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Kennel Talk is an award-winning, free, digital publication of MWDTSA. Support MWDTSA 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 Washington to Georgia, on to Colorado, then to Qatar, back to West Virginia and onward to Korea.

Our parting shot is from Hawaii.

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

Honoring the Fallen



Master-at-Arms 2nd Class Robert Dorato, (right) and Master-at-Arms 2nd Class Monique Rios work with Military Working Dog (MWD) Bbrazas during patrol training. MWD Bbrazas is named after MA2 Sean Brazas, who was killed in Afghanistan while conducting combat operations trying to help a fellow serviceman, May 30, 2012.

Story and photos by Petty Officer 2nd Class Jacob G. Sisco.

SILVERDALE, Wash – The Naval Base Kitsap-Bangor Military Working Dog (MWD) Kennels will be honoring a fallen Master-at-Arms by naming a MWD after him.

Master-at-Arms 2nd Class Sean Brazas was killed in Afghanistan while conducting combat operations trying to help a fellow serviceman, May 30, 2012. His military working dog, Sicario, survived.

Brazas will have a 2.5 year old Belgian Malinois named in his honor. MWD Bbrazas began his formal

military training at Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio, Texas on Jan. 4, 2016. He arrived to Naval Base Kitsap on March 23, 2017.

Master-at-Arms 2nd Class Robert Dorato will be MWD Bbrazas' first handler. Dorato has been a dog handler for one year.

"I personally did not know MA2 Brazas," said Dorato. "But you cannot go anywhere in the MWD community without hearing his name

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Brazas continued from page 1

and his backstory. I was not in the MWD program when he was in, but I remember his death and the impact it had on the MA community as a whole. Now, being in the MWD program, I see how much more the K-9 community felt it.”

Brazas is the second master-at-arms to have a MWD named after him. The first one is named after Master-at-Arms 1st Class John Douangdara. Douangdara was one of 31 U.S. service members who died in the Aug. 6, 2011, CH-47 Chinook helicopter crash in the Wardak province of Afghanistan.

“It means a great deal to be this dog's handler, it means even more to be the dog's first handler,” said Dorato. “At this kennel we all know of Sean and that this will forever be his kennel. To have a dog named after him will hold his legacy for all handlers that pass through NBK kennels.”

“Having a dog that is named after someone who was killed on the battlefield is the ultimate honor,” said Naval Base Kitsap (NBK) Kennel Master, Chief Master-at-Arms David Gutierrez. “I am honored to contribute to Sean's legacy. He gave the ultimate sacrifice. I did not know Sean personally. I remember getting a phone call on a late night when I was on a treadmill at Joint Base Little Creek. It was the first time I was made aware of his death. Little did I know, I would be in charge of taking approximately 10 MWD Teams to participate in Sean's ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery. Fast forward three years later and I'm checking onboard NBK only to work his old partner MWD Sicario. Add two years to that and I receive a dog named in his honor. It closes that whole circle. Very humbling.”



Above: MA2 Robert Dorato rewards his Military Working Dog (MWD) Bbrazas after a positive identification during detection.

It might seem that a MWD named after a fallen Sailor would be viewed as special. But that is not the case, because all MWDs are special.

“I don't believe it will change the way the public views the dog because everyone already has great respect for the MWDs,” said Dorato. “But to the family and friends of MA2 Brazas and to other handlers, MWD Bbrazas will forever be known for having the name of a handler who made the ultimate sacrifice.”

A former mentor of Brazas described him as caring, and willing to put his life on the line. The former mentor said that even if Brazas knew by helping that soldier things would turn out the way they did, Brazas would still help him.

“The command is honored to be able to take on a MWD with such a rich history behind his name,” said Gutierrez. “This was Sean's last command before deploying. NBK Kennels will always be known as Sean's Kennels.”

