

October, 2016
Award Winning
Monthly Newsletter

Volume 8, Issue 10

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the photos, stories, news,
and highlights of 2016!

Kennel Talk is an award
winning MWD publication!

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MWDTSA touches the lives of dogs and people near and far. This month our articles and photos take us to the great plains of Kansas, Nebraska, and South Dakota. We span the U.S. from coast to coast: California to Texas to Georgia. We stop for a visit in Honduras and our care packages make it around the world from Michigan to nooks and crannies wherever our teams are deployed.

Our parting shot is from Naval Base Kitsap in Washington.

Subscribe to see where we connect next month!

Military Working Dog Team Support Association, Inc.

MWDTSA KENNEL TALK

Thanks to the Fort Leavenworth Kennel for such an amazing demonstration with a special thanks to the Kennel Master Thompson and Trainer, SSG Pate. MWDTSA was welcomed with open arms and an amazing day of dog demonstrations.

During our demo, one of the scenarios was of a vehicle extraction and then a building search. The vehicle was stopped and an uncooperative driver was taken down, however, his accomplice escaped into a nearby building and a dog team is directed into a dark and dangerous place on the heels of a wanted suspect.

Send in the dog team!

Right: Decoy SSG Berber and MWD Mmace being handled by SPC Deatherage.

Photo by D. Whitman



Fort Leavenworth Kennels

Story and photos by Jerri Merklinger

The Fort Leavenworth kennel near Kansas City, Kansas is where five of our MWDTSA volunteers met up for a base visit. Fort Leavenworth's history is long and legendary. It was established by Henry Leavenworth on the banks of the Missouri River on May 8, 1827. It was the first settlement in the Kansas territory and is the oldest active Army post west of the Mississippi River. In 1866, four African-American regiments were formed at Fort Leavenworth under the command of Colonel Benjamin H. Grierson. As the soldiers ventured westward they encountered the Kiowa Indians, who dubbed the regiments "Buffalo Soldiers." A Buffalo Soldier Monument was dedicated here in 1992 by Gen. Colin Powell.

Today, Fort Leavenworth is widely known for housing the U.S. military's only maximum-security prison. But our volunteers were there to tour the Army's MWD kennels. Two of the Fort Leavenworth handlers were friends we had previously met at other kennels. A few others received our quarterly care packages

while they were deployed. It was a great opportunity to put faces to names.

The handlers and their hard-working dogs were ready to showcase the talent and tenacity of the K9s in a stellar demonstration. Since most of the volunteers who attended the event had been to several base visits previously, the handlers and K9s presented more involved demonstrations than are normally done with a kennel visit.

We witnessed what happens when handlers are on patrol and have to apprehend multiple people. In that demonstration, the handler, SPC Deatherage, and his K9, Mmace, were in a marked car following a suspicious truck. SPC Deatherage observed illegal behaviors and stopped the vehicle. The driver became belligerent and uncooperative, so SPC Deatherage commanded Mmace to apprehend him, which he did. However, the passenger fled into an

Fort Leavenworth Kennels continued on page 2

Fort Leavenworth Kennel continued from page 1



Left: During this demonstration, MWD Mmace and SPC Deatherage worked a building search, seeking a suspect who fled from a traffic stop.

Right: MWD Mmace has found his suspect and is in the process of getting his cooperation.

Dog teams work daily to learn new skills and keep their proficiency levels high.



The guys, front row left to right:

The hard working decoy, SGT Kloeckel, SSG Berber, and SSG Hensen.

Kneeling behind the decoy is SPC Deatherage who was working Mmace to find the decoy.

Standing in the back row, left to right: SFC Thompson, the Kennel Master, SSG Pate, Trainer, CPT Stevens, SPC Peyton and Volunteer, Jerry Whitman



Thanks to this amazing team of handlers for putting on a thoughtful and challenging demonstration for us.

We appreciate that they all supported the efforts and invited Captain Stevens to join in on the fun.

abandoned building. We followed behind and watched Mmace locate the suspect, then convince him to follow the directions called out by SPC Deatherage.

SSG Berber and MWD Roy showed us what they've learned in training classes over the past ten weeks. SSG Berber placed three training bumpers out in a field: left, center, and right. He then gave directional cues to MWD Roy, who ran out to the corresponding area and retrieved the bumper. Through this exercise, the handler teaches the MWD to follow a directional command and search a specific area off-lead.

