

January

"NEWSLETTER"

2018

VIETNAM

February

MILITARY POLICE

AMERICA

212TH MP CO

595TH MP CO

981ST MP CO

HAWK BATTALIONS

Vietnam Military Police

Sentry Dog Handlers Alumni



Vigil

ALUMNI

SENTRY DOGS

*My eyes are your eyes
To watch and protect you*

*My ears are your ears
To hear and detect the evil minds
in the dark*

*My nose is your nose
To scent the invaders to our doma*

*And so you may live
My life is also yours*

Subject: 212th Website Has Been Reformatted
Date: Sun, 3 Dec 2017 16:59:49 -0500
From: Thomas Watson <mp720history@comporium.net>

Fellow Veteran's,

I spent the last month reformatting and repairing the broken links of the entire 88th MP Company (K9) and 212th MP Company (Sentry Dog) webpages and photographs.

I also added additional research information to the Timeline pages.

Please take the time to visit the new posting and if you see any deficiencies or errors please point them out at,

http://720mpreunion.org/history/project_vietnam/212th/212th_mp_company.html

If you can provide any official unit orders (assignment-TDY-promotions-training-awards-duty rosters-SOP's-etc.) Media Documents, unit forms, photographs of interest (not already posted) or of former buddies, please take the time to send them along for addition to your company's historical timeline.

If you are still in contact with former buddies from your tour, pass this information along and ask them to visit the website and assist where they can.

If you have any questions, please feel free to pass them along.

Wishing you and yours a very Merry Christmas and a safe and Happy Holidays.

Thank you,

Tom

Thomas T. Watson

Bravo Company 1968-1969

President of the Reunion Association,

History Project & Website Manager

email: mp720history@comporium.net

phone: 864-378-5503 (EST)

1456 Bombing Range Rd.

Gilbert, SC 29054-9637



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"Thank you for your service."

Story of the First SEAL Team Scout Dog - Prince

... Continued from page 3

a farm in Iowa when news of his decorations reached the Pentagon.

However, the awards and publicity proved to be Prince's undoing. Prince's SEAL Team was unaware of a government policy forbidding war dogs returning to this country from Southeast Asia. It was believed the dogs carried a communicable blood disease that could be spread to other animals.

The Norfolk SPCA and Mrs. Mary Francis Morrisette, stepped in to spearhead a move to prevent military officials from returning the dog to a permanent exile overseas. "Prince is a U.S. war hero. He deserves the best treatment he can get and deserves to be allowed to remain at home," Morrisette said at the time. But, the movement and public outcry was ineffective.

In June 1970, Prince and three other German shepherds - Rennie, Dusty and Zepp were loaded onto a

transport plane at the Norfolk Naval Air Station, flown back to Vietnam, and placed back into service.

In May 1971, news of Prince hit the papers again when a spokesman for SEAL Team 2 who recently returned from Vietnam, said that he did not find Prince working with military units - contrary to what the Pentagon had stated when it announced that the twice decorated K-9 was alive and well, working with SEALs in Vietnam. Much later, the Pentagon announced that war dogs could return to the U.S. from Vietnam. It seems the mysterious blood disease could not be directly attributed to the dogs after all. However, the news came too late for three of the dogs. Dusty was killed in action and Zepp and Rennie had to be put down for medical reasons.

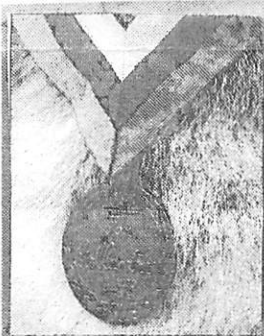
The Pentagon stated that Prince was eligible for return to the US if his medical records showed he was disease-free.

What happened to Prince? The last sentence of the last story in our file reads: "All Prince has to do now is dodge some more bullets, make the right connections and if all goes well--maybe."

