

VIETNAM
1965-1966



PHOTO JOURNAL Part-I

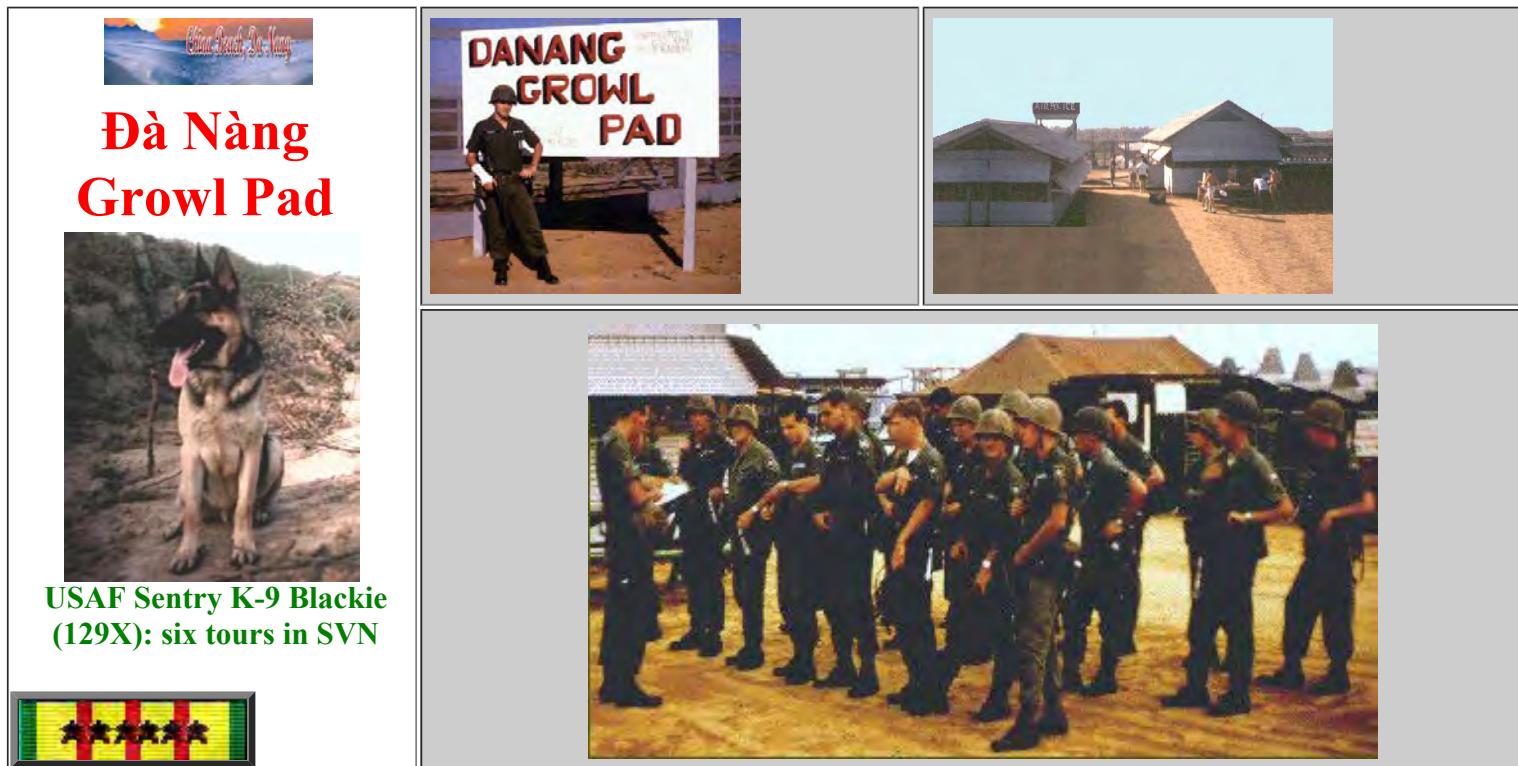
Đà Nẵng K-9 Kennels * Growl Pad * AP K-9 BBQ, * Training * Firing Range

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23rd ABG/AP; 6252nd APS; 35th APS; 366th APS/SPS,
APO for Đà Nẵng Air Base was APO San Francisco, 96337



1. Đà Nẵng, K-9 Growl Pad: Another incredible sunset, in a war-zone. Đà Nẵng Growl Pad, USAF K-9 Sentry Dog Kennels. Kennels are to the northwest (left), and also rear of the K-9 Office and Air Police Water Tank. 1965-1966. Photos and Composites by Don Poss, K-9 Sentry Dog, Blackie 129X.



Đà Nẵng Growl Pad



USAF Sentry K-9 Blackie
(129X): six tours in SVN



Đà Nẵng Growl Pad 1965-1966!