SPC Peyton and his furry buddy, MWD Spyk, showed us how a dog searches a large field for explosives. SPC Peyton first

told his K9 to seek a scent source. Spyk quartered back and forth through the field, working efficiently to find traces of the odor he sought. Once he caught a whiff, Spyk again moved back and forth to the edges of the scent cone, following it as it narrowed to its origin. As the odor became stronger, Spyk strained against the tracking harness and we could see him on target. Once he confirmed the scent source, Spyk sat to indicate that further investigation was required. He looked almost as if he was saying, "Here it is, Dad."

SFC Thompson also presented Dixie Whitman, one of the MWDTSA co-founders, a Challenge Coin from the Commander for her commitment to MWDs. Over the years, Dixie has dedicated much of her time and

energy to supporting deployed handlers and K9s throughout the world with essential care items.

After the demonstrations, everyone returned to the kennels for pizza and gifts: coffee, dog toys, T-shirts, patches, and more. We took our time and enjoyed the company of a great group of handlers who are dedicated to their craft and the protection of our nation.

Eventually, we had to say farewell to our gracious hosts. All told, it was a magnificent day spent with awesome handlers at a gorgeous military installation.

Fort Leavenworth Kennel continued on page 3

Fort Leavenworth Kennel continued from page 2



Above left to right: Don't let the cuteness fool you into thinking this guy is all fluff and no substance. MWD Spyk and his handler, SPC Peyton, demonstrated how a dog team can search a large area, hone in on a scent cone, and identify the source of an odor. Each dog is trained on a variety of explosives or illegal drugs. SPC Peyton and MWD Spyk found that odor in a very quick timeframe. You can see in the photo on the left that Spyk is pulling hard towards the origin of the smell, in the center is a team photo, and on the right, Spyk sits to indicate the source of the odor.

Below left to right: MWD Roy and his handler, SSG Berber. The skills that Berber and Roy demonstrated were significantly difficult in that they just returned from off-leash training where directional signals and verbal cues are trained so that the dog is working leash-free. On the left, MWD Roy returns with the correct bumper, in the center, a team photo, and on the right, directions are given to MWD Roy to go to the left. He will transition that into searching to the left without being on leash and under physical control.



Talk Like Pirates, Pack Like MWD TSA Volunteers



Story by D. Whitman; Photos by Allison Merrill

Our Michigan team of volunteer packers, led by the intrepid Allison Merrill, did it again! They broke their own speed record for turning boxes upon boxes of goodies donated by MWD TSA contributors and supporting businesses into "Pirate Treasure Chests" filled with plunder.

Our third quarter theme, "Talk Like A Pirate," turned out to be the real treasure. The packing event turned into a pirate party and the photos coming back from the handlers show that our dog teams are really embracing their pirate-themed loot.

A huge thank you to all of our benefactors who supported via the Amazon Wish List. The resulting donations of Blackbeard's Revenge Coffee and Nero Ball donations are shown in photos to the right. Monetary donations went towards other care package items and postage for the 175 care packages.

We truly appreciate the generous support given by so many, especially the following companies, all which donated goods specifically for this care package: Zuke's, Aspen Kay Naturals, Bowser Beer, D.O.G. Bakery, Animal Hospital of Thousand Oaks, Veterans United Craft Brewery and Sun-Dog Kennel.

Pictured above: Allison Merrill (Left), Captain Tank with his pirate-y hat, and Allison's crew of creative and experienced packers. Fun costumes worn by volunteers enhanced the pirate theme.



Above: Our MWD TSA water bottle which was sent in the boxes along with the coffee and Nero Ball.





A big thank you to the companies who donated in support of this box.

Left: Bowser Beer, by 3 Busy Dogs, donated another round for the K9s.

Right: Aspen Kay Naturals donated Dead Sea Mineral Mud soaps to go with our pirate theme. Who doesn't love lathering up with the rich minerals from the Dead Sea?



Left: KONG Bones definitely remind us of the Pirate Flag with the skull and crossbones of the Jolly Roger.

Right: Creative dog treats from D.O.G. Bakery in Traverse City, Michigan are always a hit with the handlers. These treats came in a treasure chest.