Master Chief Bruhmuller, had an incredible career in the Navy and retired in 1978 with two purple hearts. He died in Florida on September 23, 2016, at the age of 81.



Chief Bruhmuller and Prince.



WARTIME BRAVERY

John Wren was 4 when his family pet, Chips, was sent to war. Seventy-five years later, he watched as Chips' heroism was honored with the Dickin Medal, worn by stand-in military dog Ayron.



Prince and William Bruhmuller of SEAL Team 2 at the Little Creek Amphibious base in June 1967 immediately following their first tour of Vietnam.

MARCH-APRIL ISSUE-ARTICLE ON
WORLD WAR II HERO-"CHIPS"

WWII HERO HONORED

First SEAL Team Scout Dog - Prince

By Jakon Hays and Maureen Watts

Courtesy of the *Virginian-Pilot*

Fifty years ago, news from the war in Vietnam filled the pages of Norfolk's newspapers. Readers of the *Pilot* learned of a very special homecoming that took place on the Little Creek Amphibious Base in Virginia Beach. Prince, a 65-pound, 4-year-old German shepherd donated by the Norfolk Police Department to locally based SEAL Team 2 and his handler, Signalman First Class Bill Bruhmuller successfully completed a historic six-month tour in the Mekong Delta. Prince was the first dog assigned to the SEALs and Signalman Bruhmuller pioneered the use of dogs by the SEALs. During his first tour, Prince is credited with tracking down and helping to capture four Viet Cong soldiers.

Years later, in an interview, with Orr Kelly, author of the book, *Never Fight Fair!: Inside the Legendary U.S. Navy SEALs—Their Own True Stories*, Bruhmuller, tells the story of how Prince found his way into the SEALs:

"When we first went to Vietnam, we didn't know the terrain or anything like that. I got the idea that maybe having a scout dog would be a pretty good idea. We heard about the army using them to great success. Our CO who was Bill Early, agreed to give it a try.

Because time was so short, the only place we could go for training was the Norfolk Police Department. The trainer was a super guy in the department named Bob Bouchard, who was later killed on a night-surveillance. They said sure, they would be glad to take us in, but the only training they could give was attack training and a little bit of surveillance.

They gave me a dog, Prince was his name. He was a good dog, very alert, very aggressive, very easily handled. Prince was a perfect SEAL. He could work hard and he could play hard. He was just one of those dogs that, at the end of the day, he could turn it off. And at eight o'clock in the morning he would go back to work again.

...When I jumped with Prince, I had to muzzle him. He would pretty well go anywhere I wanted to go. But he wasn't too cool on jumping out of airplanes. He never really raised hell about it. He was an unusual dog. You could keep him calm. All you had to do was talk to him. Prince would stay calm.

This wasn't going to be his lifestyle, jumping out of airplanes, but it seemed that he accepted it as part of the job. We were still together. He had that kind of confidence in me. If I was doing it, it would be alright."



Prince at rest at his Purple Heart Ceremony at the Little Creek Amphibious Base in March 1970.

Bruhmuller goes on to detail what happened to Prince after they returned to the U.S. in June 1967:

"Prince was turned over to another handler. That was the beauty of this particular dog. Most attack dogs or dogs of that sort, you can't transfer handlers. But Prince was just that kind of personality. He could transfer over to another guy He transferred over to Mike Bailey. Mike took him down to official military training and then took him in-country.

That time, the dog did an excellent job. He was wounded once. He saved their platoon on numerous occasions by alerting."

Prince made three tours of Vietnam, and in March 1970, Prince stood at attention on the parade grounds at the Amphibious Base and received two Purple Hearts for wounds suffered during his service. Prince's awards were an exception made by Adm. Elmo Zumwalt, Chief of Naval Operations—designate, as military law at the time stated that only humans could receive Purple Heart awards. Prince, now 7 years old, was all set to retire to

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MWD Origins: Sentry to Patrol

By James H. Kinney, MSgt USAF, Retired

I was NCOIC of the K-9 Section at Andrews AFB from 1966 to June 1969. When I was first assigned as NCOIC, there were only sentry dogs. Detection and attack was all the dogs and handlers knew.

