

June 2016  
Award Winning  
Monthly Newsletter

Volume 8, Issue 6

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MWD TSA touches the  
lives of dogs and people  
near and far. This  
month our articles and  
photos take us from  
West Virginia for our  
care packing on to New  
York, Alabama, Texas,  
North Dakota, Hawaii,  
and Qatar.

Our historical photo is  
from the National Ar-  
chives and showcases  
the World War II capture  
of Biak Island in the  
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Military Working Dog Team Support Association, Inc.

## MWD TSA KENNEL TALK



Senior Airman Myron McIntosh and Staff Sgt. Sansha Richard, Military Working Dog handlers, demonstrate how focused a MWD is while assisting their handlers in a hostile situation, April 22, 2016. Military Working Dogs are used for a wide variety of jobs including bomb detection and patrol. (U.S. Air Force photo/Senior Airman Tammie Ramsouer)

## First Time Out

Written by Linda Standard

Photos by Susie Hood, Linda Standard, Dixie Whitman  
and official USAF photos by SrA. Tammie Ramsouer.

Touring the kennel at Maxwell Air Force base in Montgomery, Alabama on Friday, April 22, 2016, certainly was a special treat.

This was my first visit to a military working dog kennel and I had a blast. Not having a military background, I had thought these airmen might work in a stiff or rigid environment, but that was far from the case. The handlers are open to new ideas and training methods to improve their dogs' problem-solving abilities.

TSgt. Jack Carr (Kennel Master); SSgt. Adam Bearden (Trainer); SSgt. Craig Ritter, SSgt. Sansha Richard, SSgt. Bixby, and SrA. Myron McIntosh were waiting to meet the MWD TSA

group. We received a tour of their veterinary office, kennel, tack room, and conference area.

TSgt. Carr explained how an obstacle course not only helps train the dogs for obedience but gives them more flexibility and increases their endurance. MWD Elza ran the obstacle course with ease.

The Controlled Aggression phase of the demonstration was broken down into six phases (a field interview, bite, stand off, search, re attack, and flee away). It was fascinating to see the handlers use their wealth of knowledge and skill to develop the dogs' talents in each area.

First Time Out continued from page 1

MWD Molly showed off her detection training by searching eight pieces of luggage where marijuana and methamphetamine were hidden. The detection dogs can search for other illegal drugs as well. Their training is mixed, meaning different drugs are hidden in different ways or times. Blank time periods are also inserted where no drugs are stashed. This prevents the dogs from guessing any patterns in order to receive their toy rewards more quickly.

MWD Molly was partially recovered from recent surgery. Our demo was also a physical test for her to see how she felt working again. Her handler was very happy with her performance.

Once the demos were completed, the MWD TSA volunteers were able to give the handlers their gifts. It was so much fun to watch them open boxes and discover dog toys plus items like coffee, thermometers, bandanas, hats, and T-shirts. Smiles all around from them!

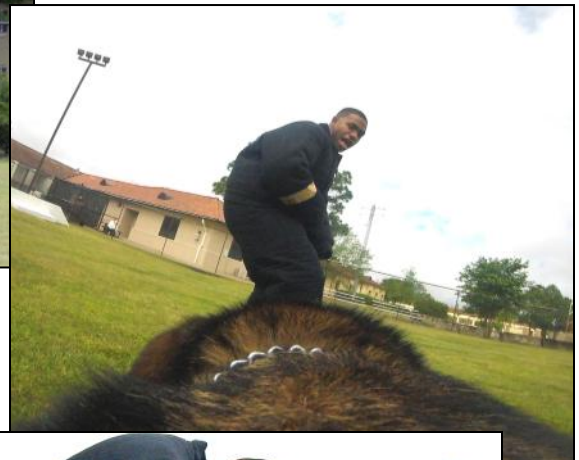
MWD Molly was allowed to join us during the gift opening so she ended up testing a bumper toy while wearing her new bandana. Her handler allowed me to get close to her, which was the highlight of my visit. I never dreamed I'd be able to get up close to a MWD, but Molly was extremely gentle and rather persistent in being adorable. How fun!

