

Roy, Military Working Dog, partner and Friend

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56th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

The 56th Security Forces Squadron lost one of their Airmen on Veteran's Day. Not all Airmen who put 'service before self' have two legs; this Airman has four legs and a coat of fur.

This Airman's name was Roy, 56th SFS military working dog.

"Roy and I were participating in a parade," said Staff Sgt. Scott Emmick, 56th SFS military working dog trainer. "We noticed that Roy was acting lethargic so we rushed him to the emergency room where they determined he was suffering a heat stroke and had to be put to sleep."

Military Working Dogs go through so much training with their handlers to prepare them for deployment and stateside security. Roy never got his chance to showcase his explosives detection skills on a deployment, however he did perform his duties stateside.

"Roy and I did security during a visit by the Vice President in Sedona, Arizona," Emmick said. "We also performed on base law enforcement and did several patrols and ride-alongs. We especially used Roy for psychological deterrence because he was a pretty intimidating dog."

Emmick had a good connection with Roy that only grew with time.

"My favorite memory of Roy was the first time I saw him because he was my first dog," Emmick said.

"He was a quirky dog and very rambunctious but we built him up and trained him."

Roy was also handled by Staff Sgt. Kurtis Buchawiecki, 56th SFS military working dog handler.

"I handled Roy for a brief time, but in that time I could see the drive Roy had in his duties," Buchawiecki said. "There was a time when Roy had surgery on his tail and had to be on watch for two weeks. Roy

really showed his resiliency because during this time, he was hyped up on medication that would sedate humans for days on end and he would fight through it. He was a different breed of dog and that's when we knew what type of dog he really was. Learning how to control his drive and also when to bite was a challenge, but Roy showed he was committed."

Roy showed the handlers and trainers his determination time and time again.

"I really liked Roy because of how much of a challenge he was for me," Emmick said. "Roy was hard-headed but had a willingness to do the job. He went through a lot in his time with us."