Above: Captain Tank's image is ever-present and surrounded by Mermaid and Scallywag soap.

Left: Z-Bones from Zuke's highlights the "Bone" connection.

Right: Trikos International sent a few books and shirts to be included as special gifts in a few lucky boxes.



Joint Task Force-Bravo K9s Take to The Sky

Story by Capt. David Liapis

Photos by Staff Sgt. Siuta Ika

SOTO CANO AIR BASE, Honduras - Joint Task Force-Bravo has been a consistent presence in the Central American region since 1984, and is known by many for its helicopter support for humanitarian aid, disaster relief and counter-transnational organized crime operations and its medical readiness exercises; however, the scope of capabilities here go well beyond those primary missions.

One example of this is the Joint Security Forces' (JSF) Military Working Dogs and handlers.

The MWDs are used by JSF on base for narcotics and explosive detection as well as patrol, explained U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Isaac Trevino, JSF MWD senior handler.

As with many military duties, there are risks involved that in a worst-case-scenario might require rapid medical evacuation, a capability provided here by the 1st Battalion, 228th Aviation Regiment's U.S. Air Ambulance Detachment Honduras.



Above: U.S. Army Spc. Mariah Ridge, a military working dog handler assigned to Joint Task Force-Bravo's Joint Security Forces, laughs at her MWD, Jaska, during K9 hoist evacuation training at Soto Cano Air Base, Honduras, August 15, 2016. Although the MWDs and their handlers were training in 90 degree, 100 percent humidity weather, they managed to stay in good spirits.



Left: U.S. Army Spc. Harley Reno, a military working dog handler assigned to Joint Task Force-Bravo's Joint Security Forces, and his MWD, walk toward a UH-60L Black Hawk during K9 hoist evacuation training. The MWDs and their handlers undergo the hoist training so their first experience with a helicopter won't come during a real-world operation.



Right: U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Jun Ma, a flight paramedic assigned to the 1st Battalion, 228th Aviation Regiment, helps U.S. Army Spc. Courtney Moreland, a military working dog handler assigned to Joint Task Force-Bravo's Joint Security Forces, secure herself to her MWD, Puma, during K9 hoist evacuation training. Moreland and Puma were one of three JSF MWD teams to be hoisted, one-by-one, 30 feet into the air.

Bravo K9s Take to the Sky continued from page 6

A number of steps are taken by the aircrew and MWD handlers to be prepared to conduct MEDEVAC operations at a moment's notice, one step being to introduce the MWDs to rotary wing transportation including loading and unloading both with the helicopter on the ground and in the air.

Aircrew from the 1-228 AVN provided hoist training for Kyra, Jaska and Puma, three JSF MWDs, and their handlers, U.S. Army Spcs. Mariah Ridge, Courtney Moreland and Harley Reno, August 15, here.

The training, accomplished using a UH-60L Black Hawk, was conducted in phases in order to allow the MWDs to become familiar with the noise and rotor wash, sitting in the aircraft, the feeling of being wrapped in the harness and, finally, being lifted 30-feet into the hovering aircraft.

Though K9 hoist training is routine, it presents a unique opportunity for MWD handlers who are deployed to Soto Cano AB.

"It really benefits the younger handlers as they don't get a lot of training like this in the U.S.," explained Trevino. "It was the first time for the three handlers who received the hoist training this week."

JSF conducts Law Enforcement and Security Operations for JTF-Bravo personnel and equipment anywhere within the CENTAM Area of Responsibility. JSF is composed of joint personnel who patrol the base and provide expeditionary force protection in support of JTF-Bravo operations such as Medical Readiness Training Exercises and humanitarian aid events.

Above: U.S. Army Spc. Mariah Ridge, a military working dog handler assigned to Joint Task Force-Bravo's Joint Security Forces, and her MWD, Jaska, ride a hoist to a UH-60L Black Hawk.

Center: U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Jun Ma signals to U.S. Army Spc. Andrew Briones, 1-228th AVN crew chief, to raise a hoist attached to U.S. Army Spc. Courtney Moreland and her MWD, Puma, during training.

Below: U.S. Army Spc. Harley Reno, a military working dog handler assigned to Joint Task Force-Bravo's Joint Security Forces, and his MWD, Kyra, are secured to a hoist.