(c) 2013 Don Poss, K-9 Blackie 129X

23rd ABG/AP; 6252 Air Police Squadron, 35th APS, 366th APS/SPS

In 1965, under LTC Arthur G. Phillips Jr., construction began for a dog kennels to house fifty-plus USAF Sentry Dogs at Đà Nẵng Air Base, 6252 Air Police Squadron; the first military working dogs to arrive in Vietnam. The squadron would grow from less than 100 Air Police, to over 1100, and change names four times. LTC Arthur G. Phillips Jr., CO, 6252nd APS, 35th APS, acquired an office-building for the Đà Nẵng Growl Pad's Command and Security Control offices. Some very irate marine officers sniffed around the kennels compound scratching their chins and heads while eying the newly painted structure, which seemingly resembled one missing from their facility.

"Someone absconded with an entire screened-structure? Those thieving ARVN bastards... and after all that you brave marines have done for their country! *That building?* ... No, no... we've had *that building* forever... surely you don't think that one fine day a whole building just appeared? Wet paint? You know, if it moves, salute it, if it doesn't, paint it—gotta keep the troops busy."

It's true that *paint covers a lot of sin*, and the marines--always on the short-end of the Navy's stick--suffered an acute shortage of steaks, prime-ribs, and kegs of beer, which LTC Arthur G. Phillips Jr. happened to have in abundance, and willingly shared with our brave comrade perimeter-marines at more than one infamous morale-enhancing events.

A week later—*according to the marines*—"What! Them thieving ARVN bastards must'a stole you fly-boys eight-foot square forty-foot long ship's metal container full'a liquid morale-enhancement from the Growl Pad? "Ah... You mean, *that container*... ?"

Marines at Đà Nẵng were a great bunch of guys to serve with . . . *and borrow from.*

Another day at Đà Nẵng Air Base, South Vietnam.



2. above. & 3. right.

Dà Nẵng, K-9 Growl Pad: K-9 BBQ! 1965-1966.

4. below. Đà Nẵng, K-9 Growl Pad: 35th APS/ 366th SPS CO, LTC Arthur G. Phillips Jr., Captain Owens, and SMSgt Fontes were invited to a Growl Pad BBQ. 1965-1966.





5. *above.*
Đà Nẵng, K-9
Growl Pad: Tom Baker
(RIP-AO 2007) (right)
using K-bar to slice steaks.
1965-1966.



6. *left.*
Đà Nẵng, K-9 Growl Pad:
LTC Arthur G. Phillips
Jr., eating steak with a
K-bar. 1965-1966.



7. Đà Nẵng, K-9 Growl Pad: Don Poss, stuffing his face. What? *You wanna hug or something?* 1965-1966.

8. Đà Nẵng, K-9 Growl Pad: L/R: TSgt Rice, LTC Arthur G. Phillips Jr. (...*I love red meat!*), SMSgt Fontes enjoy BBQ. 1965-1966.

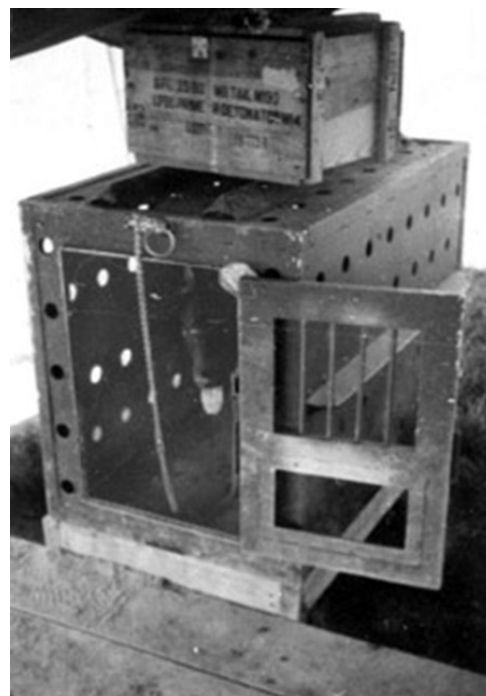
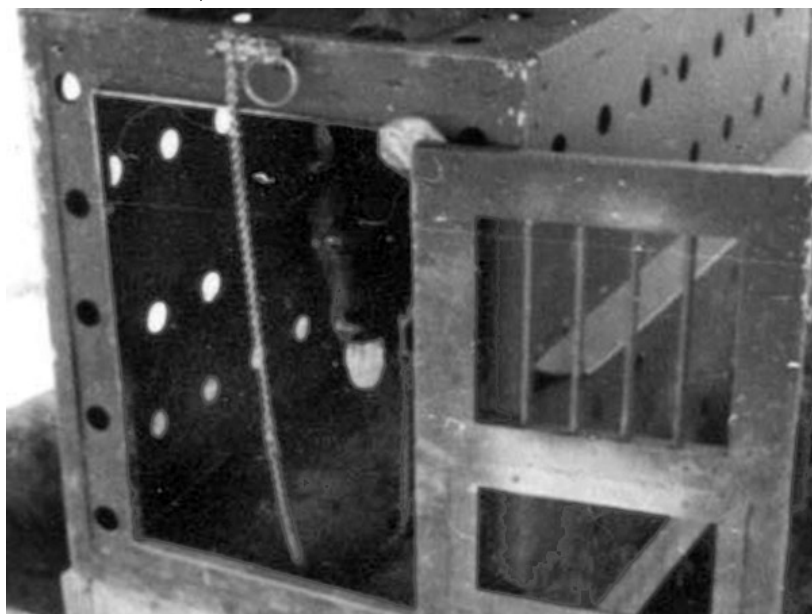




