



# The Paw Print

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



## Upcoming Events:

August 26–29, 2024  
HITS K9 Training  
Seminar Hyatt Regency  
New Orleans, LA

September 15-22, 2024  
Howard County Veterans  
Reunion, Kokomo, IN

September 26-29, 2024  
The Smoky Mountains  
Cluster Dog Shows,  
Knoxville, TN

Volume 4 Issue 8

August 2024

## A Look At Coast Guard MSST K9 Through Photos



Coast Guard Petty Officer 1st Class Jordan Brosowski and his canine partner Ricky, assigned to Maritime Safety and Security Team 91105 based in Alameda, Calif., demonstrate some of the protective equipment worn by canines when conducting vertical deliveries from helicopters.  
U.S. Coast Guard photo by Petty Officer 1st class Matthew S. Masaschi

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Today's Coast Guard K9s serve as force multipliers on MSST (Maritime Security and Safety Teams) in Coast Guard Districts nationwide. Their missions include maritime law enforcement, maritime response, maritime prevention, marine transportation system management, maritime security operations, and defense operations. Anti-terrorism remains a top priority.

The Coast Guard maintains districts across the US perimeter, on all seven continents, and the world's oceans. In this issue, we will take a photographic journey around the country with Coastie K9.

These images show an agile, expert military organization providing the finest services in Maritime Safety, Homeland Security, National Defense, and Environmental Protection.

The Coast Guard K9 teams strive to serve the American public in all they do. They remain dedicated to their mission and are comprised of inspirational leaders who live and maintain their core values of honor, respect, and devotion to duty.

Join us inside for a look at those Coast Guard teams.

*Semper Paratus!*

## From the President's Desk



President, Albert Johnson



Hello readers.

I hope you are all having a great summer. I want to start by wishing the US Coast Guard a happy 234th birthday.

Captain A. W. Ashbrook. One of the Navy's Commanding officers during WWII stated in a tribute to the USCG:

"The United States Coast Guard worked side by side with the Navy in World War I, and they are doing the same in World War II. During peacetime, they are looked up to by all seafaring people, especially those of the Merchant Marine."

"They are probably the best seamen afloat. They respond to distress calls, putting to sea in all kinds of weather. 'Tis often said that when seamen seek the shelter of ports from storms, the Coast Guard puts to sea."

A fact that I find interesting is that the US Coast Guard falls under the Department of Homeland Security in times of peace but transfers to the Department of the Navy during war.

We found a fantastic video from WWII outlining

Coast Guard K9 training. Here's the link if you'd like to take a look: [WWII Coast Guard K9](#). (Language warning for sensitive readers. Time and circumstances have changed.)

In this edition of the newsletter, we are sharing some information, including overall numbers and locations regarding Sentry dogs serving in Vietnam and Thailand. If you have additional information related to this data, please email us at [info@mwdhm.org](mailto:info@mwdhm.org). Please keep in mind that these two pieces represent slight differences in numbers.

While August is another busy month for us here at Military Working Dog Heritage Museum, we want to encourage any handlers interested in being interviewed by our interview committee to reach out and schedule a time. It is so important to the legacy of the military working dog program that we try to interview as many handlers as possible to get a broader view of the program and the daily lives of our military working dog teams.

Unfortunately, tomorrow is never promised to us, and we lose many handlers and their incredible histories every year. Please consider interviewing for prosperity's sake.

At the end of the month, we look forward to setting up a booth at the annual HITS K9 training seminar. This promises to be a great event surrounded by law enforcement K9 teams from around the nation.

We are deeply grateful for your support, which has allowed us to spend a lot of time redesigning our mobile display to be more immersive, less cluttered, and easier to enjoy. We guarantee that these steps will improve our ability to educate the public. If you wish to donate towards our efforts, please either visit the Donate Page on our website at [mwdhm.org](http://mwdhm.org) or send a check directly to us at MWDHM PO Box 54, Newport, TN 37821. Your support is needed and appreciated.

