



# The Paw Print

The Voice of the Military Working Dog Heritage Museum  
& Handler Center



## Special points of interest:

- It's not too late to support our super "World Beard Day" Fundraiser.
- Be sure to catch the great article by Dr. Richard Vargas.

Volume 2 Issue 9

September 2022

## Puppy Love—The 341st Training Squadron



Above: Puppies from the 341st Training Squadron's Military Working Dog breeding program. The 341st TRS, part of the 37th Training Wing of Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, trains Military Working Dogs for the entire Department of Defense, and its foster program allows community members to socialize puppies before they're ready to begin training. (US Air Force photo by Miriam Thurber)

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The tubful of tiny terrors in the above photo brings life to the 341st Training Squadron's breeding program at Lackland AFB. Known by other nicknames, like baby velociraptors and maligators, the DoD bred these young Malinois puppies to work.

The 341st Training Squadron provides trained working dogs and handlers for the military and other government agencies. They breed, train, and support the pup-

pies from birth to their first assignment.

Work sessions start early in life and include neurostimulation, imprinting, and more to prepare the pups for their next phase of life.

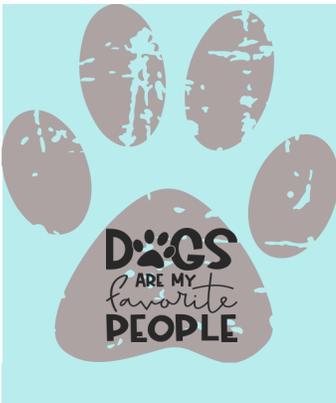
The youngsters begin their home life at six weeks of age with local fosters. These families must create the right environment for nurturing the pups and exposing them to various outside stimuli.

In a supportive home, puppies explore, successfully overcome obstacles, and gain the confidence to become socially adept and ready for further training. At about seven months, the puppies return to the 341st to begin additional training.

For more information on how to foster, call 210-671-3686. For information on adopting a Malinois cut from the program, contact: <http://ourmal.org/> or click [here](#).



President, Albert Johnson



## From the President's Desk

Hello everyone, and welcome to September, a significant month for the United States Air Force. It is their birth month, with a celebration taking place every September 18th since 1947. They share the same birthday as the CIA; the National Security Act of 1947 created them both.

The Air Force morphed into more than flying planes. Most important to our interests is their military working dog program, which surprisingly encompasses all other service branches, from the puppy program to patrol, explosives, narcotics, and special projects dogs. Without the Air Force managing the MWD program, who knows if the program would be anywhere near as effective or standardized?

September 3rd brings us World Beard Day, which to many may seem quite disjointed from what we usually speak of in this periodical. This year is a bit different, though, as the team at MWDHM began looking at fundraising efforts and what we would do to raise funds to preserve some excellent World War II artifacts.

This date struck Miss Dixie Whitman's fancy. Since I have a massive beard that has been taking over my face for eight years, she, along with the merry band of volunteers and board members, made a proposition the organization couldn't lose on.

If the organization can use my beard slaughter as a fundraiser to raise two thousand dollars, I should be a good sport and see what my face looks like under all that fur. Initially, I was not thrilled, but \$2000 will go a long way to preserving these incredible artifacts, so I'm game.

If you care to donate, please go to our website at <https://donorbox.org/mwdhm-fundraising-event> and use the donate button to help us reach our goal so my wife might see my entire face again soon. Or [click here!](#) We're working on a way for all of our donors to enjoy the event, so keep your eyes on our Social Media space.

I want to take a moment to recognize the week of September 4th through the 10th as National Suicide Prevention Week. Having lost several peo-

ple I served with to suicide, this subject is near and dear to my heart. But unfortunately, the stigma that goes with suicidal thoughts and "the be tough bravado" does not allow struggling individuals to reach out and get the help they need.

We must bring awareness, break the stigma, and reach out to those we think might be struggling because, at the end of the day, those words you share might be the difference in whether that person is here tomorrow.

In this issue, you will also learn about one of the museum's incredible supporters, Mr. Dave Broeker. David Adams gives you a glimpse inside Dave Broeker's remarkable life devoted to the dog program. From the start of his dog career in his 20s to today. He remains a beacon of knowledge to all who may pick his brain. Thank you for all you do, Dave Broeker; we are forever grateful.

Come by and see us in Kokomo, Sept. 12th-18th.

Until next month,

K9 Leads the Way!

