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Kennel Talk is an award-winning, free, digital publication of MWD TSA. Support MWD TSA now and you won't miss any of the photos, stories, news and highlights of 2017!

### The Military Working Dog Team Support Association, Inc. touches the lives of dogs and people near and far.

This issue's articles and photos take us from Southwest Asia to Okinawa, Japan, to Seattle, Washington in the beautiful Pacific Northwest, to Michigan, Massachusetts and Virginia in the East. Our care packages make it around the world to nooks and crannies wherever our teams are deployed.

Our parting shot is from Kuwait.

**Subscribe at [MWD TSA.org](http://MWD TSA.org) to see where we connect next month!**

## Putting a wag on the wiggle end

By Dixie Whitman



### Care Package Update

Over 175 of our 4th Quarter care packages have now made their way to grateful hands and paws. These Ice Hockey-themed care packages were designed to put a wag on the wiggle end of our MWDs and smiles on the faces of their handlers.

MWDs don't have much use for hard currency, so they are paid in the form of praise, play, and palate-pleasing treats. Tails are now wagging across the globe as our military dogs receive their "paychecks" in our care packages. The dogs are enjoying nutritious and yummy snacks along with classic reward toys like KONG Extreme Balls. MWD TSA also sent specialized conditioner to protect all those industrious paws. Handlers received collapsible water bowls to ensure hydration during travel.

In creating these latest hockey-themed boxes, MWD TSA is once again showing our unwavering support for our handlers. We sent everything but the ice rink! The University of Georgia Ice Dawgs Hockey Foundation generously donated embroidered hats. Our

design team then created a t-shirt to complement the hats. Another non-profit organization, US Hockey Players Support Our Troops, donated stunning camouflage hockey patches, while other members of our volun-



MWD Dasty shows off his spectacular style with the goodies from the 4th quarter care package. Inside the box you see the Krave Jerky and collapsible water bowl.

teer team donated hockey pucks of both the rubber and chocolate variety. We also included a USA Hockey magazine for those unfamiliar with the sport.

Dog handlers got some great treats, too. Pecan and peanut brittle, trail mix, jerky, and Rice Krispy treats were all part of the items sent. We included tasty San Francisco Bay Gourmet coffee and a tin of Celestial Season-

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Putting a Wag continued from page 1

ings tea. We also sent goodies to honor the holiday season: Mariani dried cranberries to recognize Thanksgiving, yummy Chocolate Gelt to observe Hanukkah, a bright red stocking for Santa Claus to fill with Christmas bounty, and a glittery set of 2017 glasses and a lei to party in the New Year. Most of the handlers receiving this box will not be able to celebrate this special season with their families, so we delivered a bit of cheer and asked them to enjoy the company of their brothers-and-sisters-in-arms wherever they may be during this holiday season.

As coordinator, I want to sincerely thank everyone who donated to our boxes. We received hundreds of items for these care packages from a tremendous number of supporters via our Amazon wish list. Our in-kind donors are often smaller

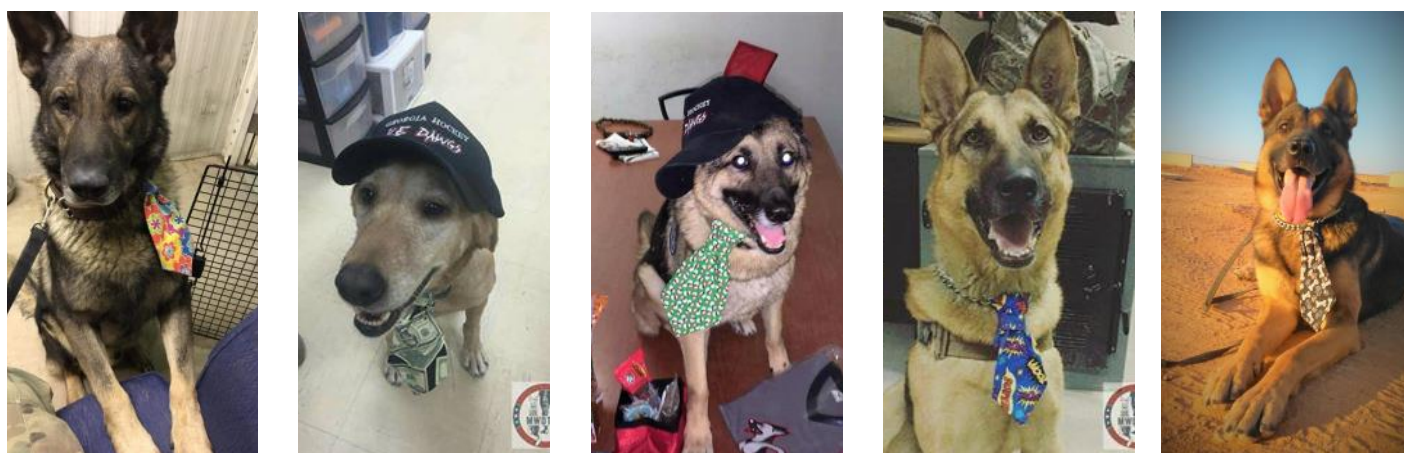
mom and pop businesses who are truly touched by the work that America's dog teams do for us every day. A number of them really stepped up this quarter: Dog Style Boutique, Millican Pecans, and D.O.G Bakery, to name a few. Larger companies also provide plenty of support, and this time around we are grateful for Zuke's, Solvit Products, and Atkinson Candy Company. Thank you one and all. Recognition is also due to the wonderful cadre of volunteers who streamed in from across the country to help pull these boxes together. Packing and shipping is no easy task, but these folks made it look like a walk in the park. And, lastly, a salute to our local post office for having the best timing ever to pick up these care packages and get them safely on their way.