**K9 Leads the Way!**

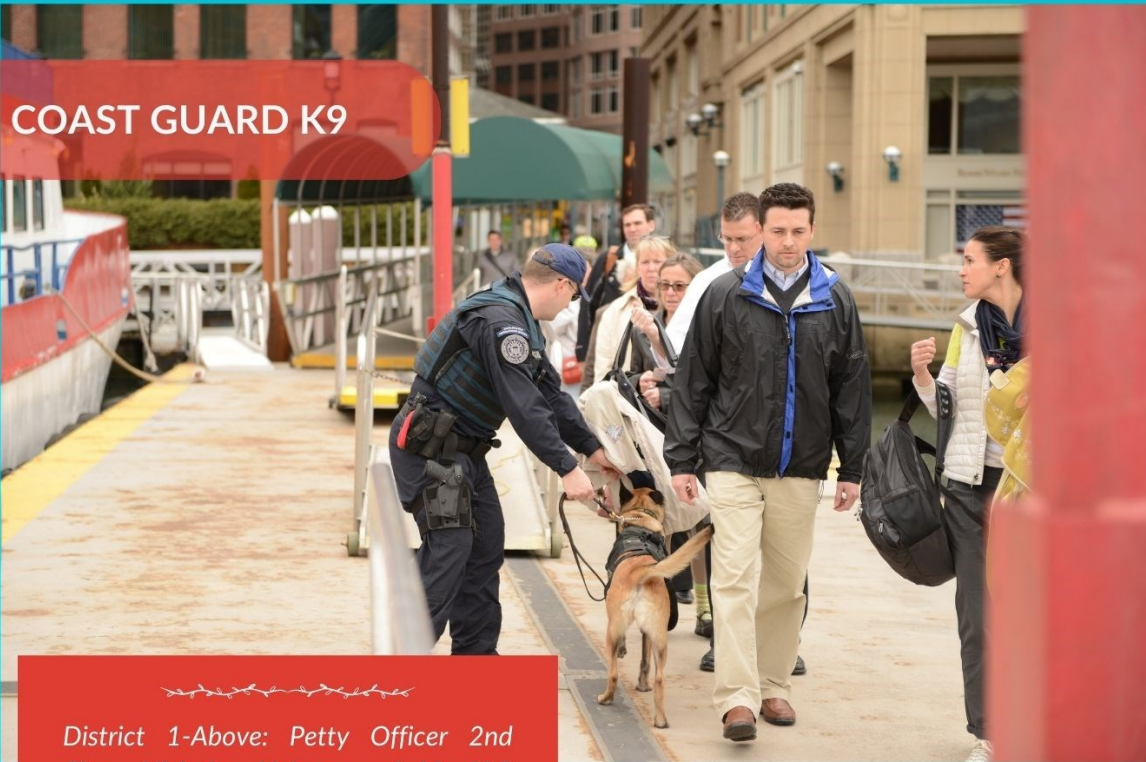
*Albert Johnson*

**If you know a Veteran in Crisis, the VA Veteran's Crisis Line is: Dial 988, Then Press 1.**



# A Photographic Tour with the Coast Guard

Photos by DoD Photographers, Noted with Photos



## COAST GUARD K9

*District 1-Above: Petty Officer 2nd Class Nicholas Heinen and his K-9 Camilla, from Maritime Safety and Security Team 91106, in New York, scan passenger's bags prior to boarding the ferry in Boston, April 16, 2013. The MSST is providing additional screening and security in Boston Harbor. (U.S. Coast Guard photo by Petty Officer 2nd Class Rob Simpson.)*



*District 11 - Above: Coast Guard Petty Officer 1st Class Cory Sumner and his canine partner Feco, based in Alameda, Calif., prepare to conduct a vertical delivery and hoisting exercise. (U.S. Coast Guard photo by Petty Officer 1st Class Matthew S. Masaschi.)*



*District 17- Above: Canine Ricky and his handler Petty Officer 1st Class Jordan Brosowsky, conducts a sweep of the Alaska Marine Highway System ferry terminal parking lot in Juneau, Alaska. (U.S. Coast Guard photo illustration by Lt. Brian Dykens.)*



**SEMPER PARATUS**

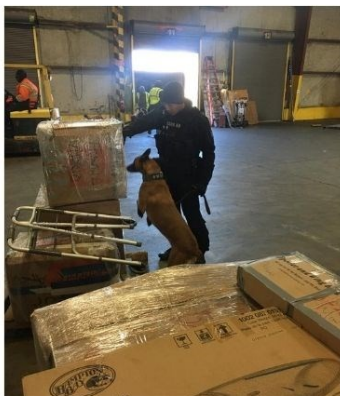


**DISTRICT 13**

**MSST K9**

**NIKI**

Left: Coast Guard canine "Niki," an explosives detection canine is lowered from the second deck of a ferry using ropes and rigging techniques. (Coast Guard photo by PO3rd Class Michael Clark.)



