



## Kennel Talk

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the photos, stories,  
news and highlights of  
2010!

#### Inside this issue:

Kongs for K9s	1
Children's Designs and Words	2
Phan Rang Vet Tech Memories	3
Pet Festival	4
WellPet Donation	5
MWD Photos	6

## MWDTSA's Holiday Mission: "Kongs for K9s"

Taking a cue from the Marine Toys for Tots program, MWDTSA is gearing up for Christmas with "Kongs for K9s". Our goal is to send supportive holiday packages filled with lots of good things to active duty handlers and dogs who are deployed in Iraq and Afghanistan. Our wish list includes Kong-like toys, Gough-nuts, extremely durable squeaky balls, Gigglers, Frisbees, collars and leashes. Items should be robust in construction and suitable for active dogs in the 70-90 pound range. Donations, memberships and online store purchases are a great way to support this mission.

Sgt. Max enjoyed showing off his big red ball. Balls, Kongs, Frisbees and tug toys are rewards for long hours of grueling, difficult, dangerous work.



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## MWDTSA's "Dog Tagz"—The Shop for Dog Handlers

**Dog Tagz:** The Shop for Dog Handlers, MWDTSA's new online store will be up and running soon with a variety of inspirational T-shirts, gifts and membership opportunities. Our organization has been working hard to acquire

an online store presence for some time; the stars have finally aligned and MWDTSA plans some great new shopping for both handlers and supporters. The online store created by Frank Pantaleo will showcase exciting new items as they become available.

Be sure to check out our website for new updates and a link to "Dog Tagz" as the store makes it's Grand Opening Celebration sometime soon.

[www.mwdtsa.org](http://www.mwdtsa.org)

### THANK YOU!

*A big thank you to the Tracy Webb Memorial Foundation for their generous gift in support of Military Working Dogs and Dog Handlers.*



Please look soon for new T-shirt designs from one of our current design creators, Courtney Griffin, a local high school senior and another artist, Kate McMillan, who is responsible for our original shirt back in 2002.



# Frank

## Inspiration & Appreciation from Children to our Dog Handlers

Creative artwork, inspirational messages and just plain adorable questions from children have been shared with MWDTSA in support of currently deployed handlers and dogs.

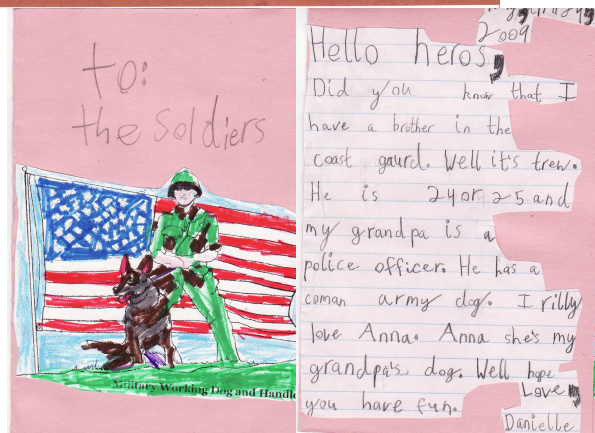
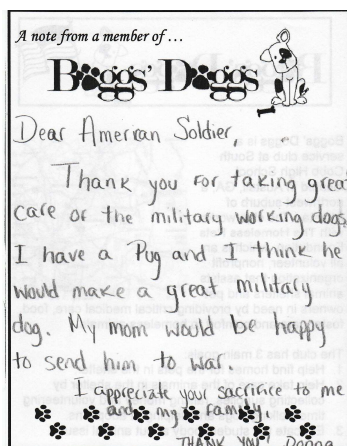
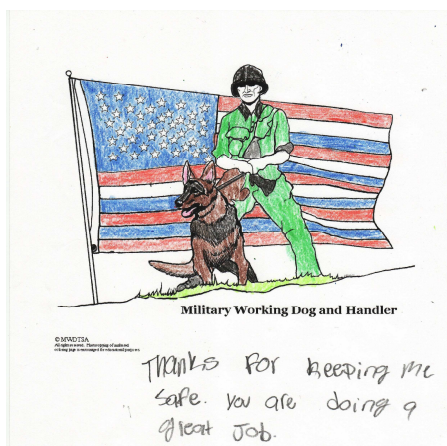
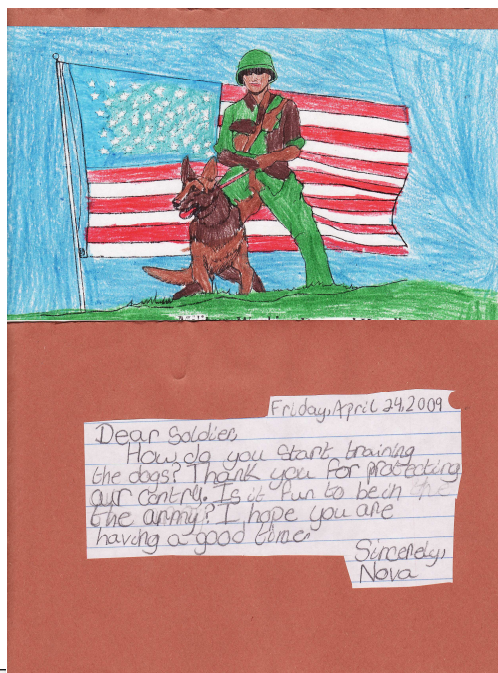
As you first read through them, some of these creations make you laugh and some make you cry. They are all unique and will be appreciated by our dog handlers.

