



Kennel Talk

Volume 9 / Issue 10

October, 2017



INSIDE...

Look Mama: I Killed the Sofa!	1
DoD Foster parents dine	6
3rd Quarter Care Packing	8
Marco's New Home	9
BusyKid	11
KONGs for K9s	12
Donors	12
802nd Visit by MWDTSA	13
MWDTSA's "Special Teams"	15
Handlers, MWDs guard	17
Parting shot	18



Above: MWDTSA volunteer Anna Steere holds seven-week-old IImra. (Photo by Robert Schnell)

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 Texas, Louisiana, and Michigan to corners around the world, especially southwest Asia.

Our parting shot is from Kosovo.

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

Look, Mama: I Killed the Sofa!

Story by Anna Steere and Leigh Steere

At base visits, handlers often provide a demonstration of their dogs' capabilities. We've watched 60-pound dogs tackle 200-pound men. We've observed them searching for and locating hidden explosives scents, and marvel at their intelligence, agility, and endurance. It's hard to imagine that these muscular canines each started as tiny puppies—cute fluff balls chasing butterflies or teething on their humans' favorite

shoes. Our recent visit to Lackland's puppy program helped us better understand the journey from womb to highly-trained weapon.

The Department of Defense (DoD) procures dogs in two ways: buying adult dogs from approved vendors or breeding puppies in-house. Dr. Stewart Hilliard, Chief of the Military Working Dog Breeding Program at the 341st Training

Killed the Sofa continued on page 2

Killed the Sofa continued from page 1



Above left: Trainers create a Pavlovian association between an explosives scent and an object like a KONG.

Center: Tracy Cann, DoD Military Working Dog Program Foster Consultant, holds a seven-week-old puppy from the II6 litter, as she explains "environmental training." (Photo by Robert Schnell)

Right: Dr. Stewart Hilliard, Chief of the Military Working Dog Breeding Program, 341st Training Squadron, demonstrates the concept of "ball drive" with five-month-old EErik. (Photo by Robert Schnell)

Squadron, walked us through the characteristics he looks for in a potential MWD. To demonstrate, he introduced a five-month-old puppy named EErik who was full of energy and fixated on a tennis ball. While it is common for puppies of all breeds to behave enthusiastically, Hilliard explained, "A working dog needs raw drive. It's stronger than play; it's predatory behavior. You need this from a detector dog."

When his program breeds a litter, Hilliard notes that the most promising puppies exhibit "extreme behavior. They are freaks of nature." Thinking back to our dinner with puppy foster parents the prior evening, seven-week-old IIraq did not like to be held. In a high-pitched but menacing puppy growl, he bared his teeth

(and gums), as if he was already a full-grown Malinois expressing warning to a suspect. The raw material to be a great MWD is already in IIraq and just needs to be shaped and directed in a constructive way.

When a civilian puppy growls and nips, the owner views these behaviors as unwanted and works to train the behaviors out of the dog. In contrast, Hilliard said, "EErik does not get a lot of limits. As a puppy, we want to foster his drive." Foster parents and Lackland trainers begin the challenging process of harnessing and directing the behavior instead of eliminating it.

"There's a time to bite and a time not to bite," explains Hilliard. "Barking is the best deterrent. Few people want to approach a dog that is barking and baring its fangs." IIraq will need to learn to reserve his ferocity for the correct circumstances. In order to be a military working dog, he must allow others to touch him anywhere without reacting aggressively. He will need to submit to veterinary

Why in-house breeding? There is a great deal of competition to buy top dogs from civilian breeders. Other countries are vying for them, too. This has led the U.S., Israel, Australia, and other countries to establish their own working dog breeding programs.

Killed the Sofa continued from page 2

examinations without complaint or be heaved across the shoulders of a handler during a ruck march without biting.

EErik had been living with a first-time foster family, who asked, "What did we do wrong?" According to Hilliard, this question is common among fosters of the most promising puppies, who sometimes get pulled back into Lackland early. "These dogs will work until they drop. There is no 'off' switch," he explained. As it turns out, all of EErik's littermates have been hard on their fosters. Most "nice" working puppies are hard on their fosters.