Our best moments can't be completely captured on film, but we hope these photographs give you a glimpse of the joy that your support has given our deployed dog teams.

A duo of items sent for the dog handlers were enjoyed by handlers and hounds alike. Far left: LCpl Evans (with Josie) sports his new hat and hockey shirt. In the center left: MWD BBailey wears her handler's hockey jersey, and on the center right: Individual hats, embroidered one-at-a-time and donated by The University of Georgia Ice Dawgs foundation, are modeled by a handsome lab, MWD Freddie.



Above right: An array of Dawg Ties were donated by Karenbea Sewell of Dawg Ties. Designs ranged from holiday prints to cartoon images and other fun designs. The handlers loved slipping these great Dawg Ties on their K9s. Left to right below: MWD Roy, MWD Josie, MWD Satie, MWD Sultan, and MWD Toni show off various designs. Thank you, Karenbea Sewell.



Putting a Wag continued on page 3



Putting a Wag continued from page 2



Above: MWD Mirko poses with several boxes received at one of the kennels that we support. Six dog teams were supported at this one kennel. Holiday stockings were included.

Left: MWD NNora joins MWDTSA in looking forward to an amazing 2017. These glasses were part of our "4th Quarter Holiday-in-a-bag" sets which included gifts to celebrate four different 4th quarter holidays.



Right: MWD Johnny shows off his dapper look with matching Doggles and tie. The contents of his package are spread out in front of him, including freeze dried liver treats from Dog Style Boutique in Bandon, Oregon, Z Bones from Zuke's, and cookies from wonderful D.O.G. Bakery in Traverse City, Michigan.



Left: Looking dapper, MWD Frici wears his new tie and shades. His tie has tiny American flags on it. All he needs now is a briefcase.



Right: Another MWD named Roy poses with the contents of his care package. Coffee from San Francisco Bay Gourmet Coffee, Sophie Mae Peanut Coconut Brittle Bars, a Chocolate Hockey Puck, Chocolate Gelt, and other goodies were shared with his handler.

# *In their words: Deployed Airmen enduring the holidays*

by Senior Airman Tyler Woodward



380th Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron military working dog, Sam, participates in a resiliency project at an undisclosed location in Southwest Asia, Nov. 28, 2016. Staff Sgt. Brandon, 380 ESFS working dog handler, translated on behalf of Sam during the interview.

The following is a transcription of an interview with Sam, 380th Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron military working dog, which was recorded Dec. 9, 2016. Staff Sgt. Brandon, 380 ESFS member and Sam's handler, served as Sam's translator. As the holiday season continues, we are using a series of Questions and Answers to show how deployed Airmen stay resilient while away from home.

How many deployments have you been on? Is this your first?

**Sam:** I've been on four deployments, this being my fourth.

What do you hope to get out of this deployment?

**Sam:** I hope to get love out of my handler – and also rewards. I also hope to get fit so when I go back home, stateside, I can show all the female dogs how buff I am and to be as fit as possible for when I retire as a military working dog.

What do you do in your free time to help time pass while deployed?

**Sam:** I like to walk around my kennel, you know; I pace back and forth. I've started a scratch chart on the walls. I'm just counting down the days 'till I can leave this place. My handler makes me walk a lot. I talk to people and sometimes I get petted. It's okay. But sometimes I have itches behind my ear.

What's been the hardest thing while being away from your fellow working dogs and handlers during the holidays?