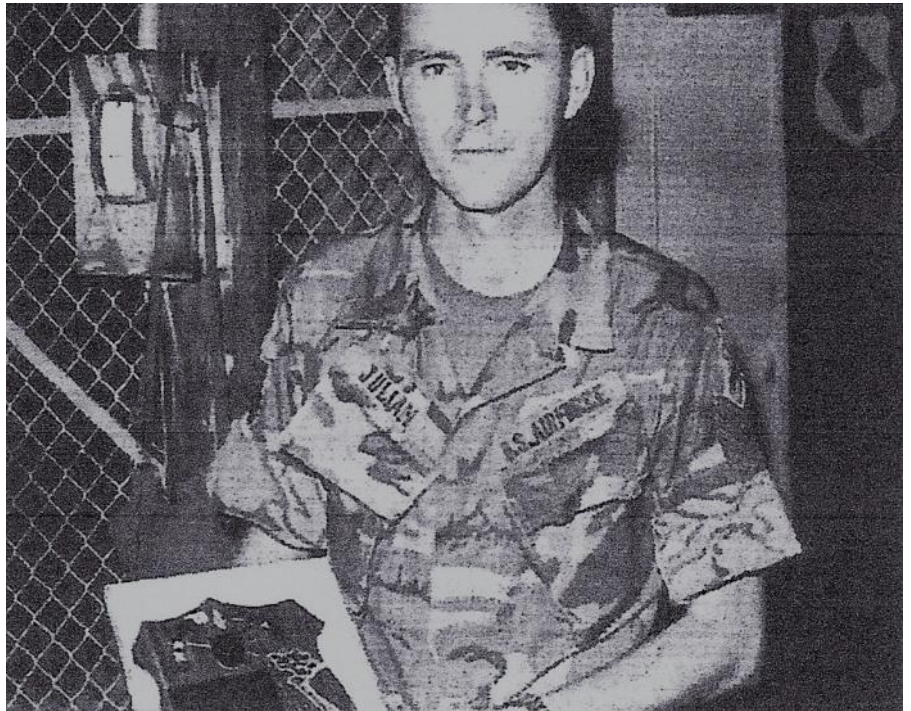
Rick Julian Air Force K9 Cop — Part 1

Story by Dixie Whitman and Krista Hernandez. Photos courtesy of Richard “Rick” Julian.

If you had to choose one word to describe Richard Julian, it would have to be “restless.” From the day he was born early on his grandparents’ Indiana farm instead of the city hospital, Rick was always on the lookout for his next adventure. But such opportunities were few and far between in the Indianapolis school system. So in 1953, Rick enlisted in the Air Force with hopes of challenge and excitement.

With high scores on the aptitude test, Rick had his pick of career fields, but he was only interested in one: Air Police. Why, you ask? Well, the newly minted airman was a hopeless romantic. Rick felt that the dash-ing Air Police uniform was the ticket to impressing his high school sweetheart, Nancy. Seeing as how Rick and Nancy recently celebrated their 60th anniversary, I’d say the plan was a success.

Following basic and technical training at Lackland AFB, Texas and Parks AFB, California, Rick was stationed in Okinawa, Japan. From there, he was transferred to Pine Castle AFB in Orlando, Florida. Nowadays, this area is one of the nation’s foremost vacation spots. But back in the 1950s, central Florida was a scraggly mess of forests and swamps. Rick felt antsy in the isolated stillness of it all and yearned for something more than lonely patrols on the flight line. He thought it would be nice to have a companion, someone with whom he could connect. Rick



Rick Julian poses with one of many awards he received during a stellar Air Force career spanning twenty-five years. Of that time, twenty-two years were spent working in Security Forces or with military working dogs.

had fond childhood memories of his family dogs and quickly realized that dog school was beckoning him.

After completing K9 school at Fort Carson, Colorado, Rick returned to the steamy Florida sun with Kaiser, his new partner. Around this time, Rick began his partnership with Nancy as well. In April 1957, the newlyweds hopped into a lime green convertible and sped off toward their new life together.

Kaiser was a 75-pound German Shepherd (like most military dogs at this time) who Rick describes as a “cool companion and a helluva dog.” The duo patrolled the flight line for both human and animal trespassers.

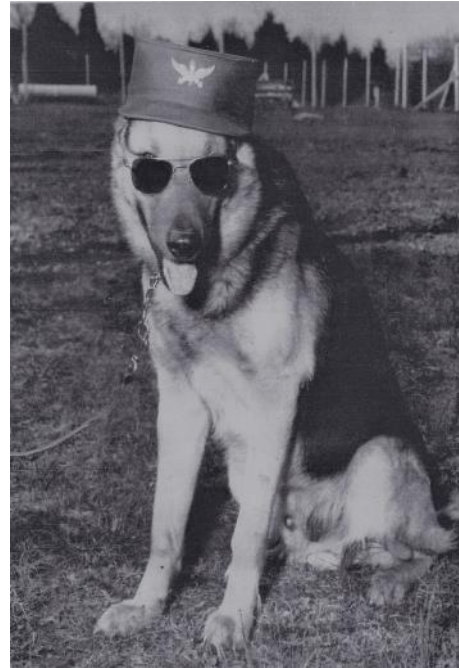
Rick Julian continued from page 3

They spent much of their time trailing alligators, who would crawl out from swamps seeking the heat of the concrete taxiways during the cooler months. But even a well-trained MWD is no match for a gator, and Kaiser was wise enough to avoid interactions. Kaiser was a smart cookie, but he had a few quirks, including a burning hatred for trucks. Anytime a truck came out to check on teams, Kaiser turned into Cujo, snarling and biting at the vehicle's tires.

