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Putting the Fun in Fundraising



James Kessel poses with his daughter, Tiff, and with Egon,
their adopted retired Military Working Dog.

**A huge shout
out to all of our
volunteers and
donors, past and
present, who
have moved us
to where we are
today.**

**Our dog teams
are the grateful
recipients of
your kindnesses.**

By Dixie Whitman

MWD TSA participated with an educational booth at the Animal Rescue Fair on June 12th in Alpharetta, GA. We had an amazing day in the presence of so many awesome animal charities and appreciated that, although we are not a traditional animal welfare group, we were welcomed by the coordinators and rescue groups with open arms.

We met a lot of magnificent folks and are encouraged by all of the interest in our organization. To those of you that did stop by our tent and sign up for our newsletter, thank you so much for your time and attention. We hope you enjoy this

issue; please review our website and explore the history, photos, educational information and links that our great webmaster, Jonathan, keeps current for us.

MWD TSA truly does look forward to growing our family of volunteers. We have opportunities to work with events, fundraising, care packages, grant writing, newsletter editing and more. Be sure to contact us and let us know in which areas you would like to participate. For those who would like to support and are not in the immediate north Georgia area, please do not let that stop you. We are represented far and wide and would love to talk to you about opportunities for

sharing your skills and passion for America's Military Working Dogs.

MWD TSA is appreciative of the efforts our friends, Jim, Tiff and Egon made by their car trip to be with us. This is the fourth time they have made the long trek up from south Georgia and we cannot thank them enough. Egon is just a brilliant ambassador for adoption of a retired Military Working Dog.

Thanks to Ann for coordinating the event, to Jerry for all of his toting and lifting and for the vision of a perfect MWD TSA fundraising venue tent as conceived by Kris. It went beautifully.

www.mwdtsa.org

Presenting the Proclamation to Our Friends At:

By Dixie Whitman

On May 18, under brilliant blue skies with unusually low humidity and unusually high excitement, a group of MWD enthusiasts assembled at Fort Benning to bring the 2011 Georgia Governor's Proclamation to its new home.

Supporters gathered first at the War Dog Memorial and were greeted by two of our favorite folks, SSG Tolley and SGT Molina. We shared the story of the War Dogs with attendees who had never previously seen the memorial and then moved over to the kennel for an afternoon of festivities.

Guests were greeted with a formation and an opportunity to meet the Director of Fort Benning's Emergency Services. After the introductions, Ken



Staff and dog handlers with the 209th MP Detachment pose with Ken Besecker as he presents the framed proclamation.

Besecker, one of the founders of MWD TSA, presented the framed proclamation to the Fort Benning Kennels on behalf of MWD TSA and a grateful state. SSG Tolley read the Military Dog Handler Day proclamation as signed by Governor Nathan Deal. And, then the party began.

These Fort Benning folks

really know how to put on a shin-dig with great burgers and fixings. MWD TSA brought the cake and a few side items. Together, we ate a leisurely lunch and then the excitement moved over to the training field.

SFC Allred, the Kennel Master, made sure that we had the Best Day EVER. The only

thing that could have made it any better would have been the presence of handlers who are currently deployed.

We had demo after demo after demo. The handlers were great and the dogs worked flawlessly. Presented to us were dogs doing bite work, escorting prisoners, and working through obstacles, obedience and scent discrimination. One of the kennel sweethearts was brought out so that we could meet

her up close and personal. I adored her so much that I would have carried her home, if I hadn't been surrounded by an entire MP squadron.

A multitude of thanks to the handlers and dogs for sharing both their time and talents with us! Be sure to review the Blog for more photos of this amazing day.

Fabulous Ft. Benning

The day started with a gathering of supporters in front of the War Dog Memorial at Sacrifice Field. Guests, welcomed by SSG Tolley and SGT Molina, included Brian & Kathy Cooper, Ken & Liz Besecker, Ann Wilkerson and Jerry Whitman. Not pictured are: Verna Gilmore, Dewey Bass, Krisellen Wilson and Dixie Whitman.