I hope there are many more base tours for me to join. It was such a great day that I hated to leave.



**From top left photo clockwise: This demonstration shows how fast a MWD will come after an assailant if the handler is pushed or harmed in any way. (U.S. Air Force photo/Senior Airman Tammie Ramsouer)**

**Below: Elza zones in on the fleeing suspect.**



**Far right bottom: Elza stops his escape and the handler takes him into custody.**

**Bottom: Elza keeps a close eye on her suspect. Should he make any attempt to flee, he'll be re-apprehended immediately.**





First Time Out continued from page 2



**Top left: MWD TSA visits include gifts for the dogs and the kennels/staff.**

**Top center: Maxwell handlers were excited to look through their gifts of dog toys, shampoo, thermometers, and especially, their coffee.**

**Top right: 42nd SPS Trainer, Adam Bearden was very happy about all of the great San Francisco Bay Gourmet Coffee that we took to share with the kennel.**

**Left center: SSgt. Bearden educated us in the gear room about how the dogs are trained to grasp arms by using a wrapped bite sleeve.**



**Above: MWD Molly was thrilled with all of her toys, especially the tug toy and her Air Force dog bandana.**

**Above: In the training yard, Linda Standard is given a tutorial on the bite suit.**

**Right center: MWD Molly searches a field of luggage for illegal drugs with her handler, SrA McIntosh.**

**Right: Molly is rewarded with a KONG toy when she successfully shows her handler where the drugs were located. "We got this, Dad."**

**Bottom right: MWD TSA was honored to treat the Maxwell kennel staff to a wonderful meal.**





## Fort Hood Visit April 2016

Written by Holly Goldbetter.

Photos by Holly Goldbetter and Dixie Whitman.

Our recent visit to the kennels at Fort Hood in Killeen, Texas included reunions with old friends and making some new ones, and even a celebrity appearance! It was warm and muggy for late April in central Texas, but MWD TSA volunteers Dixie and Jerry Whitman, Amanda Pierce, and Holly Goldbetter were in for a treat this special day. The Whitmans were in town as part of a multi-week whirlwind tour of several bases and MWD events across the south, while Amanda and Holly normally volunteer virtually and just happen to reside nearby.

With more than 50,000 residents, Fort Hood is one of the largest and most populous Army bases in the United States and has a large kennel operation to match. At the time of our visit, the facility housed nearly 30 active MWDs and three dogs heading into retirement. Training and certification takes place here for drug and explosive detection, Specialized Search Dogs, and controlled aggression/escort procedures.

Our visit began by greeting nearly 20 handlers and other kennel staff and distributing lots of goodies for dogs as well as humans. These included exercise balls, ChuckIt launchers and balls, Jolly Eggs, a variety of other fun fetch toys, shampoo, and unique Army bandanas made by volunteer Jan Slotar. And for the humans, we had t-shirts, mugs with our new logo, snacks, and copies of our latest newsletter. The three retiring MWDs each received donated soft Luxe Blankets to snuggle with.

It was extra special for Dixie to reunite with many of the dogs and handlers whom MWD TSA supported on deployments over the past few years. We then headed outside into the humidity where we were lucky to witness four demonstrations in the yard and obstacle course. First up were SPC Garrett McGee and MWD Bobek, who showed us the ins and outs of the obstacle course. This was followed by demos by SSG Art Wong with MWD Nero and SGT Cole with MWD Devil.

Each demo concluded with a photo-op with each dog. This was momentous as it gave volunteer Holly her first opportunity to meet (and get kisses from) her first MWD.



**Thanks to our amazing friends at Fort Hood for this beautiful certificate.**

Our last demo was of SPC John Lawrence and MWD Rex performing bite work. Rex clearly loves this part of his job; he began whining and jumping as soon as he laid eyes on the bite sleeve!