*Albert Johnson*

## David Broeker—A Dog Man Always On Point

by David Adams

Four days shy of his 20th birthday, not old enough to vote and too young to buy a beer in most states, Dave Broeker first set foot on the tarmac of his assigned combat support base in the Vietnam War's theater of operations. A1C (E-3) Dave Broeker took pride in being a part of the K9 team. Like any Air Force dog handler, he saw it as a unique unit that happened to connect organizationally to the Air Force's Security Police. His orders instructed him to report immediately to the 635th Security Police Squadron's K9 Section at U-Tapao Royal Thai Naval Air Base, Thailand. He had completed 12 months of K9 On-the-Job-Training at Westover AFB, MA. He was now ready and looking forward to meeting his new partner and putting his training to work where security threats were real.

He was, however, about to learn that the Air Force held a different view of a dog handler's "organizational connection." To the Air Force, dog handlers are Security Police trained to work with MWDs if the base happens to have MWDs and an open dog to handle. Upon reporting to the 635th SP HQ on June 26, 1967, he heard, "Dogs? We don't have any dogs. We don't even have kennels to put them in if we had

them." His anticipation and excitement of being teamed with a dog took a cold-water dousing. Instead, he took an assignment to flight line security.

The nine months following his arrival were pure hell waiting for the inevitable to happen. He got sick of writing in his daily diary, "K9 teams and dogs have still not arrived". He said, "I hated the whole stinkin' idea of being sent over to 'God Knows Where,' and then having to wait for 'God Knows How Long' to connect up with the K9 Unit that I was so excited to be a part of."

Dave's daily journaling helped him keep his sanity while the encouragement of supervising TSgt. Ben Cox guided Dave to be the best he could be during the frustrating months of impatiently waiting for the K9 teams to arrive.

Shortly after returning from a leave, his TSgt received orders to report to the base Civil Engineer to assist in constructing temporary kennels for the K9 unit scheduled to arrive in 30-days. With great delight, A1C Broeker was relieved of flight line security and joined in building the temporary kennel to receive the first arriving K9 Teams.



Above: A1C David Broeker posed with his partner, Ara 9M72, at U-Tapao Royal Thai Naval Air Base, Thailand in 1968.

Photo courtesy of : David Broeker

Finally, Dave was able to make the journal entry he had been waiting to write: "March 25: 'Today we processed in 15 troops who had arrived at 2300 hours on March 24.'"

Kennel Master TSgt Tom Swartz, arriving with the initial 15 handlers and 20 dogs, designated A1C Broeker the 635th SPS Kennel Clerk. Dave's organizational skills were critical to getting the new K9 section off on a sound footing. His natural passion for helping others made the new handlers' transition much easier. Dave briefed them on Thai customs, calculating money exchange, and

essential Thai words. He also captured photos of the newly arriving handlers and their assigned dogs—a practice that he continued as teams rotated in and out.

The five additional dogs that arrived with the 15 handlers were designated breeding stock as a gift to the King of Thailand to start the Royal Thai Military Working Dog Kennels.

Dave finally felt complete when he grasped the lead of Ara 9M72, one of the female dogs designated to be the beginning of the Royal Thai K9 program. He fondly remembers her as a playful dog and quick to

obey hand and verbal commands. She knew the difference between training and playtime. "It was always a pleasure to play with her because this was a time when I could forget about the stress and the tremendous heat and the loneliness for my family," he recalls.

With its 11,500-foot runway to support B-52 bomber and KC-135 tanker missions, U-Tapao was one of Southeast Asia's largest combat support air bases during the Vietnam War. Its size required a significant K9 presence to secure the perimeter. From the arrival of the first K9 teams on March 24, 1968, to its return to Thai control on June 13, 1976, 463 handlers, including Thai Guards, teamed with 114 dogs to protect the base, vital assets, and personnel. Of those, A1C Dave Broeker was the first handler to put boots on the ground. While his time with the dogs at U-Tapao was short due to delays in getting resources in place, he was a key in building the foundation of an outstanding K9 unit.

Any historian will tell you the most valuable information is from original sources. Air Force handlers who had served in Thailand were trying to build a database of handlers and dogs before losing their history to

time. Many of Dave's photographs with names of handlers and dogs, along with his journals, comprised resources that are so hard to find. Dave's journals and photos became vital. As the Thai dog handlers tracked down others, those men helped contact even more handlers. The Air Force's K9 teams secured their history in Thailand during the war in Southeast Asia.