Fort Benning

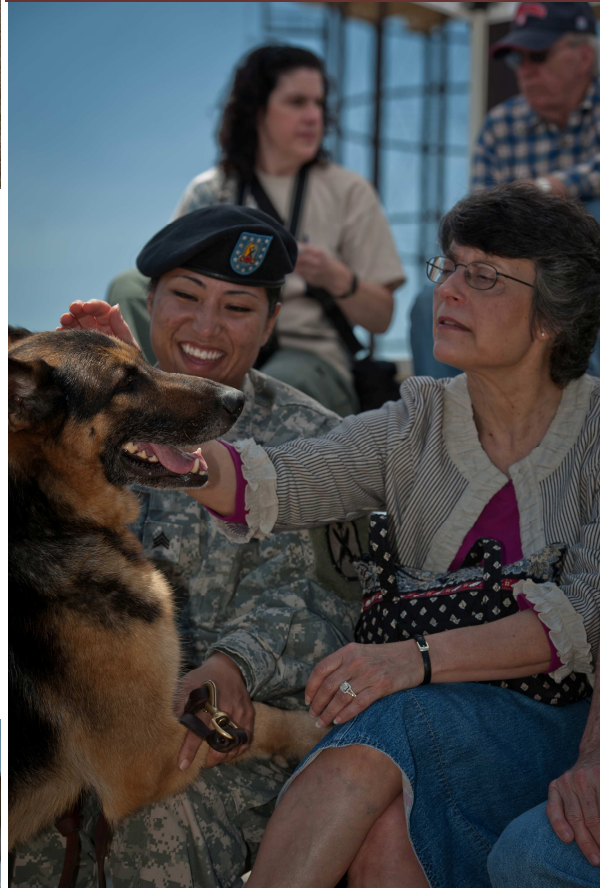


At left:

This dog can hit. We were left astonished by this launch. Great job.

At right:

SGT Molina shares the local kennel sweetheart, Arka, with visitor, Kathy Cooper. What a fun dog!



2011-05-18 Soldiers and Military Working Dogs, with the 209th Military Police Detachment, celebrate the official designation of Military Dog Handler Day in the state of Georgia thanks to lobbying efforts from the non-profit group, Military Working Dog Team Support Association. All photos illustrating this article are by Susanna Avery-Lynch, with the exception of the photo in front of the War Dog Memorial, which is by Dixie Whitman.



At left:

In between all his other duties of coordinating this extraordinary opportunity for MWDTSA and local supporters, SFC Allred catches a shepherd.

Special Operations Training



March 2, 2011.—A U.S. Soldier assigned to the 4th Battalion, 10th Special Forces Group prepares to fast ropes out of a CH-47 Chinook helicopter near Tallahassee Regional Airport, Fla., before Emerald Warrior 2011. Emerald Warrior is an annual two-week joint/combined tactical exercise sponsored by U.S. Special Operations Command to provide realistic training opportunities to conventional and special operations forces. (U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Staci Miller/Released)

Thank you, Mt. Bethel Elementary Homeless Pets Club!

More photos from the Animal Rescue Fair



At the Animal Rescue Fair: some of the shirts that were on display.



At the Animal Rescue Fair: lots of attendees stopped by our tent to learn about America's Military Working dogs.

History in the Making



Shown is an old photo taken at Fort Benning by an Army photographer back in the 1960's as these teams were training to be sent to Vietnam.

"Regardless of whether these dogs were Scout, Tracker, or Sentry, those going into a combat zone needed to acclimate to live fire and be able to perform without panic. The dogs are being taught to take cover and remain calm (quiet) while munitions are being exploded nearby. The handlers' posture, being prone and with their heads down, seems to confirm this." Jonathan Wahl, member of the 47th IPSD

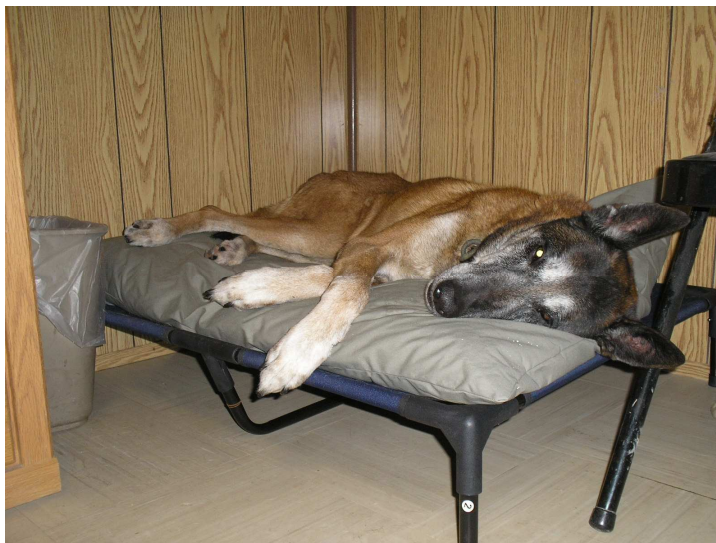
Thank you, Anna Cooke and The New Barker!

Thanks to Our Supporters from a Very Appreciative Rico

I admit it. I'm a sucker for an old dog. And, when that old dog is working in the dust and heat of southwest Asia on my behalf, I'm overwhelmed.

Rico, a very talented thirteen year old Belgian Malinois, is shown in the photo at right just moments after his handler put together a Kakadu Pet cot and topped it with a cushy dog bed for added padding, both sent by MWD TSA supporters.

We understand that Rico got the comfort concept immediately when we got this note



and photo. "Just wanted to let you know that I got the package yesterday and I put the bed together right away. When I went to go throw the box away which took me all of about a minute, Rico was already laid out on it and falling ASLEEP! So needless to say he loves it. Thanks again."