"They are baby velociraptors," says Tracy Cann, DoD Military Working Dog Program Foster Consultant, who continued the presentation after Dr. Hilliard headed out for an appointment. She described the breeding and whelping process in more detail, as well as the foster and puppy training programs.

Puppies bred in-house stay in the whelping kennel until six weeks of age. "Beyond that, they are way too hard on their littermates," explains Cann. "They also need extensive socialization with people at a young age to be the kinds of working dogs we need."

At the six-week mark, each puppy goes home with a foster family until seven months of age. These families must live within a two-hour radius of Lackland, and during their five-and-one-half months with the puppy, they return to Lackland once a month for vaccinations, training, and moral support.

"We cannot raise these puppies without fosters," says Cann. "If they were in a kennel, it would be like keeping hyperactive teens in a closet."

The fosters help these pups with basic socialization and environmental training. Each canine needs to become comfortable around

Keep Out! Mom Is Giving Birth

"Not many creatures are more potentially dangerous than a mother Malinois," says Cann. "She could injure herself, her puppies, or our staff. We have to gain the confidence of a female Mal in labor. Toward this end, we put up signs alerting people to stay away from the building. We don't want maintenance people or others creating disturbances that could upset the mother dog."

During the birth process, the female regards breeding program staff members as partners. "If the mama does not know you, you can't be at the delivery. Period."

"The puppies are priceless," explains Cann. "Whelping staff and vet hospital staff put themselves on the line to deliver these litters. They are willing to do whatever is required, because these female breeders are so important."



Above: Newborn HHedwig rests with tired mama Malinois. (Photo courtesy of Tracy Cann)

Killed the Sofa continued from page 3



Above (both photos): Lackland's whelping kennel has overseen several births in 2017. Mals have an average litter of nine puppies. "Routinely, we see litters of 11 and 12," says Tracy Cann. (Photos courtesy of Tracy Cann)

people and other dogs. Environmental training gets dogs ready to work in large crowds and highly stimulating environments. The dogs need to stay focused, even if there are loud noises and commotion going on in the vicinity. The ultimate goal of environmental training is to get each dog to think, "Wow, this is nuts," and then ignore the chaos and single-mindedly think, "Can we go chase/find a ball? Can we find/bite the bad guys?"

Each puppy learns to approach new situations and landscapes with curiosity, instead of cowering in fear. For a young puppy, as Tracy and the fosters demonstrated to us, a new "environment" may be something as simple as walking across an unfamiliar texture or poking a head into a metal container.

Encouraging the curiosity and prey drive often creates "adventures" for foster families. One puppy disemboweled a sofa, leaving nothing

but a pile of stuffing. Two 11-week-old puppies pulled the brake lines out of a truck. "A really good working dog makes a hideous pet," Cann remarked. "Mals? They bite for a living."

Some puppies engage in "beginning bite training" of their own accord, grabbing repeatedly at a foster's pants leg or ankle. In this case, the foster must learn the appropriate way to correct this behavior without crushing the puppy's drive. The goal is a dog that bites on command, rather than biting when the urge strikes. And learning to bite on command happens way after the puppy is out of foster care and in training.

At seven months of age, foster families bring the puppies back to Lackland, where they begin living in DoD kennels. The pups must maintain the drive to train, even when under stress. Living in a kennel environment is their first real stress test.

Department of Defense litters are not pure-bred Belgian Malinois. While they are mostly Mal, Hilliard and his team have bred in other types of dogs over the years, with the goal of producing certain behavior and temperament characteristics.

After four to six weeks in the kennel, Hilliard assesses them on a number of dimensions. The overarching question: "Do they show the drive to continue training?" If the pups pass this evaluation, they stay with DoD trainers

Killed the Sofa continued on page 5

Killed the Sofa continued from page 4

in Pre-Training until they are approximately a year of age. At that time, they go to Consignment testing to determine the role they'll serve. Is the dog suited to patrol (suspect apprehension and control)? Or detection? Or both?