**• District 5**

Coast Guard Maritime Safety and Security Team New York and K9 Ruthie inspect goods in the Port of Philadelphia. (U.S. Coast Guard photo courtesy of Coast Guard Sector Delaware Bay.)



**• District 11**

Petty Officer 1st Class Mike Boyle, a canine handler from Marine Safety and Security Team Los Angeles, and his explosives sniffing dog Dusty are lowered to the deck of the Coast Guard Cutter Petrel. (U.S. Coast Guard photo/PA3 Henry G. Dunphy.)



**• District 13**

Petty Officer 1st Class Billy Porter and his partner, Crema, conduct a search of the motor vessel Ironwood during a maritime response exercise on the Columbia River. (Official Coast Guard photo by Petty Officer 1st Class Zac Crawford.)



## From A Lonely, Windswept Island—A WWII Dispatch (Reprint)

by Coast Guard Public Relations

At an Advanced Base in the South Pacific. — On lonely, windswept islands of the South Pacific, well-trained fighting teams —each consisting of a Coast Guardsman and a combat dog—are safeguarding vital American military installations.

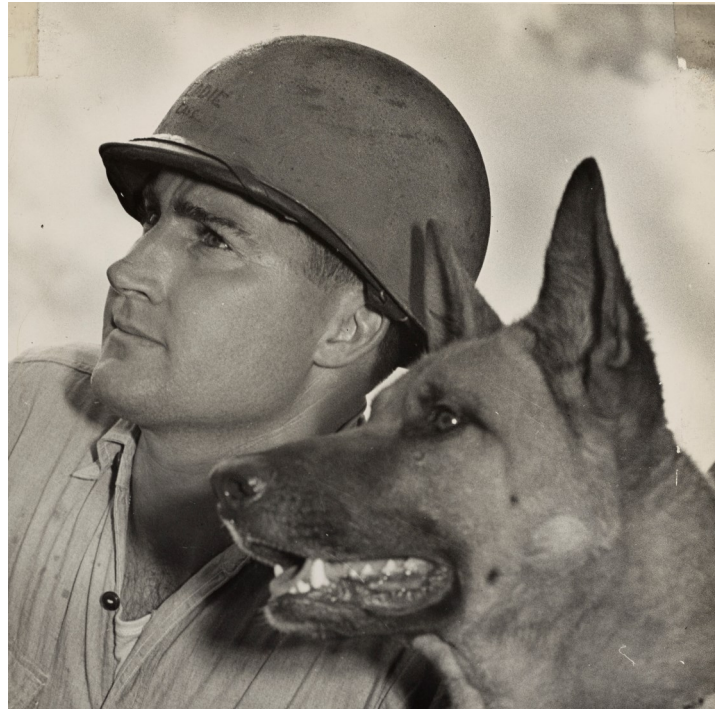
As Yankee liberation forces wrest island after island from the Japanese, the US Coast Guard steps up its shipments of four-footed fighters overseas to perform duties as sentries and scouts at newly acquired strategic bases. At present, these canine warriors, with their skilled Coast Guard handlers, are serving at most of the key points along the lengthening island-road across the Pacific.

Donated for the duration by their civilian owners, Coast Guard fighting dogs step from the comparatively sequestered life of household

pets to undergo a training stint as thorough as that given the average soldier.

For month on month of expert instruction, they learn to attack an enemy, to scout, to trail, to stand sentry watches, and to be ever loyal to their individual handlers, obeying instantly his faintest sign. As a sentry, the Coast Guard fighting dog has been declared the equivalent of six or seven men because of his keen senses of smelling and hearing.

