

Join MWD TSA now so you won't miss any of the photos, stories, news and highlights of 2010!

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Check out the Blog on our website for the most up to date news and exciting photos.

Thanks to the Tampa, Florida area dog fanciers for all of your wonderful support and hard work.

## Courtney introduces her new MWD TSA T-shirt

Meet Courtney Griffin, a local high school senior who selected Military Working Dogs as her Senior Project. Courtney's interests are animal oriented as she currently works part-time for a veterinarian and has been accepted into the Veterinary program at Mississippi State beginning next fall working towards a degree in biochemistry. Courtney shares her busy life with her family, including Ellie, a Westie, and Liz, a chocolate Lab.

MWD TSA met early on in the school year with Courtney to decide what opportunities we could share with her and what ideas she had for making a difference in the lives of Military Working Dogs and handlers. One of the areas that she expressed interest in working on was creating a T-shirt for a fundraiser. Since MWD TSA is well known for our T-shirts, we knew we had a match for this design-savvy student.

With the input of several handlers from around the globe, Courtney finally settled on the MWD TSA acronym with a



**Courtney Griffin models the Royal Blue and white T-shirt while showing off her Lab, Liz, and the tan and black version that MWD TSA produced and sent in most of our holiday packages.**

German Shepherd Dog huddling over the W. The handlers asked for it to be in tan with black so they could wear it with their uniforms. Courtney settled on two color combinations: the tan with black that the handlers had requested and her favorite T-shirt color, Royal Blue with white.

The results are three new products, the Tan and Black Tees and the Royal Blue in both the

Tee and the Hoodie. Prices for the T-shirts are \$24.95 plus applicable taxes and the price of the Hoodie is \$39.95 plus applicable taxes. These can be ordered using a form found online through our website at

<http://www.mwdtsa.org/courtneyf.html>

MWD TSA was thrilled when Hollywood actor, Muse Watson, placed and took delivery of Courtney's very first order. Mr. Watson is renowned for his recurring guest role as Agent Mike Franks on *NCIS*, his prominent role as the feline-loving convict, Charles Westmoreland, on the show *Prison Break* and as the villain in the classic horror film *I Know What You Did Last Summer*. For more on Muse, check out, [www.musewatsontson.com](http://www.musewatsontson.com)

Of course, Courtney could not be more pleased with the response that she's gotten from the deployed dog handlers. They are loving her shirt. Please have a look at the website and place an order for yourself and a few friends. If you don't see the size you want, please ask for it and we'll see if we can make it happen.

Thanks in advance for your support!



## Phan Rang Raisin Bread

Original Article by Eddie Stott

*Looking back on some of the experiences that took place while I was in Vietnam at Phan Rang there are obviously several items that I have a difficult time dealing with. BUT, there is one item that definitely affected my dietary desires for the rest of my life.*

always a favorite of mine and I was excited when the cook gave me some during the inspection. While eating a piece I happened to notice that some of the raisins looked weird and were unusually small. Looking closer it was indeed not a raisin but a bug. My God it was a weevil !! I threw the bread away and didn't think too much about it until about three weeks later during another inspection, when, so help me, they were making raisin bread again. I got another piece and you guessed it, another bug or weevil.

I talked to the cook and told him this was the second time I had been served weevils and he had to do something. To my surprise he confessed that he had done something.

When shipments of flour arrived that had weevils, he would attempt to sift them out BUT when he couldn't get them all out, he then proceeded to make "Raisin Bread". It turned out that this was a normal procedure.

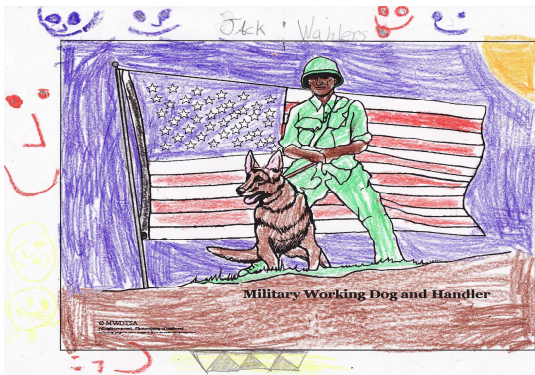
I reported this to the Captain at the hospital where I worked who had the ultimate power to make a decision and was told to keep my mouth shut. The guys at the chow hall gave us food for picnics etc., etc. and the Captain didn't want to do anything to get our supplies cut off. The result was that although the chow hall could make that special raisin bread going forward, I have never eaten another piece of raisin bread since.

