



Kennel Talk

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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 all over the world, from California, to North Carolina, Colorado, and Japan.

Our parting shot is from Goldsboro, North Carolina.

Subscribe at MWD TSA.org to see where we connect next month!



One of the Navy handlers showcased his dog's obstacle course skills over a jump made of MWD TSA care packages. Each handler at this overseas kennel received one package.

The year in review

By Nikki Rohrig

Military working dog teams are spread across the globe and it is our duty as MWD TSA volunteers to support them through various missions. Our non-profit organization would not be able to impact the teams that we support without your help. To those of you who contributed to MWD TSA this year by making a purchase from our Amazon Wish List, donating an item for a care package, making a monetary donation through PayPal for care

package postage, or donating money to our Facebook page, we thank you.

Our missions are many, but our goal is one: to support both ends of the leash. Each donation that we receive goes right back out into the hands and paws of the teams that we support. As 2017 comes to a close, I would like to share some of the highlights of our year with you, our supporters.

Year in review continued from page 1

With the help of our generous donors, MWDTSA was able to send out 735 care packages to deployed MWD teams throughout the year. Each care package is valued at over \$150 and items vary each quarter, according to our theme.

We pride ourselves on sending a healthy mix of necessities, as well as fun items to these teams that are away from home for long periods of time. Our postage costs for 2017 totaled \$12,752.25 for care packages alone. This does not take into account any special requests that we receive throughout the year, such as a cooling vest, tactical vest, RexSpecs or collar.

Our volunteers conducted 15 kennel visits this year, delivering almost \$7000 in goods donated by MWDTSA. On each visit, we were also able to take in donor items such as collapsible water bottles from PetChatz, KONG toys donated through our annual KONGs For K9's drive, baseball dog toys donated by Planet Dog, dog toys purchased through our Petsmart Charities grant and, one of my personal favorites, vacuum-insulated water bottles donated by Fifty/Fifty with our logo etched onto each bottle. These donated goods totaled over \$10,000 for the year! These donations were able to impact 232 MWD teams at kennels throughout the United States, including one kennel in England and a first for MWDTSA...a Coast Guard kennel visit!

MWDTSA had another first this year: we took part in the Petco Foundation "Meet A Helping Hero" event at Petco stores nationwide. We were represented at 15 stores, some of which included a retired MWD team! This was a great public education event for us, allowing us to share with the customers how the Petco Foundation grant made a positive impact our MWD teams.



MWDTSA volunteers from across the country gathered in July at the center of the U.S. Military Working Dog world, Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio.

Public education is one of our many missions and we love to speak about the teams that we support.

To start our yearend campaign, we would like to try something new. I challenge each of our supporters to take part in our "5for5" campaign. You donate \$5 to MWDTSA and encourage four of your friends to do the same. The \$25 that you and your friends donate to MWDTSA will help to cover shipping costs, dog toys, and other care package goodies during 2018. Share your donation on social media and tag four of your friends, challenging each of them to do the same.

On behalf of our team of MWDTSA volunteers, I would like to thank each of you for contributing to our mission throughout the year. Our MWD teams appreciate all of your kind thoughts, well wishes, and donations, and we look forward to your continued support in the coming year.

Year in review continued from page 2



A base visit to a Marine Corps base allowed MWD TSA volunteers to deliver these goods.



In a first for MWD TSA, volunteers were able to complete a base visit to a Coast Guard Kennel.



Care packages filled with items for dogs and handlers traversed the globe to bring a touch of home into the hands and paws of 735 individual dog teams.



MWD Sarah and MA1 Lupo from the Navy Base Port Hueneme took part in "Meet A Helping Hero Day" at Petco store 1117. MWD TSA representatives educated the general public at 15 stores nationwide.

MWDTSA Volunteers Attend War Dog Premiere

By Nikki Rohrig

MWDTSA was thrilled to accept an invitation to attend the premiere of a new HBO Documentary, "War Dogs, A Soldier's Best Friend," in Los Angeles on November 6th. Channing Tatum is the Executive Producer of this deeply personal documentary that focuses on the bond between three Army Ranger handlers and their MPCs (multi purpose canines), long after they're off the battlefield.

