

MILITARY WORKING DOG DEDICATION

They make this job look easy. But make no mistake, without extensive and continuous training; the armed services wouldn't have any military working dogs.

Many consider the dog-handler profession to be an art form as there are so many nuances that the human must be able to interpret. Indeed, not just anyone can step in and perform the job. The hours are long, and the missions require the kind of autonomy that not everyone is mature enough to handle. Then, there are the dogs, which have distinct personalities just like humans do.

The practice of using dogs for hunting is not a modern concept. Ancient cave hieroglyphics depict the animals alongside humans. Surviving Persian and Assyrian documents demonstrate those civilizations' use of the animals during battle. Archaeological digs have even uncovered armor worn by dogs. And, Napoleon used them as guard dogs chained to the walls of Alexandria to ward off attackers.

According to War Dogs: Canines in Combat, by Michael G. Lemish, during the Spanish-American War of 1898, the commander of a cavalry troop took a dog named Don with him on every patrol, preventing any ambush. The commander said, "Dogs are the only scouts that can secure a small detachment against ambush in these tropical jungles."

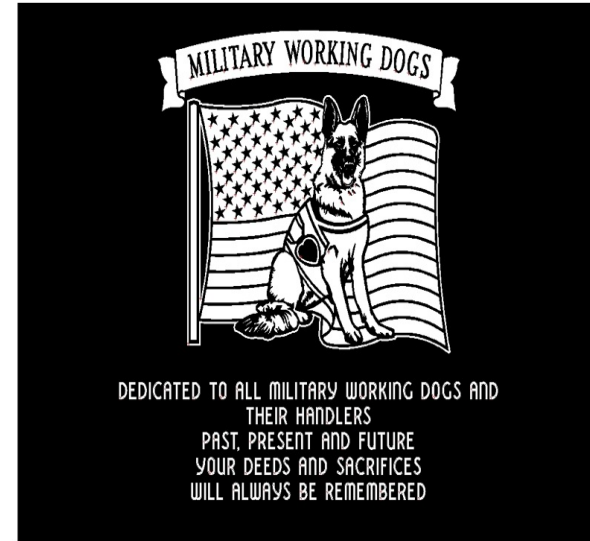
The idea of specific military working dog-training programs did not become popular until World War I. Germany and the United Kingdom both implemented dog-training programs in the early 20th century. Aside from the sentry and messenger roles they provided for military units, dogs aided the Red Cross in helping locate wounded soldiers on the front lines. Known as "mercy dogs," these animals would find incapacitated wounded soldiers and alert handlers by bringing back a piece of clothing or displaying other signals.

By World War II, the U.S. military was officially training dogs as well. The War Dog Program was started in 1943 with the building of a training center in Front Royal, Va., and the requisition of 11,000 dogs. The program supported almost every major subsequent conflict and eventually evolved into training dogs for law enforcement.

Undoubtedly, change resonates from top leadership. In an address given February 8, 2008, Gen. David H. Petraeus, the commanding general of Multi-National Force, Iraq, said, "The capability that military working dogs bring to the fight cannot be replicated by man or machine. By all measures of performance, their yield outperforms any asset we have in our inventory. Our Army would be remiss if we failed to invest more in this incredibly valuable resource."

HAMILTON TOWNSHIP PATRIOTIC COMMITTEE MILITARY WORKING DOG DEDICATION

Saturday, September 22, 2018
Veterans Park, South Entrance
11:00 a.m.



**May God Bless
Our Troops Who Are Currently Serving
To Protect Our Freedom
And May God Continue To Bless
The United States of America**

