
2. Learning about supporting our troops who protect our country.
3. Nurturing the experience of individual accomplishments through learning.

Duration: November 11, 2015 to April 29, 2016

Total Books Passed: 4,040 Books

Total Words Read (passed): 4,163,992 Words

Total Funds Raised: \$1,040.00

With a huge thank you to the sponsors:

Susie Judd
Julie Craigmiles
John Smith & Family
Railroad Salon
Kimberly Hugo
Hilltop Farms
Dugan Family
Vicki Spencer
Anonymous Donor
Shaun Havens & Family
Custom Creations
Security Bank - Butler, MO and a very special thank you to BHS Spanish Club for the T shirts.



Above: Mrs. Millard's Second Grade did an impressive job with their fundraising.

Right: Counting money helps students with their mathematical skills.



Left: With the majority of funds earned being paid in quarters, \$1040.00 is a lot of counting.

Training Day at Fort Hood

Story and Photos by Dixie Whitman

On April 26th, MWDTSA volunteers Jerry and Dixie Whitman observed a huge behind-the-scenes training event at the largest stateside Army kennel, Fort Hood. In addition to the Fort Hood dogs, this event was opened up to other Army and K9 law enforcement kennels from across the country.

Here, in a remote area of Fort Hood, dog teams trained in mock villages that mimic what real life scenarios might entail, from huge buildings, to schools, to houses, to walled enclosures. Under the tutelage of seasoned leaders who have "been there, done that," younger handlers are given a challenging set of problems to work through with their dogs.

Several experienced leaders from various Army kennels provided a wealth of individual feedback at the end of each run, allowing the dog teams to learn and experience real world problem solving while getting expert advice on things they may want to try with their dogs the next time to enhance their dogs' performances.

We were honored to have been included in this very special event and delighted to be able to provide great gifts of coffee and dog treats via our partners, San Francisco Bay Gourmet Coffee and Cloud Star Treats.

Thanks to everyone who made this unique event a cherished opportunity for us.

Above middle row: A handsome bi-color Army dog is seeking odors that may seep through cracks around a door. In this particular problem, dogs were asked to search a perimeter, then the interior of a building. Each search was different, meaning sometimes dogs found and flushed out a bad guy. Sometimes they apprehended one bad guy inside while another escaped and they then had to pursue into the wilderness. A huge thank you to all of the handlers who went through this training. This is Texas and in the heat and the brush, one can imagine there were plenty of snakes out there, too.

Above middle row far right: Another dog team, heads out to start their problem. This team ran in record speed.



MWDTSA would like to send a huge shout out to our partners San Francisco Bay Gourmet Coffee for their wonderful coffee donations and to Cloud Star for their great Dynamo Dog Endurance Treats. These gifts put smiles on the handlers attending the training session.



Above: The huge training event required a large number of handlers to suit up as decoys in support of various training scenarios across a large swath of Fort Hood.

Above far right: An Army handler and dog wait their turn to run a problem in a simulated village.

Training Day at Fort Hood continued from page 12

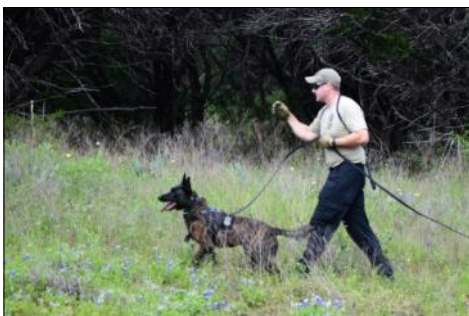


Left: At the doorway, the handler shouts commands to anyone inside the building to make themselves known before the dog is released to search.

Right: A handler plays with his dog while awaiting his turn to run a problem in a huge building. Creating a strong bond with the K-9 partner is the key to successful teamwork and is always paramount in a good handler's mind.

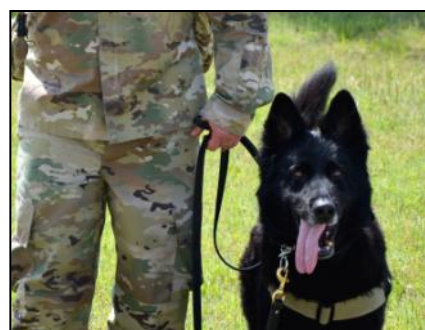


Right: Handler gives his dog a drink of water from a large cooler. This event was held in Texas and heat was an issue, requiring handlers to monitor themselves and their MWDs closely.