□ I talked to the cook and told him this was the second time I had been served weevils and he had to do something. To my surprise he confessed that he had done something. □

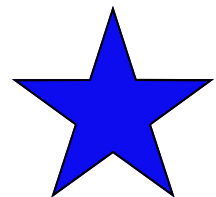
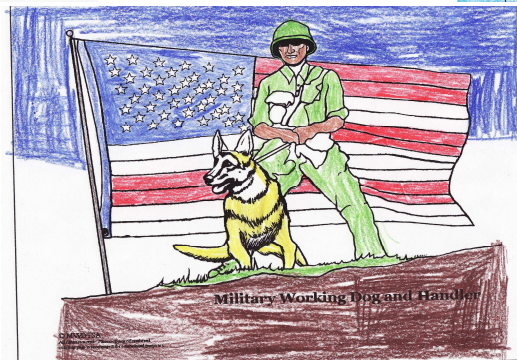
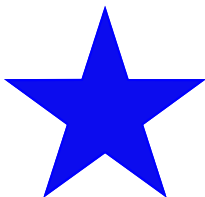
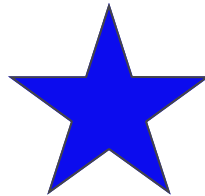
In addition to caring for Sentry and Scout Dogs, one of the duties of an Air Force Vet Tech was to inspect the chow halls and food. Stateside one could be very strict, but in Vietnam just the opposite was true because the food service personnel had very little to work with.

Sometime during early 1967 while inspecting the chow hall I noticed the cook was making raisin bread. Raisin bread was

## From Students to our Troops: Red, White and Really, Really Blue



Enjoy these wonderful pieces of supportive artwork sent to the dogs and handlers from Colham Ferry Elementary School, GA.





## *Nemo A534 –A Hero of Tan Son Nhut*

Thanks to Bill Cummings, a Vietnam era dog handler, and founding member of Nemo's War Dog Heroes, for sharing the text of a speech given at the dedication of the Nemo Memorial. This is the compelling story of an amazing dog.

Good Morning! On behalf of all of the Military Working Dog handlers, both past and present, thank you for this opportunity to dedicate the "Nemo's War Dog Heroes" Memorial project currently underway here at Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio, TX.

I'd like to take a brief moment to introduce the members of the committee who are here today:

Terry Strickland

Bien Hoa (3<sup>rd</sup> SPS) – 67-68 – Vietnam (King) Korat RATB (388<sup>th</sup> SPS)- 68-69—Thailand (Mr. Misty X851)

Kelly Bateman

Ubon RTAB (8<sup>th</sup> SPS) – 70-71 – Thailand (Baron 279M)

Ernest Childers

Udom RTAB (432<sup>nd</sup> SPS) – 70-71 – (Duke X093)

Jimmy Thornton

Phan Rang (35<sup>th</sup> SPS) – 68-69 – Vietnam (Gunner 2B29) Udom (432<sup>nd</sup> SPS) – 73-74 – Major (85X8),

Mike Griffin

Udom RTAB (432<sup>nd</sup> SPS) – 72-73 – (Trainer/Supervisor),

I am Bill Cummings

U-Tapao RTAB (635<sup>th</sup> SPS) – 70-71 (Brutus X321)

I'd also like to introduce our Honor Guard for today's ceremony, SrA Christina Marth and MWD Hhart (H008) and SSgt Vilani Bio and MWD Amber (F608) of the 37<sup>th</sup> SFS Military Working Dog Section.

Let me take you back in time for just a moment...

