



LTC Parker Frawley wrote to his mother, Starline Nunley:  
*"I received the vests and the chew toys a couple*

*of days ago. I delivered them yesterday. SFC Budge, the combat stress dog (black lab) even stopped by my office to pick his up. The dogs seemed very happy with the chew toys, and the handlers were very happy with the vests."*

He continued, *"The cooling vests and other items you have purchased for the MWD allow them to work more efficiently in the oppressive heat in Iraq. As the summer approaches the shifts that*



MA3 Joshua Raymond  
MWD MA2 Rattler



SGT Daniel Fulton  
MWD SSG Bronco

*the dogs and handlers can work become shorter and shorter and the rate of fatigue and danger to the dogs increases. The vests will protect the dogs from heat related*

*injuries and enable them to work longer and more effectively. That protection for the dogs directly translates into protection for our Soldiers.*

*It's refreshing and heartening to know that so many people support our Soldiers. I know that support for the Soldiers does not necessarily equate to support for our mission, however your actions, and those of the GCDOC, belie that perception and boost the morale of the Soldiers of the 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment."*



SSG Aaron Kimes  
MWD SFC Lucky



*Zzar and his handler were awarded the "Iron Hero" award in their division.*



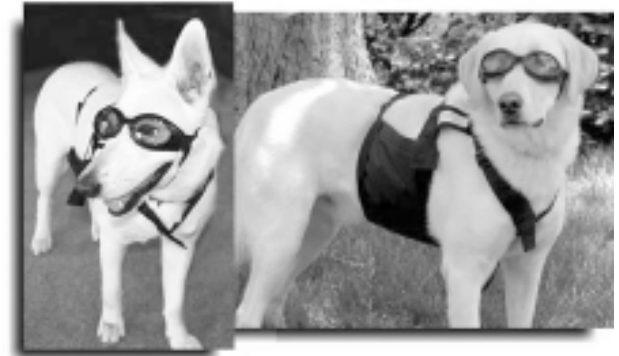
SSG Kevin Dee and MWD SFC Zzar were performing combat missions with C Co 1/8 Infantry Division. While searching in and around an industrial complex filled with toxic waste, for explosive materials and IEDs (Improvised Explosive Devices) Zzar showed a strong change of behavior throughout the building, but especially near a 50 gallon drum. EOD came in and moved it, discovering a hole in the floor. Further investigation revealed over 1,200 lbs. of explosive ingredients and finished bombs inside.



## For more information

Visit us online at  
[www.supportmilitaryworkingdogs.org](http://www.supportmilitaryworkingdogs.org)  
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# Military Working Dogs Cooling Vest Project



## What do the Military Working Dogs (MWD) do for our soldiers in war zones?

- Detect Bombs & Explosive Materials
- Detect Trip Wires Used to Detonate Explosives
- Aid with Search & Rescue
- Provide Therapy for the Troops
- Act as Ambassadors for the United States When Meeting Children & Foreign Citizens



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## How did the idea for this project come about?

Starline Nunley started with the idea of helping her son, LTC Parker Frawley, who was a Longbow, Apache helicopter fighter pilot stationed in Iraq. She asked him if he would like a Cooling Vest to help him cope with the typically very hot temperatures encountered there. His reply was "Mom, I am and we (soldiers) are all right. The military provides for us very well, but dogs have different needs. It is so hot that they are having trouble doing their job and that puts us all in danger."

Temperatures sometimes reach as high as 140 degrees. The dogs cannot work for more than an hour to an hour-and-a-half before being completely exhausted. Our troops are provided with proper equipment but the dogs are our first line of defense in many situations. They've been forgotten and have no protection against the heat, blowing sands and rough terrain.

## Why Dogs?

Starline said "I can't physically protect my son, and all the other sons and daughters in Iraq. But I can help the dogs who do." These dedicated dogs do this service selflessly and with great courage. Whatever we can do to help them do their job easier is helping to protect our sons and daughters.

## Who is assisting with the fundraising for this project?

It all began with Starline asking the president of her local dog club, the Gem City Dog Obedience Club if they would be willing to purchase one or two vests for MWDs (Military Working Dogs). They helped with the initial fundraisers for the first six months.

Since then, the project has taken on a life of its own expanding beyond Iraq to all active war zones. With the Starline leading the way and the help of many volunteers the "Cooling Vest Project" as of July of 2010 has outfitted a total of 209 MWD teams. (This number is constantly changing, check the website for new updates).

The community has opened their hearts to this project and have helped bring it to the news media and national attention through the newspaper and television. With the help of volunteers we've spoken at or had booths at the State and County fairs, Street

Fairs, 4-H Clubs, Rotary and VFW meetings, lots of Dog Shows, Fish & Game Clubs, Search & Rescue Groups and worked with the Rolling Thunder Veterans Group and the Travelling Vietnam Wall Memorial.

## What are the goals for this project?

The initial goal was to provide RPCM@ ChillyDog Cool Vest for the 15 MWDs at Marez, Mosul, Iraq. This has since expanded to outfit ALL MWDs in active war zones. The initial gear was expanded to include Doggles to protect their eyes from the blowing sands, Muttluks to protect their feet



from the hot sand and asphalt, which is melting in the 140 plus degree temps and sticks to their feet, causing burns, and not allowing them to dissipate their extra body heat since dogs "sweat" through their feet. Plus Mutt Muffs to protect their ears when transported by helicopter, a FURminator to keep their coats in top shape,

collapsible lightweight water bowls that can be used for both food and water and allows no water to be wasted, and one toy for them to enjoy during their "down" times.

We have outfitted kennels multiple times as dogs are rotated in and the ones who were there are sent home for R&R. The gear goes with the dogs, since most will be redeployed, they at least, will have their gear. So there will always be a need to outfit the incoming MWDs and replace gear that wears out.

## What is the cost to outfit one dog?

The cost per dog is just over \$400. This purchases one cooling vest, two cool packs, Doggles, Muttluks, Mutt Muffs, FURminator, a collapsible water bowl, toy, and reward article. We do receive other requests for items such as extendable leashes, harnesses, tracking equipment which wears out, and sturdy storage containers for the dog food (the rats were eating through the bags and into the food faster than the dogs could be fed!)

## How do I make a donation?

There are three ways to make a donation:

- 1) Visit [www.SupportMilitaryWorkingDogs.org](http://www.SupportMilitaryWorkingDogs.org) and *click on* the **Support Our Troops** button and it will take you to a secure online PayPal link.
- 2) Mail a check, made out to:  
**SupportMilitaryWorkingDogs.org**  
P.O. Box 122  
Donnelsville, OH 45319-0122
- 3) Visit any **US Bank** location and give the teller a check made payable to:  
**SupportMilitaryWorkingDogs.org**  
**Account #130110310088**

*From SGT Kenneth Johnson with the K-9 unit in Q-West, Iraq:*

"I just wanted to give you a big thank you for the dog gear. It will find some good use while here in Iraq.

I am very thankful for people like you that take the time to think of us soldiers down range and help us in any way you can. God bless you.

I work with a German Shepherd Patrol, Explosive Dog - his name is Roy. He is almost 8 years old and is a great partner to have. I love doing what we do. Working with dogs is a self rewarding job.

Plus here on deployment I have



a friend no matter where I go that I can trust. Well once again thank you so much for the dog gear."



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