Less than one percent of all military K9s are selected for Special Operations teams. These dogs are dedicated, fearless and highly trained, much like their human counterparts. They're cut from the same cloth and forged to be human/animal teams under the most grueling selection courses known, in order to develop an unbreakable bond and lethal fighting capacity. This is a world where two-legged and four-legged warriors are considered equal members of a team built on loyalty, sacrifice, and love that blurs the line between human and animal.

Our furriest volunteer, RMWD Aura, was in attendance and managed to snag a few photos with some of the attendees. Volunteer Jesca Daniels was "honored to attend and touched by the story" that the documentary delivered. Aura was happy to soak up quite a bit of attention and was able to give out a few kisses and pose for selfies. MWDTSA Board Member Jan Slotar was also in attendance to dish out some MWDTSA info to the attendees. "MWDTSA is honored to be able to impact teams just like the ones featured in this documentary. It's our mission to support both ends



Retired MWD (RMWD) Aura and volunteer Jesca Daniels pose with Executive Producer Channing Tatum

of the leash and provide these teams with the necessary items to make their deployments a little bit easier."

We highly encourage you to catch this documentary through HBO On Demand or view the documentary on the HBO YouTube channel (free for 30 days) at the link provided here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ojVq2Sa-PD0>



War Dog Premiere continued from page 4



RMWD Aura poses in front of the backdrop for the red carpet.



RMWD Aura fell in love with Channing's wife, Jenna. She adores her!



RMWD Aura had the pleasure of meeting actor A.J. Buckley, currently starring in the CBS hit drama SEAL Team.



Jesca and RMWD Aura made sure to sneak a pic in with actor Adam Rodriguez. Big Criminal Minds fans, over here!



Base Visit

Camp Lejeune Visit by MWDTSA

Article by Ashley Dunkle

Photos by Ashley Dunkle

and Rob Schnell



Marine dog teams from the Camp Lejeune MEF Kennels posed for a group photo in their obedience yard, October 30, 2017.

“We are United States Marines, and for two and a quarter centuries we have defined the standards of courage, esprit, and military prowess.”

—Gen James L. Jones, 32nd CMC, 10 Nov 2000

On October 30, 2017, MWDTSA volunteers Ashley Dunkle, Kyle Dunkle, and Robert Schnell conducted a base visit to both the Marine Expeditionary Force (MEF) and Provost Marshal’s Office (PMO) kennels at Camp Lejeune. The visit started in the MEF kennel with demos from MWD Uuria demonstrating why he recently won a “hardest hit” competition. Volunteers also saw a demonstration of MWD Josie with specialized searching.

Handlers demonstrated the difference in K9 training whether the focus is civilian safety or “taking down the bad guy.” Volunteers were able to meet working dogs who are trained for patrol and explosives (PEDD), patrol and narcotics (PDDD), and specialized search dogs (Combat Tracker and SSD).



SSD Josie waits patiently for her turn to “Wow” the visitors with her Specialized Search Dog skills while sporting an MWDTSA patch received on a previous deployment.

Camp Lejeune Visit continued on page 7

Camp Lejeune Visit continued from page 6



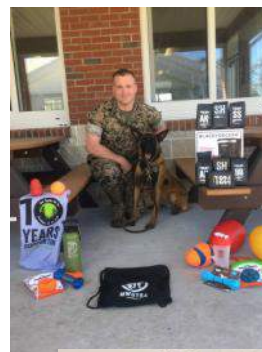
Five top photos this page taken at the Camp Lejeune MEF Kennel visit.



Right: No base visit is complete without MWD TSA swag and items from our generous donors and sponsors. Each handler received a Kong classic, Chuck It ball, Orbee baseball, MWD TSA patch, collapsible water bowl, 10th anniversary t-shirt, MWD TSA drawstring bag, MWD TSA shaker cup, and a MWD TSA insulated hydroflask from Fifty/Fifty.