Predawn hours of December 4, 1966

Tan Son Nhut Air Base, Republic of Vietnam was attacked by a large force of Viet Cong commandos. The Air Base was hit by approximately 60 mortars. The size of the Viet Cong infiltration force was believed to have been over 75 saboteurs.

Once inside the base, the enemy divided into smaller groups to attack their targets. Several sentry dog teams stationed on perimeter posts gave the initial alert and warning almost simultaneously. This early warning enabled security forces of the 377<sup>th</sup> Air Police Squadron to successfully repel the attack, minimizing damage to aircraft and facilities. Although wounded, one dog handler continued to engage the enemy, while notifying Central Security Control (CSC) of their location and direction of travel.

Two security policemen of the 377<sup>th</sup> Security Police Squadron, positioned in a machine gun bunker, were at the ready as the VC approached the main aircraft-parking ramp. In a short period of time they repelled the enemy, killing thirteen of the attackers. Security forces rapidly deployed around the perimeter and prevented numerous infiltrators from escaping; forcing them to seek refuge in a Vietnamese graveyard, dense vegetation and community wells. Search patrols believed that all-remaining VC were killed or captured the following morning.

During the initial assault, one handler (A2C George M. Bevich, Jr.) and three sentry dogs were killed. Sentry Dog Rebel, who first detected a group of approximately 75 VC less than 100 yards away, was the first to be killed by automatic weapon fire.

At an adjacent post, Sentry Dog Cubby, alerted and was killed by gunfire.

Another sentry dog, Toby, also alerted as the infiltrators advanced, and was killed by gunfire. The attack had been thwarted and now it was time to secure the base as daylight approached.

Unfortunately, K9 teams were not included in those daylight patrols. Just before total darkness on December 4<sup>th</sup>, 1966 after Sentry Nemo and his handler were posted, Nemo alerted and was released to attack the VC who had evaded earlier detection. Nemo and his handler were both wounded, but not before killing two VC. Nemo's injuries included the loss of one eye and a gunshot wound that ripped into his nose.

A sweep of the area by the Quick Response Team (QRT) met with negative results.

Using additional sentry dog teams, the security forces located and killed four more VC.

A second sweep with the dog teams resulted in the discovery of four additional VC who were hiding underground. The remaining enemy forces were soon killed by other security police.

Before help could arrive, Nemo, an 85 pound German shepherd, although severely wounded, protected his handler by crawling across his body, and guarding him against anyone who dared to



**NEMO A534 in a portrait showing him after his combat tour, with his right eye missing.**

come near. When help arrived, they were able to convince Nemo to leave his handler, who was then given first aid. Nemo, suffering from a gunshot wound to his face, and the loss of his right eye, was relieved of sentry dog duties.

The 377<sup>th</sup> SPS was awarded the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award for its "heroic valor," against the Viet Cong infiltration force.

Nemo's service to his country did not end

Nemo has been credited with saving his handler's life and preventing further destruction of life and property at Tan Son Nhut Air Base. On 23 June 1967, Headquarters, USAF, directed that Nemo be returned to the United States as the first sentry dog officially retired from active service. The C-124 Globemaster, carrying TSN hero Nemo, touched down at Kelly Air Force Base, Texas, on July 22, 1967. Nemo was now home!

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## Fort Hood Handlers in Our Thoughts

The year 2009 was a very tough year for the Fort Hood family. All of us are aware of the terrible tragedy that took place at the Texas Army base in early November when a gunman killed 13 and injured another 31, ripping the close-knit fabric of the Fort Hood family. But, for the Fort Hood dog handlers, another tragedy had just occurred on October 25, 2009 as one of their own kennelmates, Brandon K. Steffey of Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan and his K9, Maci, were killed in action while serving in Operation Enduring Freedom and were killed when an Improved Explosive Device (IED) blew up the vehicle in which they were riding.

The Fort Hood kennels are some of the largest in the Army and have many handlers deployed to Afghanistan and Iraq. MWDTSA was already in contact with two Fort Hood handlers in Afghanistan and they put us in direct touch with the kennel master at Fort Hood. MWDTSA asked him what we could do to help the kennels. Without being intrusive, we wanted to offer some support to the kennels in a meaningful way, both to honor their kennelmate, Steffey, and to support them through the loss of so many at their base killed just a few days later.