Recently, six teams of Coast Guardsmen and their war dogs reached this particularly important advance base aboard a Coast Guard Combat Cutter, which crossed the equator 44 times during the past two war years. The dogs were sleek, powerful German shepherds, the “pick of the crop” trained to razor edge for their duty.



**Teammates—A Coast Guardsman and His Dog.** This is a portrait of a fighting team, a Coast Guardsman and a German Shepherd Combat Dog. There were many of these teams on duty during the war. Early in 1942, when enemy subs roved within yelling distance of the nation's shoreline, they pounded lonely stretches of sand night and day, always alert for landings by enemy agents. Later, as the war moved away from our shores, they were sent to remote Pacific islands to safeguard vital military installations against sabotage.

Credit: Coast Guard and National Archives.

## Meet Us At The HITS K9 Training Seminar



Military Working Dog Heritage Museum is honored to participate in the HITS K9 Training Seminar on August 26-29 at the Hyatt Regency, New Orleans, Louisiana.

This will be our first HITS event, and our team is looking forward to bringing some dynamite history exhibits, sharing our store items, and meeting the attendees. We'll also

have a donation raffle and challenge coins available.

We'll be conveniently located at Booth #336. If you are attending, please stop by, meet some of our team members, and say hello! We would love to learn a bit about you, too.

For More: Click [HERE](#).

<https://www.hitsk9.net/>

# The Strength of Air Force Sentry Dogs in Thailand - Total Dogs Serving

AF Bases	# Total Dogs Serving
Korat	104
Nakhon Phanom	106
Takhli	85
Ubon	108
Udon	96
U-Tapao	114



The numbers on this chart represent the total number of dogs who served at these locations.

Source: Vietnam Security Police Association, K-9 Section, Base Index:

<https://vspa.com/k9/index.htm>

Via David Adams

If you have additional information to augment, correct, or clarify any of this information, please send us an email at [info@mwdhm.org](mailto:info@mwdhm.org). We appreciate your generosity in helping us create the complete picture of K9s in Thailand and Vietnam.

“Due to its proximity to Thailand, Vietnam's conflicts were closely monitored by Bangkok. Thai involvement did not become official until the total involvement of the United States in support of South Vietnam in 1963. The Thai government then allowed the United States Air Force in Thailand to use its air and naval bases.”

Source: Wikipedia

With America's firepower on the line, the base perimeters here were guarded with the same diligence and K9 Sentry Dog Teams. Don Muang K9 served to check outgoing service members to ensure no drugs or other banned items were on their way back to the US. The Drug Detection dogs used at Don Muang were rotated in and out under Temporary Duty.

David Adams

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## The Peak of Sentry Dogs in Vietnam - The Most Dogs Serving At Any One Time



## A Step Back In Time

Let me introduce you to one of our early female Defenders, Paula (Dondeville) Baviacqua. In 1972, while attending Memphis State University, the AFROTC program opened to women. Paula signed up as the fourth female to join this program. Unfortunately, when her stepfather had a heart attack, she decided she needed to leave school and start working, so she joined the Air Force.

Her family has a history of serving our country; her father, stepfather, father-in-law, stepbrother, and several uncles served in various US military branches. Also, her Aunt Ruth proudly served in the US Marine Corps. Paula would continue the tradition when she served for the next 22 years.

In December 1973, she completed basic training and started in crypto maintenance school at Lackland Air Force Base to learn the art of data encryption maintenance. She discovered her hearing could detect higher frequencies, causing constant, high-pitched noise and headaches whenever she was near the cryptographic equipment. She asked to drop out of that school. The Air Force offered her three alternative career fields: cook, law enforcement, and secretarial. She had always admired first responders, so she chose law enforcement.

While completing the law enforcement tech school at Lackland Air Force Base, she

and her classmates enjoyed a Military Working Dog demonstration. Working with dogs intrigued her, so she tried out for K9 and succeeded. As a component of this tryout, she carried two five-gallon MSD buckets, loaded with 50 pounds of rocks each, to simulate lifting and transporting a wounded dog.

Shortly after entering the basic MWD course, her instructor took her aside. With his finger pointing towards her chest, he told her, "I'm gonna get you out of my career field! You cannot do my job." Later, after she completed the course, he apologized for his comments.