With websites becoming one of the most valuable resources for organizations, Dave accepted the responsibility for creating and maintaining the website for the Vietnam Dog Handlers Association (VDHA) during the organization's 2001 reunion in St. Louis. Dave undertook the challenge and serves in that capacity to this day. He also created the Thailand Dog Handlers and Nemo's Heroes War Dog Memorial websites in tandem with the VDHA website. In 2010 Dave Broeker added the VDHA BX store, a significant source of income and developing camaraderie, to his workload.

In recognition of his tireless efforts, VDHA awarded Dave Broeker its highest honor, the Warrior's Medal of Valor, at its 2013 reunion in Las Vegas. The medal was created in 2002 by Vietnam veteran and Native American Marshall Tall Eagle Serna of Woodburn, OR.



David Broeker, above, receiving the Warrior's Medal of Valor at the 2013 VDHA Reunion in Las Vegas. The medal, presented by Ernie Childers, is one of Dave's most cherished awards. Sadly, Ernie passed away August 2020.

Photo courtesy of : David Broeker

The medal is awarded for actions of valor in Southeast Asia that went unrecognized by the military. It also recognizes outstanding service to the VDHA, exceptional and consistent or ongoing service to or for deployed troops or veterans, and exceptional and consistent or ongoing service to or for Military Working Dogs past or present.

The websites Dave Broeker created are vaults of information that have preserved so much invaluable MWD history in Southeast Asia during the Vietnam War. It

is information that will be vital to helping build the Southeast Asia story for the Military Working Dog Heritage Museum.

Dave Broeker is a true Dog Man, Always On Point.



Warrior's Medal of Valor.

## The Recovery Corner

by Sara Gregrow

Living creates scars. Sometimes, these scars impact more than our corporeal body; they assault our hearts and infiltrate our minds. Happily, living also creates powerful bonds and enduring friendships. One blessing of serving in the Military Working Dog community is that it allows us to develop many genuine life-long friendships, some by happenstance, some by choice.

Military service is a remarkable lifetime achievement, but one unfortunate commonality we share, along with these scars and friendships, is suicide. It affects us all, although our responses vary.

Military Working Dog Heritage Museum and Handler Center encourages our readers to evaluate their mental health on an

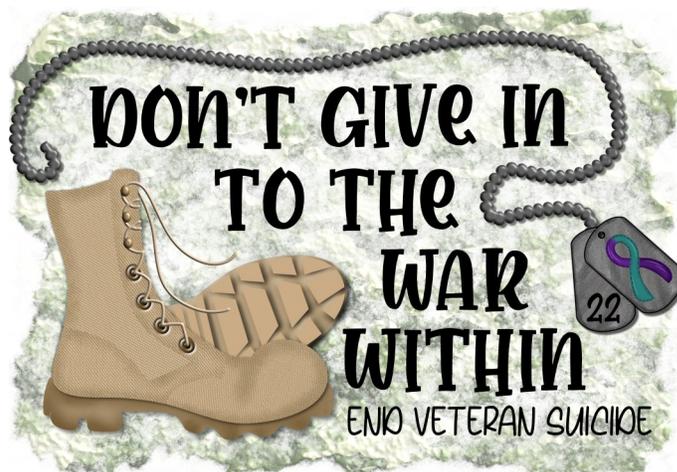
ongoing basis, just as they would their physical well-being. As our writer, David Adams, noted in the July issue, "PTSD is a wound that sinks its dark tentacles into both handler and dog. It robs the veteran's post-service life of peace and joy and injures families and loved ones, as well."

We want you to know that military members are not alone when battling demons and that healing is possible. We can win the silent battles we fight and defeat this enemy.

If you are grappling with feelings of helplessness or hopelessness, we urge you to take immediate action.

Information from the VA -

If you're a Veteran in crisis or concerned about one, connect with caring, qualified Veterans Crisis Line



responders for confidential help. Many of them are Veterans themselves. This service is private, free, and available 24/7.

To connect with a Veterans Crisis Line responder anytime, day or night:

- Call 800-273-8255, then select 1.
- Start a confidential chat. Text 838255.
- If you have hearing loss, call TTY: 800-799-4889.

You can also:

- Call 911.
- Go to the nearest emergency room.
- Go directly to your nearest VA Medical Center.
- It doesn't matter what your discharge status is or if you're enrolled in VA health care. Find your nearest VA Medical Center.

## Self-Check

The Veterans Self-Check Quiz is a service for:

- US Veterans
- Active duty military service members
- Members of the National Guard and Reserves
- Family members of someone in one of these groups.

Find the quiz on the Vet Self-Check Website:

<https://www.vetselfcheck.org/disclaimer.cfm>

Need Immediate Help? Talk with someone.