Most of the puppies who pass the Consignment testing are assigned to a DTS (Dog Training School) team and enter formal training. A few go to training with TSA or other entities.

DTS has 120 training days to certify the dogs assigned to the team. Since this time allotment does not include weekends, holidays, or medical days off, the dogs can be in DTS training for a while. Once the DTS team determines a dog has mastered specific skills, the canine goes to Certification. Once "certified," the newly minted MWD is assigned to a base and handler.

MWDTSA thanks Tracy Cann, Dr. Hilliard, and the foster parents for providing such a detailed overview of the breeding, fostering, and training processes. What an adventure!

More male dogs make it through training, but the female dogs have a longer working life.



Above: These pups begin their lives in the whelping boxes with their mothers as their first teachers. They are doted on by the staff at the breeding facility and at six weeks of age are sent out with foster families for the next five and a half months. During this time, they are individually encouraged, handled, and gain life experiences, all to make the world a safer place. (Photo courtesy of Tracy Cann)

What's With The Double-Letter Names?

As you walk through a military working dog kennel, you'll see a variety of creative canine names. Crazy. Devil. EErik. VVactor. MWDs from outside breeders receive names that begin with a single letter. Dogs bred in-house by the Department of Defense get monikers beginning with a double letter.

The breeding program designates each new litter with a letter (i.e. Litter "E," Litter "F," and so forth). During our visit, we met seven-week-old puppies IIraq and IImra from Litter "I."

Staff members at the breeding program take part in brainstorming names for each new litter, but Dr. Hilliard has final say over the names chosen. The program is now on its sixth time through the alphabet, meaning it has become a challenge to find fresh names not already in use.

DoD foster parents dine with MWDTSA

Story by Anna Steere and Leigh Steere

(Note: To protect the privacy of foster families, this article uses first names only.)

San Antonio has 84 pet-friendly dining establishments, according to BringFido.com. MWDTSA volunteers traveled to one of these on July 24 to meet some future Guardians of the Night, along with the families who are providing their foster care. Also present: MalFFunctions, a civilian organization that finds homes for DoD puppies who “wash out” of training. They brought some older dogs to help socialize the puppies.

Unlike a base visit where MWDTSA volunteers have limited interactions with the dogs, we sat on a cement patio playing with DoD puppies as young as seven weeks old. The foster parents answered our myriad questions and painted a riveting picture of what it’s like to care for the nation’s future MWDs.

The restaurant’s servers miraculously kept our orders straight even though MWDTSA volunteers and fosters kept swapping seats, tables, and stories.

One of the evening’s stars, seven-week-old Ilraq, demonstrated how to “kill” toys. He didn’t, however,



Above: Foster dad Mike flips and twirls puppy-in-training FFranklin to demonstrate the tolerance to body handling required of MWDs.

want to be picked up by strangers and cuddled. Despite his small stature, he snarled with startling fierceness to signal his displeasure.

Mike, an eight-time foster parent, demonstrated the level of body handling Ilraq will ultimately need to allow. He began twirling his charge FFranklin like a baton—around and around and upside down. FFranklin remained compliant and relaxed, and almost seemed to enjoy the manhandling.

“Our main job is socialization,” explains Lora, also a foster parent. “Our goal is to help raise strong, confident pups. So, we take them with us to as many places and environments as we can. They go to stores, restaurants, high school football games, hockey games, and more to expose them to crowds and different sights, sounds, and smells. We want them to become comfortable in new situations so that, as adult dogs, they will approach new environments with confidence and curiosity.”

DoD foster parents continued on page 7

For more information on becoming a Department of Defense Military Working Dog Puppy Foster Volunteer, contact MWD.FOSTER@US.AF.MIL. Prospective foster families must meet the following criteria:

1. Live within a two-hour radius of Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland.
2. Have a house with a secure six-foot-high fence and no children under age 5.
3. Attend Saturday Training Day once a month.
4. Drive a vehicle capable of transporting an extra-large dog crate.
5. Make a 5.5-month commitment to caring for and socializing a puppy.