Luckily, Paula has witnessed many changes in the MWD career field. In 2010, canine handlers who had been stationed at Ramstein Airbase in Germany in the 1980s had a reunion in San Antonio, Texas. The Military Working Dog School invited the whole group from Ramstein to a demonstration where the trainers showed old and new techniques used in training America's K9. It proved to be a very informative and enlightening presentation.

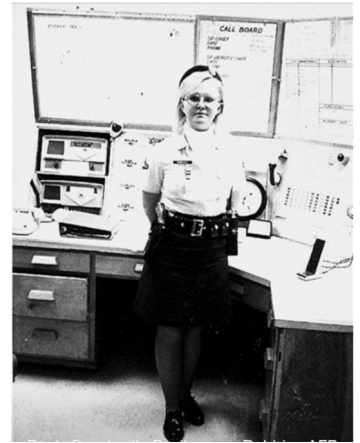
As Robins AFB's first female Law Enforcement specialist, she realized she received the keys to a squad vehicle only three days after her assignment while two male classmates were still riding with senior patrolmen. When she questioned her

supervisor, he said the other cops' wives didn't want their husbands riding with her!

Not only did Paula deal with the concerns of her male peers and their skeptical wives, but she also came face-to-face with a confused public. Having turned on lights and sirens to stop a car exceeding the speed limit on base, Paula approached the vehicle. She couldn't help but notice the attractive female driver checking herself in the rear-view mirror. After a quick preening to make herself presentable to the cop walking up to the car, the horrified driver wailed, "You can't issue me a ticket. You aren't a policeMAN." Blinking in disbelief, Paula handed her the ticket and told her to have a great day. Robins was definitely eye-opening!

At Paula's next assignment, Clark AFB in the Philippines, she picked up her first dog, King. As an old Sentry dog, she worked him for about six months. When he was retired for medical reasons, she picked up a small 60-pound blonde GSDLab named "Pig." He loved to work and proved to be a brilliant demo dog! Unfortunately, while at Clark, doctors discovered Paula had malignant melanoma. After surgery, she returned to the States, where she met a physical evaluation board and was temporarily retired (TDRL).

by Dixie Whitman



**Paula Dondeville Baviacqua served as the first female law enforcement officer on Robins Air Force Base.**

After 4 1/2 years of fighting and beating cancer, she returned to duty at Edwards Air Force Base. She picked up Bullet, who had a fabulous work ethic and would've been a wonderful partner. Still, the curse of hip dysplasia caused him problems and eventually landed him also on the euthanasia list. While at Edwards, Paula met and married her husband, Richard Bevilacqua, another dog handler.

Their next orders took them to Ramstein airbase several months after the anti-American Red Army Faction blew up the US Air Forces in Europe headquarters building. On August 31, 1981, two bombs placed under cars in the headquarters' parking lot detonated early in the morning, shattering the peace and injuring 15 people. All law enforcement and K9 teams worked 12-hour shifts on high alert with no days off. K9 fre-



quently received calls to investigate suspicious packages and patrol all base fence lines.

At Ramstein, Paula partnered first with Sabre, a thin, muscular three-year-old. What a smart dog! Then, in 1984, she returned to Lackland TDY to take the narcotics detector course. On her return to Ramstein, she picked up her next dog, Tuffy.

Also, a three-year-old, Tuffy, loved working narcotics and possessed an incredible nose. One of the incidents she vividly remembers concerns her new flight Chief. After riding with him for several hours, she had to exit the car and do her K9 building checks. No sooner had she started these than when she ran into two large groups of individuals at the NCO club screaming and yelling at each other.

She put her dog on a short leash and stepped into the middle of the fray. Turns out a large group of country and western fans came to the club on the wrong night. She immediately called for backup over the radio several times. But no backup arrived.

After requesting four times, she heard a radio response: "It's OK, I'm here. I'm in the car across the street, watching." Later, after a heated discussion with her new flight Chief, she discovered he wanted to see how she would handle herself.

This action took the query on female handlers over the

top. The two groups involved were large and volatile, putting not only Paula in danger, but those around her increasingly aggressive dog at risk of being bitten. She put this question to her Flight Chief, "Would you have failed to respond to a male colleague asking for backup?"