**Sam:** I miss my home station crew. I'd like to give a big shout out to my fellow working dogs Elza, Wotan, Ringo, Molly and VViking. I miss working with my family. Especially when we do decoy work in the field.

For you, what does it mean to be resilient?

**Sam:** Resiliency means that when I do something wrong and my handler corrects me for it, I just bounce back. I gotta' keep on keepin' on ya know? Whether I don't find the aid or my handler tells me to sit and I don't sit because I want to lay down because it's hot and then I have to get corrected and I just, I just let it fall off my shoulders and I keep on going. I get a little nap in the car every now and then after a long walk. That's what being resilient means to me.

If you could tell someone one thing to help them stay resilient through deployments what would it be?

**Sam:** I would have to say never give up, never surrender. Goonies for life. I watched that show one day when I was waiting for my handler to finish eating. It's definitely one of my top 10 favorite movies. I'll never give up, never surrender. I guess just don't let things get you down and keep moving forward and find those bombs.





## Donor Spotlight

# Flags for our Sponsors

By Dick Baumer

**Nikki Rohrig, MWDTSA's president, wanted to thank Jenny Brown, founder & CEO of Bowser Beer and several other major sponsors for their long-term support and generosity to deployed teams. Brown has donated over \$4,000 of Bowser Beer to MWDTSA over the past two years.**

Sometimes, saying "thank you" requires a lot of coordination. This was recently the case when MWDTSA asked handlers at Joint Base Lewis-McChord to make a special presentation to Jenny Brown, founder & CEO of Bowser Beer. Ms. Brown was presented with an American flag by a MWD team deployed from another location. This particular flag flew over a Forward Operating Base in Iraq on the 15th anniversary of 9/11.

Since Bowser Beer is located in Seattle, this event was quite a logistical challenge. Thankfully it all came together on Nov. 30 when Ms. Brown visited the kennels at JBLM. The flag was presented to the CEO by SSgt Isaac Trevino, senior MWD handler, who had just returned from a deployment in Honduras. Both SPC Andrea and Trevino and their K9s are past recipients of numerous MWDTSA care packages during their overseas deployments.

While at JBLM, Ms. Brown also made a "kennel visit," distributing gifts for the U.S. Army dog handlers and their MWDs. The gifts included custom dog bowls with the

Army logo, bottles of Bowser Beer, as well as MWDTSA T-shirts, coffee mugs, tactical patches for the dog harnesses and two toys for each MWD.



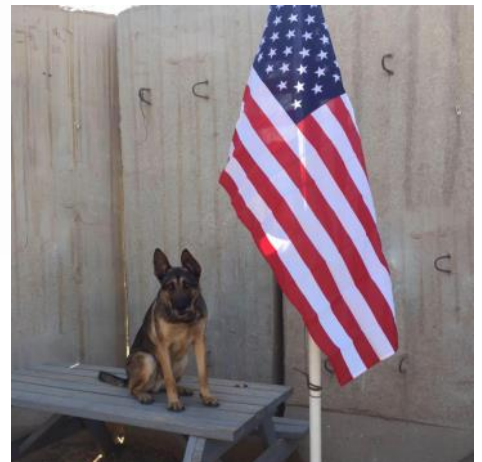
**JBLM Flag presentation/kennel visit.** (L to R) SSG Trevino, SPC Borjes, PVT Arnold, SPC Donwen, SGT Hawthorne, SPC Ridge, Jenny Brown, SPC Cale, Jessica Arnett, SGT Herbert, SPC Baldwin. In front, MWD (SSD) Guage. (Photo by JBLM)

Right: Certificate presented to Brown with the flag.



Left: SPC Beau Andrea and MWD Leo (Photo by SPC Andrea)

Right: MWD Leo with the flag at FOB Union III, Iraq. (Photo by SPC Andrea)





## Volunteer Corner

# Call to volunteer

by Dixie Whitman

Volunteers are how we roll. Would you like to get involved, but don't know how? Let us show you how easily you can become part of our MWD TSA Team. It may be just the opportunity you're looking for!

As an all-volunteer organization, volunteers are the lifeblood of everything we do. Every person contributes directly to the military working dog teams that we support. Our volunteers enrich the lives of dogs and handlers through care packages, base visits, recognition events, educating the general public, and advocating for retired MWDs.

Now that you know a bit about what MWD TSA does for MWD teams, let's see what MWD TSA can do for you:

**It's rewarding.** The work we do helps people find meaning and purpose at any age. MWD TSA is an opportunity to share your life experience with others while supporting our men and woman in uniform.