Sometime in early 1967 or 1968, Lt. Col. Cady from Hq. USAF, Washington, D.C. came to my section and stated that the Air Force was looking to expand the K-9 program to include a much wider range of capabilities for all Air Force K-9s. These dogs would not be of the old "killer instinct" mold, but would be trained in detection, tracking and detecting objects in the ground, buildings and all places that needed searching. They could also be used in crowded areas without wanting to attack anyone.

It is not known by many K-9 personnel that Andrews AFB K-9 section procured and trained the first Patrol Dogs in the Air Force. The new teams flew to several bases, including SAC hqds at Omaha and Lackland

AFB for demonstrations. Later the teams were sent back to Lackland for a longer stay of four weeks for further testing of the dogs capabilities.

This was the beginning of the Patrol Dogs versus the Sentry Dogs. Both served their purposes and I know that today's military dogs have progressed to unbelievable levels of performance.

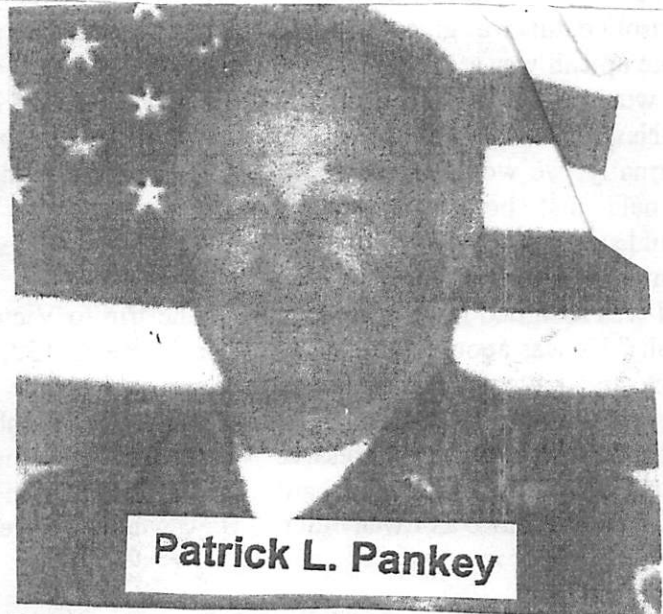
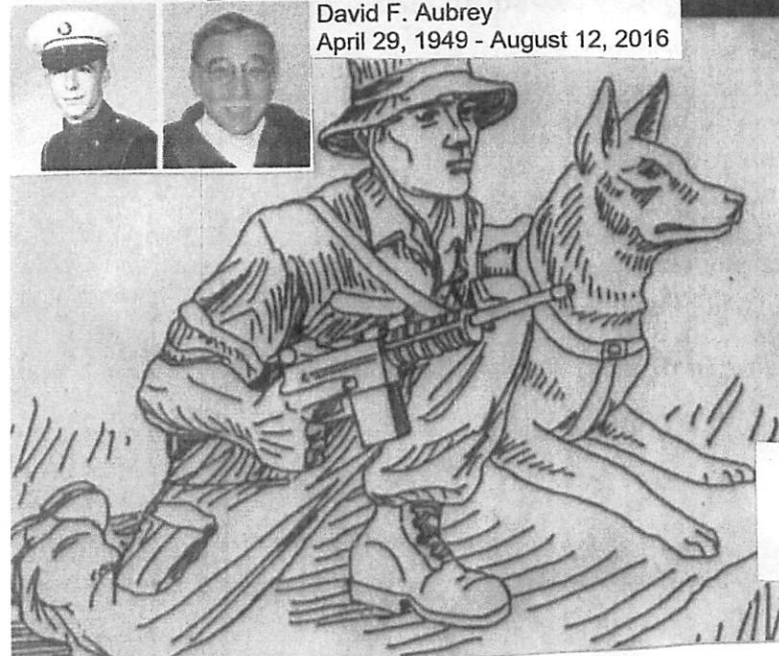
My last K-9 assignment was to Takhli, Thailand from July 1969 thru December 1970. By this time, all Air Force K-9s were being re-trained as Patrol dogs. My trainer, Sgt. Segiova, had just completed Patrol training at Lackland AFB. He did a great job retraining our dogs. When I left in Dec. 1970, we had retrained several dogs.