Call a Chat Responder at 1-800-273-TALK (8255) and Press 1.

Check on yourself.

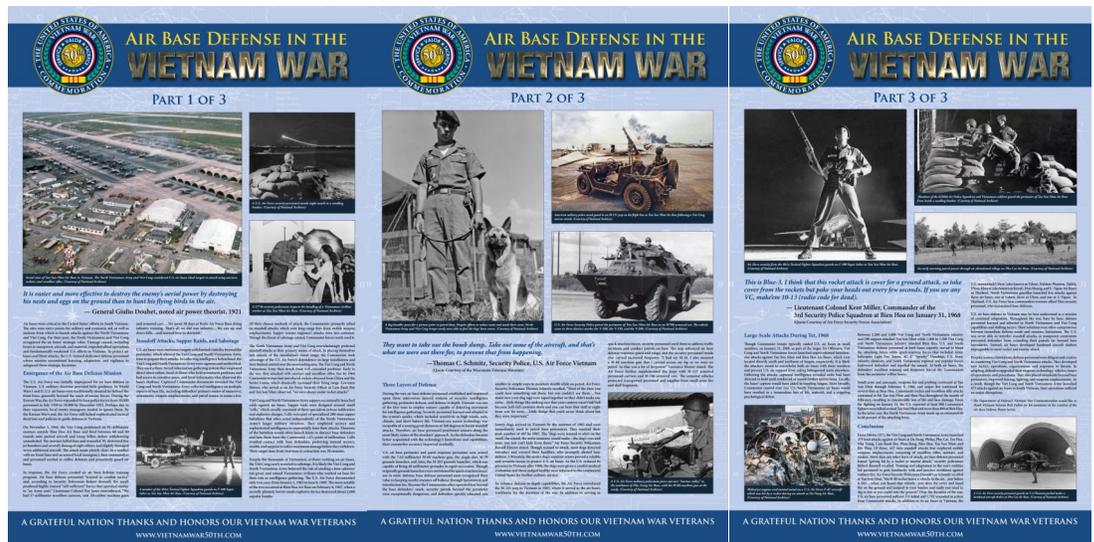
Check on your buddies.

## Poster: Air Base Defense In The Vietnam War

Created by Rick Fulton

“On November 1, 1964, the Viet Cong positioned six 81-millimeter mortars outside Bien Hoa Air Base and fired between 60 and 80 rounds onto parked aircraft and troop billets before withdrawing unmolested. The mortars killed four and wounded 30, destroyed five jet bombers, severely damaged eight others, and slightly damaged seven additional aircraft. The attack made plainly clear: in a conflict with no front lines and an armed local insurgency, base commanders and personnel needed to stiffen defenses and proactively guard air bases.”

Quote Source: [Vietnamwar50th.com](http://Vietnamwar50th.com)



The Vietnam War 50th Anniversary Poster created by Rick Fulton features photos with dog teams on panels 2 & 3, as part of the base defense mission. This poster and others were created and are available for educational purposes at: [https://www.vietnamwar50th.com/history\\_and\\_legacy/posters/](https://www.vietnamwar50th.com/history_and_legacy/posters/)

## Preston Gibson: An American in France

by Dixie Whitman with a photo from the Eric Queen Collection

During WWI, mud became a constant companion. It varied only in its depth in the cesspits the Soldiers inhabited. Everyone in the trench line prayed fervently for no rain so their feet would remain relatively dry. Their daily invocations only worked when the high-pressure fronts moved through northeast France, but it never hurt to put in a good word.

After dark, units would wiggle out of their ditches onto the battlefield. Even the crickets' sound would fall quiet as men took the field. The two Spartan

sides, the Allies and the Central Powers, pitted together in a relentless, stalemated conflict. A stain of death and disease was left on battlefield to move mere inches.

Late into the night, after the fighting ceased, Red Cross Ambulance men, like American Preston Gibson and their Mercy Dogs, would search the fields for the injured and dead.

From a socially connected, wealthy Louisiana family, Preston Gibson earned a reputation after the war as a gadabout, philanderer, and playwright of uneven

success. However, he volunteered early to serve alongside the French Army Ambulances during WWI, earning the Croix-de-Guerre for bravery. He later enlisted in the US Marine Corps and set records for his recruiting successes.

A complex man of both personal strengths and foibles, Preston Gibson, posed with his Red Cross dog. Today we honor him, his partner, and all American handlers who answered the call before their time.



Preston Gibson and partner photographed in France, WWI. Original from the Eric Queen Collection.

Source: Preston Gibson papers, 1903-1920.

