



Loose Dog

WE WALK ALONE



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35th Members Help with project.

Editor / Publisher

Craig Lord
901-867-3797
clord@excel.com

Director

Vaughn Hull
Ph: 734-331- 2612
doghandler35thsps@comcast.net

Membership

Albert Floyd
Ph: 816-858-0272
Rooney72@lycos.com

Special Projects

Bob Hubbard Jr.
Ph: 910-438-4859
rbth@carolina.net

News Items / Stories

Please send news items or stories to:
Loose Dog 12054 Woodcastle Cv.
Arlington, TN. 38002 or
e-mail clord@excel.com

Rosters

Please send requests or changes / additions to:
Vaughn Hull
doghandler35thsps@comcast.net

Land Sharks on a Leash San Antonio Reunion

by Craig Lord and others

On November 11, 2005 the former 366th, 35th and 315th K9 Sentry Dog handlers of Phan Rang descended on San Antonio and the USAF 341st TRS K9 Training Squadron for our first reunion.

We were met by Capt. Greg Blaylock and his NCO demo team; male, female and multi service. During Capt. Blaylock's introduction he described our dogs (sentry) as being "Land Sharks on a Leash." His words are so true, and we are proud to have that title.

After the Demo, and some interaction with the dogs Capt. Blaylock had the handlers and dogs give us a "Present Arms". (Land Sharks cont page 2)



Richard Gentry Photos

Some things Don't Change

Kennel Master Briefing—Vaughn Hull Unit Director

Hello fellow Members,
Craig Lord called me a few days after the Reunion that was held in San Antonio. Wish I could have made it. Sounds like all that attended had a good time at Lackland. I have never been to any of the Vietnam Dog Handler Association Reunions, but in comparison our Reunion sounds more like a 'Family Reunion'.

Our new Members are James M. David of Wyoming, MI. Jim served at Phan Rang 69-70 and Dr. Doug Blaine, Veterinarian 68-69. Reason I mention this is because Craig stated that James and Doc attended the Reunion.

Other 35th members showed up that were a pleasant surprise. Tim Hunstiger, Ruben 'Gus' Guterriz and family, Mike Wolford and his sister Erma. Ken and Diana Eggleston escorted their grand daughter "Holly" to all of the events and San Antonio attractions.

We owe a big thank you to **Carl Adams** for starting this project, getting it going, and following up with the 341st and Lackland to make it happen.

Vaughn Hull



Thanks to Capt. Blaylock and the 341st TRS K9 Training Squadron at Lackland for doing an outstanding job with the demo, hospitality, and education of current day handling. We especially appreciate them taking time on the Vets Day Holiday away from their families. Their dedication to supporting the tradition and fellowship of the K9 family regardless of era is in the true spirit of K9 Veterans. Ready to Serve Any Time, Anywhere!

Welcome Home New Members:

Ken Matteson
Ray Cunningham (note: found from lost list)

Missing Members (Lost Contact):

No new issues.

TAPS: None to Report

CQ Blotter: Reported by Bob Hubbard that John Rader was in Motor cycle accident and broke collar bone. Rader is recovering. Drop him a note at johnmel821@sbcglobal.net

Events: Next known event is the annual VDHA re-dedication of the K9 Memorial at the March Field Museum in Riverside, CA. on Presidents weekend in FEB 2006.

Land Sharks (cont. from page 1)

There weren't any dry eyes among us. Here are some of the e-mail responses from the guys in attendance:

Good morning Craig; Just a short note to let you know how much I appreciate what you and Thorny have done for all of us. I know this took some doing on your part and I can't really express my gratitude to you in how the Reunion made me feel. I'm glad you, Jim and my wife put a hair up my ass to go to this event. It was a fantastic time I had there and I'm glad all our fellow handlers are doing well. Going to the kennels made my year, I guess you could say. My, how things have changed since we were handling pooches. I must admit, the high light of the kennel demonstration was at the end, *when the present day dog handlers saluted us. Very moving and emotional...*John Meehan

I had a wonderful time being with my friends.
Kid Gentry



This picture was taken by Patty Lord at the USAF Security Forces Museum

Bottom Step LR: John Stark, Billy Boling, Ed Butcher
Middle Step: LR: Ken Eggleston, Tom Ammons, Gerry Sandvick, Doc. Doug Blaine, Richard (Kid) Gentry.
Mezzanine Step LR: Terry Allen, Mike Wolford, Denny Travis.
Balcony Step LR: Gene Campbell, Tim Hunstiger, John Meehan, Jim David, Craig Lord, Jimmy Thornton, and Frank, Frank, Frank Casini.
(Not in Picture is Ruben Gutierrez and Tim Sparks as they arrived later).



Ruben and Wife on left and Tim on very right.