**It's good for your mental and physical health.** It's been scientifically proven that helping others can reduce stress, boost the immune system, and give people a greater sense of self-worth.

**You'll meet new people.** With MWD TSA, you'll be meeting and working with people from all over the country - people of all ages and backgrounds. You'll make new connections, network, and even make friends for life.

**You'll learn valuable skills.** Do you want to learn how to write press releases, grant proposals, or fundraising let-

ters? Do you want to learn desktop publishing, or basic marketing, or gain experience in event coordination and project management? Volunteering not only looks great on your resume, it can provide you with highly sought after skills in the job market.

## Current Volunteer Needs

We have a wide range of opportunities and are always looking for motivated volunteers filled with energy and ideas. We could use some help in the following areas:

- Solicitation of donations for care packages
- Photography/Videography
- Writers—Stories and Articles for newsletter and online
- Social Media Specialist: Facebook and Twitter
- In Kind Donation Solicitations
- Office coordination and support
- Fundraising
- Volunteer Coordination and Management
- Grant writing

And much more!

We may be small, but we are a mighty non-profit organization. Every volunteer is vital. We simply could not support our MWD teams without all the dedicated individuals who coordinate care packages, visit bases, and provide all kinds of essential services. Most of our volunteer efforts are virtual, which means you can help from anywhere in the country. When it comes to volunteering, passion and positivity are the only requirements. Stop by our website, [www.mwdtsa.org](http://www.mwdtsa.org), and click on the volunteer button to join our national volunteer network today.

Left: (from left to right) Volunteers Jerry Whitman and Rita Richardson are joined by her husband, Rusty Richardson, to count and inventory toys received from supporters via our KONGs for K9s annual dog toy drive.

Right: Volunteer Fundraiser Lisa Eiser (second from left in photo) is joined by supporters at her Tails on Trails 5K Dog Walk fundraising event in Indiana.



Volunteers continued on page 7



Volunteers continued from page 6



Photos taken from volunteer coordinated events of 2016 span across the country and beyond. Top row : Left. Linda Costa-Bryan completes her first Base Visit to Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam in Hawaii. Linda is part of our Facebook team. Center: Nikki Rohrig, our President, and Rob Schnell, another volunteer, meet in Washington, D. C. to help complete our 1st quarter care packages. Right: Volunteer proofreader and writer, Holly G., attends her first base visit at Fort Hood, Texas last April.

Center row: Volunteers from across the eastern US join forces with the West Virginia University mascot, the Mountaineer, in West Virginia to pack and ship our 2nd quarter care packages in May.

Bottom row: Left: Handlers from Naval Base Ventura County in California are honored at an event hosted by Jan Slotar (3rd from right in dark blue volunteer shirt.) Jan is a board member and works with new volunteers. Right: At Maxwell AFB in Alabama, volunteer Linda Standard who works on our Facebook team.



Volunteers continued on page 8



Volunteers continued from page 7

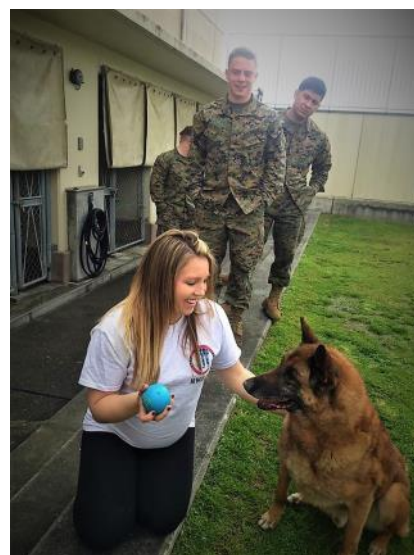


Top row : Left: Volunteer mermaids and pirates find their way to the shores of Lake Michigan to help Board Member, Allison Merrill, pack the 3rd quarter care packages. Right: Volunteer, Anna Steere, who works on in-kind donations and writing for our newsletter, enjoys meeting her first military working dog at Fort Carson, Colorado.

Center row: Left: Facebook team members Megan Francisco and Jessica Pate bring their wonderful girls with them to a base visit at Kansas' Fort Leavenworth. Right: Volunteers join in to help pack the 4th Quarter care packages in Georgia.

Bottom row: Left: Naval Weapons Station Earle in New Jersey is one of the Navy Bases visited in 2016 by volunteers from New York and New Jersey. Right: In Japan, volunteer Hailey Lowe completes a Base Visit to Marine Base Iwakuni.

Join us this year to be involved in all the fun!





