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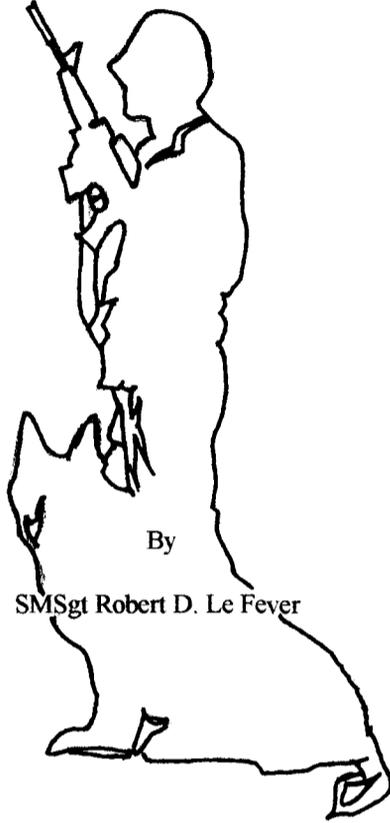
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Unsung Devoted Teams

Security Police Military Working Dog Team



By

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BACKGROUND PAPER
ON
THE
UNSUNG DEVOTED TEAM-MILITARY WORKING DOG TEAM

1. The United States Air Force has a devoted, battle-tested, and proven team dedicated to each of it's members, the Security Police Military Working Dogs (MWD). The MWD handler and his/her dog are an unbeatable combination as history has documented through the centuries. Did you know the ancient Romans used dogs in warfare? My hope is to inform and educate all Air Force members of the pride and example these enlisted troops set for us blue suit warriors. We will first cover their proud history and accomplishments from World War II to the Southeast Asia war. Next we will look at present operations the MWD teams support day to day. We will then review the different high visibility distinguished missions that dog teams support and then highlight their positive representation as salespersons for the Air Force. All functional areas in the Air Force have a history, but how many have a history that combines the accomplishments of a person and an animal?

2. The MWD teams carried over through history when the Air Force separated from the United States Army in September, 1947. They performed tracking, scouting, and sentry duties assigned to infantry and military police units. The Air Force Air Police (AP) used their capabilities for tracking and sentry duties mainly posted on distant support sentry posts on bases where possible avenues of approach could be utilized by possible terrorists or saboteurs. Usually, these installations were either very large in size and located in a remote area (i.e., Howard, Clark, Kunsan) or the mission required the best capabilities available such as the protection of nuclear weapons or other priority resources. During the 1960's, the need for dogs to detect narcotics became a law enforcement mission. Soon the AP's used them to support normal police duties. The 1960's also focused on a war in Southeast Asia that added even another expanded capability for the MWDs in security police.

Many bases in a little country known as Vietnam was under a constant guerrilla attack by the Viet Cong. The need for a reliable detection capability to protect Air Force resources were a major concern. The Air Force beefed up the authorizations for MWDs and handlers. The U.S. Army provided three dog handlers assigned to the U.S.A.F. Sentry Dog Course at Lackland, who had previous scout dog handler experience and/or previous instructor duty with the U.S. Army scout dog program. They trained security police in training dogs and handlers in the scouting capability we lost, but was needed in Southeast Asia. Scout dogs employed by the 1041st U.S.A.F. Security Police Squadron (Test) were used to provide detection and early warning on patrols, ambushes, observation/listening posts, and to detect tunnels storing arms and food caches or enemy personnel. This operation, known as SAFESIDE, was a combat security police unit that required all 266 members, 196 enlisted, to be ranger trained, air/security police volunteers who would be sent to Phu Cat Air Base, Republic of Vietnam (RVN) to conduct active defensive operations to protect against and repel Viet Cong attacks. According to the Headquarters U.S.A.F. SAFESIDE Security Police Report, MWD handlers were selected for the test program from volunteers who were formally honor graduates of the U.S.A.F. Sentry Dog Handlers course (5:CH 7). Upon completion of scout dog training and ranger school, handlers and dogs joined the 1041st in Hawaii for SAFESIDE unit training. The OPERATION SAFESIDE Final Report stated fourteen enlisted handlers using scout dogs conducted 36 patrols (401 hours), 54 ambush/blocking force positions (447 hours), 430 outposts (3108 hours) and 152 camp security patrols (1606 hours)(5:CH 7). They attained this in a four and one-half month time period. The test resulted in employment improvements of the scout dogs and identified the need to have patrol dogs that are capable of attacking, preferably on silent command. The security wanted a dog that would attack on command and was proven invaluable in RVN and was best suited for the internal security mission under normal and limited war conditions. Today, we have patrol dogs as a result of this test and our blue beret is the worn testament of our forefathers in SAFESIDE for the mission we currently fulfill today, base defense. Vietnam and SAFESIDE sent the U.S.A.F. MWD program into high gear due to the heroic accomplishments of the handlers and dogs protecting air bases.

There were no successful sneak attacks on any of the U.S.A.F. bases (4:TAB P). The motto "Who joined to Fight" of the 1041st Security Police Squadron SAFESIDE emulated the proud accomplishments of the MWD handlers inspiring the troops of present operations (5:CH 1).