9. Đà Nẵng, K-9 Growl Pad: Gary Eberbach (left) (RIP-AO, 2017). 1965-1966.



10. Đà Nẵng, K-9 Growl Pad: K-9 Training. R/L: Gary Eberbach, Hemmingway, -- , Hickey, Gallager, -- . 1965-1966.



11. *above & right.* **Đà Nẵng, K-9 Growl Pad:** Original transport carriers, used to house the newly arrived K-9 MWDs. Interim Kennels were hastily assembled 12-men tents, pending construction of a permanent Kennels. 1965-1966.

12. *center-right.*
Đà Nẵng, K-9 Growl Pad:
Training continued daily.
1965-1966.



13. *below.*
Đà Nẵng, K-9 Growl Pad:
Training is over and handlers are shown putting dogs away for chow. 1965-1966.. 1965-1966



14. right. Đà Nẵng, K-9 Growl Pad:
Gary Eberbach enjoys a little petting-time with Bucky A748. 1965-1966.

15. below. Đà Nẵng, K-9 Growl Pad Kennels:
Blackie, 129X wondering what I'm up to with a camera. Notice the fine-mesh screening—
Blackie loves finger-food. Don Poss. 1965-1966.





16. *Top Photo.* Đà Nẵng, K-9 Growl Pad: A2C Gallagher.

17. *above-center.* Đà Nẵng, K-9 Growl Pad: A2C Raymond Hickey, and A2C Calvert (coming up over his shoulder). 1965-1966.

18. *right.* Đà Nẵng, K-9 Growl Pad: Blackie 129X, patiently teaching A2C Don Poss how to Heel, with words of comfort such as, 'You Know I can Kill you at any time—Right?'



19. Đà Nẵng, K-9 Growl Pad: Attack-agitation (practice biting someone) Don Poss and Blackie 129X. 1965-1966. Monkey Mountain in the background.

20. Đà Nẵng, K-9 Growl Pad: Don Poss choking-Out Blackie to release his bite (600 lbs. per square inch). 1965-1966.





21. Đà Nẵng, K-9 Growl Pad: Training arena. 1965-1966.

22. Đà Nẵng, K-9 Growl Pad: Gary Eberbach (left), Hemminway. 1965-1966.





23. above. Đà Nẵng, K-9 Growl Pad:
Inside walkway. 1965-1966.

24. right. Đà Nẵng, K-9 Growl Pad: .
1965-1966.

25. below. Đà Nẵng, K-9 Growl Pad:
Watch! 1965-1966.





26. above. Đà Nẵng, K-9 Growl Pad: Kennels Training Area. Gary Eberbach and Bucky in the lead. A1C Don Jones (center-left) "barking" orders. 1965-1966.



27. left. & 28. below. Đà Nẵng, K-9 Growl Pad: A2C Calvert. 1965-1966.



29. Đà Nẵng, K-9 Growl Pad: A2C Gary Knutson (RIP-AO 2018) pretending not to be telling Eric to watch the guy with the camera—*maybe we can get close enough to scare the crap out of him—heh-heh.* 1965-1966.

30. right. Đà Nẵng, K-9 Growl Pad: Gary Eberbach (RIP-AO 2017), wondering how long Bucky will make him stand there (*maybe he'll give me a treat or something ...?*). 1965-1966.





31. left. Đà Nẵng, K-9 Growl Pad: Airmen arrive at Kennels for transport to *Freedom Hill 327* and Firing Range. 1965-1966.

32. below-center. Đà Nẵng, K-9 Growl Pad: A sergeant decided to find out if anyone remembered how to march. They actually did! 1965-1966.

33. bottom-row-left. & 34. bottom-right. Đà Nẵng, K-9 Growl Pad: En route to Firing Range, babysans waving. Girls no wave--*but big smile!* 1965-1966.





35. Đà Nẵng, K-9 Growl Pad: Airmen arriving at Firing Range. 1965-1966

36. & 37. Đà Nẵng, K-9 Growl Pad: M16s fire at low targets. 1965-1966.





38. Đà Nẵng, K-9 Growl Pad: Don Poss, waiting his turn at range. 1965-1966.



39. Đà Nẵng, K-9 Growl Pad: Marines Firing on 100 yards targets. 1965-1966.