While Rick was at Pine Castle, the region experienced a particularly rough rainy season. He and Kaiser spent endless hours tramping the concrete in torrential downpours. Between the gloomy weather and monotonous days, Rick felt a familiar itch. He wanted something more, but he also loved working with Kaiser. So he thought, why not teach others how to work with dogs? And that's just what he did. For the next seven years, from 1961-1967, Rick served as an instructor at Lackland Dog School.

Most of the K9s under Rick's leadership were sentry dogs, trained to aggressively protect and defend base assets and personnel. Other dogs were trained for calmer patrol duties, including apprehension and general assistance to their uniformed partners. Rick's training partner at Lackland was another German Shepherd named Major. He helped Rick instruct new handlers in the use, training, and care of their K9 partners. Rick was a very effective leader, but he gives the credit to Major, referring to him as "the smartest dog I ever saw."

In 1965, only 90 MWDs were on patrol in Vietnam. The Department of Defense estimated the actual need at 2,000 dogs, and the military was tasked with meeting that demand. So the armed forces planned a public relations blitz to encourage breeders and families to



Above: Rick's partner at Lackland Dog Training School was a K9 character named Major. Rick still claims that Major was the smartest dog he's ever seen.

donate their dogs to the war effort. And there was no one better suited to lead the press tour than three-time *Instructor of the Year*, Rick Julian.

When Rick enlisted in the Air Force, he probably never would have guessed that he'd one day be on the Mike Douglas Show, but that's exactly where he was. Rick anxiously arrived on set with Major at his side. They were escorted into a green room to await their segment. As most German Shepherds do, Major instinctively leaned against the door, so as to guard the entrance. Rick had begun to relax a little when suddenly the door burst open, shoving Major out of the way. In the doorway stood Ethel Merman. And once again Major showed his intelligence as he chose not to engage — even he knew not to mess with that force of nature.

Rick Julian continued on page 5

Rick Julian continued from page 4

Rick and Major eventually got their turn, performing a demonstration of bite work and obedience for the audience.

Rick was also booked to perform on the Today Show. At 5:30 A.M. on December 8, 1965, the bleary-eyed duo arrived at NBC Studios. Rick was looking around, soaking in the set and atmosphere, when he suddenly felt a presence by his side. He looked up to find Bobby Kennedy, the former Attorney General and then-current senator from Massachusetts, stroking Major's head. "Does he bite?" Kennedy asked. A stunned Rick could only muster up three words: "I hope not." For their segment, Rick and Major, along with USAF veterinarian Col. John Cadée, completed a demonstration and did an interview with the show's announcer, Jack Lescoulie. Watching in the wings were none other than journalists Hugh Downs and Frank Blair.

By 1967, Rick had built a stellar career, a successful marriage, and been showcased on national television. But there was still much more to come for this exceptional man. Be sure to read the continuing story of Rick Julian in next month's issue of *KennelTalk*.



Above: Rick Julian and Major were surprised to cross paths with former Attorney General and then-current Massachusetts Senator Bobby Kennedy while waiting in the wings for their feature on The Today Show.

Right: Rick Julian and Major are shown at the NBC studio in New York City where they provided a dog demonstration seen nationwide on the popular Today Show. On the left is Today Show interviewer, Jack Lescoulie. In the center is Air Force Veterinarian, Col. John Cadée.



MWDTSA Visits MWD Coast Guard Unit

On April 4, 2017, MWDTSA was finally able to cross a major item off of our bucket list with our first visit to a U.S. Coast Guard installation. MWDTSA volunteer Lisa Eiser and I had the privilege of visiting the MWD unit at the Coast Guard Maritime Safety and Security Team in St. Mary's, GA. Lisa's husband, Mike, and their son, Cole also joined us for the event.

Chief Buckner greeted us upon our arrival to the base. He proved to be a warm and gracious host, giving us a tour of the unit and a look at the Coast Guard gunboats. In the event of a crisis, these gunboats can be deployed across the country at a moment's notice. They are designed for high speed and maneuverability, with automated weapons mounted at both ends of the vessels.

As we concluded our tour, some of the dog teams returned from a training session. We had the pleasure of meeting one dog handler, Fallon, and his MWD, Tommy. Tommy retires in July, at which point Fallon will be his full-time dad. Tommy, clearly relishing his role as the senior MWD, was in no hurry to leave his air-conditioned vehicle. In the muggy heat of southern Georgia, who could blame him! But once Tommy joined us, the strong bond between dog and handler was palpable. Tommy will no doubt be living the high life in his well-deserved retirement.

We also met Rekles, another handler, and his MWD, Ali, a two-year-old mix of mostly Belgian Malinois ancestry. MWD Tommy was a cool cucumber, but Ali was a lover. He basked in all the attention, posing for pictures and trading back scratches for kisses. Ali also wasn't shy about grabbing the first toy out of the goodie boxes we brought for the teams.

Story and photos by Beate Frank.



Above: Some of the Coast Guard dog teams that we met: (Left to right): Fallon and Tommy, Rekles and Ali, and Clabby and Strike.