Left: Problems were set up differently each time so that handlers could not guess what might be in store. Sometimes, multiple perpetrators were inside a building with one escaping out into the woods. These handlers are tracking the perpetrators down.

Right: This attentive MWD was anxious for his turn to start:



Left: Another team moved quickly into the woods. This dog was flying everywhere he went.

Right: MWD TSA volunteers were spoiled by the staff at Fort Hood; we had amazing chauffeurs to drive us around the event.



Memorials and Tributes: RIP Busty L347

With heavy hearts, we bring you this message from MWD Busty's handler. MWD Busty was recently retired and was transported home to live out his final days with family. Rest easy, Busty L347.

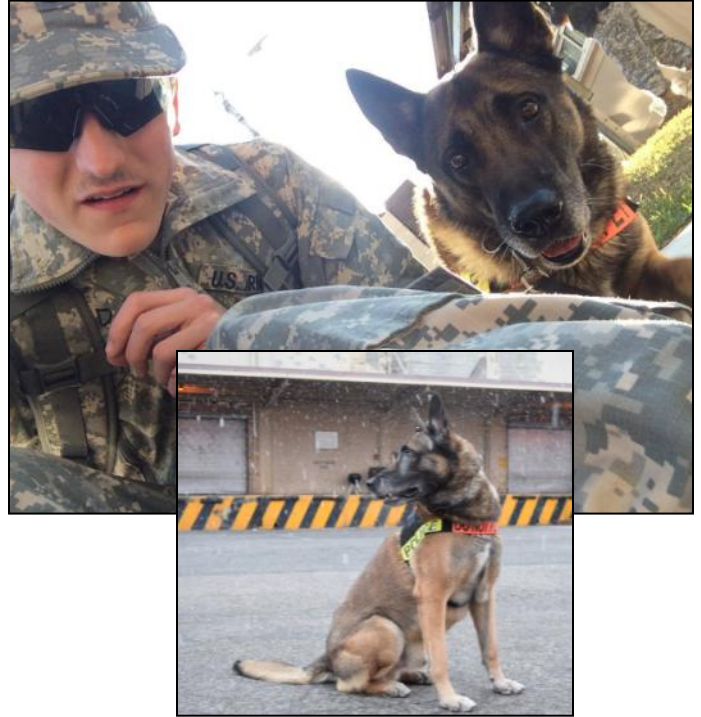
"I hate to believe and admit it, but retired MWD Busty L347 passed away the other day from complications of advanced stage Dilated Cardiomyopathy or DCM, following a heat injury.

"DCM is a disease of the heart muscle that results in weakened contractions and poor pumping ability. As the disease progresses the heart chambers become enlarged, one or more valves begin to leak, and the heart eventually fails.

"From what my family informed me, he died a peaceful and not a painful death. Although I never got to see him in his retired days, he was my first working dog when I was in South Korea, and was an absolutely amazing dog. Growing close to the MWDs, you get a special attachment and Busty had a heart like no other.

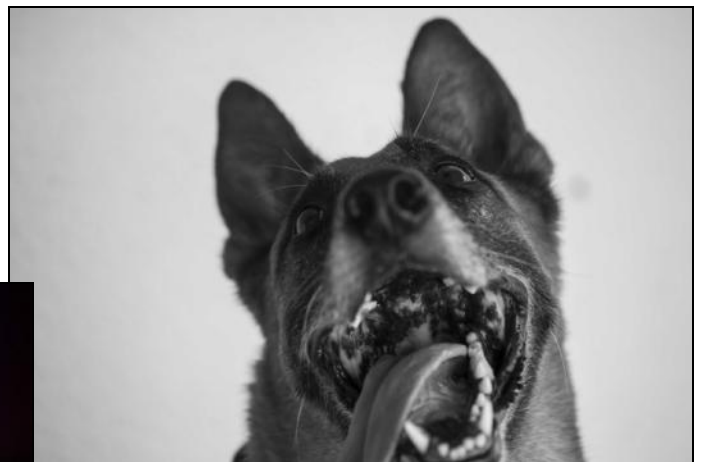
"I am glad to say that he spent his last days in the States living on a couch, much loved by my family and the other dogs there. It's tough to lose a companion you've spent so much time with, but at least he's in a better place.