The paparazzi cameras came out in full force when it was time to meet Rocky, the "celebrity" MWD whose story went viral in late 2015 when he was photographed wearing a purple heart medal while recuperating from IED wounds received with his handler in Afghanistan. Although his wounds are still visible, Rocky was full of energy and is on a conditioning program at Fort Hood while he continues to heal. He received his own special MWD TSA bandana and willingly posed for photographs.

After a kennel tour we all enjoyed pizza and custom-decorated cake made by Jen Macagg. The group presented MWD TSA with a certificate of appreciation before the visit wrapped up. It was a day filled with memorable moments and we were honored and grateful to spend time with the handlers and MWDs at Fort Hood.



**SPC Garrett McGee and MWD Bobek play with the Chuck It ball after their demo. Bobek loves ChuckIt balls.**

Fort Hood continued from page 4



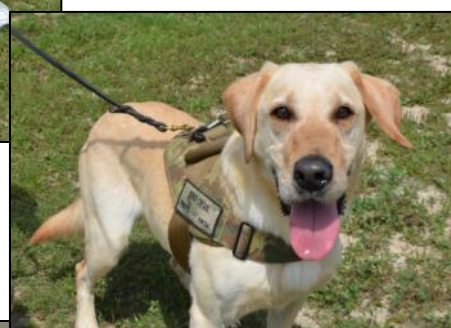
**Left:** Meeting one of the handlers we supported on his last deployment. We shared gifts for dogs and handlers.

**Below:** Two more handlers showing off donations from MWD TSA for the dogs and the kennels. Lots of KONGs and Chuck It toys made their way to the mouths of Fort Hood dogs.



**Left:** Volunteer Holly with her first ever MWD, this wonderful boy, Nero. We supported Nero on his deployment with a previous dog handler in Afghanistan.

**Below:** SSD (Specialized Search Dog) Devil looks and acts like the sweetest dog ever. Devil's handler was supported on a previous deployment with another SSD.



**Left:** Another dog team that was supported by MWD TSA on their last deployment, SSG Lawrence and MWD Rex.

**Below:** Volunteer Amanda Pierce joined us for our great day with the Fort Hood handlers. She's "related" to the Fort Hood kennels so this wasn't her first time at the kennels, but the first time as an MWD TSA volunteer.



**Left:** A gorgeous cake baked by this lovely lady, Jen Macagg.

**Below:** MWD Rocky, the celebrity at the kennel. He and his handler were supported by MWD TSA as they began their deployment last fall. He was injured in December of 2015.



Fort Hood continued on page 6

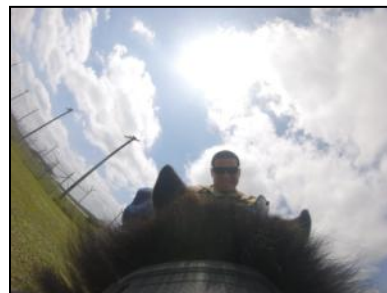
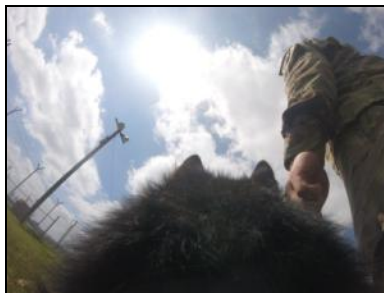


Fort Hood continued from page 5



**Above: MWD Rex keeps a tight grip on SPC Collogero Vignati's bite sleeve. Rex was wearing a Go Pro camera during his demo. Some of the photos from that demo are shown below.**

**Photos 1-5 A few photos from the Go Pro mounted on Rex: 1. Handler Lawrence gives directions to stop. 2. Suspect did not stop, Lawrence releases Rex. 3. Rex targets the fleeing suspect and quickly races to stop him. 4. Rex grabs the target. 4. Rex holds SPC Vignati in place until Rex's handler arrives to release him. (Please enlarge to get the best view of these action photos.)**



## Devils, Dogs Demonstrate Daily Duties

Story and Photos by  
Lance Cpl. Jesus Sepulveda Torre

MARINE CORPS BASE HAWAII – Marines and civilian officers with the Provost Marshal's Office Military Working Dogs Unit from Marine Corps Base Hawaii took time from their day to give a demonstration with their military dogs for a Cub Scout Pack aboard Marine Corps Training Area Bellows, March 5, 2016.