About the same time, we had a wonderful in-kind donation made to us in terms of a brand new bite suit. The people behind the bite suit were real dog fanciers, the Atlanta Kennel

Club and the German Shepherd Dog Club of America, but they didn't have contacts or a good idea of where that bite suit needed to go. It seemed to be one of those miracle moments when you are presented with an opportunity to help in a way that none of us had originally thought.

So, after discussing with the kennels at Fort Hood, we decided that we would send the new bite suit to them, to let them know that they are in our thoughts, to let them know that American hearts are behind them and to offer them some financial cushion so that funds that might have been needed to purchase a new bite suit could be channeled in a

way that is emotionally supportive of the entire kennel.

We did ask for one thing: we asked for photos of the new bite suit in action—and action we got. Below is one of the handlers being bitten in tandem by a tag team of some of Fort Hood's finest. We have been promised a group photo of the handlers when they can make it happen. And, when we get it, we'll likely post it to our ongoing Blog, which is linked to our website.

We are honored to have been chosen as the organization to receive this gift and to be able to forward this gift to Fort Hood. We truly cannot think of more appropriate recipients.

## Veterans

Recently one of the local schools had a Veteran Military Working Dog Veterinarian come in and read the book "Nubs" to the children in several 3rd grade classes. "Nubs" is about a stray dog in Iraq that made his way to the U.S.

The Veteran then asked the children if they would like write letters to Veteran dog handlers. The children really put their energy into their letters and came up with some jewels, from the very childlike to the very profound.

Here is a link if you would like to read some of these letters yourself. Please share with as many Veterans as possible.

<http://www.mwdtsa.org/letters tovets.html>





## KONGs FOR K9s—Preparing for Christmas

□To prepare for the holidays, we sent out the attached Press Release which started the ball rolling.□

□ Dixie Whitman

Canton, GA – November 10, 2009- Military Working Dog Team Support Association, Inc. (MWD TSA), a Cherokee County based 501 (c) 3 charitable organization, invites the public to help with their holiday program called □Kongs for K9s□. The goal is to send Christmas support packages to deployed dog handler teams; these packages include support for both Military Working Dogs (MWD) and dog handlers. The event will take place at TC Country Store, Canton, Georgia, a local feed, animal supply, gift and clothing store which has been supporting Military Working Dogs for several years. T C Country is on Hwy 20 eastbound towards Cumming at the intersection with Heritage Town Parkway, “Our donations are sent to all military branches of service and include treats and goodies to support both ends of the leash,” explained Dixie Whitman, President of MWD TSA. “These Military Working Dog Teams are truly seamless teams; the dog cannot work without the handler and the handler can’t do the job without the dog.”

In addition to sending goodies for the handlers, toys for the dogs will also be included. Toys suitable for sending must be robust, quality chewing toys for large dogs, such as German Shepherds, or study balls for Labrador Retrievers. To participate, donors can stop by the TC Country Store any time prior to November 20<sup>th</sup> to either check out the requested

“Wish List” items or drop off a donation. Or, to save a trip, they can call the store at 770-479-8926 and make a credit card purchase over the phone. A “Pack and Ship” day is scheduled for November 21, 2009 from 10 am to 2 pm when volunteers will start readying packages to be shipped overseas. Individuals who are interested in participating in the Pack and Ship Day are encouraged to contact [mwdtsa.dixie@yahoo.com](mailto:mwdtsa.dixie@yahoo.com) for additional information.

Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom dog teams work in rugged conditions from the craggy, snowy almost unearthly cold of the Afghanistan Mountains in winter to the hot, desolate, dry deserts of Iraq. MWDs are trained to search out explosives (weapons caches, IEDs) or drugs. They may also be used for patrol work, security details or at check points.

Breeds most often found working in the military include German Shepherd Dogs, Belgian Malinois and Labrador Retrievers. Each breed has qualities of intelligence, stamina and special inherent genetic traits which predisposes them to be excellent working dogs. Other breeds working in the military include, but are not limited to, Belgian Tervurens and Boxers.