3. Today, the U.S.A.F. Security Police Dog School courses at Lackland, is the lead service schools for the entire Department of Defense to include procurement and training for all handlers and dogs. The MWD teams are trained to patrol, track, scout, and detect to protect Air Force personnel and property in accordance with Air Force Instruction 31-202 (1:CH 8). They are used in a law enforcement capacity to seek, detect, bite and hold, and guard suspects by command. Patrol/Drug detector dogs insure the Air Force has a strong drug suppression program by detecting narcotics of various kinds. Explosive detector dog teams are a valuable resource to search and clear buildings, aircraft, terrain, and personnel who may have planted explosive devices to destroy or kill. You have all seen the handler and dog on patrol or on a gate, but you never know what kind of detector team it is -- this is a deterrent capability in itself. The essential need of an explosive detector dog team is a growing requirement today in civilian and military operations. While interviewing SMSgt Hale, a formal kennelmaster at Bitburg Air Base, Germany, he provided the typical taskings that occur at a moments notice. "An eight dog team section provided security when the Berlin wall fell, OPERATION DESERT SHIELD/STORM, PROVIDE COMFORT, Somalia, Bosnia, 92 Winter Olympics, State Department visit to the Soviet Union, and supported day to day operations"(2:-). As shown in MWD history, the base defense mission remains the wartime duty for our dog teams. The security police have unit type code (UTC) dog units that deploy to support the defense of air bases whether it is a main operating base or a forward operating location (barebase). Their duties are the same as the Vietnam era dog teams and when deployed they employ as dog squads who meet up with each other and lead by a MWD headquarters element. Places like Kunsan or Osan Air Bases, Republic of Korea has large dog sections to meet their wartime requirement to prepare for war. While I was the MWD Military Airlift Command program manager, we developed a two week training and evaluation course for MWD teams to test their wartime capabilities (1:CH 8).

We also trained security police leadership on how to utilize dog teams during base defense operations. This program conducted at the 1314 Ground Combat Readiness Evaluation Squadron (VOLANT SCORPION), Little Rock Air Force Base, Arkansas, from 1985 to 1993, according to CMSgt Leo Miller MWD Program Manager, Military Airlift Command Security Police staff (3:-). During defensive operations, these teams conduct reconnaissance/combat patrols, observation/listening posts, and detect explosive devices. Due to the MWD team's reliability, their capability to sound the alarm during an attack has not been replaced by hi-tech devices due. MWD teams support many civilian police agencies through local written agreements as specified in the MWD program directive (1:CH 8). Air Force bases located near small communities usually do not have dog teams in their law enforcement agencies. The security police assist these communities through the support group commander by sending explosive dog teams to search and clear bombs. We foster a positive relationship by protecting and supporting our civilian hosts where our air bases are located. Currently, MWD teams are deployed in Bosnia, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Central/South America, and many other locations. We have talked about our four legged soldiers' capabilities, now let's review their distinguished missions.

4. The MWD teams I previously mentioned have become an essential resource especially performing the distinguished missions they do today. The proudest of all MWD duties is the presidential mission to protect the President of the United States, Vice President, cabinet members, foreign dignitaries, and general officers presidential candidates. The 89th Security Police Squadron at Andrews Air Force Base, Maryland, has a large dog section to support the security of our highest ranking civilian and military leaders. All dog teams throughout the world to be called on a moment notice to support the protection of our country's leaders. Usually, they are under the operational control of the U.S. Secret Service when they support presidential operations. This election year required every available explosive detector dog team to support the candidates. Every stop on the campaign trail required MWD teams to search and clear for bombs. The MWD teams excel on these real world missions with pride and dedication and are always ready to deploy.

Another distinguished tasking the MWD teams always support is the Olympics when it is being conducted anywhere in the world. This year was not an exception. Many bases sent MWD teams to Atlanta, Georgia, for over a month and half this summer. They conducted crowd control and to searched and cleared for explosives. Do you see just how busy they were this year with elections and the Olympics? Believe me it has been a year of outstanding accomplishments for the dog teams. The reputation of our Air Force security police dog teams go without saying. Who else is charged with the protection of the president which now brings us to the support MWDs provide as a salesperson.

5. The dog teams of the security police volunteer time and time again to support Air Force recruiters by accompanying them to high schools to attract juniors and seniors to the service. I've had many recruiting squadrons request this support because of the feedback they receive from the students and new recruits on how sharp and dedicated the security police person and dog presented themselves. Through the years you can find many posters and official Air Force pictures illustrating the handler and dog guarding B-52s or on distant support sentry posts. The MWD teams are always popular at local schools entertaining children and at base air shows when thousands of people come to see our capabilities and you will always find the dog teams on the schedule. If you walk the halls of even our Senior Noncommissioned Officer Academy, you will find paintings of the dog teams. The positive representation of the security police dog teams makes them outstanding salesperson and recruiters for the Air Force. So let's review the areas I have covered briefly.

6. The U.S. Air Force Security Police depend on a small group of enlisted dog handlers who mainly range in rank from airman to staff sergeant to conduct some of the most critical tasks in our mission that I have just covered. I began with the proud history through Vietnam and that instills pride in all security police today. We then reviewed the present operations enforcing the law enforcement duties, base defense, and current deployed taskings. You learned about the distinguished missions the MWDs support, protecting the president and supporting high visibility events like the Olympics.

Finally, we reviewed the Air Force publicity example our dog teams display to the American public by showing their pride and abilities at schools, recruiting events, and air shows. My intent was to educate and inform all Air Force members to take pride each and every time you see these proud personnel and their faithful dogs. Remember they are a young small group of enlisted airman that protect and serve AF personnel, property, resources, and the President of the United States. I charge you to give them a big "HOOAH" the next time you see them, for they are truly the unsung devoted teams.

SMSgt Le Fever/SNCOA/9712507/Flt 25/rdl/25 Nov 96

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