The day began as Cub Scouts from Pack 311 honored the Marines and civilian officers with a scout salute while the dogs were taken out of their enclosures. Marines and civilian police officers gave different commands to their dogs, showing off their intelligence and obedience. The dog handlers also donned a bite jacket for a mock take down and to show the scouts the discipline and training their dogs have when facing a threat.

The purpose of the event was to showcase the dogs and educate the Cub Scouts about what the MWD Unit does to protect this base and the surrounding area, said civilian officer Travis Cleaveland, a military dog handler with the PMO military working dogs unit from Marine Corps Base Hawaii.

"Doing these kinds of demonstrations helps the relationship between Marines and the community," he said. "It's an exciting job we have, so the kids got an opportunity to ask questions and get to know us better."

It was a positive experience for everyone involved, Cleaveland, a St. Cloud, Minn., native, said. Even though that Saturday is usually their day off, the Marines still loved to come out and showcase their K9 unit's training to the kids.

"We came in on our off time because we enjoy doing this, we enjoy seeing people's reactions to what we do and it was as exhilarating for us just as much it is for them," he said.

The Cub Scouts and their families got to meet the Marine Corps working dogs and it was rewarding for the scouts to see a unique, exciting demonstration that also taught them about safety, said Lisa Smith, the Cub Master for pack 311. It also made them feel safe meeting these dogs and seeing what MWD dogs can do.



**Above: Police Officer Travis Cleaveland, a military working dog handler for the Provost Marshal's Office Military Working Dogs Unit with Headquarters Battalion from Marine Corps Base Hawaii, demonstrates a mock takedown with Nero, one of the military police.**

"The Marines coming out here helps the relationship with the community," she said. "We love to have contact with the Marine Corps and the other branches of the military. We appreciate the kids getting to know the Marines because they are the real heroes in the community. I knew they were probably busy and doing a very important job, but me and the kids appreciated it very much and thank them for taking time from their day and teaching these little kids a thing or two about their job. Who knows, some of these kids could possibly be future Marines."

The Marines had a contest to see which of the three dogs they brought would get the most amount of cheering from the kids. Diego, the 2-year-old German Shepard was the crowd's favorite.

"Today was really awesome!" Benjamin Jyimah, a Cub Scout in pack 311 said. "My dad is in the Marine Corps and it is really cool to see stuff like this. It was really cool how fast the dogs could run and also really cool how high they could jump. My favorite part was when the dogs jumped onto the bad guy and took him down."

"There was a lot of participation from the kids, and after the demonstration Marines kicked a soccer ball around and played football with them," Cpl. Michael Foster, a K9 handler and assistant trainer with the PMO military working dogs unit said. "The Marines showed the scouts that just be-

**Below: A Cub Scout from Pack 311 puts on a dog bite jacket to see how it fits after a Marine military work dog demonstration, March 5, 2016. Marines and civilian officers gave different commands to their dogs, showing off their intelligence and obedience.**



cause they're cops, it doesn't mean they are so intimidating and the Marines and civilian police officers developed a genuine bond with the kids."

"So by doing these demos, it gets the word out: Yes we are willing to participate and help with people," he said. "The cub scouts demo today was them reaching out to us to see if we could participate in this event, and we said absolutely."

The dog handlers are supposed to see their dogs as just working dogs, but they are more than that, Foster said.

"I have this tattoo that says 'In Canis Confiderus' which means 'in dogs we trust' because ultimately we rely on our dogs so much to go above and beyond and they do that every single day," he said. "On the deployable side, you're relying on your dog to find explosives before someone steps on them, so the bonds between us have to be strong. They make us who we are because they are part of our family too."

## Thanks to our great donors

**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:**

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## How Our Donors Impact MWDs and Handlers

When it comes to relationships that benefit America's military working dogs, MWDTSA partners with some of the finest companies and individuals to provide the high quality items that we strive to include in our care packages.