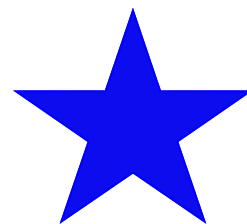
All dogs receive basic training at Lackland Air Force Base and then are paired up with their handler. Additional training takes place at their home station before being deployed overseas. In a change from policy during the Vietnam Era, dogs return home with their handlers and at the end of their working life are generally avail-



In a rare quiet moment, the Staff of T C Country poses with their “Angel Tree” which offered support to Military Working Dogs.

able for adoption to their handlers and, if qualified, to the public. More information and photos are available to view via the web site:

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





www.mwdtsa.org

## MWD TSA Elves: Pack and Ship

All of these smiling faces were part of our Christmas Pack and Ship events. Two different events in two different locations on two different Saturdays created nearly 180 Christmas care packages headed to our dog handlers in the mid-East. Eight MWD TSA supporters each day handled the work of many elves.

Our first event was held in the community room of T C Country Store for a packing marathon on Saturday, November 21, 2009. In a span of time under four hours, the crew readied near four score boxes for shipment.

The boxes included everything from our wonderful WellPet Wellness Snack Treats, to Fur-

minators to KONG's, Gigglers and Goughnut toys for the dogs. The majority of boxes also included the new MWD TSA T-shirt in tan and black so the handlers can wear with their uniform.

The second event, coordinated by Kris Wilson was held December 12, 2009 at a great location, a storage warehouse in west Marietta, where we had plenty of room. Kris had rounded up lots of choices from which the packers could select – toys, treats, games and more. It was a great success and one for which we truly must thank the wonderful new folks that came out to be a part of this holiday gift. These are some of those smiling faces that made Christmas happen.



A crew of eight folks did the work of many, many elves this holiday season in packing boxes for Iraq and Afghanistan. MWD TSA held two separate Pack and Ship days to ready packages for the MWDs and Handlers in Iraq and Afghanistan.





## Christmas Thank You notes and photos from the Handlers



MWD TSA is sharing photos and notes with you that we received from the Handlers. The notes are thanks to all of our supporters, MWD TSA is only the conduit for support, but not the source. Thanks to all of our wonderful donors, sponsors and volunteers. Here are just a few notes we received.

"I just wanted to thank you for the packages that you had sent to our kennels. I enjoyed the gifts, the dogs are going to love the treats. That was one of the nicest t-shirts that we have

received. Again, on behalf of SSgt Campos and myself thank you very much and I hope you have a great holiday season." SSgt Kenneth

"I wanted to take this time to tell you thanks for everything that you do for us K-9 Handlers and for all our service men/women of the U.S. Military. Also thanks for all the goodies that you send us and we greatly appreciated them, and so does my MWD PIKE." SrA Felipe.

"The packages have arrived and I

have handed out some to the handlers. As they rotate through to their break days I will ensure they receive same. The shirts are Outstanding! I will pass the message for them to take pictures and I will ensure they get sent to you. The law enforcement aspect of our mission here on the installation has really picked up. So the K-9 teams are having to keep the combat missions up and back fill the law enforcement side of the house, really busy times around the kennels.

Well, thanks for your support and please let all sponsors know the packages and items will aid us in completing our mission here at Joint Base Balad."

*Photos and letters from the handlers in response to their Christmas packages.*



## You're Picture Perfect



Shared MWD photos.

**Left:** Duke, an adorable lab belonging to Brent and Jody Mc Glothlin, stands beside the items they collected for the dogs in Southwest Asia.

**Right:** Air Force Dog handler and his MWD, Rita, search a vehicle in Iraq.



Continued from page 3

His permanent retirement kennel was located at the Department of Defense Dog Center, Lackland AFB, Texas. Sentry Dog Nemo was one of the few Military Working Dogs that returned home.

Nemo spent most of his retirement years at the Department of Defense Dog Center, Lackland AFB, Texas. He was assigned a permanent kennel near the veterinary facility, exactly where we are standing today. A sign with his name, serial number, and details of his heroic exploits designated his freshly painted home. Nemo's presence at Lackland reminded students just how important a dog is to his handler and to the defense of our military installations.