DoD foster parents continued from page 6



Above left: Foster parent with her fuzzy young charge. Above right: MWDTSA volunteers learn firsthand that DoD puppies are filled with energy and attitude.

Lora also mentioned that fosters do the potty and crate training. “It is important that the pups learn the crate is a happy and safe place,” she says. “We are not required to do obedience training with them, but most of us do teach at least the basics. Sit. Down. Stay. Learning these commands makes them much easier to handle and also stimulates the puppies’ minds. Obedience training is great for rainy days when the pup cannot burn off enough physical energy. Mental stimulation will burn just as much energy.”

According to Lora, Lackland teaches the foster parents multiple techniques for building ball drive, such as “transfer” and teasing the puppies so they really want that ball or KONG.

Many fosters have significant experience with dog training already, but they each voiced variations on this same theme: “Fostering has changed everything about how I work with dogs.” They stressed the importance of a beginner’s mind—being willing to ask questions and change your way of thinking. “No matter how many pups you’ve fostered, each requires a unique style of training,” says Lora.

Just as human soldiers can wash out of training, so do some of the puppies. Nine-month-old BBethel, for example, showed insufficient ball drive. Fifteen-month-old TTravers was attacked by another dog at 10 weeks of age and became an “environmental washout.”

Lora and her husband are poised to pick up their 11th DoD puppy in a few weeks. When asked to describe the

challenges of fostering, Lora replied, “The turn-in. That’s also called ‘Reporting for Duty.’ Having to say goodbye to your pup after raising them for five months is an emotional roller coaster...The pain of saying goodbye...The hope that the puppy will turn into a strong kick-butt beast that will make you proud...Pride in what you’ve done for the military...Worry about what will happen to the dog out in the world after becoming an MWD...The hope that the puppy will be paired with an awesome handler who will stay in touch with you and love your pup as much as you do.”

A MWDTSA volunteer asked a foster dad if he ever had been tempted to keep one of the DoD puppies. He replied, “Each of these dogs saves lives. As much as I love each and every puppy that I get the chance to make a connection with, I would not want to stand in the way of saving lives.”

Lora concurs, “The importance of what these dogs can and will do is the main thing that keeps us coming back to foster. If one of our pups can bring someone’s loved one home safely, that’s worth all the sleepless nights, chewed up furniture, and goodbye tears.”

To learn about adopting a Malinois who “washes out” of the training program, you can reach the Mal-FFunctions Disqualified Military Working Dog Rescue by emailing MalFFunction@gmail.com. They post information about dogs available for adoption on their Facebook page: [@MalFFunctionsRescue](https://www.facebook.com/MalFFunctionsRescue).

Care Packing Event

Twenty-two Michigan volunteers were joined by eleven volunteers from Indiana in packing our 3rd Quarter Care Packages themed: Football. The box focused on football, of course! Fitness, hydration, and football's favorite beverage - beer!

The event was hosted by SunDog Kennel in Traverse City, Michigan. Enjoy these photos of the day.



Approximately 200 boxes were packed and shipped from the shores of Lake Michigan. The care packages were stuffed with goodies for both ends of the leash.



Marco's New Home

Story and photos by Airman 1st Class Stuart Bright

"Marco has done a lot in his time serving in the Air Force," said Maj. Ryan Natalini, 2nd Security Forces Squadron commander. "He has seen a lot and has protected a lot of people."

Handlers have the option to adopt their dogs upon retirement. Senior Airman Travis Hansen, 2nd Security Forces military working dog handler, took the liberty of taking Marco home and made him part of his family.

"My face lights up as soon as I see him," Hansen said. "If I'm having a bad day, he makes it better because he's there for me. It's definitely better having my best friend at my side all the time."