Second quarter care packages, themed ***Wild and Wonderful West Virginia***, will be heading down range as this newsletter is published. You can be certain that much of the task of putting this box together is shouldered by partners who work with us time and again with energy, enthusiasm,

and generosity.

Partners for this box include: Wonderful West Virginia Magazine, D.O.G. Bakery, West Paw Designs, Avid Airline Products, San Francisco Bay Gourmet Coffee, Cloudstar Dog Treats, Animal Hospital of Thousand Oaks and their clients, Madra Mor Mud, Zuke's, CoreLogic, SCNAVT, Fetch4Pets, Frances Wisebart Jacobs Chapter DAR, PetChatz Dog Treats, dogIDs, and Duke Cannon. Photos of many of these donations are found below.

As these boxes make their way to nooks and crannies around the world, wherever our dog teams are deployed, MWDTSA is already planning for future care packages.

If you are interested in helping us fill these boxes with quality items there are many ways to do that: cash donations, Wish List fulfillments, collections at work or within a club are all ways that we gather desired donated goods.

info@mwdtso.org is our email address for more information on how to support!





## Wild & Wonderful West Virginians Pack Q2



Photos by Nikki Rohrig and Ashley Dunkle.  
Story by Nikki Rohrig.

Country roads brought together volunteers from all over The Mountain State of West Virginia to pack our Q2 MWD TSA care packages. West Virginia is home to hundreds of military veterans and even though there is not a major military base here, you will still find that our 1.8 million residents are very supportive of the military. My friends jumped at the chance to help me pack these boxes and what better way to support our active duty MWD teams than to pack care packages on Armed Forces Day!

Two hundred care packages were packed to the brim with items for both the handler and dog. Donations have been arriving from partner companies and individual donors across the country and were staged during the week for the May 21st Saturday packing event.

The weather is warming up and with that in mind, we sent pet rakes to help brush out the dogs' undercoat so they can stay cool, Madra Mor Mud spa treatment to help with shedding, thermometer kits for the handler to be able to keep an eye on their dog's temperature while out on patrol, and collapsible water bowls. The handlers will also receive a new t-shirt and hat. The hat is made to keep the wearer cool and has our MWD TSA patch sewn onto it. I think it will be a favorite item among the handlers! Other handler items included Duke Cannon soap, sunflower seeds, Chap Stick, powdered drink mixes, travel mug, and Gold Bond foot powder.

The dogs will be sniffing out all of the goodies too, we imagine. They will get two toys and four bags of treats. Paychecks for MWDs come in the form of a KONG toy, so we made sure to include a blue KONG to represent one of the state colors of WV. Their second toy is also blue, the West Paw Hurley. Cloud Star peanut butter flavored treats and Zuke's original and teriyaki flavored jerky will surely be a nice surprise for the dogs, as well. A dog can never have too many treats, so we also included a cookie from D.O.G. Bakery that looks like the Marshall University mascot, Marco. The MWDs also got a MWD TSA patch to wear on their collar or vest.

The highlight of our packing day was a visit from The Mountaineer himself, the West Virginia University mascot. The Mountaineer's buckskin uniform is custom-



**Above:** West Virginia University's mascot, The Mountaineer, joined in the festivities to help volunteers pack. Here he poses in front of some of the packed boxes.

**Right:** The packed boxes include toys, treats, gear and grooming items for both ends of the leash.



**Left:** Volunteers Ashley and Kyle Dunkle drove in from out of state, and joined in on their first ever packing event, posing with some of Nikki's photo props. They are wearing T-shirts donated by long time partner, Christian Print Shop.



tailored to the individual and, as expected, The Mountaineer showed up in his leather uniform, complete with his WV musket and coonskin cap. He was happy to learn about how MWDs work, what MWD TSA does, and help us pack our care packages.

The Mountaineer attends around 250-300 events outside the realm of sports each year and this is the first Mountaineer appearance for a MWD related event! Eager to help us pack, The Mountaineer grabbed a box and started loading items. He moved down the assembly line and when he got to the Marshall University Marco cookie, he hid it, face down, in the box. A bit of in-state rivalry going on? You bet! The Mountaineer packed the final box and posed for many photos. He's a great guy and it was so nice to have him at the event.