Thanks to our great donors

MWD TSA 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:

3 Busy Dogs Burien, Washington
Allison Merrill
Alton Elementary School Students
Alton, Maine
Andrea Abalos
Animal Hospital of Thousand Oaks
Staff and Clients
Thousand Oaks, California
Joan Asch
Aspen Kay Naturals
Dick Baumer
Ken and Liz Besecker
Stanton Bost
Patricia A Carter
D.O.G Bakery Traverse City, Michigan
Anne Dafoe
Margaret DeShon
Devonie and Optimus (GSD)
Gay A. Givens
Elizabeth Greenberg
Krista Hernandez
Brian Howarth
Robert and Marilyn Hughes
Jennifer from the Wish List
Kathryn Lessard
Beverly Maize
Matthew Marcon
Allison L. Merrill
Louann K. Merrill
Kerri Moss
Francis Murch
Laurie Newton

O'Hara Plumbing
West Palm Beach, Florida
Old Town Elementary Students
Old Town, Maine
Patrick & Sharon Oriel
Patricia Armstrong Dressler
Foundation in loving memory
Of Lizzie Dressler
Patriotic 5 Star Phoenix, Arizona
Pets Naturally Traverse City, Michigan
Stephen Redden
Marshall M. Reed, Jr.
Nikki Rohrig
San Francisco Bay Gourmet Coffee
Lincoln, California
Robert Schnell
Alicia Scholet, Fulton & Chadwick
The Refined K9, Holiday, Florida
John Schuler
Richard Snyder
Solvit Dog Products, Arlington, Texas
SunDog Kennel
Traverse City, Michigan
Chris Tallieu
Barbara A. Taylor
Joan M. Trainer
Thomas from the Wish List
Trikos International Cooper, Texas
Christa Ursini
VFW Post 8959
Kerhonkson, New York
Veterans United Craft Brewery
Jacksonville, Florida
Virtual Rocks, Inc.,
Northport, Michigan
Jane Woodman
Kathie Woodring
The Youngs
Zuke's Durango, Colorado

Jaws or Paws? We need your help.



We have a couple of items on our Amazon Wish List that you can share with us for inclusion in our care package. Support "Jaws" and you can order and include delicious Krave Jerky that is craved by many on deployment or you can support "Paws" and send us some great paw care products for our wintertime K9 foot care, Musher's Secret, which will help keep military working dog feet healthy and happy.

Of course, you can always support us by sending a monetary donation, as well.

For PC/Mac: [Amazon Wish List](#)

For Mobile Devices: [Amazon Wish List](#)

Amazon Wish List donations should be finalized by the 17th of October to allow us time to fill in any gaps in coverage. We are planning on packing, shipping, and supporting the needs of 175 dog teams who are working in harm's way this 4th quarter. Won't you join with us to send your support?

Artwork by Michelle Mruk

Support Our KONGs for K9s Drive

For each toy purchased by a supporter, the KONG Company will donate one additional toy. Thanks for your support.

Store	Location	Toy	Month(s)
Dunbar Animal Hospital 304.766.6407	Dunbar, West Virginia 1419 Dunbar Avenue	KONG Extreme Flyer For each toy purchased, one is donated.	August–October
Brown Veterinary Service 304.272.6200	Wayne, West Virginia 300 McGinnis Drive	KONG Extreme Flyer	August–December
Tractor Supply Company 805.552.9552	Moorpark, California 397 West Los Angeles Ave.	KONG Flyer	October
CrossFit Overwatch	Concord, California 1990 Oliveria Road, Suite D,	KONG Extreme Ball	October
Pet Smart	Warsaw, Indiana 640W 300N	KONG Extreme Ball KONG Extreme Flyer	October
Pet Super Market	West Palm Beach, Florida 846 Southern Blvd.	KONG Extreme Flyer	October
Ma and Paws Bakery, Inc. 801.487.3838	Salt Lake City, Utah 1227 East 3300 South	KONG Extreme Flyer	November
The Animal Keeper 760.753.9366	Encinitas, California 155 Saxony Road	KONG Toy TBD	November-December
The Animal Keeper 760-941.3221	Oceanside, California 3532 College Blvd.	KONG Toy TBD	November-December
The Animal Keeper 858-748-9676	Poway, California 12280 Oak Knoll Rd.	KONG Toy TBD	November-December
Pet Suites 949-425-0700	Aliso Viejo, California 19 Journey	KONG Toy TBD	November-December

Pirates, Ahoy! Treasure Chests Arrive Down Range

Story by D. G. Whitman, photos by handlers



These photos are among the best we have ever received back from a care package. The theme was definitely a hit.