[http://www.columbia.edu/cu/lweb/archival/collections/ldpd\\_4078805/](http://www.columbia.edu/cu/lweb/archival/collections/ldpd_4078805/)

[Listen to the end of WWI.](#)

## Leading the Way

by Dr. Richard A. Vargas

The United States Army Military Working Dog Program has grown since its inception almost eighty years ago, in 1943, when the Dogs for Defense program was created. Since its inception under the Quartermaster Corps, the Army has expanded canine capability and utilization across the globe. From WWII to current operations in the Global War on Terror and supporting the war in Ukraine, dogs have been inclusive as force multipliers, fully interoperable, supporting deployed maneuver units, providing installation law enforcement, and providing dignitary protection for the President, Vice President and Secretary of State.

Today the Army program currently resides with a force structure of approximately 500 Patrol Explosive Detection Dogs (PEDD's), Patrol Narcotics Detection Dogs (PNDD's), and an off leash capability, the Patrol Explosive Detection Dog – Enhanced. This new “Off leash” capability provides the mobility for a canine to search and map an area “off leash” approximately 75 meters from their handler. The importance of an off leash MWD to exploit the battlefield was driven by Army MWD Teams' lessons learned from their experiences in the War on Terrorism.

The war on terrorism also led the Army to critical advances in the integration of Military Working dogs as Army force enablers. First, the Army realized stabilized MWD command and control was needed to provide canine continuity through a dedicated MWD organizational structure. The Army Military Police School worked diligently with the Army's canine subject matter experts to develop the Military Working Detachments. Task organized as Large, Medium, and Small their framework that provides multiple capability MWD squads under an established basis of allocation the primary Army maneuver unit, the Brigade Combat Team (BCT).

Simultaneously the Army recognized the gap of Military Police MWD handlers' longevity based on their rank, limiting their time in the program. Army personnel regulations prior to 2014 for Military Police designated Handlers with an additional skill identifier, this added their qualification as a MWD team handler, but their career management remained on the track for a traditional Military Police NCO. Basically restricted an army MP to approximately 6 years of MWD team service. Entering the program as an E4/Specialist and then having to depart the program based on promotion to Staff

Sergeant/E6. MWD Continuity and experience were dramatically impacted, with a core of professional handlers required to return to traditional NCO leadership roles in MP units, refuse promotion or leave the Army.

The Army MWD enterprise realized the need to provide long range continuity and professionalism. To do so, Army MP senior leaders with input from the field realized that the importance to develop a military occupational specialty (MOS), providing a career path for the Army MWD enterprise. The MOS would allow recruits to enlist directly into the MWD program. The creation of 31K professionals now provides a steady state of MWD teams to meet the needs of not only the Army but the ability to support global joint operations. 31K provides continuity and a career ladder from the rank of E1 private to E9 Sergeant Major. Experience retained, always ready, always prepared. HOOAH!

But as the world situation evolves, what will the Army MWD program need to be prepared to meet future contingency and domestic engagements? The field of battle is always changing. The Department of Defense has always been restricted from executing civil law enforcement operations unless Marshal Law is dic-

tated by the President. The military executes its mission under title 10 of the United States Code (Military Operations Supporting the Constitution against our foreign enemies). But the recent pandemic changed that playing field. For the first time Active Army and US Army Reserve medical units were mobilized to provide direct medical support to the civilian population. The national priority..... the health and welfare of our citizens were the national command authority priority.

But what about MWD and MP utilization? MWDs by law are already engaged in supporting law enforcement tasked to support National Security Special Events and dignitary protection for POTUS, VPOTUS SECSTATE travel. While currently restricted under the Posse Comitatus act of 1878, the pandemic, the terrorist attacks on 911, and possible natural disasters of epic proportions.....how will the Army be utilized in the future? Is it time for a revision of Posse Comitatus? The pandemic has opened that door. The pandemic has demonstrated how quickly civilian communities became overwhelmed with COVID. The military had the capability, state of the art equipment and became part of the national COVID mitigation strategy. The question isn't if we should be prepared to be employed

domestically; the question is how and when.

How has the Army projected MWD for other possible uses? Medical detection dogs are currently being used in the detection of; Diabetes, Cancer, PTSD. Now through a partnership with the Penn Vet, Dr. Cindy Otto, and US Army Development Command Army researchers; Dr. Michele Maughan and Ms. Jenna Gadberry conclusively confirmed that dogs can detect trace amounts of COVID. How will this capability be exploited? How and who will adopt the responsibility for medical detection dogs? How will and which Army agency will assume inclusion into canine policy? How will the medical (COVID) dog be added to the Army MWD inventory? Who will develop certification standards? How will the capability be funded?