Marco joined the Air Force in August of 2010 and began his training at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas. After becoming fully certified in June of 2011 as a patrol and an explosives detection dog, Marco was assigned to Barksdale AFB.

While serving, he's responded to numerous bomb threats in the Arkansas, Louisiana and Texas area. He's also taken part in 150 public demonstrations, assisted in explosives sweeps for the Independence Bowl, the Air Force Ball and conducted explosive sweeps for the president, vice president, and other heads of state in our government.

In March 2016, Hansen was assigned Marco and they became partners. This was Hansen's first partner, and one that he would never forget.

"From the very moment I met Marco, I knew he was going to be a great partner," Hansen said.



Retired military working dog Marco and Senior Airman Travis Hansen, 2nd Security Forces military working dog handler, pose for a photo at Barksdale Air Force Base, LA., Aug. 24, 2017. Marco and Hansen had been partners for over a year while Marco was on active duty.

"He had an incredible nose and he loved to bite. As time went on, Marco and I built an incredible bond like no other, and I am thankful for him being my very first dog because I will always remember the good times we had together."

Now Marco sits on the couch and gets to relax at home. Instead of sleeping in the kennels, he gets to sleep in a nice comfy bed. He also gets to spend time with Hansen's other dog Charlie and has play time instead of training time.

Marco's New Home continued from page 9

“He’s not working long hours anymore,” Hansen said. “Marco no longer has to use his nose to find explosives and search vehicles. He gets to sit in air conditioning all day and go to sleep on a bed instead of concrete.”

Leisure walks around the neighborhood have replaced sprints and bite drills, and bite wraps have been traded for chew toys. Marco can rest easy now that his service to his nation is over.



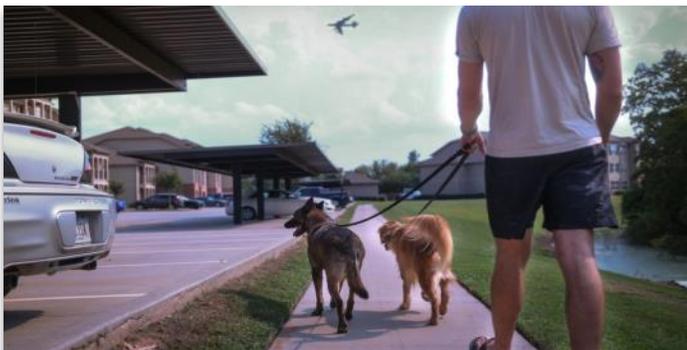
Above: Guests attend military working dog Marco's retirement ceremony at Barksdale Air Force Base, LA, Sept. 8, 2017. Marco served as a military working dog in the U.S. Air Force for more than six years. (U.S. Air Force photo/Airman 1st Class Stuart Bright)



Above: Marco lays on the couch in his new home in Shreveport, LA, Sept. 5, 2017. Marco lives with his former handler Senior Airman Travis Hansen, 2nd Security Forces military working dog handler.



Above: Military working dog Marco is presented a shadow box during his retirement at Barksdale Air Force Base, LA, Sept. 8, 2017. Marco was fully certified as a patrol and an explosives detection dog for the 2nd Security Forces Squadron.



Above: A B-52 Stratofortress flies over during Marco's walk in Shreveport, LA, Sept. 5, 2017. For six years, Marco protected the B-52, Airmen and all other assets on Barksdale Air Force Base and its surrounding area.



Above: Members of the 2nd Security Forces Squadron all rub Marco's belly after his retirement ceremony at Barksdale Air Force Base, LA, Sept. 8, 2017.

Kids turn chores into donations

Story by Shelly Patti

Kids completing chores to earn a weekly allowance isn't a new concept. Neither is the military using dogs as a valuable asset supporting U.S. troops around the world. What is unique, however, is kids earning an allowance and donating a portion to current military dog teams through a new app called BusyKid.