Top row (left to right): MWD Ares, MWD Joey and SSD Camo. Our pirate packages appear to have been well-received by both the dogs and the dog handlers. Camo says, "Thank you MWD TSA from the bottom of my heart (and tummy - awesome snacks for me)! for the bad a** care package! Pirate booty!"

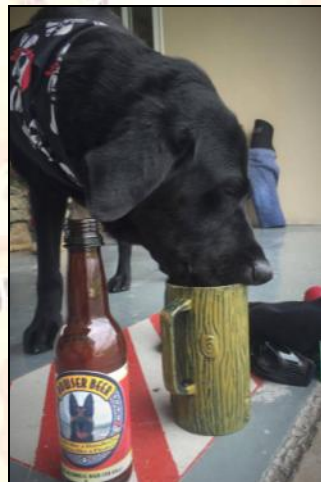
Below right and left: This group of Marine K9 handlers is enjoying the goodies from their boxes, including the pirate T shirts and the pirate patches. We aren't sure if it's the photo of the Marines on the left, or actual pirates, but MWD Nico, on the right, looks pretty shocked.





Left: Air Force handler, Jonathan, poses with his partner and all of the boxes received at this down range kennel.

Above right: MWD Luigi shows off his new MWD TSA tactical patch along with the pirate eye-patch.



Center row, left to right: MWD Johnnie, MWD Ttoby, SSD Layla enjoying her Bowser Beer, which is a meat flavored broth the dogs really enjoy, and MWD Icco poses with a special Jolly Roger bandana.

Bottom row left to right: MWD Zippo poses with the contents of his handler's care package. MWD Dan with all of his pirate booty.

These photos represent just a fraction of the nearly 175 dogs and handlers who received "pirate loot" shipped out to America's deployed dog teams during the third quarter by the volunteers from MWD TSA. These boxes definitely brought important gear along with fun items to brighten the day of many teams working far from home. Again, thank you to the generous donors and wonderful packing team.



John Douangdara Memorial Dog Park

Story and photos by Dixie Whitman

While traveling through South Sioux City, Nebraska, we recently had our first opportunity to visit the John Douangdara Memorial Dog Park on the banks of the magnificent Missouri River. The park houses a memorial to fallen Naval Warfare Specialist and dog handler, MA1 John Douangdara. Spearheaded by John's sister, Chan Follen, this five-acre dog park pays tribute to K9s whose devotion in battle is unparalleled.

The memorial is located within Siouxland Freedom Park at 1101 Foundry Road, South Sioux City, Nebraska. It is overlooked from the Iowa side of the river by the Sergeant Floyd Memorial, which honors the only member of Lewis and Clark's Corps of Discovery expedition to die during the two and a half year trek.

The dog park is a truly moving and beautiful tribute to this amazing young hero and his faithful partner, Bart.

Right and below: The memorial statue is of MA1 John Douangdara and his partner, Bart. Both were killed-in-action on August 6, 2011. The statue is located at the John Douangdara Memorial Park in South Sioux City, Nebraska.

August 6th was the fifth anniversary of the loss of the Chinook chopper and friends and family met at the memorial that date to honor John and Bart with a toast. More information about this incident was profiled in our August 2016 newsletter.

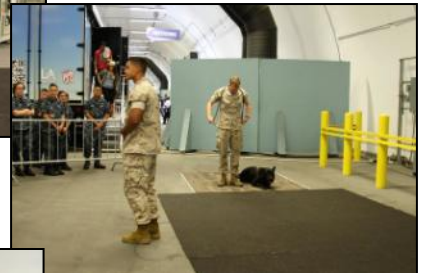


Los Angeles Fleet Week

Story and photos by Jan Slotar

I went to LA Fleet Week at the Port of Los Angeles on Saturday, Sept. 3, 2016 to meet with Marine and Navy MWD handlers.