As we look at the success of this medical canine detection capability, we need to take a look how it will be utilized. Will we have COVID or medical detection dogs on patrol with maneuver units to detect this threat so soldiers can take immediate action to don protective equipment or, upon detection, be directed to avoid and cordon off the area? COVID is a biological threat, one that hit home. But can COVID be utilized as part of chemical-biological weap-

ons? The military has not seen chemical-biological warfare since World War 1. During the global war on terrorism, the military was able to dodge that bullet, as our adversaries chose not to use this lethal weapon. But as we've seen, a medical threat can be just as deadly and easily introduced to render our military forces ineffective.

For the MWD program in the DoD and first responders this is a unified challenge to implement strategies, execute research and development, and project canine equipment necessary to provide protection from exposure. We need to train our handlers to effect MWD hasty decontamination. We train troops to decontaminate, but we do not train handlers to execute decontamination protocols for dogs. A joint effort that needs to be a priority of effort with the both the Military and Civilian Medical Community. But right now Army teams face an immediate threat from a chemical weapon that is flooding our nation, fentanyl. We're not exempt or sequestered from exposure because we operate on an Army installation. This is an immediate threat that the Army needs to not only be aware of, but ensuring that we have the preserve our MWD teams. In this continued war on drugs, will military drug dogs be

called upon to fill the gaps in an overwhelmed law enforcement community. A threat that is a national security issue. How will this be integrated as strategically and operationally? Future operations will be dependent on that solution.

The Army MWD program is a multi-national, cross-dimensional, unified global community. The Army MWD program continues to lead the way, furthering partnerships across the globe. The Army team continues to lead the way. The USAREUR MWD Program Manager continues to build relationships with NATO and the European Union canine communities. Ft Carson's MWD detachment joint training exercise with law enforcement solidified domestic partnerships. USARPAC is engaged with subject matter expert engagements with Thailand, and the framework for partnerships for engagements with New Zealand and Australia is in the planning stages. Program leadership is essential to meeting not only the needs of the Army, but the requirements that will be thrust on Army MWD teams as they support global joint operations and law enforcement. The Army MWD Symposium set the stage for the continuance of professional development to prepare, educate and train handlers, trainers, Kennel Masters, MACOM Program Managers, and Office of the

Provost Marshal Senior Leaders. The Symposium recharged the canine batteries and set the stage for the Army's canine mission of today and future MWD supporting overseas contingencies and domestic operations.

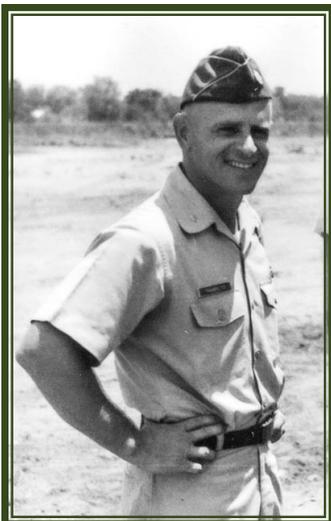
The Army has never failed to accomplish its mission. But to meet the demands of what may lie ahead, the program will have to continue to evolve. Research and Development with academia and canine stakeholders. Identifying global mission employment with the Combatant Commands, maintaining canine intelligence to identify and mitigate the next generation of threats. How will the Army execute these demanding tasks.....with dedicated young men and women and their 4 legged warriors. With the devotion and mentorship of superior Non Commissioned providing mentorship and leading from the front.

*Yes, the mission and challenges will be difficult, but the Army MWD program has demonstrated its resilience to adapt and overcome for 80 years, carry on and accomplish the mission.*

*"In Canine Confiduris"*

## Major Frank Fraunfelter, DVM – Base Veterinarian

by Tom Lucha



Above: Dr. Frank Fraunfelter in Thailand.

Photo courtesy of : Tom Lucha

### Korat RTAF Base, Thailand

While seated on the rear bench of our posting deuce and a half, with Lex-Loci (Lex) muzzled up and firmly secured between my legs, I had time to consider our assigned post for the night. I had never previously pulled security in this odd location, a mowed area buffering the Korat runway from the taxiway. Most dog posts stretched along the base or bomb storage perimeters, surrounded by heavy jungle except for the Agent Orange-controlled area along the fence line. The aircraft parked nearby were the command-and-control EC-121s, not the F4s or F105s that rattle the

night with their take-offs and landings.