Each kennel received Jolly Eggs, Chuck It footballs, Black Rifle coffee, a coffee pot and various toys.

Thank you to all donors and sponsors that make our mission of serving both ends of the leash possible!



Camp Lejeune Visit continued from page 7



Marine dog teams from the Camp Lejeune PMO Kennels posed for a group photo in their obedience yard, October 30, 2017.

The other stop at the Camp Lejeune base visit was the PMO kennel. This is home to civilian officers as well as active duty. An important training note is that while dogs can come from many locations, not just Lackland's puppy program, they all have the same foundation of

obedience and commands.

Volunteers watched demonstrations from MWD Iigasio and MWD Frodo. Volunteers also met MWD Ddrago, who had his first day with his new handler.



Photos taken at the Camp Lejeune PMO Kennel visit.



Dogs with Altitude: 75 years of faithful service

Story by Leigh Steere

Photos courtesy of Denver Public Library, Western History Collection and 10th Mountain Division Resource Center

For the first time in its eleven-year history, MWDTSA will be packing in Colorado for Q1-2018. Each quarter, we decide a theme and build the boxes around that motif—pirates, ice hockey, superheroes, and football, to name a few recent examples. Our Q1 packing team brainstormed various Colorado themes—snow sports, mining, mountains, or simply “With Love from Colorado.” In the end, though, we landed on “Dogs with Altitude: 75 years of faithful service,” to honor the 75th

anniversary of the nation’s formal MWD program and to acknowledge Colorado’s role in the earliest efforts to train military dogs and handlers.

Dogs have helped militaries around the world, dating back millennia. Ancient Egyptians, Greeks, Romans, and other groups utilized canines for defense and more. There are



Stuart Mace stands behind his dog sled with eight dogs harnessed to it in a snow-covered field at Camp Hale, Colorado. Date: 1943 or 1944. Credit: Denver Public Library, Western History Collection, call number RMN-022-6934.

stories of American dogs in the Civil War and World War I, but there was no formal U.S. war dog program until 75 years ago.

Starting in the late 1930s, enthusiastic civilian breeders and dog aficionados volunteered to train and supply canines for U.S. military use. In *The Quiet Americans*, author Tracy English writes, “One of the most famous

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Dogs with Altitude continued from page 9

groups was '*Dogs for Defense*,' which came in

to being immediately after the attack on Pearl Harbor. Along with help from the American Kennel Club, the group aimed their goals at promotion, coordination and financial assistance to develop a large trained canine force for use in civilian plants and in the Army if the call ever came."

The military's need for canines, however, quickly outpaced *Dogs for Defense's* ability to deliver. The problem involved more than inability to meet a numeric quota. According to uswar-dogs.org, "an Army inspection in June (1942), three



Fully equipped mountain trooper and dog, circa 1943-1944. WWII soldiers did not have the benefit of today's technical fabrics, so staying warm was a greater challenge. Credit: Denver Public Library, Western History Collection, call number TMD351-2017-255.



Soldiers training dogs, circa 1943-1944. This photo hints at the harsh landscape of Camp Hale, where snow typically covers the ground from September through May, and where it can snow at any time of year. Credit: Denver Public Library, Western History Collection, call number TMD351-2017-249.

months after the program began, revealed that the dogs in training had made little progress.

Dogs with Altitude continued from page 10

“This was due largely to the fact that available instructors generally were inexperienced in teaching sentry dogs and unfamiliar with military conditions—most of them having specialized in preparing animals for routine obedience tests or for field trail work. Another striking weakness of the program was the failure to teach men to handle the dogs. This defect was due primarily to the fact that the Army did not make enlisted personnel available for this purpose.”

As a result of this inspection, “the Army transferred control of the procurement and training of dogs to the Remount Branch, Service Installations Division in June 1942,” explains English. “Previously, the Remount Branch had responsibility for procuring horses and mules for military service, so they were in good condition to switch up their pro-

cedures to procure dogs. The first large

request for dogs came from Camp Hale in Colorado, which requested over 100 dogs for use as messenger, sledge, and scout dogs.”