"Guardians of the Night, 'til Valhalla."



Night or Day: The Bbutler Does It!

Bbutler, a U.S. Marine Corps Military Working Dog (MWD) assigned to the Provost Marshall's Office, K9 Section, Marine Corps Base, Camp Smedley D. Butler, poses for photos aboard Camp Foster, Okinawa, Japan, June 4, 2016. MWD Bbutler was born February of 2009 aboard Lackland Air Force base and was assigned to Okinawa in June of 2010. USMC photo by MCIPAC Combat Camera Cpl. Allison Lotz.



Memorials and Tributes: RIP Rambo M782

**RIP Rambo M782...
Until Valhalla, my friend.
Justin**



Why Soldiers Cry

No one strives for glory
It comes at too great a cost
For buried in that story
Are lives forever lost
Smiles and pride for those who survive
On the surface all is swell
Deep inside where memories strive
The soldier flirts with hell
A battle never ending
Rages on within
Past and present blending
Neither one will win
The moments few without care
A soldier's strength decays
Another brother is always there
Or a sister in harm's way

The soldier watches in abject fear
As others enter the murk
Of battle's grind, of rend and tear
Where grief and shadows lurk
Sentries we wait for the return
Of any who may survive
Dying more with each soul turned
Crying for those still alive
There are no words, no prayer will do
No song that soothes our pain
When a teammate falls, we fall too
Our hearts are one and the same.
No one told us the reason why
The price we paid was right
But now we know why soldiers cry
For the souls in eternal night.

**By Michael Hurder
Vietnam Dog Handler**

Sit. Stay. Support.

MWD TSA

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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!

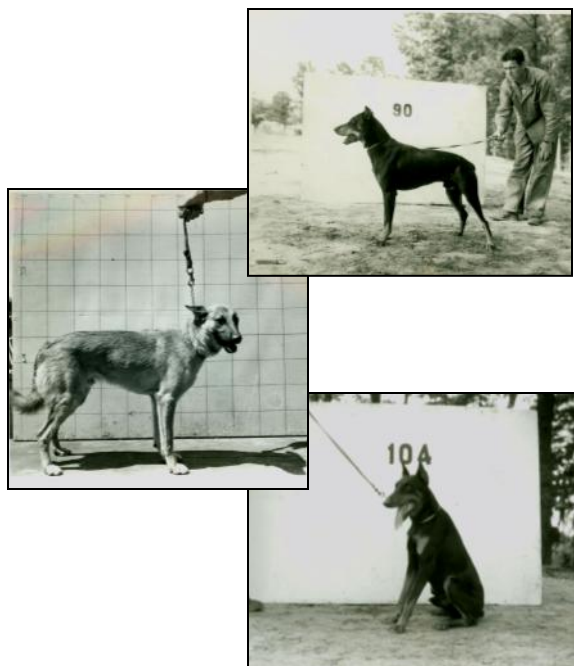


We invite you to join the ever-growing MWD TSA family!

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

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

From the Archives



Top to bottom, three WWII Marine recruits:

Butch, unknown, Duke.

What's In A Name?

Early on, as the Marines began their War Dog program, dogs accepted by the Marines retained their full kennel names, which are often long, complicated, and of foreign origin. That practice did not last long, as shorter call names became critical for fast, easy communication during intense training and combat.

The problem was that giving short names resulted in multiple dogs named Max, Rex, Duke, King, etc. For this reason, the tattoo numbers became critical in order to keep unique records on dogs with the same call name, (e.g. Max M150 would have a different, health, behavior, and training file than any other K9 named Max.)

According to a quote by M.C. Lang in the National Archives, "Some names were far more common than others. To stand at a modest distance from a large group of war dogs hanging around during a break and call for 'Duke' was to risk being trampled by a herd of furry marines. There were no fewer than 57 Dukes enlisted in the corps." Of course, in addition to Dukes, there were Duchesses, Kings, Princes, Princesses, Barons and Counts. While not really royal, these war dogs were certainly regal.

This practice of including a tattoo or brand number with the name continues today.

Photos from the National Archives