Nemo was frequently taken on tours throughout the United States to assist in the procurement of military working dogs. The military used Nemo as a Department of Defense canine recruiter. He made several television appearances and helped maintain an adequate supply of working dogs for all the armed services.

Sentry Dog Nemo was euthanized on December 18, 1972 at Andrews Air Force Base, Maryland. The Vietnam War Hero was laid to rest on March 15, 1973 at the DoD Dog Center at the age of 11.

In due course, the United States began to pull their armed forces from Viet-



**Bill Cummings and the Sign at Nemo's Refurbished Kennel**

nam. But, there would be no homecoming or parades for our canine partners. Military regulations prohibited the return of these heroes to the United States. It was against military policy for war dogs to re-enter civilian life after they had served in combat. It was also declared that our dogs were military equipment, thus classifying them as expendable.

Our dogs that had so valiantly served our country and survived were abandoned in Vietnam and Thailand. Many were given to the ARVN or Thailand military who already had an excess of dogs. No one truly knows what happened to these heroes.

The government recruited over 4,000 dogs and we believe that less than 200 made it home. It was estimated that these dogs saved the lives of over 10,000 American soldiers. Service to their country was rewarded with exile and perhaps even death. The fate

of many of the dogs remains unaccounted for and unknown to this day. Many of our dogs were simply abandoned by the military. It is the goal, with this dedication, that this will never happen again. With a new emphasis placed on the value of our Military Working dogs of today, we have been assured by our Military this will never happen again.

Currently, the only memorials that exist today in our country to honor these canine warriors have been established by private funding.

We are about to change this situation!

During the 2003 VSPA reunion in San Antonio, a group of "Old Dawg Handlers" toured the 37<sup>th</sup> SFS kennel at the DoD Military Working Dog School. Many of us had received our Sentry & Patrol Dog training at this very spot.

During the tour, we noticed an old cracked cement pad with a crumbling raised border around the perimeter. We found ourselves looking at the remnants of where a Sentry Dog, named Nemo, had been retired after receiving wounds in a 1966 attack on Tan Son Nhut AB, Vietnam. The pad was barren, with no markings indicating why it was there. I can't begin to tell you the thoughts of our handlers when we realized that this was sacred ground – the resting place of Sentry Dog Nemo!

Once again, Members of the Vietnam Security Police Association (VSPA) and the Vietnam Dog Handler Association (VDHA) were on point!

This kennel pad was originally the permanent kennel of one of our heroes – Sentry Dog Nemo – A534. A sign with Nemo's name, serial number, and details of his heroic exploits designated his freshly painted home in 1967. The site was now unrecognizable and in shambles.

A group of veteran K-9 Veterans was formed and plans were put in motion to explore the site and to make sure that the history of this hero would be told – changes had to be made to tell the story of Nemo (A534), accurately and completely.

Between October of 2003 and the summer of 2005, this group, now operating under the name of "Nemo's

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**Bill Cummings (Speaker), (Committee Members) Jimmy Thornton, Ernie Childers, Terry Strickland, and Kelly Bateman**

War Dog Heroes" was formed and we are now telling the story of Nemo.

On September 23, 2005, several of the veteran dog handlers who had visited the site during the VSPA reunion in 2003, were invited to attend a graduation ceremony of a new type of MWD to be used world wide, the Specialized Search Dogs (SSD). We would like to extend a special thank you to U. S. Marine Corps Sergeant Chris Willingham, Mr. Orlando Nunez, and the members of SSD Class II for their partnership in this project. This class of today's MWD handlers had joined with us to dedicate a headstone at Nemo's pad. With the installment of the headstone, the groundwork has been laid

for the old and new Military Working Dog Handlers to embark on restoring this sacred ground to honor all of the canine heroes throughout history with the completion of this memorial project. Our intention is to restore the kennel to the condition circa 1967-1968, using photographs of its original condition. A replica of Nemo's kennel house, and the sign honoring Nemo, along with the kennel fencing has been reproduced as close to the original compound as possible.