One of my handlers' names was Phil Carrol, who, in later civilian life, was elected as a Vietnam Dog Handler Association officer. Phil was an outstanding handler and I am happy to have been his supervisor. I am also happy that he had a good career snapping those photos for our government.

TRIBUTE

David F. Aubrey

David F. Aubrey
April 29, 1949 - August 12, 2016



Patrick L. Pankey

Patrick L. "Pat" Pankey, 67, of Edinburgh, passed away Wednesday, Nov. 9, 2016, at Our Hospice Inpatient Facility in Columbus.

How I Became a Sentry Dog Handler

By Ken Claflin, 981st MP
Sentry Dogs Unit Director

In May of 1970, I broke the standing rule "Never Volunteer for Anything." After graduating from AIT, we were sent to the Sentry Dog Orientation Course at Fort Gordon. This was also the U.S. Army Tracker Dog Training School in the States. Upon completion, we received our leave orders and ended up at the Oakland Army Terminal where they made us turn in our Class A dress uniforms and we were issued our first set of jungle fatigues. When we got on the plane at Travis Air Base we were the only group wearing that uniform.

Upon our arrival at Kadena Air Base on Okinawa we were taken to barracks situated next door to the Armed Forces Police Barracks and we ate most of our evening meals at their mess hall. I remember the big Olympic size swimming pool, the baseball diamonds, the EM Club and the PX nearby. After having Basic and AIT, where every aspect of our life was tightly controlled, this was great duty. Our wake up call was at 0300, by 0430 we were on the trucks heading to the Naval Comm Site for breakfast. Normally, we would arrive at the kennels just before dawn and would start training as the sun was coming over the horizon.

I was assigned my Sentry Dog "Rolf." He was about 65 pounds; a black and silver-marked German Shepard. What he lacked in size, he made up for with his aggressive nature. I found this out the hard way a couple times as I was bitten

a couple times during the six weeks of training. The first time he nailed me, the Corpsman stitched me up. As Forrest said "I got bit on the buttocks."

After a couple weeks, we began to bond as a team and I did not have to string him up on the chain-link fence or airplane him anymore. The agitation training was exciting to say the least, especially if it was your turn in the barrel to be the aggressor. A legendary Sentry Dog was assigned to my friend Richard Burke. King M000 always wanted to get around the sleeve while doing bite training. When doing off-leash, he was given a full leather muzzle so he would not rake his canines on his victims.

The last week of training, we were doing all of our exercises in the dark. I can remember standing out in the abandoned Japanese airfield in a full suit in the dark waiting for a Sentry Dog to attack. We were learning to patrol at night, as we would be once we arrived in Vietnam. As our training wound down, we learned that only six dogs would be accompanying us to Vietnam and the rest of us would have to re-train other dogs in-country. I was sad Rolf would not be going with me but he was still a little rough around the edges. Our class was number 50 so we had quite a few handlers pass through before us.

The trip to Vietnam was on an Air Force C-130, not the most comfortable plane for flying long distance. I remember stopping in Taiwan to refuel and to stretch our legs. The next stop was Cam Rahn Bay, where we were taken to the

981st MP Company. I do remember our first night in-country, as the base was hit with 122 rockets and we were ushered into the bunker. Our arrival to Vietnam had started off with a bang. Soon we would be starting our orientation training and begin our patrol duties. After that, some were scattered to various other teams in II Corps and not seen again.