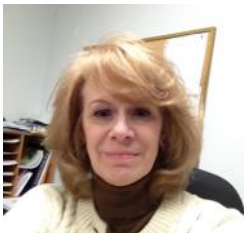


## Volunteer Corner



**Jesca Daniels**, a recent addition to MWDTSA's volunteer staff, is also a busy mom and military spouse. She and her husband, a Kennel Master, adopted his former partner, MWD Aura. Jesca coordinated a LulaRoe Fundraiser for MWDTSA by rounding up several consultants who created a great sale. MWDTSA is grateful to all the ladies who purchased those super soft LulaRoe leggings, skirts, and tops. Each fundraiser brings us closer to our goals in support of "both ends of the leash."

In addition to her love of family and dogs, Jesca is a classically trained chef with a passion for baking and decorating special occasion cakes.



**Sharon Lunney** recently became a volunteer by answering a Volunteer Match ad for help with our Kennel Talk newsletter. She previously was the editor of a cat breed newsletter for 5 years.

She resides in western Pennsylvania with her husband, Phil, and their menagerie of cats and dogs. She works for a medical services company and has done volunteer work for several animal shelters. She is enjoying working with Dixie Whitman on the award-winning Kennel Talk.



Volunteer **Lisa Eiser** and her Destination Imagination Team "Gopher Dawgs" are now working with MWDTSA. Destination Imagination is an international creative problem-solving program for kids in preschool through university. Lisa is leading a group of five junior high students in Bourbon, IN, to raise awareness and funds to support our MWD teams. In September 2016, this team of problem solvers coordinated a "Tails on Trails 5K Dog Walk" at a local nature trail. The kids enlisted the help of many people, including the members of our Kohl's Cares Team, who manned the concession stand during the day. The dog walk raised \$1300 and Kohl's donated an additional \$500 to MWDTSA for coming out and working. There were 60 four-legged attendees and about 160 two-legged attendees. The event was so well-received by the local community, that we are scheduling another one for September 2017. Thank you to Kohl's and all the folks who came out to participate.

The Destination Imagination Gopher Dawgs team includes Ana, Isaac, Eleni, Dereck and Morgan. Motivated by all the support this event received, the kids are now making a "Challenge Box" for local businesses, churches, civic groups, and anyone else who would like to participate. Each box will list items that MWDTSA needs, along with the cost of the item and postage. The Gopher Dogs will actively encourage community participation and are hoping to challenge the participants to fund 200 boxes.



## Donor Spotlight

# Second annual “DAWGS 3 Clubber” tournament

By Bill Doiron

Nineteen teams participated in the second annual “Dawgs 3 Clubber” golf tournament at the Back Nine Golf Club in Lakewille, Massachusetts. Proceeds from the tournament, totaling \$2,275.00, were presented to MWDTSA in support of our quarterly care packages to deployed MWD teams.

Retired MWD Lucy N430, shown on the right, was again the celebrity of the day. She reluctantly posed for pictures, though she was more interested in her Kong toy. I want to thank all the players who participated. We now have a core group of players who want to make this a regular event.

These types of outings cannot succeed without the help of great people in the community. I would like to thank the following organizations: Mutual Bank of Whitman, Whitman American Legion, Commercial Club of East Bridgewater, Brockton VFW, Windover Construction of Beverly, Town Spa, Damiens restaurant, Eagles Club of Rockland, Thomas J. Curtin of Avon and dear friends Jack Force, Peg Parker, Joe Platenik and Kent Miller.



Above: Retired Military Working Dog, Lucy N430, is again the celebrity at this fabulous fundraising event in Massachusetts, now in its second year.

## Great Lakes, Great support!

By Lori Brockdorff



Above: Members of the Great Lakes K-9 Certified Pet Therapy Club pose for a photo with their dogs.

The Great Lakes K-9 Certified Pet Therapy Club meets once a month in St. Clair County, MI. Members meet to discuss past and future therapy visits as well as any local news regarding pet therapy dogs.

This group is led by Carolyn Crowe, a Puppy Raiser for Leader Dogs for the Blind. Carolyn and others coordinate group visits to nursing homes, funerals, and other venues where they are needed. The certified therapy teams also read to at-risk youth and conduct Q & A sessions about therapy dogs. The Great Lakes handlers are a very generous group of people

who enjoy sharing their special dogs with the community.

The Pet Therapy Club came together and asked other dog friends if they would like to support MWD teams by donating items for care packages, and boy did they get a response! Donations poured in and the club was able to ship over 200 pounds of items to grateful hands and paws. The Christmas spirit is certainly at work in Michigan. Enjoy your treats and have a Merry Christmas.