With the transfer of the dog program to the Remount Branch, the Army embarked on developing a new canine training program during the summer of 1942. The dogs at Camp Hale and their soldier-handlers were among the first MWD teams to take part in this new training, in field conditions.

At 9,200-feet in elevation, with surrounding areas climbing to over 12,000-feet, the Army built Camp Hale to prepare soldiers for wintry, high-altitude combat in Europe. According to ColoradoEncyclopedia.org, “the U.S. Army’s first and only Mountain Infantry Division took shape at Camp Hale over the winter of 1942–43. All the troops arrived at Camp Hale by January 1943, and the valley buzzed with the activity of thousands of soldiers



Dogs detachment at Camp Hale (summer of 1943 or 1944). Credit: Denver Public Library, Western History Collection, call number TMD351-2017-241.

“The ski troops of the Tenth Mountain Division seemed glamorous to the public, but at Camp Hale they were often miserable. Soldiers nicknamed the place ‘Camp Hell.’”

(Source: ColoradoEncyclopedia.org)

MCIPAC PMO's K-9 holds K-9 demonstration for OPP

Story and photos by Lance Cpl. Tayler Schwamb

Marine Corps Installations Pacific Provost Marshall Office's K-9 Team held its first demonstration for the Okinawa Prefectural Police (OPP) K-9 Unit Oct. 20 at the Kadena Passenger Terminal on Kadena Air Base.

MCIPAC PMO's K-9 Team held this demonstration to showcase the capabilities of their Military Working Dogs to the OPP K-9 Unit, to strengthen their future partnership and to open up training opportunities for both sides.

The mission of a MWD is to detect and locate controlled substances, explosives and illegal narcotics. Handlers continuously train in different environments with the MWDs to ensure they are both engaged and ready.

"The demonstration showed two sides of our dual-purpose dogs," said Sgt. Rosendo Madrigal, a military police officer and dog handler with Headquarters and Support Battalion, MCIPAC-Marine Corps Base Camp Butler, Japan. "Our dogs are trained in either narcotics or explosives, as well as aggression. The bilateral training was more of a demonstration for the [OPP]."

There were two portions to the demonstration: the aggression training and the narcotics training. OPP's K-9 unit is currently only trained in tracking. In 2017 and 2018, they are looking to introduce narcotics and aggression capabilities.

According to Takeshi Amuro, a PMO investigative officer and translator for the demonstration, MCIPAC PMO's K-9 handlers gave OPP pointers about



Above and below: Lance Cpl. Garrett Impola and his military working dog, Rita, participated in this event. This was the first K-9 demonstration Marine Corps Installations Pacific Provost Marshall Office's K-9 held for Okinawa Prefectural Police's K-9.



training their dogs, and described how PMO's K-9 trains. This will help them understand how to train their own handler and dog teams.



Donor Spotlight

MWDTSA 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:

"Run Amanda Run" Donors:

Robert and Marie Brodner
Lawrence and Jacqueline Duff
Tracy Ebeling
Janna Gay
Jacqui Kozza
David Sharrar

A+ Dog Training Turlock, California
James and Georgia Barnack
Dick Baumer
Kenneth Besecker

Kayla Bitto in honor of GSD
Khloe

Stanton Bost
Steven Davis
Elizabeth Greenberg
Christine Maigur
Francis Murch
Patricia Armstrong Dressler Foundation
Southport, Connecticut

Julie Prine
Mark Stoller
Richard Snyder
Tactipup Indian Rocks Beach, Florida
Veterans' United Craft Brewery
Jacksonville, Florida