MWDTSA is super excited to join forces with BusyKid, a financial technology company based in Phoenix AZ, which helps kids to easily share their allowance with MWDTSA. The BusyKid app allows kids to finish chores, earn allowance from their parents and invest or donate a portion to charities of their choice.

BusyKid has added the Military Working Dog Team Support Association (MWDTSA) to its list of charity partners so kids and parents using the mobile platform can make weekly or monthly donations to the dogs and their handlers. BusyKid currently has more than a dozen charities available for donations and MWDTSA is proud to be onboard.

BusyKid is an innovative online chore chart application where children can earn, save, share, spend and invest real money wisely. It's easy to use, revolutionary, and enables kids to receive a real allowance from their parents each Friday. No more points or trying to convert imaginary money. Once allowance is earned, kids are able to select MWDTSA as a charity with which to share a portion. The funds donated through the BusyKid app will go directly to the dog teams via our quarterly deployment care packages, base visits, and supplies.

Even though the BusyKid app has just recently hit the market, it is no stranger to helping families. This resource was developed by a father of six looking for a solution to a problem — how to keep track of his kids' chore responsibilities, reward a weekly allowance, and teach them the basic financial principles surrounding earning, saving, sharing and spending money wisely. Out of this necessity,



he invented a series of web-based charts that attracted a multitude of parents, evolved into BusyKid, and can now be used on nearly every mobile device. You can learn more at <http://busykid.com/MWD>

Understanding the importance of hard work, value of money and building positive character traits are core BusyKid beliefs. "We built BusyKid to teach kids valuable lessons about work ethic and the important financial principles", said CEO and Co-Founder Gregg Murset. "Being philanthropic is an important part of that overall financial formula and we hope kids discover the additional values as they grow up. We are extremely proud to be teaming up with MWDTSA to support the men, women and dogs who make up this valuable part of our military."



KONGs for K9s: Where to get your October fix

Store	Location	Toy	Month
Animal Care Associates 304-344-2244	Charleston, West Virginia	KONG Extreme Ball	October
Edwards Air Force Base	California	KONG Extreme Ball & Squeeze Stick	October
New Mexico Dept. of Workforce Solutions, 505-841-8405	Albuquerque, New Mexico	KONG Extreme Ball & Squeeze Stick	October
P.C.'s Pantry 303-245-9909	Boulder, Colorado	KONG Extreme Ball	October
Top Dogs Pet Boutique 770-218-0602	Kennesaw, Georgia	KONG Extreme Ball	October
Top Dogs Pet Boutique 770-641-8620	Roswell, Georgia	KONG Extreme Ball	October

During the month of October, MWDTSA will partner with the fine businesses and organizations listed above to collect KONG toys for our **KONGs for K9s** drive. For each KONG purchased and donated, the KONG company will donate an additional KONG classic toy to MWDTSA. These toys are used on base visits or in care packages. Won't you stop by one of these wonderful partners and donate either a KONG Extreme Ball or Squeeze Stick?

Thanks to our great donors

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:

Amazon Wish List donors
 Pets Naturally customers
 Joann & Pete Asch

Dick Baumer
 Stanton Bost
 Elaine Byrne
 Sushi Cahn
 Mark & Patty Evans
 Staci Freer
 Ralph, Gregory, & Ana Friewald
 Monica & Kevin Hackney
 Keats, Connelly & Associates, LLC
 Phoenix, Arizona

Jane Klegman
 Edie Brown & Steve Lauter
 Meg Mallon & Beth Richards
 Louann Merrill
 Walter Morton
 Francis Murch
 Sharon Oriel
 Shelli Patty
 Ian & Megan Pegan-Naylor
 Nikki Rohrig
 Richard Snyder
 Amanda & Jake Tomlinson
 Pamela Wadsworth
 Jerry and Dixie Whitman
 Tracy Wildenhaus
 Julie Windham
 Simone & Tom Young



Base Visit

802nd Visit by MWDTSA

Story and photos by Nikki Rohrig

Late in July, MWDTSA had the opportunity to visit the 802nd Security Forces kennel at Lackland Air Force Base. We recently supported several of these teams throughout a deployment and we wanted to put faces with names. A lot of our communication with our MWD handlers is virtual and it is always nice to actually meet in person.