After our meet and greet with the handlers, each team demonstrated an explosives search. Every dog quickly identified the explosives hidden in various locations, such as the bumper of a truck. It's in this capacity that the USCG K9 teams most often assist with homeland security.



Above: MWD Ali was thrilled to get a few new toys like this Chuck-It Football. Chuck-It Footballs are a great hit with the MWDs and, while they are too large to fit into individual care packages, they are a great favorite to take to base visits. The dogs all love them and we love seeing wagging tails, like the blur of Ali's tail in the photo.

Coast Guard continued on page 7

Coast Guard continued from page 6

We capped off our day by relaxing with the handlers and sharing the aforementioned goodies we brought along. For the humans, we donated a coffee maker, K-cups, and snacks. The pups received their own snacks and a variety of toys. MWD Ali, the resident ham, was more than happy to help unpack the boxes, only to abandon the mission in favor of a squeaky football.

Lisa and I were honored to represent MWDTSA and to receive our very first challenge coins. We were blown away by the hospitality and professionalism of the unit. The invaluable work of these USCG teams is often overlooked by the nation at large and only truly recognized by the respective



Above: Coast Guard dog team Fallon and Tommy. Tommy was a rare find, a former customs dog now working for the Coast Guard. He will soon be retiring and living the air-conditioned life of a house dog. Once he retires there will only be one other Dutchie working anywhere with the Coast Guard.

commands. So we were thrilled to have the chance to show these heroes just how much they are appreciated.

We parted with an open invitation to come back for another visit, which we hope to do soon. Thank you, Coast Guard Maritime Safety and Security Team—St. Mary's.



Above: The Coast Guard's unique gun boats are instantly recognizable.

Below: Ali chose his favorite item from our gift box, a Chuck-It Football.





Donor Spotlight

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:

1st Grade Daisy Girl Scout Troop # 274	Parkville, Missouri
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Pamela Wadsworth	
Way2Cool	Rockin, California
Jerry and Dixie Whitman	
Kelly Williams	
Working Dog Magazine	Eureka, Missouri

What my dog has taught me

Photos by Sgt. Matthew Callahan



"Caesar has taught me to love life," said Lance Cpl. James, a military working dog handler assigned to 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU). Caesar is Nemger's military working dog. "We can be in the field working on no sleep, out all day in the hot sun doing patrols and Caesar is always having a good time."



Cpl. Sunsette Winsler says. "I got to train with Bella for six weeks, certify her, bring her to the fleet and stay on her. I am her first handler and she's my first dog. I have to rely on her for my life and she has to rely on me for everything else."

PetSmart supports Colorado military kennels

Story by Leigh Steere

MWDTSA wants to give a special shout-out to PetSmart Charities and the PetSmart store in Superior, Colorado. Last year, a MWDTSA volunteer visited this store to see if they would be interested in taking part in the annual KONGs for K9s drive. Assistant Store Leader Katherine Clarke responded enthusiastically and went beyond just obtaining permission for the KONG program. Excited about MWDTSA's mission, she initiated a PetSmart Charities Regional Grant application on our behalf.

Over a six-month period ending March 31, this grant enabled us to supply Fort Carson, Buckley Air Force Base, and United States Air Force Academy kennels with items ranging from a portable agility course to thermometers for handlers to use in the field.

People often ask, "Doesn't the military supply these items?" The answer is the military provides all essentials to MWD teams—food, training equipment, first aid supplies, and more. However, military kennels still face budget shortfalls or budget limitations at times, or they identify a special need that is not easily requisitioned through military channels. In situations like these, MWDTSA and our donors are able to fill gaps.

Fort Carson wanted portable agility equipment so they could train their dogs in a broader range of terrain and weather, to prepare them for a wider variety of deployment scenarios. The grant enabled them to purchase this unbudgeted but much-sought-after item.

We are grateful for PetSmart's support and encourage you to check out BlogPaws.com, which is owned by a division of PetSmart. This popular website "affirms its commitment to philanthropic platforms benefiting the human/animal bond," accord-



ing to BlogPaws spokesperson Carol Bryant. "We host an annual conference on how to *be the change for pets* through action, education, advocacy, social media influence, and blogger intervention."

In the conference that just took place in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, May 18-20, BlogPaws included a preview of the Megan Leavey film and a Merrick Pet Care fundraiser for K9s for Warriors, a nonprofit that "pairs rescue dogs with military veterans suffering from post-traumatic stress" and other service-related medical conditions.

The next pet-welcoming BlogPaws Conference will be held April 18-20 in Kansas City, Missouri. Tickets are on sale at registration.blogpaws.com

Thank you, PetSmart, for caring about our nation's military personnel—both the two-legged and four-legged varieties.