Today's handlers, along side the veteran handlers of years past, have put their foot in the door, so to speak, with their efforts and hopefully the project can be completed with the help of other veteran's groups and friends.

Roth of the 37<sup>th</sup> Security Forces Squadron, Lt. Thomas McGillicuddy and the students of the 341<sup>st</sup> Training Squadron, Ms. Barbara Stadts, and our special guest - Vietnam Security Police Association President, Steve Gattis, for all of their efforts to make this dedication possible. This is a very proud and historic moment for all of us.

Let's never forget our partners, those heroic canines both past and present, for their gallant service to our country, both at home and places so very far away. You have made us very proud to have been on the end of your leash, now and forever.

To Nemo and all of the Work Dog heroes - we salute you for your service in the name of freedom.

We would like to thank everyone, especially our current military counterparts; the members of the 377<sup>th</sup> Security Police Squadron, Tan Son Nhut, especially the veteran Military Working Dog handlers, Lt. Colonel Robert

Today, November 15<sup>th</sup>, 2005, we officially dedicate this hallowed ground as the "Nemo's War Dog Heroes" Memorial at Lackland, Air Force Base. The legacy will continue as we honor all of canine heroes, past, present and future.

On behalf of all "Dog Handlers" from all of the United States services, we are honored to be part of this great military tradition and we will always be in debt to the service of our counterpart canine heroes.

Thank you so much for allowing us to be a part of this historic event. We will never be able to express our gratitude for allowing s to be a part of this project.

In conclusion, let us never forget our War Dog Heroes.

Nemo's War Dog Heroes Financial Support Address

Should you wish to assist financially, donations to the Nemo's War Dog Heroes Memorial may be sent to:

Kelly Bateman

Pay to: Kelly Bateman

130 McCall Lane

Wimberley, TX 78676

Checks should be made payable to Kelly Bateman (Note Nemo at bottom of check). All funds will be used in the continuing effort of education and support of the memorial for Military Working Dogs past, present and future. Thank you in advance for your support of this project

## Military Working Dog Team Support Association, Inc.

MWD TSA  
P. O. Box 5864  
Canton, GA 30114

Phone: 404-451-2539  
E-mail: mwdtsa.dixie@yahoo.com

**We are on the web!!**

**www.mwdtsa.org**

**Follow our Blog for more photos.**

**Sit. Stay. Support.**



**PLEASE RECYCLE  
BY SENDING  
TO A FRIEND**

*A big thank you to everyone who donated in honor of the  
Wynn-Damerow wedding. May the new couple find a  
life filled to the brim with blessings of health and happiness.*



Rockin' your Courtney look. Send in photos of you wearing your Courtney T-shirt or Hoodie and you may see yourself on our website or newsletter. Where all will Courtney's T-shirts travel? Above is Jeanne, my sister, looking out over the ocean at Longboat Key, Florida. Thanks, Jeanne, enjoy that view!

**"Egon is an  
incredible  
ambassador for the  
retired MWDs. He  
helped us kick off  
our Holiday  
Fundraiser."**



## Top Dogs Pet Boutique Sends Support

MWD TSA was the beneficiary for the second year of the Christmas fundraiser with Top Dogs Pet Boutique in Kennesaw, GA. This sassy, dog-friendly boutique stocks real quality foods, creative doggy gifts for dog-loving friends and has a wide variety of dog accessories.

For the second year in a row we were joined by Egon, a retired Military Working Dog, and his adoptive parents, James and Bonnie Kessel to kick off the fundraiser event.

We met a great new volunteer for our group (Ashley) and had an opportunity to share the story of Military Working Dogs with so many new people. Joining us at the event were volunteers Kris and Allison.

The store continued to spread the word about the dogs in Iraq and Afghanistan and collected both donations and notes from their customers throughout the month of December.

We appreciate their continued support.



**The staff of Top Dogs Pet Boutique poses with Egon, a retired Military Working Dog, at the kickoff of our Holiday Fundraiser. We took Egon to the store and he interacted with dozens of folks winning over fans in support of Military Working Dog Adoptions.**