I'm incredibly thankful to the volunteers who made this pack event a success. The time spent planning this event will be well worth it when the photos start rolling in from the MWD teams that we support. My paycheck will come in the form of smiles and tails wags and I'm anxious to find out what the favorite item is in this box.



**Above: Volunteer Ashley Dunkle (left) is joined by Candace Vance, a sorority sister.**

**Above right: Board Members, Nikki Rohrig (in white) and Allison Merrill (to the right in blue) are joined by The Mountaineer and two other packers for a pack day selfie.**

**Right below: Lola the Pug, poses in front of the MWD TSA banner.**



**Below left: The Mountaineer poses with the American flag. This flag was taken on a mission by a very special dog handler, and worn under his Kevlar vest, next to his heart. This was the perfect event at which to fly it.**

**Below center: The Mountaineer uses some of Nikki's photo props.**

**Below right: A selfie with Nikki and The Mountaineer.**



## A Joint Grand Forks AFB Visit:

Story and Photos by Hannah Savoy and  
The team at dogIDs

Military working dogs are an important part of our armed forces. After selecting Military Working Dog Team Support Association Inc. (MWD TSA) as our Paw It Forward partner for the last quarter of 2015, we quickly learned just how amazing these dogs really are. From this partnership with MWD TSA, the dogIDs pack was given the opportunity to visit a military dog training location and see these hard-working pooches in action!

When we pulled up to the base on the 4th of May, we had no idea what to expect, but were quickly welcomed to the sound of barking.

What did the dogIDs crew think? "Excitement! These are working dogs to the extreme. I couldn't wait to see them doing what they do best," said James Whirlwind Soldier, Director of Business Operations at dogIDs.

At the start of our tour we learned that there were nearly a dozen working dogs at this base along with their handlers, trainer, and kennel master. All of the dogs had a variety of skills and uses including bomb sniffing, drug sniffing and security. Shelby Cochran, the Director of Merchandising and Sales at dogIDs, said, "I enjoyed seeing their kennel and offices, because you could really tell by the way it was organized and decorated that every person on that team felt bonded with the dogs."

There were only two dog breed types at this location, the German Shepherd and the Belgian Malinois. We learned that the Belgian Malinois are faster and spend less time making decisions, whereas the German Shepherd are more deliberate in their work, but both excel in the work they train for at this location.

These working dogs began their training at Lackland in San Antonio, Texas and went through 120 days of intensive training. If a dog fails their training course at Lackland they are sent to another training camp where, over time, they become police dogs. All branches of military dogs train together.

It's not only the dogs that require training. Their handlers start by becoming Military Police and then go through multiple steps



Above: Grand Forks AFB staff poses with one of the dogs.

to be paired with a dog. As a handler, you and your dog may help with a variety of missions for any branch of the military. You can be sent out to any base depending on the needs of the military. This means that during their careers, handlers can be paired with multiple dogs.

The average military dogs serves his country for 8-12 years. Many pups retire due to health issues and at the end of a dog's military service they receive a ceremony where they then become adoptable dogs. From what we were told, many retired policemen or servicemen adopt retired military dogs as their family pet, since they have shared experiences.

We were then lucky enough to see a demonstration of a military dog at work. Seeing a dog lunge out and latch onto the "bad guy" was astounding! Even more astounding was the obedience of the dogs. As soon as their handler told them to let go and sit down, the dog immediately listened. "It was not like I expected, and it was amazing how in control of the situation both the dog and the handler were," said Whirlwind Soldier.

Cochran said, "I found it really interesting to learn that each dog is assigned to a handler and if that handler gets deployed,

so does the dog. I guess I didn't realize that these partnerships were made for the career of the dog."

One thing that you could notice right away was the bond that each handler had with his dog. Although they are working dogs, it was wonderful to hear about the bonding time that each dog is able to receive with their handler to build that trust and connection. "Every single person on the team really seemed to have a passion for dogs and for the work they do. Most of them went into the military specifically to work with dogs," said Cochran.