Lisa Weiler
Woobamboo Cape Coral, Florida

KONGs for K9s: Where to shop in December

Store	Location	Toy	Month
Chuck & Don's 720-354-4940	Longmont, Colorado	KONG Extreme Ball	December
Chuck & Don's 720-460-4568	Littleton, Colorado	KONG Extreme Ball	December
Edwards Air Force Base	California	KONG Extreme Ball & Squeeze Stick	December
Pet Suites 949-425-0700	Aliso Viejo, California	KONG Extreme Ball	December
The Animal Keeper 760-753-9366	Encinitas, California	KONG Extreme Ball	December
The Animal Keeper 760-941-3221	Oceanside, California	KONG Extreme Ball	December
The Animal Keeper 858-748-9676	Poway, California	KONG Extreme Ball	December

'Helping Heroes' Campaign: All hands on deck

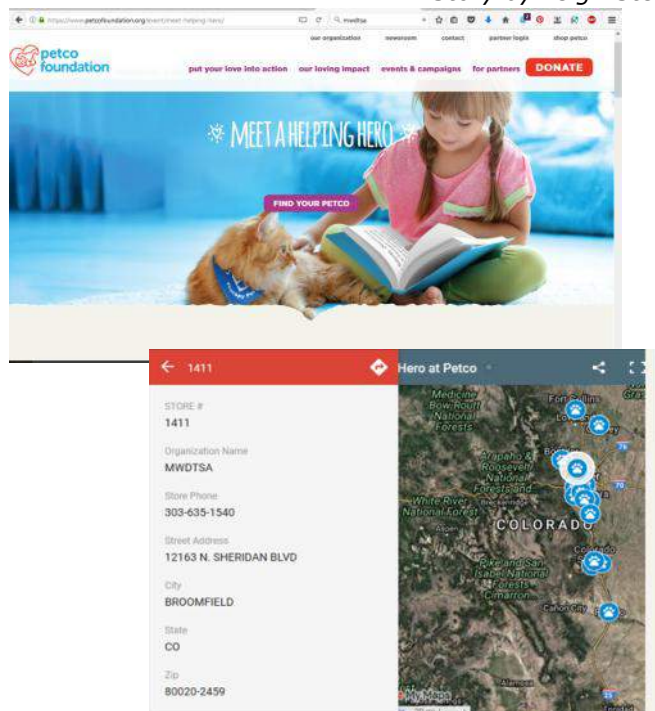
Story by Leigh Steere

Earlier this year, MWDTSA received a \$5,000 grant investment from the Petco Foundation. This grant was made possible through the Petco Foundation's annual Helping Heroes fundraising campaign, in partnership with Natural Balance Pet Foods. On Saturday, October 14, we had a big opportunity to say thank you to the customers who made this grant possible.

Eight MWDTSA volunteers, seven handlers, one MWD, and ten RMWDs staffed information tables at 15 PetSmart stores across the U.S. In hundreds of conversations, these MWDTSA representatives shared about our mission and how the Petco Foundation grant has helped us, and we encouraged patrons to continue supporting the Helping Heroes program.

Petco Foundation collected funds from October 7 to October 29 specifically to benefit "thousands of therapy, service and working animals who bravely dedicate their lives to helping people."

MWDTSA is grateful for Petco Foundation's commitment to military working dogs.



Above: An interactive website invited "the public to meet Helping Heroes at Petco stores" and to "learn about the transformative impact that therapy, service and/or working animals have on lives every day."



Left: Petco store 2759 in Columbus, GA was all in. This crew of MWD handlers, RMWDs, spouses and children collected quite a few donations for The Petco Foundation!

Right: RMWD Fedro and her little human (wearing a tiny MWDTSA volunteer shirt so she could match her dad). Petco Store 2808, Gambrills, MD.



Helping Heroes continued on page 15

Helping Heroes continued from page 14



Above: RMWD Camo glances at the toy aisle. Not to worry, she did receive lots of toys, treats, and belly rubs for her hard work at Petco store 1408, Colorado Springs, CO.