SodaPup passes MWDTSA's toy test

Story by Leigh Steere

We frequently scan the horizon for new toy options to include in our quarterly care packages. Because many MWDs are power chewers who can destroy even the “indestructible” varieties, we do a formal test of a manufacturer's product before sending it to the field. We want to know if it will last 30 seconds, 30 minutes, or 30 days, so we can weed out the less durable options.

Recently, a clever new toy—SodaPup—came to our attention when a volunteer's dog received one for Christmas 2016. This heavy chewer played with it for several hours straight, and it remains a favorite months later. The charming white letters have rubbed off with all the licking, but the natural rubber still looks new. No tears. No punctures.

MWDTSA reached out to True Dogs, LLC, owner of the SodaPup brand, to obtain four samples to test with MWDs. We then ran a contest on Instagram to find a German Shepherd, Belgian Malinois, Dutch Shepherd, and Labrador Retriever to put this toy through its paces. By the time we had received feedback from dog #2, we knew we had a winner. MWD Speedy's handler let three MWDs and one RMWD test it and “none could put a dent in it.”

It turns out that SodaPup's Founder and CEO Adam Baker started his career in the Coast Guard. Excited about MWDTSA's mission, he is providing the Extra Large SodaPup cans for our upcoming Q1 2018 “With Love from Colorado” care packages. Adam, MWDTSA is grateful to you and your team for your support!



Right: The Steere family stuffs their dog's SodaPup can with a large piece of jerky. He patiently works for hours to get it out. (Photo by Leigh Steere)



Above: You can learn more about these natural rubber toys at <https://sodapup.com/>. (Photo courtesy of True Dogs, LLC)

Below: Representatives from the SodaPup manufacturing team. SodaPups are proudly made in the U.S.A. (Photo courtesy of True Dogs, LLC)



Right: SodaPup/True Dogs, LLC founder Adam Baker with his dog Queso and niece Jane. (Photo courtesy of True Dogs, LLC)



Megan Leavey: The MWD film you must see

A film review by Dixie Whitman

Cast: Kate Mara, Common, Ramon Ramirez, Edie Falco, Tom Felton, and Bradley Whitford

Director: Gabriela Cowperthwaite

Synopsis: Kate Mara stars as Megan Leavey, an isolated young woman lacking interpersonal skills and functional family support. Megan joins the Marine Corps to escape a vacant, aimless life in her hometown. Megan can't shake her attitude though, and poor behavior lands her at the Camp Pendleton Military Working Dog Section. As punishment, she's tasked with cleaning the dog runs. But amidst the drudgery, Megan is intrigued by the dog handlers and begins to discover her passion. Gunny Martin, a supportive yet demanding superior, pushes Megan to master the skills required to join their ranks. Megan is given her first opportunity with Rex, the most aggressive dog in the kennel. The pair are deployed to Iraq, where they embark on a mission that will put their skills and partnership to the ultimate test.

Review: Kate Mara shines, walking a tightrope as a tough, but vulnerable, Megan Leavey. She leads a powerful cast in a story with just as many heavy layers. Common's portrayal of Gunny Martin was honest and believable. Edie Falco is captivating as Megan's mother, so much so that I wanted to see more of her. The character could have added more depth to the film, especially given the caliber of Falco's talent. Overall, this film has a very genuine feel to it, with one notable exception: the veterinarian. In the real world, military veterinarians make judgments based on a number of criteria, including a dog's behavior, medical history, and a thorough consultation with the handler. The film's veterinarian, however, is given short shrift. The one-dimensional character borders on demented, with the performance feeling like an homage to Cruella DeVil.

The film is slow going at first, with an uneven introduction. The story is told entirely from Megan's point of view, which has both pros and cons. But once Megan reports to the kennel, the action grabs you and doesn't let go. The director did a superb job of creating an au-



Based on the true story of a handler and her dog, the film *Megan Leavey* will be released on 9 June 2017. This sentimental film will lead you through a range of emotions. Don't miss it!

thentic military atmosphere. When Megan first arrived for kennel care, the set was so real that it triggered my sense memory. I could actually smell MWD kennel right there in my seat.

I'm a stickler for details in films, so I must mention two small flaws I noticed in this one. During the graduation scene, the marching precision of the graduates was not up to true military standards. And secondly, the MWDs featured in the kennels and war zones were too perfect, all handsome, young, and impeccably groomed, as if they were swooped straight from a dog show event. But, this is Hollywood, so I'm willing to forgive these minor mistakes.

Several MWD-themed films have chased fame and fortune over the last few years, but failed to deliver the punch and emotion that we anticipated. This one is different; this film has the heart and soul of a military working dog. *Megan Leavey* is the film that we've all been waiting to see. Don't miss it in theaters starting June 9.

Emotions travel down leash; Honoring fallen MWDs and their handlers

Story and photos by SrA Cynthia Innocenti

AL UDEID AIR BASE, Qatar—For some, having a canine companion is like having a tail-wagging best friend. For the U.S. Air Force military working dog handlers with the 379th Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron, it means having another wingman whom they honor like their human counterparts.