Here are a few examples of coloring pages, notes and questions posed to the dog handlers by children at Acworth Elementary School, Acworth, GA Sanders Elementary School Pet

Club in Austell, GA and members of Boggs' Doggs, a service club at South Cobb High School in Austell, GA.

Many of these students were in an area hard hit by recent flooding so our thoughts are with them and their families as they rebuild a very strong community.

MWDTSA looks forward to continued support and interaction with students at every level. Our connection with students and their teachers offers an opportunity to educate a new generation about the role, sacrifices and history of Military Working Dogs.



Serving as the web guru for MWDTSA, Jonathan Wahl is a former member of the 47th IPSD in Vietnam.

## Volunteer Spotlight—Jonathan Wahl

Having served during the Vietnam War in an Army Scout Dog unit, Jonathan learned firsthand about the dedication, courage, and loyalty of our American war dog teams. They have proven over and over their value in saving lives in combat and in guarding our troops and installations. Volunteering with the MWDTSA is one way that he can help this outstanding or-

ganization accomplish its mission to provide assistance to current and former military dog handlers and to let them know that we appreciate their service.

On a personal note, Jonathan is a happily married, father of two and grandfather of two beautiful girls. Interests and activities include, spending winters in Florida

and spending summers backpacking in Vermont, all things Vermont-related, computers and software, photography, developing and maintaining three websites, following the New York Yankees, volunteering for the MWDTSA and the Green Mountain Club, and serving as online historian for his former Army unit (the 47th Scout Dog Platoon). Website: [www.47ipsd.us](http://www.47ipsd.us)



# A Vet Tech's Perspective from Vietnam *by Eddie Stott*

**Editor's Note:** Quite simply, a vet tech is someone trained to assist a veterinarian. But, nothing was "quite simple" in Vietnam. Veterinarians and vet techs were pressed into service beyond anything America's military had previously experienced. MWD TSA is offering some first hand insight from our member, Eddie Stott, a vet tech based at Phan Rang, Vietnam. Some of this information is difficult to read, but Americans need to know what we ask of our military working dogs, service men and women.

## What was a typical day like for you in Phan Rang?

A typical day for me at Phan Rang was holding daily sick call for the Air Force Sentry Dogs of the 35th SPS, as well as working with the Scout Dogs of the 42nd ISPD based at Phan Rang. This included routine blood testing and repair of injuries. I was also on call to treat the dogs for emergencies such as war wounds and snake bites. The hard part for me was trying not to let my feelings or concerns flow to the brave men who handled the dogs.

## What were the most typical injuries that the dogs received?

The most typical injuries the dogs received would have to be classified by the type of dog and their duties. Scout Dogs worked with mainly the Army and Marines and would walk point with their handler in front of a company of Soldiers to look for and warn of the enemy. Some of these dogs received serious injuries from the enemy as did their handlers. They were seen first by

the enemy and encountered mines and firepower first. When the men and dogs returned from battle the dogs would be extremely tired. I would have to treat wounds from the battle that had not been treated in the field. An unusual item I treated several Army Scout Dogs for was leeches they obtained from the swamps. I would have to use an insect repellent in their nostrils and they would lose their sense of smell for approximately two weeks. Keeping their teeth clean was critical to their well being as well as testing and treating for various types of worms and heartworms.

**Sentry Dogs**— These dogs guarded the perimeter of a base or post. If there was a challenge to the perimeter, they could suffer wounds in combat. Common concerns were heartworms; guarded against by running blood tests. If the Sentry or Scout Dog were infected with heartworms and could still be treated we used "Carpasolate" in small doses injected into their blood stream. This medication was a form of arsenic and was very dangerous but was the only thing we had to treat the heartworms.

Snake Bites were too common, requiring injections of anti-venom. Another common issue was maggots. Flies could infest the dogs if they had a cut. This usually required that we get the maggots out with embalming fluid or alcohol then continue treatment with Penicillin or Tetracycline. The above are just a few of the common health concerns. One of the dogs I treated on an emergency basis had broken a tooth which resulted in a life-

threatening infection in his tooth and then mouth. He was saved by putting him and the handler on a helicopter and sending them to Saigon for a Veterinarian to treat.

## What was the worst injury you ever saw inflicted on a dog?

The worst injury I saw inflicted on a dog was when the dog had encountered a mine and lost his front leg and sustained severe injuries to his head and neck. Needless to say we could do nothing and had to put the dog to sleep. This was hard because the dog had saved his handler's life. The handler and I both sat and cried.

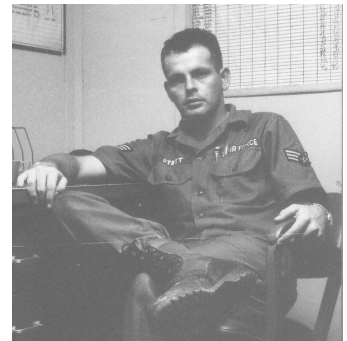
## Did you ever hear of any dog receiving an award or commendation for the injuries received while on duty?