The handlers and dogs were great. The Navy teams were working security at the USS America, but the Marine dogs and handlers put on a demonstration. The Coast Guard team was also working so I was able to get one shot of Coast Guard K9s.



Right above and center: Marine teams from Camp Pendleton put on a dog demonstration during Los Angeles Fleet Week.

Below right: Coast Guard Teams were also present to answer questions from the general public.

Ellsworth AFB Visit

Story by Dixie Whitman

During a recent trip to the Black Hills, we visited with the dedicated staff at Ellsworth Air Force Base. Due to its location on the outskirts of Rapid City, South Dakota, this post was originally designated as Rapid City Air Force Base.

At a dedication ceremony in 1953, President Dwight D. Eisenhower renamed the base after General Richard E. Ellsworth, commander of the 28th Strategic Reconnaissance Wing, who had perished in the crash of an RB-36 earlier in the year.

The host unit is the 28th Bomb Wing, which features B-1 bombers. Ellsworth Airmen continue to play a major role in our nation's defense. B-1s from Ellsworth provide critical air presence, precision strikes, as well as surveillance and reconnaissance in response to worldwide contingencies.

Protecting the assets and personnel on this base requires diligence, dedication, and continual readiness. The 28th SFS Military Working Dog teams train and work to support the mission. MWD TSA volunteers had

a brief tour and pizza with the handlers and K9s, all of whom received coffee, toys, T-shirts, patches, bandanas, and more. It was great to meet some of the handlers that we had supported on previous deployments, as well as introduce ourselves to handlers we may support on future deployments. In that way, our visits encourage an ongoing dialogue between MWD teams and MWD TSA to determine how best we can support America's K9 teams.



Left: Staff Sgt. Brandon Potts, 28th Security Forces Squadron military working dog handler, throws a toy to Tali, 28th SFS MWD. Photo by Airman Sadie Colbert.

Below: Senior Airman Gabriel Easler, 28th Security Forces Squadron military working dog handler and his partner, Nnicholas, pose with some of the goods donated to the Ellsworth Kennel by donors and sponsors of MWD TSA. Photo by Dixie Whitman



Left: Anita, 28th Security Forces Squadron military working dog, bites Staff Sgt. Michael Gwin, 28th SFS MWD handler, during control aggression training at Ellsworth Air Force Base. Photo by Airman Sadie Colbert.

100 years of Army Veterinary Corps Service Honored

Story and photo by Jose Rodriguez

A bronze sculpture representing the diverse 100-year history of the U.S. Army Veterinary Corps was unveiled at the U.S. Army Medical Department Museum on Fort Sam Houston, Texas. Brigadier General Erik H. Topping, Chief, U.S. Army Veterinary Corps, together with Dr. Joseph Kinnarney, President of the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA), and Ms. Donna Dobberfuhr, the artist commissioned to create the monument, unveiled the life-sized sculpture. The AVMA, through its charitable arm the American Veterinary Medical Foundation along with the Uniformed Veterinary Medicine Association, provided funding for the monument.

The Army Veterinary Corps commissioned San Antonio artist Donna Dobberfuhr to design a unique sculpture representing their past and current missions. "All along my career, it's been about the passion for the art. I put all of my heart and all of my soul into every one of my commissions. And in this one has it all, plus a little bit more," said Donna Dobberfuhr while thanking everyone for the opportunity to create the monument. Dobberfuhr's career spans over 40 years and one of her pieces is on display at the National Prisoner of War Museum in Andersonville, Georgia.

The monument has four distinct scenes depicting the Veterinary Corps history and primary missions. A World War I Veterinary Corps officer, with a horse, symbolizes the Corps origins as medical professionals charged with providing animal care. To the right a Vietnam era officer utilizing a light microscope portrays the Veterinary Corps' significant contributions to medical research and development. Next, a Cold War era Veterinary Corps officer inspecting rations demonstrates the Corps' critical role in food protection. Finally, a contemporary era Veterinary Corps officer treating a military working dog represents the continuing evolutionary mission through animal health care.

Addressing the audience, Dr. Kinnarney mentioned the idea of recognizing the Veterinary Corps centennial anniversary with a statute was first envisioned last year. In just eight months, the monument was designed and created, with over 2,500 labor hours invested in the project. Speaking on behalf of the over 88,000 veteri-



The new U.S. Army Veterinary Corps monument on display at the U.S. Army Medical Department Museum on Fort Sam Houston, Texas.

narians in the U.S., Dr. Kinnarney thanked the members of the U.S. Army Veterinary Corps, and praised their 100 years of service.