After a few minutes of chatting, the dogIDs pack was offered the experience of being the "bad guy" in the training exercises. This was an experience we will never forget! Each pack member put on the bite suit and volunteered for 3 bites. You never realize how strong these dogs are until a part of your body is in their jaws.

At the end of the day, this was an experience of a lifetime. We were incredibly lucky to meet such a fantastic team of military dogs and handlers.

May the Forks Be With You continued on page 13



## May the Forks Be With You

May the Forks Be With You continued from page 12



**Top Left:** In a first ever, our decoy was Darth Vader, in keeping with the theme of the day, May 4th. "May the Force be with You." He's been unmasked by none other than Air Force Security Forces. The demonstration included a car chase and apprehension of Darth Vader.

**Center Left:** The author of the article and a dogIDs employee, Hannah Savoy, takes a sample bite.

**Below:** After the car chase demonstration and apprehension, each of the guests were given an opportunity to do a modified catch with a dog and feel the real power in the jaws of a patrol dog.



MWD TSA was delighted to share in the excitement of our partners at dogIDs as they completed their first base visit. Thanks to all of the great staff and crew at Grand Forks who made this event possible. dogIDs makes dog ID tags and accessories, like the collapsible water bowls going in our 2nd quarter care package. Visit [www.dogids.com](http://www.dogids.com) for more information.

**Left:** The Kennel is decorated with "The Working Dog" poem and insignia. As usual, MWD TSA provided dog toys, kennel gifts, T shirts, mugs, and more to the kennel staff at Grand Forks. Handler, Jessica Newton, and her partner, T-Rex, show off some of the goodies provided. A pizza lunch was also provided to the kennel staff. (You may remember volunteers from Grand Forks AFB Kennels, along with volunteers from Minot AFB Kennels, packed our third quarter boxes in 2015.)

**Right:** The Grand Forks Kennel master shows off one of the MWD TSA shirts he received while deployed. This shirt was part of our "A Night at the Movies" boxes that were created by Jan Sloat in 1st Quarter of 2015.



## MWD: A Bond Protecting Thousands

Story and photos by Tech. Sgt. Terrica Jones

AL UDEID AIR BASE, Qatar - The 379th Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron military working dogs and their handlers ensure the security of more than 10,000 personnel at Al Udeid Air Base, Qatar.

Military working dogs and their handlers spend a lot of time training together to build a lasting bond.

"We build rapport and the best way to build a bond with military working dogs is taking them out for exercise; it takes lots of love to build trust," said Tech. Sgt. Kevin Nelson, 379 ESFS noncommissioned officer in charge of MWD operations.

"Before teams deploy, they go through the Regional Training Center, a pre-deployment training class for kennel masters, dog handlers and military working dogs," said Nelson.

At the RTC, MWDs train on how to detect

explosives and narcotics and fine tune their patrolling skills, all while bonding with their handlers.

"We patrol and cover the whole base because we are the first line of detection," said Nelson. "Military working dogs are able to detect explosives or drugs and alert their handlers of their presence."

After successful completion at the RTC, MWDs are ready to go downrange; while deployed, however, MWD teams continue to train.

"Trainers ensure the dog team, dogs and the handlers, are meeting training requirements every month," said Tech. Sgt. Max Soto, MWD trainer. "I'm passionate about this and it's cool to see the younger handlers come to us for tips. It's rewarding."

Staff Sgt. Jahmal Hardy, 379 ESFS MWD handler, has been a dog handler for three

years and enjoys his job.

"When I came into the military this is what I wanted to do," said Hardy. "I came into the military to be a dog handler and now that I have the opportunity to work with dogs, there is nothing better."

"The best part of the job is having a partner that will listen to anything you have to say," said Hardy. "Nero is loyal and I know he is going to look after me as long as I look after him."

As a kennel master, Nelson encourages his teams to cultivate the bond between handler and dog.