To my knowledge I never heard of a dog receiving an award BUT let me tell you they were the unsung heroes of the war. These dogs gave all they had every day and saved thousands of lives only to be left behind in Vietnam by the US Government.

## What were the emotional repercussions amongst the handlers when a dog was lost?

It was like losing your best friend as the bonds were extremely close. When a dog was lost it was the same as losing a soldier as these animals were like brothers and sisters. I still to this day think about the dogs that lost their life during the war due to injuries, but I know their handlers grieve even more.

## How did you feel about having to leave the dogs behind



## after the War was over?

The hard part for me was that the US Government left the dogs behind. These dogs were heroes and how could they be forgotten? It was like putting a knife in their back. They gave their all only to be left behind. I became very close to several of the dogs, especially one named Rheiner and to this day I wish I could see him again.



Top: Air Force Vet Tech Eddie Stott talks about his first hand experience with the War Dogs of Vietnam. Among his favorite Military Working Dogs to care for was German Shepherd Dog, Rheiner, also shown above.

Note: In a change in policy from Vietnam, Military Working Dogs now return back home with their handlers.



## MWDTSA Educates the Public at Pet Festival

Top Dogs Pet Boutique of Kennesaw and Roswell, Georgia invited MWDTSA to be a part of their first ever Pet Festival held the last Saturday in September. Pet Festival drew hundreds of spectators, participants and their canine companions for a day of dog contests, education and fundraising.

While we did not participate in any competitions, we did have the honor of speaking for a few minutes about Military Working Dogs. Dixie Whitman was asked to do a presentation and spoke in first person as two different dogs: an Air Force Sentry dog in the Vietnam War and a Marine SSD dog in Iraq. The story of these dogs is very compelling.

Ann Wilkerson, MWDTSA Events Coordinator, spearheaded our efforts and did a great job getting us set up and participating. Dog fanciers stopped by for a visit and were fascinated to learn about Military Working Dogs.

One of the strengths of MWDTSA is our history and participation in so many Military Working Dog events. To share these stories with everyone, Ann constructed a scrapbook that houses much of our history; many photos of events, handlers and dogs that have been touched by MWDTSA work. Adding to MWDTSA support that day were new supporter, Courtney, Ellie (her Westie) and Jerry Whitman.



As we move into 2010, MWDTSA's Events Group, under the leadership of Ann Wilkerson, will working a complete display set up that can be taken on the road to educate

the general public. We'll be working on a banner, scrapbooks, displays and other creative concepts to both educate and create support opportunities.

*Top right:  
New MWDTSA supporters  
Ellie, the Westie, and her  
owner Courtney Griffin attend  
the first ever Pet Festival  
sponsored by our friends at Top  
Dogs.*

*Bottom right:  
Long time volunteer and  
supporter, Ann Wilkerson,  
shows off a scrapbook that she  
is compiling of activities and  
accomplishments of  
MWDTSA. Guests had an  
opportunity to view some photos  
of MWDTSA's history.*





## Donation of Treats from WellPet

From a WellPet Press Release:

Wellness® Natural Pet Food, in partnership with the company's charitable arm, the WellPet Foundation®, has donated all-natural Wellness Pure Rewards® Jerky Bits dog snacks to the Military Working Dog Team Support Association, Inc. (MWD TSA). The snacks will be sent to military working dogs deployed in harm's way.

The WellPet Foundation proudly salutes both the dogs and their handlers performing this dangerous and difficult work in service to our country, as well as the MWD TSA for their commit-

ment to helping these canine service members live long and healthy lives during active duty and beyond.

"We are grateful to the WellPet Foundation for making such a substantial donation to our program," stated Dixie Whitman, President and co-founder of MWD TSA. "These are the perfect rewards for a hard working canine. And, in addition to offering stellar nutritional value, they are also light, small and easy to carry in a mission pack. We thank you for donating such high quality rewards."



## You're Picture Perfect



Left: USAF Staff Sgt. William Rider is attacked by Military Working Dog, Kelly, during a training exercise. (U.S. Air Force photo by Airman 1st Class Gina Chiaverotti) (Released)..

Right: Navy MWD Ante and handler, Rob Pennington and in Anbar Province, Iraq.



## Military Working Dog Team Support Association, Inc.

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E-mail: [mwdtsa.dixie@yahoo.com](mailto:mwdtsa.dixie@yahoo.com)

**We are on the web!!**

**[www.mwdtsa.org](http://www.mwdtsa.org)**

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talion, 12th Ma-  
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exercise at Al  
Asad Air Base,  
Iraq. (U.S. Ma-  
rine Corps photo  
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**Thanks to the Newfoundland Club of America for their donation.**

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[www.mwdtsa.  
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details.**



U.S. Army Sgt. Mike Heinzig and Brandon, his military working dog, take a break during an early morning cache search near the city of Tarmiyah, Iraq. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Jacob H. Smith/Released)