Paula's husband, Richard, was also assigned at Ramstein with an explosive detector dog. On March 23, 1983, a truck bomb driven by a suicide bomber killed 241 American Marines, Sailors, and Soldiers at the Marine Barracks in Lebanon. Moments later, a second explosion killed 58 of the French paratroopers housed in Beirut, Lebanon. They were there as part of a multinational peacekeeping force. The Islamic Jihad claimed responsibility. Richard, Dan Allen, and Wes Ross, all Staff Sergeants and K9 handlers from Ramstein, were part of the first explosive detection dogs on-scene in Beirut. Rich would return to Lebanon on a second deployment to provide additional security for our forces.

Rich and Paula still maintain many friendships from all over the world, both regular law enforcement and K9. One of their friends, Dale Warke, worked Ground Zero after 9-11. His dog Miranda eventually died from complications from working on 'The Pile.'



**Paula and Pig 61M8 in 1976. Photo taken at Clark AFB in 1976 in the Philippines just a couple of weeks before receiving her cancer diagnosis.**

Upon retirement, Rich and Paula moved back to the Tampa area. An old supervisor from MacDill called; after chatting with Paula for several minutes, he asked if she planned on returning to work. He told her to bring in her résumé. That led Paula to work at the Police Academy at the Hillsborough Community College (HCC) for the next 18 years. She eventually became the program manager for advanced and specialized law enforcement training for officers already on the road. Through the years, HCC has offered a wide variety of continuing education courses, including several canine-oriented classes as requested by local agencies.

Paula and her husband have retired from the Air Force and their subsequent

civilian careers. They have attended several reunions for various bases, including Ramstein and Andrews Air Force Base. They have also hosted three reunions for members of the 56th Security Police Squadron from MacDill Air Force Base. Paula's memories are varied and exciting. She's deescalated budding fights, handed out traffic tickets as a woMAN, and synchronized her dog's obedience as part of several demo teams. As one of the first women serving in a position previously reserved for men, she helped smooth the way for those who followed into the K9 career field. Paula never realized what an interesting and challenging career she would have had when she joined the Air Force, but we're glad she did!

## What's On In The Dayroom?

By Curtis Hendel

When I arrived in South Korea in February 1986, I was less than ten months removed from Adrian High School in Adrian, Minnesota, a town of 1,200. In a short time, I went from being a high school senior who wanted to be a cop and a dog handler to handling a patrol dog and defending the base perimeter. From the time I went to basic and tech schools to the fence line, it was just over six months.

A few of us had come straight out of school. We worked alongside many handlers who had already done a few years stateside before coming to Osan. Culture shock set in for me, especially when the training NCO briefed us on the realistic threats from north of the DMZ and how they thought the attack would happen. At one point, I asked about the evacuation orders as it seemed there was an evac aircraft for everyone except for Red Horse and Security Police. He answered, "There is no evac aircraft for us. We need to get everyone else out and head south from there. That is if you are still alive by that point."

'So, this is the front line of the Cold War, you say?' We certainly didn't live with that black cloud over

our heads. We were K9; for starters, nobody was getting through us, so there was no real threat. We had confidence and faith in our abilities and our dogs. We were good.

Being at a remote base did include other challenges and shocks to the system. I remember when I was in my second summer at Osan, new handlers would come in. They would talk about things I knew absolutely nothing about. One was Alf. "What the hell is an Alf?" I asked.

"Ha, ha, ha, you know, Alien Life Form! It's a show with a puppet. It's funny!"

I doubted a puppet could be so funny. What exactly was going on back in the good old US of A? Puppets were taking over, and I was in South Korea, unable to defend my entertainment back home.

But there was much better entertainment in the dayroom and the base theater. The second biggest one for us was Rocky IV. It came to the base in early '86. We did a Rocky marathon, watching the first three on VHS before going to the base theater to watch Rocky battle the Russian!

*"I must crush you!"*



**NAVAL STATION ROTA, Spain (May 27, 2022) - Community members pose for photo with the Top Gun: Maverick movie poster during the Top Gun: Maverick movie premiere event at Naval Station Rota drive-in theater, May 27, 2022. The event included paper airplane challenge, bouncy house, photo spot, Toro Cup awards presentation, and a flyover before the movie started.**

(U.S. Navy photo by Courtney Pollock)

As I remember, we young, hard-charging American K9 warriors were a bit impaired by the time we went to the theater, and we would need to see the fourth one again soon, but Rocky beating the Soviet was epic!