Personnel at Al Udeid AB did just that, commemorating fallen military working dogs and military working dog handlers with a remembrance ceremony followed by a three-mile ruck march April 20.



“Not everyone realizes that the dogs we train are not our pets; they are government assets just like us as Airmen, and because they are government assets, they are exposed to the same dangers we are, if not more,” said Senior Airman Noah Medor, a dog handler with the 379th ESFS. “The dogs may be our wingmen, but they are different than a normal wingman.”

Medor explained that as a dog handler he is always building a bond between him and his canine partner, just like the relationships he strengthens with his coworkers and fellow Airmen, except his canine wingman has heightened senses.

“Emotions travel down leash is a common saying in the military working dog community; my dog knows when I come in to work angry or frustrated and in turn it shows in his training,” added Medor. “We feed off of each other’s energy, so it is important that I keep a steady attitude; I wouldn’t want my dog’s behavior to reflect poorly upon my training.”

U.S. Air Force Airmen with the 379th Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron Military Working Dog Section pose for a photo after finishing a three-mile ruck at Al Udeid Air Base, Qatar, April 20, 2017. The ruck was organized in conjunction with a commemorative ceremony to honor fallen military working dog handlers and military working dogs.

Staff Sgt. Steven Watkins, also a military working dog handler, explained that one of the challenges with this is they are operating 24/7.

“We work long shifts, and when we are not working we are training, and when we are not training we are checking up on our dogs,” said Watkins. “We don’t just come in to work and play with dogs; we make a difference in the lives of our fellow service members.”

Military working dogs are an integral part of the U.S. Air Force. The result of a lack of obedience or bad training could be a matter of life and death.

“The dogs are here to find explosives and act as a psychological deterrent,” said Watkins. “I have personally seen the result of good training save a member’s life from an explosive.”

Emotions travel continued from page 12

Medor added they take a lot of pride in their work and wanted to share the opportunity to honor the fallen military working dogs and handlers with the rest of the personnel currently at Al Udeid AB.

The base-wide event was considered a success with over 65 members who participated.

“Rucking is a great way to commemorate those who have given everything to their military service,” said Tech. Sgt. Jacop Parker, the 379th ESFS kennel master. “It was challenging for both the handler wearing a 60-pound ruck sack and the dog running alongside their handler.”

“All in all, it is always a good day when you have your dog with you,” said Watkins.

Right: U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. Amadio Apilado, a military working dog trainer with the 379th Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron, holds up a photo of Sarge, a fallen U.S. Air Force military working dog that served in the Vietnam War, during the ruck. Apilado wanted to honor Sarge during the ruck because it was a commemorative march to honor all fallen military working dogs and handlers.



Above: U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. Christopher Kench, a military working dog handler, carries his military working dog, Beta, towards the end. The carrying of one's military working dog across the final stretch was meant to be symbolic of teamwork during the commemorative ruck march.



Above: Personnel gather for opening remarks during a military working dog and military working dog handler commemoration ceremony at Al Udeid Air Base, Qatar, April 20, 2017. The commemoration ceremony was followed by a three-mile ruck and was organized to honor fallen handlers and canines.



Below: U.S. Air Force Senior Airmen Ryan Rayos, a military working dog handler with the 379th Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron, gives his military working dog, Aramis, water during the three-mile ruck.



Candy Crusher: A sneak peek at boxes

Story and photos courtesy of Nikki Rohrig.