Nemo Memorial

By Bill Cummings

During our Reunion we visited a memorial dedicated to Nemo A534. Nemo saved his handler, Airman Robert A. Thorneburg (377th SPS Tan Son Nhut), December 4th, 1966. Both were wounded and Nemo's injuries included the loss of one eye. Nemo was credited with killing one VC. On 23 June 1967, HDQ USAF, directed that Nemo be returned to the U.S. as the first Sentry Dog officially retired from active service. His permanent retirement kennel was located at Lackland AFB, Texas. He was frequently taken on tours around the U.S. to assist in procurement of military working dogs until his death.

Many of you saw the video of Nemo at the reunion but you didn't see what Jimmy Thornton and John Meehan did in support of the Nemo project on Nov. 12th during our reunion.

Jimmy and John both went to Showa together for training and brought back Gunner and Beau to the 35th at Phan Rang.

After 37 years they just started from where they left off, good friends.

Craig

Craig,

I promised you an update on the Nemo's War Dog Heroes Memorial project and I'm finally getting caught up from our trip to get it to you – sorry for the delay. First of all let me take this opportunity to congratulate the 35th on their Reunion at Lackland – isn't it great to be back at "Dog School" again?

As I told you on the phone, I really apologize for not having the Nemo Memorial up to speed before you guys arrived – man, we worked our butts off because we wanted the 35th to be the first group to see what we have in store for the Memorial. Due to a major SNAFU concerning the fencing – we just couldn't pull it off in time for you guys.

But on Saturday, November 12th, our plan finally came together! The committee decided that we couldn't wait on the Air Force any longer, so we purchased a pre-manufactured chain link fence kennel from a supplier outside of Austin and transported it to Lackland to be installed at Nemo's pad. Needless to say, the \$927.00 put a little crimp in our plans to purchase other needs for the kennel project – but, we move onward and upward.

I can't begin to tell you how happy we were when Jimmy Thornton and John Meehan joined us to help install the fence and other points for the Memorial. Although I've known "Gunner" since 1999, I had never met John. I now have another new friend from the 35th! Both your guys jumped in and helped us put up the fence, install the "TSN Attack" sign, align the landscaping and made sure that the "60's era water bucket" was in the right position in the kennel. We really enjoyed working with our brother dog handlers to get this project up and running.



It is with great pleasure that we announce that Jimmy "Gunner" Thornton has been asked, and he has accepted a position on the Nemo's War Dog Heroes Memorial committee.

Right now, the site looks just wonderful, but we still have a long way to go to get it where we want to be for the future. Our plans – well we have short and long term goals, most of which are dependant on the funds that we raise. Here are our short term goals.

We are in the process of having the "Sentry Dog Warning" sign reproduced along with an exact duplicate replica of Nemo's Kennel Name Sign (we were fortunate enough to find a photo of the kennel sign so that became a lot easier). We are also working with two suppliers to purchase a life size statuette of a German Shepherd in the sitting position. Once a decision is made, we will have a local artist paint the statuette in the likeness of Nemo (Yes – only one eye - we're still working on that also!). The weatherized likeness will be positioned inside the secured kennel fencing. Nemo will be home!

Additional plans also include procuring an old aluminum shipping kennel and that will also be placed inside the memorial. I'm not sure if you guys know or not, but Nemo toured the country and traveled in this style crate. It was painted red, white, and blue and of course had his name and tattoo displayed on the side. We have contact with one of his handlers during that time and he has offered to assist us in duplicating this shipping crate to the condition of those traveling days.

Our final short term goal is to build and install the roofing that covered the kennel in 1968. This is going to be quite the task, along with the cost we have to deal with the civil engineers at Lackland concerning construction and positioning of the roof superstructure.

We are also in the process of building an internet site so everyone can keep an eye on what's happening with the memorial. Right now we are waiting on "domain rights" or something like that – I'm lost after I turn on the "ON" button". I will provide you with the link as soon as it becomes available – hopefully in the next few weeks. I've embedded a few photos in this update, but I will send you additional photos in the event that your guys would like to see more of the project.

Finally, Craig we need the help of the 35th – We'd really appreciate it greatly if you would pass this along to your mailing list and let everyone know what this project is all about. Currently four of us are footing the bill and we're just about at a point where we could use a little assistance. We promise you – this will be a worth while Memorial for all of us to be proud of – the ideas just keep on coming and we're doing our best to make this happen.

Should any of the 35th handlers wish to assist us financially, donations to the Nemo's War Dog Heroes Memorial may be sent to:

NWDHM

P O Box 1318

Manchaca, TX 78652

Checks should be made payable to NWDHM. All funds will be used in the continuing effort of education and support of the memorial for Military Working Dogs past, present and future. Thank you in advance for your support of this project.

If anyone has any questions, comments, or concerns, please have them contact me at K9Brutus@gmpexpress.net

Thanks Craig and so sorry I missed you guys at Lackland.

Bill



LR: John Meehan, Jimmy Thornton, Terry Strickland, Kelly Bateman, Bill Cummings, Ernest Childers



Progress of Nemo Memorial Kennel as of Nov. 12, 2005



Jimmy Thornton (Gunner) & John Meehan ("Skinny Beau") 35th SPS Phan Rang 68-69