After the ceremony, members of the Army Veterinary Corps demonstrated a mobile veterinary and surgery tent used on deployments. While downrange, Army Veterinary Corps members can diagnose and treat animals, utilizing advanced medical equipment. Army food inspectors are responsible for ensuring the quality of food and fluids while deployed. Also on hand were members of the 509th Security Forces Squadron from Randolph Air Force Base demonstrating the abilities of their military working dogs.

In 1916, the U.S. Army Veterinary Corps was formally established. However, recognition of the need for veterinary expertise had been evolving since 1776 when General George Washington directed the raising of a "regiment of horse with a farrier". During the Civil War, the War Department general orders provided each cavalry regiment with a veterinary surgeon. The Spanish American War further raised awareness for human and animal health.

A lack of adequate food quality led directly to the loss of thousands of Soldiers and rendered even greater numbers completely ineffective. The country began demanding action to preclude such catastrophes in the future. The AVMA and numerous other individuals began actively sup-

porting legislation directed toward establishment of an Army Veterinary Corps. With the passage of the National Defense Act of 1916, veterinary officer commissioning became a reality, and the Army Surgeon General began the work of organizing the new corps within the regular army. When the United States entered World War I in 1917 there were 57 veterinarians working for the Army, primarily in the area of equine surgery and medicine. Within 18 months, the newly established Corps grew to 2,313 officers. Veterinary Corps participation in all of the United States conflicts since World War I has been an essential element in the maintenance of the health and well-being of both animals and Soldiers.

Today the U.S. Army Veterinary Corps are professionals with military, public health and specialty skill sets rarely found in the private sector. These highly trained specialists have a unique role in our nation's defense strategy. U.S. Army veterinarians ensure the strength of our veterinary public health capabilities through veterinary medical and surgical care, food safety, and biomedical research and development.

For more history on the U.S. Army Veterinary Corps visit the U.S. Army Medical Department website at <http://veterinarycorps.amedd.army.mil/history.htm>, and for information on joining visit the Go Army site at <http://www.goarmy.com/amedd/veterinarian.html>

A Letter to Lord



Above: A photo of Brent and his partner, Lord, on a deployment.

I never thought I would have to be writing this, not for you. You were my super hero, you kept me safe from unimaginable danger. You gave me comfort when there was no light at the end of the tunnel. You were still so young, and had many years of protecting those you selflessly protected without hesitation, ahead of you. It goes without saying, I will never be as cool as I was with you.

I remember the first day I met you. When SSG Mac dropped you off after picking you up from Lackland. You had a giant presence about you, from your pointy ears down to your oversized paws. I then gave you the command of "sit", and you instead laid down, I remember thinking "What am I getting myself into? A green bomb dog.."

I couldn't have been more wrong. I was blown away at how fast you learned, and how much fun we had along the way. From me low crawling in the softball field like a jackass because I couldn't get you back to me, to when I got you doing that stupid in between the legs trick, "Foosse". We were the dream team. We still are, nobody can take that away from us.

We did some pretty cool things. We got to serve the President of the United States, which is something not many people can say. We got to ride around in helicopters, shoot guns (which you hated), travel the world together; it was a blast being by your side.

We did some pretty not-so-fun things, too. I remember when we were in Afghanistan on a night mission and there was a big gap we had to jump over and in the middle was a deep pile of mud, up to your knees. I threw your KONG Wubba over the gap, you cleared it with no problem, but I was sucking in the mud. Good or bad, I will never forget these memories. You gave me a purpose, and I can never repay you for the love and loyalty you showed me. As your only handler, I am honored to have served with you.

If I could speak Dog, or you could speak English (which would be really cool), I think I would want you to know three things in no particular order. First, I'm sorry I didn't say goodbye to you before I left Fort Bliss and entered the civilian world. I didn't want that memory, and I

didn't want you to think any less of me, because I definitely would have cried like a little baby. Secondly, I would like to tell you that throughout our time together, I hope I genuinely made you half as happy as you made me. You are so special to me and always will be, you are literally etched into my skin right over my heart. What we had was a once in a lifetime thing, and it makes me sad that you're gone, but at the same time, the pain is worth it because you gave me a love and an experience that nobody could ever replicate. Lastly, I would tell you that you are my best friend on this earth and that I love you from the bottom of my heart. I hope your days are filled with endless squeaks from KONG Wubbass that never tear apart.