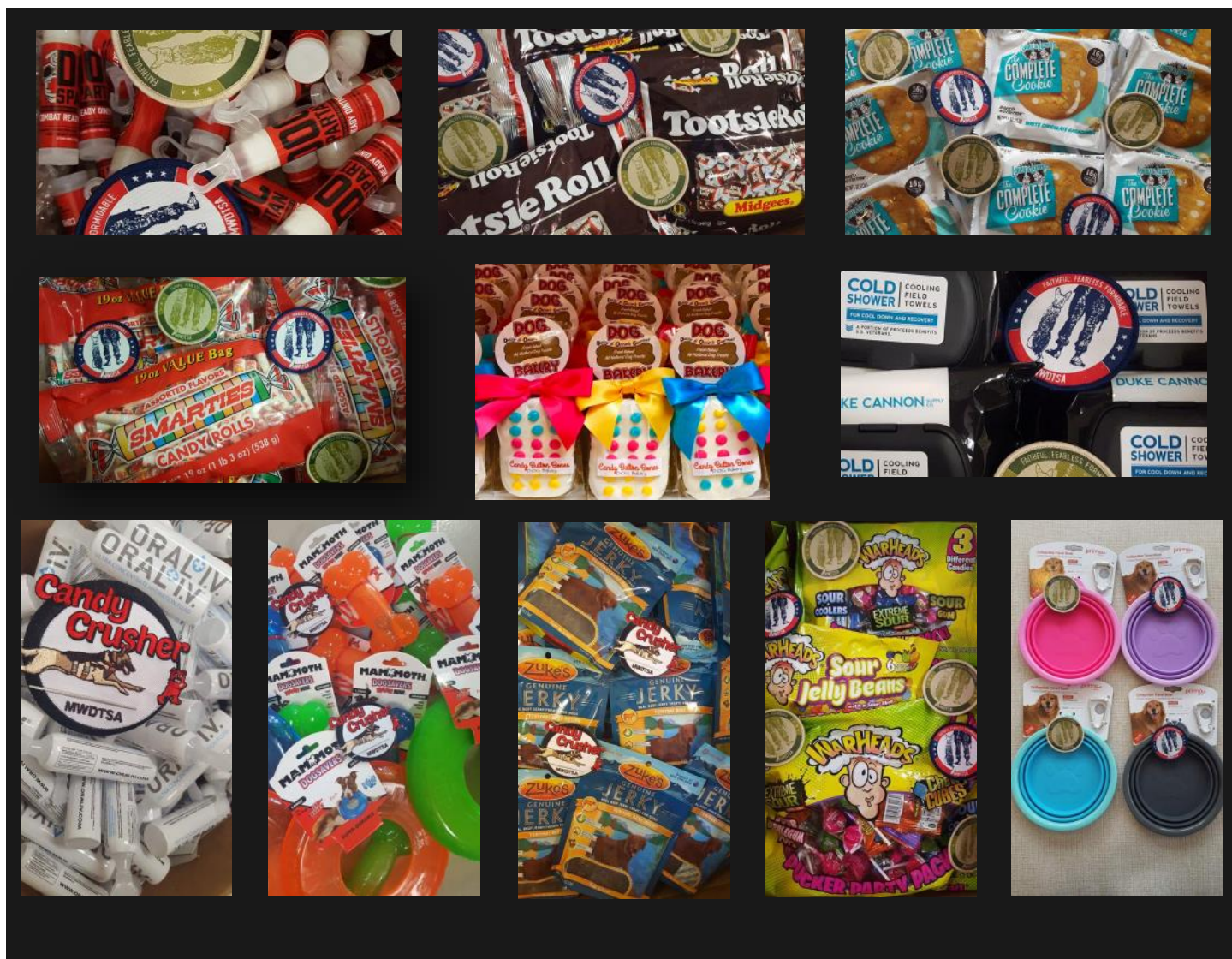
MWDTSA President, Nikki Rohrig, was joined at her West Virginia home by an enthusiastic team of volunteers to fill 200 individual care packages for dog teams deployed around the world. June is National Candy Month, and what better way to participate than to shower our dog teams with a flurry of candy-themed items? Boxes are currently making their way around the world.

Next month, Nikki will share photos of the packing event and of the handlers receiving their boxes. In the meantime, we certainly want to shout out to all of the great individuals and companies

who provided in-kind donations to make this box both colorful and scrumptious.

Some of our many wonderful donors are: Doc Spartan, Tootsie Roll, Lenny & Larry's, Impact Confections, Duke Cannon, Ford Gum, Oral IV, Mammoth Pet Products, Zukes, Warheads, Prima Pets, D.O.G. Bakery, Mariani, PowerBar, Quest Nutrition, Working Dog Magazine, Nashville Wraps, Gaspari and NutriSource.

This magnificent display is just a sneak peek of the goodies donated. Look for more next month!



K9 Korea: The Untold Story of America's War Dogs

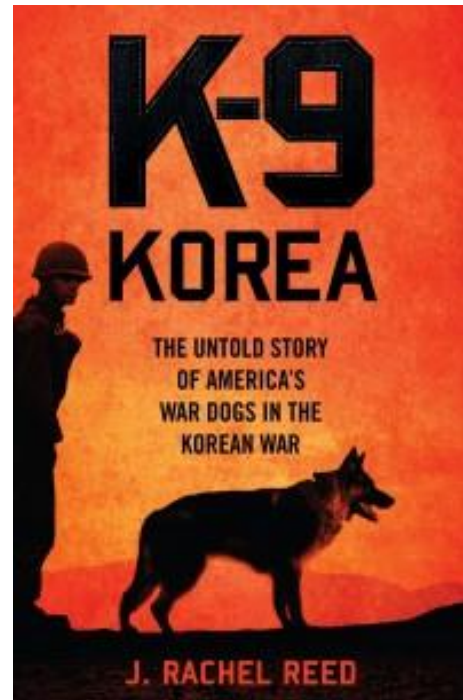
A book review by Jesca Daniels.