Once the truck dropped us off, I checked the wind direction, and we began clearing our position for the start of our night. During this process, Lex was distracted by something in the grass. A snake bit him before I could react. The snake, later identified as a bamboo pit viper, didn't stand a chance against an angry handler and the heel of a combat boot.

Following protocol, I informed Central Security Control (CSC) of the bite and requested a pick-up ASAP. I laid Lex down and kept him calm. We were quickly picked up and taken to the kennels, where to my relief, we found Doctor Frank Fraunfelter, the base vet, waiting for us. He informed me that he had brought the anti-venom with him and that I should place Lex on the treatment table. At this point, I first noted Lex acting out of sorts. Dr. Frank administered the shot of anti-venom, and we began our monitoring. A short while later, Lex began to act aggressively toward both Dr. Frank and me.

I was shocked because Lex-Loci had never tried to bite me before. I muzzled him up, and Dr. Frank monitored his breathing and heart. Lex's breath became shallow, and he was very calm. Dr. Frank had me remove the muzzle to assist with his respiration.

Suddenly Lex stopped breathing; Dr. Frank said, "You're not going to die on us!" and commenced closed heart massage. He instructed me to keep Lex's mouth clear of any vomit or blockage by his tongue. A short while later, we noted Lex began breathing on his own again. Within minutes, Lex died a second time. Dr. Frank started closed heart massage again while instructing me how to take over the procedure. He had me continue the massage process so he could monitor Lex's heart. At some point, the anti-venom took hold, and Lex recovered his breathing. My face lit up, but only for a few seconds until I fainted on the floor. Dr. Frank brought me around with smelling salts and a big smile.

We had been lucky in several ways: Lex and I were in an area relatively close

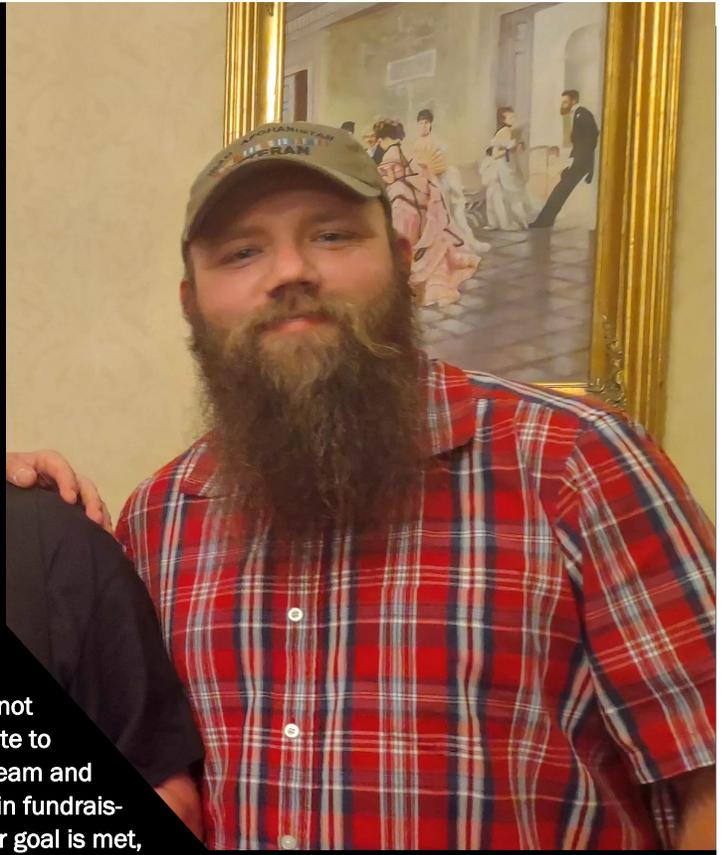
to the kennel. We determined from the snake's size that it seemed young and perhaps struck without an adult dose of venom. And lastly, Major Frank Fraunfelter DVM, a skilled and dedicated veterinarian, fought relentlessly for his patient, Lex.

Later during the hours that we monitored Lex's condition, I learned a great deal about Dr. Frank's time at The Ohio State University. Besides earning his degree in Veterinary Medicine in 1960, he had been a four-time All-American in Springboard Diving, winning the NCAA championship in 1956.

After his time in the Air Force, Dr. Frank returned to Canton, Ohio, and established the Hillcrest Veterinary Hospital, where he practiced veterinary medicine for 25 years. Sadly, Frank Fraunfelter passed away on February 5, 2018, at 83, but memories of his skill and dedication to our K9s remain.