Our first stop of the day needed to be the Military Working Dog Teams National Monument to pay our respects to the MWD handlers and MWDs that paved the way for the current generation to thrive. The monument is built upon a granite pedestal that is inscribed with "Guardians Of America's Freedom." There are four bronze dog sculptures to represent the four most common MWD breeds used by the military throughout the history of the MWD program: Doberman Pinscher, German Shepherd, Labrador Retriever and Belgian Malinois. In the middle of the pedestal is a MWD handler. As the sun was rising in the sky that morning, shadows were thrown off of the bronze sculptures and those shadows seemed to give rise to the MWDs who have served in the past.

After a quick stop at the National Monument, it was time to move onto the kennel. First things first: food! MWDTSA brought along donuts, pastries and coffee for the handlers to munch on as we discussed what the daily life is for the kennel. Several handlers were present for breakfast, including SSgt Magaling who received a MWDTSA care package. TSgt Lewis is the Kennel Master for the 802nd and he took us on a quick tour of the kennel, along with SSgt DeLarge. Both of these guys have also received our care packages while deployed. During our walk through the kennel, we met MWDs Ares,



Above: Members of the 802nd kennel pose with some of their MWDTSA gifts. As you can tell from this photo, the Lackland Security Forces Kennel is comprised of a cast of characters. We were so excited to spend part of our Lackland time with this amazing group of military working dog handlers.

Below: MWD PPuritan who recently sired the KK6 litter of DoD puppies whelped in late August.



802nd Visit continued from page 13

Goten, PPuritan, Zusa, Bono and Lizzie. MWD PPuritan is a handsome beast and recently sired a litter of DoD puppies. MWD Luigi was at the vet, much to my disappointment. Luigi is a gorgeous black Malinois and was at the vet for his final check-up...he is now retired and living the good life at home, with a handler that is also stationed at Lackland. We wish Luigi a retirement full of KONGs and belly rubs!

Next up was a demo that included agility and the phases of aggression. For this demo, we walked over to the obedience yard. On the short walk over, we walked past a new kennel transport trailer. These trailers are used to transport several MWDs at one time and they include AC units to keep the dogs cool. Each MWD has its own kennel area and there were 18 kennels in this particular trailer. Lackland has one of the nicest OB yards that I've seen, which includes a covered seating area for a nice break from the Texas heat. Once we arrived at the seating area, the agility demo was performed by SrA Smith and MWD PPuritan. This pair has not been a team for very long and the rest of the kennel was anxious to see if this team had bonded enough to get through basic obedience. The main test was to see if MWD PPuritan would jump over a clear hurdle. Most dogs won't jump over a clear barrier but this was not a problem for MWD PPuritan...he leaped over gracefully and passed the test with flying colors.

The second part of the demo was done by SrA Waddy and MWD Ares. This team walked our volunteers through the phases of aggression, which showed us how a patrol-certified dog will perform when a subject is not cooperating with the authorities. Our lucky decoy for the day was SSgt Magaling. He suited up in the Texas heat, which was well above 90 degrees at this point. Running away from a snapping, barking MWD is pretty hard to do when you're wearing a bulky bite suit that weighs about 20 pounds. As bad guys might do, Magaling refused to cooperate with Waddy's commands and the consequence of his actions was having MWD Ares running toward him and launching onto his arm. Magaling put up a good fight, trying to shake the dog off of his arm until MWD Ares was called