Background: Each year veterans of the 8125th Sentry Dog Detachment reunite to share memories, stories and to brag amongst themselves about who had the best darned dog ever during the Korean War. The book, **K-9 Korea**, was written to chronicle some of those stories as they were shared at a 8125th Reunion in Colorado Springs.

The review: While the bulk of this book focuses on MWDs in Korea, the author provides some historical context. Reed details the history of working dogs in prior wars, takes us through the Korean War, and then touches briefly on the military's continued use of dogs today.

At first I was a little bothered because it seemed that the author removed a lot of the emotion from what was, by all accounts, a truly emotional reunion. But after thinking on it I realized that there is no way to put into words the power of what those men went through and were feeling. So it is a book of storytelling, and in that way Rachel Reed recorded them rightly. From horrible stories about death and sadness, to light hearted tales of stray dogs adopted by deployed units, and general shenanigans amongst young soldiers and their K9s, she relayed the stories well.

I was also very happy that she ended the book by saying that the things that happened in Korea and Vietnam were no longer the norm within the MWD community. It was also a very informative book concerning the MWD program from the very beginning up to



now. As the wife of a dog handler, I even learned some things I didn't know! It was very interesting to read about the training

the 8125th handlers went through and how they bonded with their dogs, as well as hearing their first hand accounts. I went in thinking this would be a heart-wrenching story, and in some ways, it was. But I came out realizing that it is meant to be a sort of history book for the men of the 8125th Sentry Dog Detachment, a way to ensure that their story never dies. For that, I absolutely commend Rachel Reed.

MWDTSA thanks the good folks at Regnery Publishing for their assistance with the excerpt and the artwork.

Danger in the grass

Story and photo by Leigh Steere

Last year, our dog was romping through some grass at a park when a lady shouted, “Get your dog out of there! That’s fox-tail, and it’s deadly.” Dubious, we searched the Internet when we got home. Sure enough, this plant can lead to grave injury in our canine companions.

According to WebMD...

“The foxtail plant is a grass-like weed. It is mostly found in the Western half of the U.S.

“The barbed seed heads of the foxtail plant can work their way into any part of your dog or cat, from the nose to between the toes and inside the ears, eyes, and mouth.

“The danger of foxtails goes beyond simple irritation. Because these tough seeds don’t break down inside the body, an embedded foxtail can lead to serious infection for your dog. It can even lead to death if left untreated.

“Foxtails travel. Moving relentlessly forward, never back, they can migrate from inside your dog’s nose to its brain. They can dig through skin or be inhaled into—and then perforate—a lung.

“Embedded foxtails can cause discharge, abscesses, swelling, pain, and death.”

The big takeaways for me?

If your four-legged buddy has been running through a field or rolling in grass, carefully check paws, eyes, ears, nose, genitals, and skin for foxtail barbs, in the same way you would check for ticks.

WebMD writes, *“Use tweezers to remove any foxtails you can easily get to. But if a foxtail is deeply embedded, or if the area around it is red or swollen, call your veterinarian right away. Remember, foxtails won’t come out on their own, and they can burrow into the brain, spine, eardrums, lungs—actually, anywhere.”*

This common weed can crop up in a backyard, a kennel training yard, or on a walk, so dog owners need to be vigilant. If you notice any unexplained symptoms in your dog, such as limping, watery eyes, head-shaking, or repetitive sneezing, make sure to investigate thoroughly, even if that means a trip to the veterinarian.

At right is a picture of the foxtail in our geographic area. It is one of several plants with barb-like structures that pose a danger to dogs. Check with your vet to learn about any unsafe plants in your region.



Above: This patch of foxtail sprouted up at the edge of a school parking lot in Boulder, Colorado.

MWD TSA thanks WebMD for permission to share their material in this article. You can read the full WebMD article here: <http://pets.webmd.com/dogs/foxtail-grass-and-your-dog#1>

Our condolences on the loss of MWD Ux

End of watch 15 May 2017

From Ux's former handler: It's with a heavy heart I learned that Ux is being put to sleep today. He had some tumors that spread to his liver, and there's just nothing they can do. R.I.P. Ux.

Zach shared images of them at work and at play.



From a fellow handler: Zach Sanford, you shaped me as a young soldier and a man. Ux was lucky, just as I am, to call you a friend.
Brent



From MWD TSA: We are proud and honored to have supported this team while they were deployed and again with a base visit upon their return home. We send Ux's kennel family our sincerest condolences. Ux and Zach are pictured above with our "Super Bowl In A Box" package.



Sit. Stay. Support.

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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 offer educational opportunities for the general public and advocate on behalf of retired military working dogs. Please support us!

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



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

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

Parting Shot

Hawaii

Cpl. Nicholas Majerus (center), a dog trainer with the Provost Marshal's Office, monitors military working dog Mido as he jumps up to attack Cpl. Brett Hallstrom at the PMO Field, April 15, 2015. (U.S. Marine Corps photo by Jay Parco/Released)