Above right: This little 4-H Super Cloversprout cutie donated a Nylabone to the boxes headed for MWDTSA distribution.



# US Hockey Players Support Our Troops!

By Dixie Whitman

A generous donation made by US Hockey Players Support Our Troops, a family-run organization, allowed us to include some great hockey-inspired patches in our 4th quarter care packages. This donation was made in honor of three fallen heroes, Marine Cpl. Dustin J. Lee, Army Sgt. 1st Class Gregory A. Rodriguez, and Navy Master-at Arms 2nd Class (EXW) Sean E. Brazas. We felt it was important to honor this donation and these three young men, all dog handlers.

Cpl. Lee, 20 of Quitman, Mississippi, died March 21, 2007 serving during Operation Iraqi Freedom. He was assigned to the Headquarters Battalion, Marine Corps Logistics Base in Albany, Georgia. He died from wounds received while conducting combat operations in Fallujah, Iraq.

SFC Gregory A. Rodriguez, 35 of Weidman, Michigan, died September 2, 2008 of wounds sustained in Afghanistan when his mounted patrol came under small arms fire. He was assigned to the 18th MP Brigade, Ansbach, Germany.

MA2 Sean E. Brazas, 26, of Greensboro, North Carolina, died May 30, 2012 in Panjway, Afghanistan, while conducting combat operations. He was assigned to the Naval Base Kitsap Security Detachment, Bremerton, Washington.

We are humbled by this kind donation and also wanted to be sure we recognized the sacrifices that were honored by US Hockey Players Support Our Troops with their donations.



Above: This great patch donated by US Hockey Players Support Our Troops was sent out in each package.

Right: MWD Roy appreciates the support and modeled the patch that can be sewn on his working harness. What a handsome and hard-working guy he is.

Stay safe, buddy.



## 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:**

Dick Baumer  
Ken and Liz Besecker, in memory of Mike Fowler  
Bethany United Methodist Church, Smyrna, Georgia  
Stanton Bost  
Jennifer Calabrese  
Bradley Cohick  
Bill Doiron  
Butler Elementary School, Butler, Missouri  
Chuck and Don's customers, Longmont, Colorado  
William and Stacy Forst  
Robert Hahn  
Krista Hernandez  
Corey Hoffman

Mark Johnson  
Kelly Lloyd  
Kerri Moss  
Francis Murch  
Laurie Newton  
Dianna O'Harra  
Planet Dog, Westbrook, Maine  
Larry Reisenauer  
Seltice Elementary School, Post Falls, Idaho  
Stephen Redden  
Richard Snyder  
Christa Ursini  
Vestal Senior High School, Vestal, New York  
Katie Welch in memory of Norm the GSD  
Jerry and Dixie Whitman  
Jonathan Wilcox  
Jennifer Williams  
Kathie Woodring

# Man's best friend: the journey they take

By Airman Donald Knechtel

For a lap dog, life seems simple. They eat, play and sleep. While some aspects may be similar, the life of a military working dog is a whole different breed of excitement.

"Our main mission is explosive detection," said Staff Sgt. Ralph Rodriguez, a military working dog trainer assigned to the 28th Security Forces Squadron. "Dogs have a capability that neither human nor machine can do, detecting explosives where they're buried or well hidden. A dog's sense of smell is much higher than any humans."

According to Rodriguez, these K9's begin their career very early in life -- around the one and a half year mark. However, in order to begin their careers as military working dogs, they have to go through their own basic military training just like Airmen.

"[At Lackland Air Force base] they go through and learn all their basic training," said Staff Sgt. Kelly Peterson, a MWD trainer assigned to the 28th SFS. "They learn their basic obedience, which is anything from sit, heel or stay down, and all of the basic core tasks, which are the foundation that leads into the rest of their training."

The K9's go into detection based training where they are taught to identify different odors, such as certain drugs and explosives. From there, they receive patrol based training where they learn to attack aggressors using techniques such as bite, hold and chase.

"It takes a while for them to get assigned and shipped out to their base," Rodriguez said. "Once they get to base, they go to work."

Upon arrival to a duty station, the MWD's are assigned to a handler who will continue to train and build upon the skills learned at Lackland AFB.

"Some dogs have stronger points and some have weaker points," Peterson said. "So we try to fix any issues that a dog may be weak on and then build their strengths as they progress their careers in the military."

According to the handlers, they practice real-life situations training in buildings on base, roadways, vehicle searches and many other environments to prepare them for anything they might run into while working.



