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**THE MARSHALL
LEGACY INSTITUTE**
Removing Landmines, Promoting Stability

The Marshall Legacy Institute

Press Release

The Marshall Legacy Institute Announces

Meet & Greet with 5 Retired Mine Detection Dogs

Tuesday, March 27, 2012

1:30pm

Dulles Executive Pet Center

44931 Lane Court

Sterling, VA 20166

Visit [MLI's Facebook page](#) for photos of all five of the retired Mine Detection Dogs who will be at the Meet & Greet!



Come out and meet MDD Blek, who just retired after spending 6 years "sniffing out" landmines in Iraq!

Lifesaving Dogs from Iraq Return to U.S. for Retirement

Washington, DC, March 26, 2012 - Five retired Mine Detection Dogs from Iraq are getting new homes! These remarkable animals, which have spent the past six to eight years 'sniffing out' landmines and saving lives in Iraq, are being adopted by American families through an innovative partnership between SPCA International (www.spcai.org) and the Marshall Legacy Institute (www.marshall-legacy.org).

MDDs *Blek*, *Malysh*, *Miso*, *Nero* and *Rocky* were specially trained to detect the explosive odors found in landmines. Landmines continue to plague much of Iraq: the result of multiple conflicts spanning more than 30 years. Because these weapons of war are buried, they are hard to find and continue to kill and injure hundreds of Iraqi civilian men, women and children each year. Dogs have a keen sense of smell and are used to safely and effectively locate mines that are then carefully extracted from the ground.

During their years of service with the Iraqi Mine and UXO Clearance Organization, *Blek*, *Malysh*, *Miso*, *Nero* and *Rocky* sniffed out over 90 acres of mine-contaminated land in and around Basra and Baghdad. The land they searched was used to build the College of Agriculture in Baghdad, and for infrastructure purposes in southern Ramallah. These dogs have truly helped to make Iraq a safer and better place.

SPCA International and MLI have joined forces to ensure that these retired MDDs are placed in the loving homes they deserve! SPCA International's Operation Baghdad Pups program provides veterinary care and coordinates the complicated logistics and transportation required to reunite service men and women back in the U.S. with the dogs they befriended while deployed in the Middle East. The Marshall Legacy Institute, a non-profit organization dedicated to helping mine-affected countries help themselves, provides highly trained Mine Detection Dogs to accelerate the pace of mine clearance operations. With support from the U.S. Department of State and private donors, MLI has donated over 170 lifesaving dogs to 11 countries. In Iraq, MLI recently replaced the retired MDDs with four new dogs, which were sponsored by the U.S. Department of State, Raytheon, and Woodlands High School.

When SPCA International discovered that MLI was looking to identify new homes for the 5 retired MDDs from Iraq, they generously offered to transport the dogs to the United States through their Operation Baghdad Pups program, and to locate retirement homes for them. SPCA International is currently finalizing adoption agreements for all 5 dogs!

By March 27th all 5 dogs will have arrived in Washington DC from Iraq, and will subsequently be sent to their new homes. Operation Baghdad Pups and MLI will hold an informal meet and greet at the Dulles Executive Pet Center at 1:30pm on March 27th to give others a chance to meet *Blek*, *Malysh*, *Miso*, *Nero* and *Rocky*. The event will celebrate the successful transport of these dogs and their adoption to good homes, while also providing attendees an opportunity to learn more about Operation Baghdad Pups and the Marshall Legacy Institute.

EVENT DETAILS: Meet & Greet with 5 Retired Mine Detection Dogs

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1:30pm

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44931 Lane Court

Sterling, VA 20166

For more information, please contact Elise Becker at ebecker@marshall-legacy.org or call 703-243-9200.

The Marshall Legacy Institute

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