Rest in peace, Lord.

Your friend,

Brent

Remembering Nnorman J293

A couple years ago, MWD TSA supported MWD Nnorman J293 and his handler, Nick Bonello, on their deployment. Nnorman served his country for nearly ten years at Moody Air Force Base until he retired in May 2014. He deployed four times, twice to Iraq and twice to Afghanistan. Upon retirement, Nnorman was adopted by his handler, SSgt Nicholas Bonello, and his wife, Shelby.

Unfortunately, as Nnorman's health declined, Nick was again on the other side of the world. But that didn't prevent Nick from seeing Norman's last precious moments. Shelby Bonello called on two talented photographers, including a DoD photographer from Moody AFB, to capture the family's final farewell to Nnorman.

Nnorman will be dearly missed by Security Forces, the Moody community, and especially his loving family.

"The intention of these photos and video was originally for Nick. To give him some closure in losing his best friend while being deployed, and not getting to say that one last goodbye to the dog who saved his life.

"In the past couple of days, Nnorman's final farewell has gone viral. Being shared over 6k times, and over 270k people viewing his video and pictures. It's crazy to think that so many people watched me do the hardest thing I have ever done in my life, but when I think about it, I know it was Nnorman's last mission.

"Nnorman was a true American hero, and he wanted everyone to know that. Most people don't think about the dogs that come back from war, have found bombs and saved lives, and served their country every day with no complaints. This is the chance to bring light to a subject that isn't exposed often, and I couldn't be more proud of him.

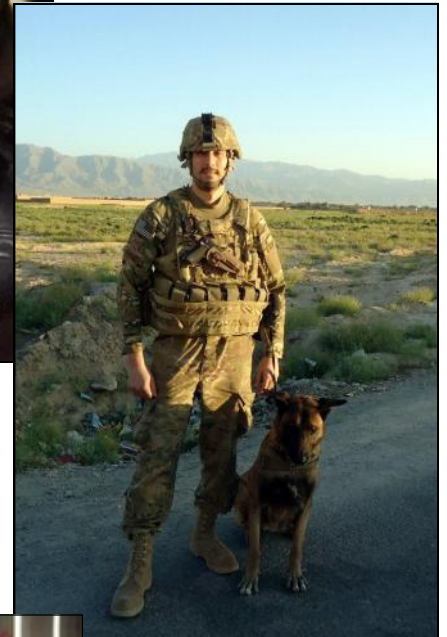
"Military Working Dogs are some of the best and bravest heroes we have serving our country, and Nnorman wants everyone to never forget that."

Nnorman's Mom



Left: Nnorman with his buddy, Rose, on their deployment. MWD TSA was able to support both of these great dogs.

Below: Nicholas and Nnorman on deployment.



Above: Nnorman takes one last series of photos as he makes his final journey.

Right: Nnorman lies down and is petted and comforted by his adopted mom.



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Above left: Nnorman walks into the Moody Air Force Base veterinary clinic for his final moments.

Above right: Honored in his last moments, Nnorman's Moody Air Force family gathers to say their good-byes.



Top left and right: Friends and family share their love and comfort with this amazing hero.

Right: An American flag covers Nnorman's body as he is set free to cross over the Rainbow Bridge.



Photos of Nnorman's last day were shared by his handler, DoD photographers, and Christine Trimble, of "Once Upon A Time."

The old adage is that a photo is worth 1,000 words. In this case, they seem to speak volumes.

We are honored to be able to share these with you.

Sit. Stay. Support.

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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!

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Parting Shots

Naval Base Kitsap



SILVERDALE Wash., (Sep. 13, 2016)

Master-at-Arms 3rd Class Anthony Rouillard rewards his Military Working Dog (MWD) Ring after a positive identification during detection training. There are 13 MWDs on Naval Base Kitsap-Bangor (NBK) that are maintained, trained, and utilized daily in support of NBK and its tenant commands. USN photo by MC2 Jacob G. Sisco