Batu, a military working dog assigned to the 28th Security Forces Squadron, clings to his handler while his kennel is cleaned at Ellsworth Air Force Base, S.D., Oct. 15, 2015. For health and safety purposes, kennels are sanitized every four hours and thoroughly cleaned at least once a week. (U.S. Air Force photo by Airman Sadie Colbert)

"There are two types of dogs," Rodriguez stated. "They are usually trained on explosives or narcotics, never both." He further explained that having a dog trained on both would be confusing for the handlers.

"If they were trained on both, [the MWD's] would sit if they found a bomb or drugs -- you wouldn't know which," Rodriguez continued. "You're not going to open a drawer if there's a bomb inside, but with drugs you would. So that's why we keep the tasks separated to certain dogs."

According to the handlers, MWD's act as an essential part of a team in the field. They are used in every group that goes "outside the wire," whether it be U.S. Army Rangers, U.S. Navy Seals or Special Forces.

The canine will complete these tasks dutifully until they no longer can, whether by age or falling in the line of duty.

"A dog can be retired in two ways," Kelly said. "Either they fulfill their time, which for the Air Force if they are working and healthy is nine to ten years old, or they can be retired medically, meaning they have a medical issue and can no longer fulfill their military duty."

Whether finishing their tour of duty by time in service or otherwise, the MWD's are given the full respect and honor as any other individual who has served their country.



Man's Best Friend continued from page 12

"When a dog retires, they will have a full retirement ceremony," Rodriguez said. "However, if they pass away, we will have a memorial for them in memory of their entire service. At the end of it [the ceremony], everyone in the unit can pay their respects for the fallen defender."



Airmen of the 28th Security Forces Squadron pay their respects to the fallen military working dog, Xarius, in the Freedom Chapel at Ellsworth Air Force Base, S.D., Nov. 4, 2016. When a military working dog falls in the line of duty the unit honors the fallen defender with a full retirement ceremony in memory of their service. (U.S. Air Force photo by Airman 1st Class Donald C. Knechtel)



A photo of Xarius, a military working dog assigned to the 28th Security Forces Squadron, rests on a table during his funeral in the Freedom Chapel at Ellsworth Air Force Base, S.D., Nov. 4, 2016. Military working dogs, like any other service member, are honored for their dedication and service to their country. (U.S. Air Force photo by Airman 1st Class Donald C. Knechtel)



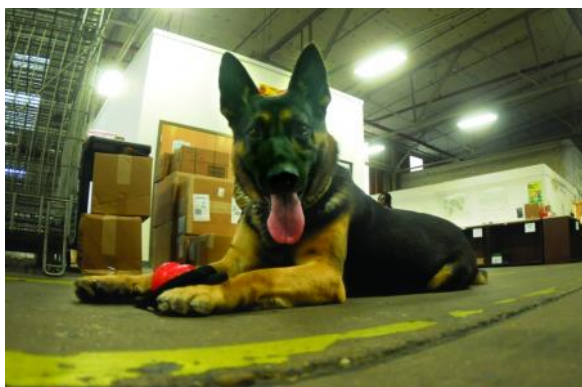
Staff Sgt. Michael Gwin, a military working dog handler assigned to the 28th Security Forces Squadron, runs Rex, a military working dog assigned to the 28th SFS, through an obstacle course at Ellsworth Air Force Base, S.D., Oct 9, 2015. MWD's undergo constant training to ensure they are fit to fight anytime anywhere. (U.S. Air Force photo by SrA Rebecca Imwalle)

## Beyond whiffs and sniffs – military working dog mission

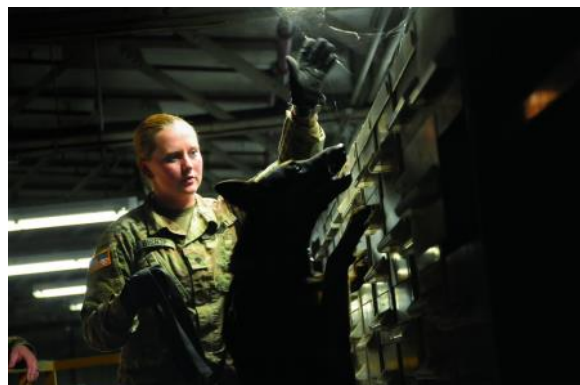
U.S. Army Garrison Fort Lee

11.29.2016

Photos by Terrance Bell



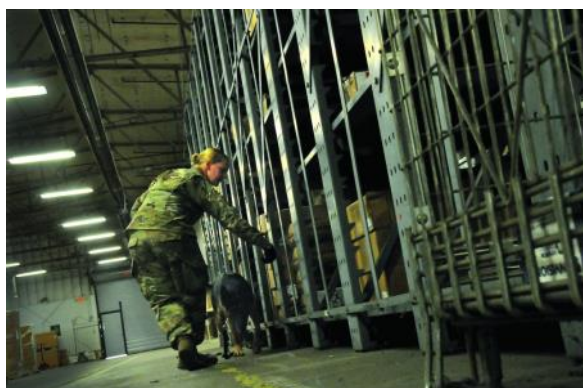
Above: Batman, one of seven dogs assigned to the 544th Military Police Detachment, is affable and approachable, but can be transformed into an aggressor with a single command. All the canines assigned to the 544th are either narcotics or explosive and patrol-duty capable, meaning they can act as protectors, aggressors or search dogs.