This should be Rico's last deployment and, from the looks of things, he'll be able to transition to his life in his handler's living room pretty readily. Thanks for your service.

First Graders Send Fishy Well Wishes to the Troops



As a part of MWD TSA Care Packages, we are delighted to include artwork completed by school children. Our recent treasures include first grade visions of the deep blue sea. Thanks to Ms. Paschal and all of her wonderful students for this vibrant support.



PROFESSIONAL PET PRODUCTS

In 2009, MWD TSA set about to get as many KONG toys donated for our Christmas packages as we possibly could. Jerry came up with the slogan "KONGs for K9s" and via contact by Richard Starks of Tampa's Puppy Palace, our good friends at KONG were receptive to our goals.

Between the KONGs donated during the fourth quarter of 2009 and KONGs that we have purchased or had donated since, we have distributed more than 600 KONG toys in the last 18 months. But, the problem is, they are now all GONE.

Thanks to Jared Glatter at KONG, we are being shipped enough to get us partway through our summer care packs. These are used for rewards and play time and they are universally loved.

Much appreciation sent to our friends at FURminator Professional Pet Products for their kind donation of ten de-shedding tools. These will be included with other great surprises into care packages being sent over to deployed dog handlers.

Anyone who has ever benefited from the use of a FURminator tool knows that these items are an awesome gift to receive and are loved by dog and handler alike and are always in demand.



A joint mission of MWD TSA and our good friends at KONG.

Thank you for these gifts from two of our favorites!

Remembering Billy B041



Back in 2009 Billy was featured on our Blog as his Kennel Master was looking for a correct fit to retire him. The date that he was featured was Friday the 13th of April. Apparently, Friday the 13th was his lucky day.

We recently received word that Billy had passed away at the age of 14 years and 7 months. His new mom did a marvelous job with him and I wanted to share some of her memories to encourage others to adopt one of these great heroes.

Here is her story:

"What an awesome journey Billy and I had together. Billy was supposed to be "dog ag-

gressive" according to his military handler. I took Billy in for civilian training, to learn how to be a regular house pet. Billy was never going to be a "regular" house pet, but he was able to deal with his dog aggression. A roommate moved in with two dogs and Billy did great. Billy accepted the other dogs as his pack-mates; he was especially protective of the little female. In the neighborhood on our walks Billy did make friends with a GSD and a Rottie. No more dog aggression!! It took a lot of time and consistent work.

Billy spent his first summer with us swimming at Memorial Lake. He was able to build up muscle strength in his hind legs. He had to wear a life jacket because Billy did not know when to stop. He would swim forever and I would reel him in to rest.

Billy would come to formation with me while I was in the process of a discharge. He absolutely loved being around the soldiers at Ft. Carson. Hav-



All mine.

ing a disabled canine veteran around helped the soldiers. Billy gave hope that there is life after discharge.

When I went on terminal leave I packed up all my uniforms in the garage. Billy went to the garage, pulled out my beret and sat next to the front door with my beret in his mouth. He wanted to go back. Billy could not stand sitting home doing nothing. Back to Ft. Carson we went, Billy took another job, as a volunteer at the SFAC- Soldier Family Assistance Center. He would spend his Tuesdays playing with the soldiers from the wounded warrior battalion. The cadre and soldiers would hide treats around the building and Billy had to seek to

find them. Billy was perfect, he found all the treats 100% of the time.

Any MWDs declared excess are always welcome in my home.

The photos I attached were when Billy was too sick to walk his neighborhood. I would take him on his wagon rides. He loved the rides because he could still smell everything, this park was his favorite place to go."

Lani Singh, adoptive mother of Billy B041

Thank you Ms. Singh for sharing your heart and home. What an amazing tribute to your K9 hero, Billy B041.

After the work of Seal Team Six, the waiting list has become longer, but you can check out adoption of MWDs at : <http://www.lackland.af.mil/units/341stmwd/index.asp>



This one, please.



It's good to have friends.

Military Working Dog Team
Support Association, Inc.

Sit. Stay. Support.

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Photo Page



U.S. Marine Corps Cpl. Andrew Marcum, a military working dog handler with Lima Company, 3rd Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment (3/5), plays with his dog Bandit at Forward Operating Base Nalay, Helmand province, Afghanistan, Dec. 8, 2010. Dog handlers attached to 3/5 Marines trained their dogs on a routine basis to prepare them for their tasks in support of the International Security Assistance Force. (U.S. Marine Corps photo by Sgt. Brandon M. Owen/Released)



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A FRIEND



U.S. Marine Corps improvised explosive device (IED) detection dog Rocky, attached to India Battery, 3rd Battalion, 12th Marine Regiment, Regimental Combat Team 2, rests during a patrol in Kajaki, Helmand province, Afghanistan, Oct. 22, 2010. The unit patrolled the area to deter insurgent emplacement of improvised explosive devices. (U.S. Marine Corps photo by Cpl. Matthew P. Troyer/Released)