"I tell a handler to just take them out, brush them, read to them, basically spend every waking hour at work with them and even after work at the kennels," Nelson said. "The bond and the relationship you build with your dog is really cool."



Above: Tech. Sgt. Max Soto (left), 379th Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron military working dog trainer and Staff Sgt. Jahmal Hardy (right), 379 ESFS MWD handler, and Nero, his partner, practice patrol training Jan. 27 at Al Udeid Air Base, Qatar. A part of patrol training is to apprehend and locate suspicious individuals.

Right: Staff Sgt. Jahmal Hardy, 379th Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron military working dog handler, and Nero, his partner, prepare for patrol training. Staff Sgt. Hardy is deployed from Offutt Air Force Base, Nebraska.



Above: Tech. Sgt. Max Soto, 379th Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron military working dog trainer, demonstrates how two MWDs are capable of taking down a suspect at Al Udeid Air Base, Qatar. Soto is a kennel master deployed from McConnell Air Force Base, Kansas.



## Live From New York, It's MWD TSA

Photos by Robert Schnell  
Story by Christa Ursini

MWD TSA joined the Mets and North Shore Animal League on May 18th for Citi Field's **Bark At The Park**. A table was set up in Coca Cola Corner where dog owners are allowed to bring their canine companions to the game.

NYC volunteers Christa Ursini and Rob Schnell were accompanied by former and current handlers in the greater NYC area. Steve, a former Army handler who was supported by MWD TSA in 2013 while in Afghanistan with his MWD Daks, joined the event to speak first hand of MWD TSA's care packages while deployed. Four handlers from NWS Earle, whom MWD TSA visited during K9 Veterans' Day this year, were able to make the trip, as well: Dallas Dustin, Aaron, and Anjelica.

It was a great event spreading awareness of MWD TSA and we hope it is the start of many outreach events in NYC!



**Top right:** Handlers from NWS Earle, along with a former Army handler, join MWD TSA volunteers for Bark in the Park.

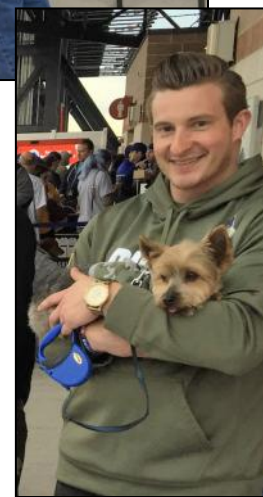
**Right:** Visitors stopped by with their dogs at our public education booth.

**Far right:** All volunteers stopped for the playing of The Star Spangled Banner.

**Bottom left:** Volunteers handed out information and helped educate attendees at Citi Field about Military Working Dogs.

**Bottom center:** Volunteer Rob Schnell and Board Member Christa Ursini headed up the event.

**Bottom right:** A former Army handler, who was supported on his last deployment by MWD TSA, joined in to volunteer.



## 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



Photographer: Unknown

Courtesy of National Archives

### Biak Island—World War II

The 26th Quartermaster Corps War Dog Platoon (QMC), attached to the US Army's 41st Infantry Division, had six war dogs for patrolling the front lines. The dogs could detect the Japanese presence at 75 yards, giving confidence to soldiers and allowing them to move more quickly through the jungle without fear of ambush.

The 26th QMC war dogs were in active combat throughout the Pacific War. Initially American GIs were distrustful of the dogs, fearing they would give away their position, but they soon realized how valuable the dogs were. They saved many lives.

Beginning on March 13, 1942, the Quartermaster Corps ran the Army's so-called "K-9 Corps" and undertook to change these new recruits into good fighting "soldiers." At first more than thirty breeds were accepted. Later the list was narrowed down to German Shepherds, Belgian Sheep Dogs, Doberman Pinschers, Farm Collies and Giant Schnauzers. In all, a little over 19,000 dogs were procured between 1942 and 1945 (about 45% of these were rejected as unsuited for training). The capture of Biak Island cost the Americans 474 killed, and 2,400 wounded. The Japanese lost 6,100 killed and 450 captured.

Written by Jason McDonald