Above: Spc. Brittany Bishop, a canine handler assigned to the 544th Military Police Detachment (Military Working Dog), directs her dog Batman to cover shelving at a warehouse recently. The 544th is one of the few deployable units on the installation but also has a mission of supporting the U.S. Secret Service and local law enforcement.

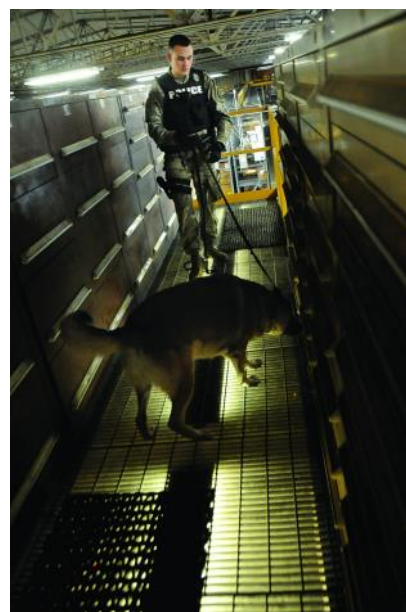


Above: 1Sgt. 1st Class William Morton, kennel master, 544th Military Police Detachment (Military Working Dog), critiques the training performance of Spc. Brittany Bishop and her dog, Batman, recently. The team was tasked with finding a training aid in a large warehouse.



Above: Spc. Brittany Bishop, a canine handler assigned to the 544th Military Police Detachment (Military Working Dog), guides Batman, a narcotics-sniffing German shepherd, through a training drill at a warehouse recently. The 544th is one of the few deployable units on the installation but also has a mission of supporting the U.S. Secret Service and local law enforcement.

Right: Spc. Nicholas Ames, 544th Military Police Detachment (Military Working Dog), and Kryno, a German shepherd, search for a "prize" on a metal-grated second floor of a warehouse recently. Handler-dog teams must undergo at least 16 hours of monthly training to stay proficient. Ames and Kryno are one of seven handler-dog teams assigned to the 544th.





# Military Working Dog Aggression Training

CAMP FOSTER, OKINAWA, JAPAN

11.04.2016

Photos by Lance Cpl. Christian Robertson, III Marine Expeditionary Force Combat Camera

U.S. Marine Corps dog handlers conduct aggression training in order to prepare the MWD's for real life scenarios.



U.S. Marine Lance Cpl. Matthew Byrd, dog handler, Provost Marshall's Office, K9 Section, Marine Corps Base, Camp Smedley D. Butler, pets his Military Working Dog (MWD) before conducting aggression training.



Above center and right: U.S. Marine Cpl. Robert Dienno, dog handler, Provost Marshall's Office, K9 Section, Marine Corps Base, Camp Smedley D. Butler, holds his Military Working Dog (MWD) back from biting a protective body suit while conducting aggression training .



Above: A U.S. Marine agitates a Military Working Dog (MWD) while conducting aggression training.



Above: A U.S. Military Working Dog (MWD) lunges at a U.S. Marine in a protective body suit during aggression training.



Above left and right: A U.S. Military Working Dog (MWD) bites a protective body suit during aggression training.

Military Working Dog Team  
Support Association, Inc.

## Sit. Stay. Support.

**MWDTSA**

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## Parting Shots

## Kuwait



**12.03.2016**

**Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Suzanne Ringle  
77th Combat Aviation Brigade**

Kuwait-U.S. Marine K-9 team, Sgt. Dustin Campbell and K-9 Uurza, are inseparable during down time from a training session with medevac crew from Charlie Company 1-111th, Jacksonville, Florida, trains with U.S. Marine K-9 teams from 1st Law Enforcement Battalion, Camp Pendleton, California, to familiarize both K-9 and medevac crew on the unique requirements for rescues involving K-9, Dec. 03. (Photo by Army Sgt. 1st Class Suzanne Ringle/Released)