I wouldn't label that movie political propaganda like some could. I would describe it as a story of the underdog beating the giant. It just so happened that the underdog was Rocky, and the monster was a massive Russian. It was not powerful enough to brainwash anybody, but it was a great shot of national pride.

There was another movie at the time, released in May 1986 and started playing on the Armed Forces Korea Network a year later. We watched that movie in the dayroom many times with the same raucous cheers every time OUR pilot won against theirs. That movie was the original Top Gun. Top Gun would become the movie of our time in South Korea. It was American exceptionalism in the air and a show of force, and we were a part of it. It was why our enemies would stay at bay and not seriously threaten us on the peninsula. We were a part of



the deterrent and the balance of peace in the world.

And we were proud of that.

About a month ago, Top Gun was running on a Saturday afternoon, and I stopped to watch it. I have seen the new one, but the original brought me back to the dayroom

in the barracks at Osan. The power of the F-14s and the Kawasaki Ninja 900 screamed 1986! The movie epitomized the days of my youth: 19 years old, 10 feet tall, and bulletproof.

What were the movies of other generations? Was there anything during the Vietnam War, on-screen

or in song, that motivated those in uniform? My generation was in between major wars, except for Gulf War I. For those fighting in the War on Terror, you cover a whole generation, and I wonder what your "go-to" movie would be.

If you watched a movie overseas that greatly im-

pacted you, we would love to hear from you. Pop culture and its effects on Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, and Marines can be powerful tools of motivation or degradation.

We would love to know what your memories bring to you.

## Dogs, Coast Guardsmen Arrive For Sentry Duty

Reprinted from the Powder Keg, Vol. 1 No. XIII, Dec. 10, 1943



Seventeen of the 19 sentry dogs newly arrived on the US Naval Ammunition Depot are shown here with their Coast Guard Masters. The 25 Coast Guardsmen and the K9 sentries were on general patrol on the depot.

US Naval Ammunition Depot, Hastings, Nebraska. DoD photo.

Nineteen huge, ferocious sentry dogs, members of the Army K-9 Corps, and the 25 Coast Guardsmen, their keepers, arrived at the (US Naval Ammunition) Depot this week for sentry duty in the area.

The dogs, most of them German or Belgian shepherds, Labrador, collie, or Doberman, are specially

trained for patrol duty. At the command of his master, any one of the 100-pound beasts will attack a marauder or suspicious-looking person.

For eight weeks, the Coast Guardsmen have been with the dogs at Fort Robinson, Nebr. The first two weeks, they spent in detail near the dogs, and the

next six weeks, they were in training with them. Each dog is friendly only to his particular master.

The barracks and kennels are in the old Glenwood schoolhouse, district 56, and about 25 miles from the administrative area.

Although the dogs are hostile and fierce, their

names are not particularly pugnacious. There are three Brownies and two Princes among them, and Honey, Happy, Tex, Bessie, Solo, Vee, Bonnie, Jiggs, Pedro, Boy, King and Buddy.

Each dog eats a pound of horsemeat a day and his regular quota of dog biscuits.



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From the Team at MWDHM...  
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## Artifacts of the Month



Our artifact for this month is the small book called Fighting War Dogs of WWII, featuring this USCG dog team guarding the coast lines during WWII. This image is on the back cover. The book, published in 1944, was championed by the US Sales Company.

## Historic Pooch Pic of the Month



“Jack,” a Coast Guard War Dog, receives the tenderest care in the Sick Bay of a Coast Guard Dog Reception and Training Center somewhere in the Central Pacific.

While his trainer, Coast Guardsman Michael Planchak (left), Dog Specialist Third Class, holds him and keeps him reassured, Capt. Frank Conley, USA Veterinary Surgeon, treats his foreleg injured in rigorous training.

Under Coast Guardsman Planchak's tutelage, “Jack” has been taught to attack, scout, and trail, to stand sentry watch, and to guard Prisoners of War. He is ready for Patrol Duty on a former Japanese-held isle in the South Pacific.

Source: National Archives