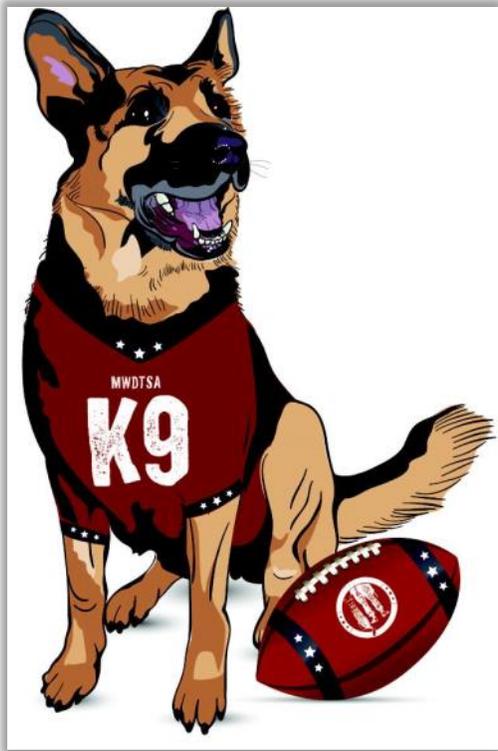


Right: MWD PPuritan easily leaps a hurdle on the Obedience course.

off by SrA Waddy. MWD Ares proudly escorted his "bad guy" off of the obedience course and he received ear scratches for a job well done. A couple of our volunteers were curious to see how much the bite suit weighed and they actually volunteered to put on that stinky, hot jacket. As anticipated, the jacket is extremely bulky, heavy and stinky. They now have an increased appreciation for what our service men and women go through during their official MWD training.

Back inside the kennel, we were able to present our MWDTSA gifts. Each team got a few toys, dog treats, a t-shirt, travel coffee mug and a thermometer. We also brought along a new Keurig machine and Kcups for those early mornings full of kennel care. We couldn't have asked for a better visit. The atmosphere in this kennel is laid back and the entire crew of handlers was an absolute delight to be around. What a fulfilling day for our volunteers! For me, personally, this visit allowed me to meet a couple of handlers in person that I've communicated with for months. We do whatever is in our power to support these teams while deployed and it comes full circle when we are able to meet them in person. All in all, a great day!

MWDTSA's "Special Teams" elect to receive



Thanks to all of the dog teams who sent photos of their great 3rd Quarter Care packages themed: "Football."

Handlers and dogs pose below with the Football Boxes.



Special Teams continued from page 15



Deployed MWDs show us their favorite items, which are always the toys.



Four photos above, left and right: MWD Maya appears eager to play every position on the field as long as it gives her more time with the football.



Handlers, MWDs guard at night



Above Photos: Senior Airman Armand Myers, 332nd Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron military working dog handler, gives commands to Taya, 332nd ESFS MWD, while they guard the base perimeter Aug. 27, 2017, in Southwest Asia. Dubbed guardians of the night, MWDs and their handlers work around the clock to ensure service members are safe and secure, allowing them to complete their mission and generate sorties. (U.S. Air Force photo/Senior Airman Damon Kasberg)

Below Photos: Senior Airman Armand Myers, 332nd Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron military working dog handler, and Taya, 332nd ESFS MWD, watch the base perimeter for any suspicious activity Aug. 11, 2017, in Southwest Asia. Working together, Myers and Taya help ensure service members are safe and secure throughout the night. (U.S. Air Force photo/Senior Airman Damon Kasberg)



Sit. Stay. Support.

MWDTSA
3501 MacCorkle Ave. SE #326,
Charleston, WV 25304
Editors: S. Lunney, D. Whitman

Phone: 470-585-9254
Email: info@mwdtسا.org



MWDTSA 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 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!



We invite you to join the ever-growing MWDTSA family!

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

<http://mwdtسا.org/about/links/>

Parting Shot

Kosovo

Sgt. Bruce Brickleff, Kennel Master and Military Working Dog Handler for the 131st Military Working Dog Detachment, 709th Military Police Battalion, 18th Military Police Brigade out of Grafenwoehr, Germany, gets hoisted up by a Medevac Helicopter with Staff Sgt. Buri, his Military Working Dog, during K9 hoist training August 1, 2017 on Camp Bondsteel, Kosovo. (U.S. Army photo by Staff Sgt. Nicholas Farina)

