The Military Working Dog Team Support Association, Inc. is an all-volunteer 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization founded in 2006. It is dedicated to supporting military working dog teams serving with the U.S. Military (Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps & Coast Guard).

Dogs have long been recognized as “force multipliers” and “sensor systems” by military fighting forces around the world. A “team” is a dog and a handler whose missions include force protection—explosives and weapons detection, search and rescue, tracking, patrol, security and drug detection. These dogs and their handlers are deployed worldwide to help safeguard military bases and service members.

During the past 12 years, using no paid staff or fund-raising companies, MWDTSA has provided 5,803 care packages to deployed MWD teams, comprising $906,696 in purchased and donated goods and costing over $83,760 in postage. We have also conducted 74 home station kennel visits to distribute $51,625 in comfort and morale goods, provided over $27,940 in funds to honor fallen handlers and MWDs, and conducted over 100 recognition/public education events.

These missions were conducted while maintaining an Administrative/Fund Raising cost of less than 2% of revenue—98.4% of all funds go directly to our core missions.

During 2018, quarterly care packages were sent to 813 deployed US MWD teams, costing $20,760 in postage and containing an average of $115 goods for “both ends of the leash.” Each care package includes necessities and comfort items for the handlers and their K9 partners, donated by individuals and companies or purchased with donated funds by MWDTSA.

This year, we responded to an increasing number of special requests from deployed teams over and above the regular quarterly care packages.

These requests have been for equipment and supplies ranging from harnesses, cooling vests, boots, Rex Specs and kennel disinfectant for the K9 to an ECW sleeping bag for a Special Forces MWD team. Following Hurricane Michael, MWDTSA also supported the Tyndall AFB handlers and dogs who had been evacuated with Visa gift cards and various supplies.

We rely on support from individuals to help fill our care packages. An updated list of useful items can be seen on our Amazon Wish List that you can donate. Please visit our website at: www.mwtdsa.org/donate to see these items.
During 2018, 35 volunteers visited 12 military base kennels in 7 states, distributing $14,588 in gifts and in-kind donated items to 389 MWD teams. During visits, volunteers provide lunch and listen to handler ideas about future care package contents. They also hand out dog toys, shirts, coffee and tactical patches. Board members and volunteers who undertake these trips do so without reimbursement of their expenses.

MWDTSA also provided gift bags containing over $700 of goodies to more 90 participating MWD teams at Iron Dog competitions held at MCB Quantico, Va. and Andrews AFB, Md. We also conducted a “virtual visit” by mailing boxes to Coast Guard MWD teams across the country, delivering t-shirts, patches, KONGs, blender and Fifty/Fifty bottles to these teams that get little publicity while they protect our ports, shores and the high seas.

To celebrate K9 Veterans Day on March 13, we sent 30 “Honor Boxes” to retired MWDs with a value of over $85 each. These care packages differ from our normal boxes because they have goodies for the retired K9 only, such as joint supplements and softer toys for these older warriors. MWDTSA has also helped to support and honor those who have passed by financially supporting euthanasia and cremation for active duty and retired MWDs, as well as covering the cost of returning the remains to the United States.

MAJOR IN-KIND SPONSORS 2018

About two-thirds of the care package goods are donated by sponsoring companies and we are indebted to them for their steadfast support for our MWD teams.

ACTION-PACKED PUP
ANDOVER HEALTH CARE
BLACK RIFLE COFFEE CO.
BO DEREK PET CARE
BOWSER BEER
COMBAT WIPES
DARN TOUGH SOCK CO.
DRIP DROP
DUKE CANNON
EPIC WIPES
FIFTY/FIFTY BOTTLES
FOX RIVER
GOLDEN WEST FOOD GROUP
GRENADE
HAT N’ PATCH
HEALING ARTS VETERINARY CLINIC
HOUSE OF JERKY
K9 GUARDIANS FOUNDATION
K BAR SOAP CO.
KENNELSOL
KIBBLE PET
KONG CO.
KURGO
MARIANI PACKING CO.
NATURAL DOG COMPANY
NORMALYTE
NUTRISOURCE PET FOODS
PLANET DOG
POPOWARE FOR PETS
REX SPECS
SAN FRANCISCO BAY GOURMET COFFEE CO.
SODAPUP & USA-K9
SOFTE
TACTIPUP
TREAT PLANET
VETERANS UNITED CRAFT BREWERY
WORKING DOG MAGAZINE
ZUKE’S
When one of our MWD teams was wounded during their deployment by a suicide bomber, MWDTSA immediately took action to provide morale boosting items to the dog and handler while they were hospitalized and undergoing rehab. Once they were reunited stateside, we provided additional items, including a new collar, vest, and leash to help MWD Alex3 maneuver around his new home. Both of these soldiers continue to thrive and MWD Alex3 is now retired, living the good life on “Fort Couch” with his handler.

Our annual “KONGs4K9s” drive saw 14 participating stores promote KONG toy donations that are matched 1:1 by The KONG Company. We are thankful for the company’s generosity over the last 5 years, they are very supportive of our MWD community. Our 2018 drive collected a total of 1,690 toys, a record for MWDTSA. These donated and matching toys will be placed in care packages and gifted during kennel visits throughout the coming year.

Our Volunteers
MWDTSA is small but mighty, having 51 volunteers living in 25 States [plus Germany and South Korea] that contributed almost 7,000 hours in order to execute the missions of the organization. They help solicit donations, pack care packages, visit stateside MWD kennels, conduct educational events, attend memorials, maintain our website and social media presence, write grant requests and design materials such as this annual report—all on their own time. Without their dedication and efforts, MWDTSA couldn’t exist.
Total administrative expenses (office supplies, printing, website, insurance and bank fees) were 1.6% of revenue. MWDTSA pays no salaries nor fundraisers and does not reimburse officers, board members or volunteers for their travel expenses on behalf of the organization.

In addition to direct donations during 2018, supporters on Facebook created 104 small fundraisers that contributed $23,804 to MWDTSA. Additional funds were received via such online platforms as Giving Tuesday, PayPal Giving Fund, Amazon Smile & Wish List, Benevolity, Charity Choice, Giving Assistant, Donate Well, iGive and Chewy.com.

MWDTSA is indebted to the foundations that supported our missions during the year. They include: The Betsy Ross Foundation, Paris, Tenn.; DAV Memorial Chapter 15, Goshen, Ind.; K9 Guardians Foundation, Vista, Calif.; Petco Foundation, San Antonio, Texas; Morgan Stanley Foundation, New York, N.Y.; Operation Care for Heroes, Jupiter, Fla. and the Patricia Armstrong Dressler Foundation, Westport, Conn.

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