Right, top: RMWD Falco L288, Petco store 531, Las Vegas, NV. Falco retired after a lifetime of service and Afghanistan deployments from Ft. Carson, CO. Falco is a dual-purpose dog, certified in Patrol, as well as narcotics detection. Falco's last handler is still serving, so Falco is ready to get the word out to support our troops! (Falco was a little on edge because of all the squeaky toys. He HATES squeak toys!)

Right, second from top: RMWD Belo handing out brochures. Petco store 1442, San Antonio, TX

Right, third from top: MA1 Jones, MWD Sarah, and MA1 Lupo at Petco store 1117, Port Hueneme, CA.

Right, bottom: A very large puppy in a pumpkin costume attracts visitors to the MWD TSA table, Store 1411, Broomfield, CO.



Helping Heroes continued on page 16

Helping Heroes continued from page 15



Left: RMWD Aura took it upon herself to collect a few KONG toys for our annual KONGs for K9's drive, Petco store 583, San Diego, CA.



Above: Nikki Rohrig's table display, Petco store 2880, Charleston, WV. This example care package gave customers a better idea of what their Petco Foundation donation would fund. These toys, treats and other morale boosters were sent out to MWD teams around the globe, thanks to The Petco Foundation.



Above: MWDTSA representatives gave customers these Helping Heroes donation cards, with bar codes to scan at the cash register as customers rang their purchases. Store 1411,

Right: Gerri Miller snapped this photo while at Petco store 1841 in Pittsburg, PA.



Below: Gerri's table.



Left: RMWD Camo at Petco Store 1408 Colorado Springs, CO.

Got Your 6: A Sneak Peek

Story by Ashley Dunkle

The 4th Quarter pack theme is Got Your 6.

As a paramedic, I wanted to show our deployed K9 teams that MWDTSA, as well as fire, EMS, and police have their six.

Ashley

We welcomed new donors this quarter, including two electrolyte replacements: Normalyte and Hydrolyte. Among “treats” for the handlers, Ann’s House Nuts and Power Bar provided nutrition bars for each box. Amazing gummy bears by Albanese Gummies are also finding their way into our 4th quarter care packages.

MWDTSA is so excited to have Fifty/Fifty Bottles as a donor for 4th quarter and beyond! Their hydroflask bottles hold 36 ounces and can keep liquid hot or cold for 72 hours. Each box will receive a bottle, as pictured below.

Earth Rated donated dog waste disposable bags, holders for leashes, as well as bandanas, and also included is a toiletry bag for the handlers. MWDTSA would like to thank all of our donors because we couldn’t complete our mission without you!

MWDTSA is excited to assemble our 4th-quarter care packages in Fayetteville, North Carolina in honor of Vietnam-era dog handler, Perry Money.



Enjoy a sneak peek at some of the wonderful donations that will be heading out into the hands and paws of our dog teams during 4th quarter.



Great job for first time packing coordinators Ashley and Kyle Dunkle as they built the 4th quarter care packages.

Sit. Stay. Support.

MWD TSA

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MWD TSA is committed to ethics in everything we do. We are honored to be among the select few nonprofit organizations to receive the GuideStar Platinum Participant seal.

All of our volunteers sign a code of ethics, which outlines how we do our business. We are committed to transparency, but also handle the monies and goods you donate with efficiency,

respect and appreciation.

Our missions include supporting active duty dogs and handlers, veteran dog handler causes and events, and war dog memorials where handlers can gather to remember, recognize and heal. We

Kennel Talk is the proud recipient of multiple
GSDCA Special Newsletter Awards!



We invite you to join the ever-growing MWD TSA family!

To learn, volunteer, engage or subscribe, click here for info:

<http://mwdtsa.org/about/links/>

Parting Shot

Goldsboro, NC

Eeland, 4th Security Forces Squadron military working dog, chases after a simulated suspect in a bite suit during the "Hardest Hit" portion of the East Coast Iron Dog competition, Oct. 25, 2017, at Seymour Johnson Air Force Base, North Carolina. Dogs and their handlers from Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, and the Stantonsburg Police Department took part in the competition. (U.S. Air Force photo by Airman 1st Class Kenneth Boyton)