## Support the Museum—Join In On the Fun and Let's Shear the Beard!



It's not too late to join the team and put the fun in fundraising. Once our goal is met, we'll schedule a Facebook Live so everyone can watch (celebrate or mourn) the beard coming off.



## When Art and Science Unite

by Dixie Whitman

The successful breeding of dogs requires vision and fact: art and science. And, a lot of luck. It's not a simple matter of boy meets girl. Excellent breeding requires meticulous selection and brutal honesty.

Currently, the 341st Training Squadron based at Lackland oversees the military's breeding and training programs. Still, it isn't the first military unit to look at creating an improved pool of K9 genetics able to take on the rigors of military training.

An early breeding program based out of Edgewood Arsenal, Maryland, began producing German shepherd dogs in the late 1960s, attempting to improve the quality of K9s heading into Vietnam.

The German shepherd dog's purpose, serving as a living fence to move and keep his flock of sheep safe, requires a specific structure and presence of mind. A GSD's angles must allow his shoulder effortless reach while his hindquarters must provide powerful thrust and follow through. Commonly called the flying trot, the German shepherd dog's gait allows the breed to maintain a fluid, smooth movement all day long.

As the breeding program began, Col. Castleberry, the program manager, sought the most excellent bitches

he could find: intelligent, structurally sound, possessing confident temperaments, and with easy trainability.

In an interview, LTC (Ret.) William Pfeiffer identified Bodo vom Lierberg as one of the stud dogs that stamped greatness on his progeny in the program. Bodo's importance on the GSD breed and the Super Dog program would be difficult to overstate.

In Germany, Bodo achieved the title of Sieger at the national show in 1967. Before emigrating to the US, Bodo took home additional top show titles in Holland and Belgium. In the US, he quickly became a favorite on the dog show circuit. His progeny's successes gave him a Register of Merit Sire title.

His SchIII and FH titles proved his talents in obedience, protection work, and complex tracking. The KKL1 (KoerKlasse1) stamped him with a coveted German approval for breeding. The French show dog title CACIB, an abbreviation for a long, luxurious award, translates to Certificate of Aptitude for International Champion of Beauty. He possessed all the right stuff.

Army kennels that received some specifically bred K9s, like Fort Benning, confirmed that the Super Dogs proved more trainable, less easily



**The impact of German Sieger Bodo v. Lierberg ROM SchIII, FH, KKL1, CACIB on the American military breeding program in the late 1960s and early 1970s proved powerful. He stamped his puppies with fortitude and function.**



**Above: Bodo v. Lierberg ROM SchIII, FH, KKL1, CACIB The titles prove his work ethic, talent, and structure are sound.**

stressed, and more readily transitioned to jungle climates than dogs procured through other means.

Article based on an interview 8-16-2021 with LTC (Ret.) William Pfeiffer, USA, who participated in and documented many of the results during the Superdog Program at Edgewood Arsenal.

German Shepherd Dog Club of America GSDCA.org



*Military Working Dog  
Heritage Museum &  
Handler Center*  
P.O. Box 54  
Newport, TN 37822  
Phone: 865-507-8903

From the Team at MWDHM...  
We invite you to join the museum's journey  
by signing up for a free *Paw Print* subscription.  
Email: info@mwdhm.org

**Military Working Dog Heritage:  
Always on Point**

We're on the Web: mwdhm.org  
We're on Facebook:  
Military Working Dog Heritage Museum



- Recycle, please.
- Share your story.
- Share your vision.
- Share your voice.
- Share your copy of our newsletter.

## Important dates with Trooper and Scout

**September 12-18, 2022**—Volunteers will be at the Howard County ALL Veterans Reunion, 8313 E. 400 S. Greentown, Indiana. We'll have great items for you to purchase and a peek at some of our fantastic artifacts.

**November 2022 War Dog March Knoxville, TN. Date: TBD.**

**March 13, 2023**— Dedication of the Coast Guard K9 Memorial— Coast Guard Base Alameda, California. Open to the public. For more information, click [here](#)

**July 17, 2023 - 25<sup>th</sup>  
Anniversary Dedication  
of the War Dog Memorial  
at the University of  
Tennessee in Knoxville.**



## Historic Pooch Pic of the Month



**US Air Force AIRMAN 1ST Class Shawn Conerly gave the thumbs up as he and his partner, a German Shepherd, began the scouting event at the Department of Defense Worldwide Military Working Dog Competition at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas, April 25-26, 1998. In the scouting event, dog teams searched for a suspect hidden in an open area. The pair were from Little Rock Air Force Base, Arkansas.**

**Source: National Archives**