

War Dogs! Memorial

March Field Museum

What the memorial means to War Dog Handlers



War Dogs Memorial- As a former USAF K-9 handler (Đà Nẵng, Blackie, 1965-1966), I believe March Field Museum is the perfect location for the towering and first War Dogs monument. A prime location, both poetic and highly appropriate for honoring War Dogs and their partners. At sunset, the monument silhouettes against amber California skies while quietly overlooking the green manicured lawns of our nation's largest veterans cemetery where over 114,000 are at final rest. The War Dog and Handler symbolically watches over the park-like cemetery... while performing a *last patrol* on the outer perimeter around the giant Air Base, formerly known as March Air Force Base.

My K-9, Blackie (photo left), was a beautiful German Shepherd as you can see. Air Force Sentry dogs generally performed base perimeter security, in addition to bomb dumps and areas of critical access control. They were not, by training, friendly to anyone but their handlers. In fact, they hated everyone and everything, including other dogs. But toward their handler, all the love, friendship, and loyalty dogs are noted for was freely given. Blackie was everything I could have ever wanted in a dog. And I am not alone in that opinion, as the below email will show.



Blackie, X129, USAF Air/Security Police K-9 handlers:

1965-: **Al Watts** (brought Blackie to Đà Nẵng), 6252nd APS;

1965-1966: **Don Poss** , 6252nd APS (Redesignated) 366th APS,

1966-1967: **Hoagland** , 366th APS (Redesignated) 366th SPS,

1967-1968: **Gregory Dunlop**, 366th SPS;

1968-Nov: **Monty Moore** , 366th SPS;

1969-1970: **Clarence Dedecker III**, 366th SPS; 377th SPS Tân Sơn Nhứt

1970, Sep 9th, Blackie was put down at age eight due to an illness.

Blackie's Handlers

Al Watts - Đà Nẵng 1965

Blackie's first handler, Al Watts, was with the 1st sentry dog unit at Đà Nẵng in 1965. He came over with **TOPDOG45** in 1965. I was selected from the squadron when most of the org left and came back? Al helped build the first USAF kennels at Đà Nẵng AB, and had to give up his dog, Blackie. I remember Al well, and thank him for giving me Blackie, and training me to handle him. Al and I met after he read an article I posted with VDHA. We are both members of VSPA and VDHA.

Don Poss - Dananag 1965-1966

Blackie's second Đà Nẵng Handler. Don has written stories of Blackie:

Home At Last
A Tear from Blackie
Blackie, A Rainy Day
Đà Nẵng Growl Pad
B-57

We Take Care of Our Own

[Click to Report BROKEN LINKS or Photos, or Comment](#)

