

EVANGELOS (VANGELIS) DIAMANTAKOS

MILITARY WORKING DOG EXPERT/CLINICAL ANIMAL BEHAVIOURIST/RESEARCHER

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SUMMARY

Evangelos Diamantakos is a Military Working Dog (MWD) Expert and served for +25 years in the Hellenic (Greek) Air Force. He has broad experience in all aspects of MWD operations, training and behaviour. He has served in several posts and finished his career as the Head Manager, MWD Program of the Hellenic Air Force.

His extensive research in MWD welfare and vast working experience in Dog Training / Behaviour is reflected in publications, which have become standard working instructions / handbooks for the Hellenic Air Force. He was a permanent member of the Air Force Committees regarding the MWDs.

In parallel, he has designed, conducted and supervised several Animal (Dog) Assisted Activities (AAA, DAA) programmes focusing mostly on children and is currently a PhD candidate at the Pedagogic Department of Special Education, School of Human Sciences, University of Thessaly, Greece. Human – Dog interaction is the main subject of his research while as a clinical animal behaviourist is assisting companion animal owners to train and communicate effectively with their animals.

He is a visitor lecturer at the University of Thessaly since 2011 and has also given several lectures / presentations at municipalities, schools, conferences, organisations, etc. both in Greece and abroad.

Capable of:

- Providing Counselling as an advisor for any issue related to dogs/K-9s
- Managing/setting up/supervising any kind (military/civilian) of Dog Programme
- Managing/supervising any kind of animal shelter
- Designing/executing Animal Assisted Interactions Programmes.
- Designing/executing challenging projects on animal training/behaviour
- Teaching in Universities – Educational Institutions
- Giving lectures and Designing Seminars
- Conducting Researches
- Writing handbooks
- Designing Instructional Systems (Instructional System Developer)
- Working for challenging projects in the Dog/K-9 industry

PERSONAL INFORMATION

Date of Birth: February 14, 1971
Marital Status: Married (one child)

CAREER HISTORY

Hellenic (Greek) Air Force (www.haf.gr/en) | 1990 – Date

Military Working Dog Head Programme Manager, Branch of Operations, HAF General Staff

September 2014 – Date

He is the staff officer of the HAF General Staff for supervising, co-ordinating and inspecting the Commands and their Air Force Bases/Installations where K-9 units (500+ personnel) operate in. He leads in projects for the improvement of the MWD programme.

Head of the Training Department of the National Military Working Dog (MWD) Training Centre

October 2012 – August 2014

- Directing all of the department's activities, responsible for MWD assets, manning, training, equipment and material resourcing levels.
- Managing a team of 20 in three distinct areas:
 - The training office, responsible for the efficient operation of the School of Handlers, Kennel Masters and Trainers/Instructors with 100+ personnel and an equal number of dogs attending the training programs every year.
 - The standardization – evaluation office, responsible for the standardization and evaluation of the training offered to trainees, canines and trainers.
 - The puppy programme office, responsible for a pilot breeding programme resulting in 2 births per annum (approx. 20 puppies) and 70% puppy retention rate.
- Planning, co-ordinating and performing on-going personnel and canine training, both structured and informal, to ensure all personnel and canines are efficient in completing assigned tasks.
- Leading in projects for the improvement of the instructional system, regulations and authoring handbooks related to MWD behaviour and training.

MWD Command Programme Manager

January 2010 – September 2012

- Appointed as the staff officer of the Command for the K-9 units.
- Inspected/evaluated military installations with MDW assets (60+ personnel) for operational efficiency and ensured they are conducting realistic and effective training.
- Received three honourable mentions/certifications of achievement as follows:
 - From the Commander of the Hellenic (Greek) Air Force Supply Command for the design of a research programme related to the welfare of Military Working Dogs (2011).
 - From the Chief of Staff of the Hellenic (Greek) Air Force for the completion of his BSc and MSc without affecting the performance of his official duties (2011 & 2012).

MWD Kennel Master

September 2005 – December 2009

- Served as a MWD Kennel Master in several Air Force Bases.
- Ensured the safety of multimillion dollars aircrafts, weapons and installations.
- Exercised direct leadership over the MWD teams (8+ personnel) assigned at each installation.
- Advised security personnel on the best use of assigned MWD teams.

MWD Trainer/Instructor

June 1999 – August 2005

- Originally operated as a MWD trainer assistant at the MWD Training Centre and was subsequently qualified as a MWD Trainer by the School of Dog Trainers.
- Acted as a chief dog trainer as well as an instructor for handlers, kennel masters and trainers/instructors.
- Inspected/evaluated several military installations for their K-9 units.

- Participated in a commission for dogs' selection from Germany.

Operational MWD Handler

June 1990 – May 1999

- Worked as an operational dog handler in many Air Force bases after being qualified as a MWD Handler by the Training Centre for Dog Handlers.

Argos Dog Club (www.argosdogclub.gr/en) | 2000 – Date

Dog Trainer/Instructor - Clinical Animal Behaviourist/Counsellor (upon veterinary referrals)

- Designing, executing and supervising animal training programs.
- Assisting companion animal owners to acquire the theoretical and practical knowledge so as to be able to train their animals and manage/solve behavioural problems.

Animal Assisted Activities / Therapies Programmes | 2008 – Date

CAMPION BRITISH SCHOOL OF ATHENS

October 2015

Dog Assisted Activities Programme for pupils (in progress)

AUTISTIC SPECTRUM DISORDERS (ASDs)– CASE STUDY

May 2015

Designed and supervised the Dog Assisted Therapy Programme for a child with ASDs.

LYCEE FRANCO-HELLENIQUE EUGENE DELACROIX (ECOLE MATERNELLE)

April 2012

Designed, conducted and supervised the Dog Assisted Activities Programme for early years education (pre-school) students.

KASTALIA PSYCHIATRIC / NEUROLOGICAL NURSING HOME

June 2011

Trained stray dogs, kept in the animal shelter of the nursing home, for Animal Assisted Therapies aimed to be applied to patients with psychological problems and mental diseases.

HATZIKYRIAKIO INSTITUTION OF CHILDREN'S PROTECTION

June 2008

Designed, conducted and supervised the Dog Assisted Activities Programme for the children who resided in the institution.

CREDENTIALS

Academic Qualifications

- **PhD candidate**, Pedagogic Department of Special Education, School of Human Sciences, University of Thessaly, Greece (2011 – date)
PhD thesis, Provisional title: "Application of Animal Assisted Activity Programme in the Primary Education: Effects on progress, adaptation, self-esteem and depression symptomatology." In progress since 2011 (in Greek).
- **MSc in Companion Animal Behaviour Counselling**, School of Psychology, University of Southampton, UK (2009)
- **PGDip in Companion Animal Behaviour Counselling**, School of Psychology, University of Southampton, UK (2007)
- **BSc Hons in Social Sciences with Psychological Studies**, The Open University, UK (2007)

- **Diploma in Economics**, The Open University, UK. (2001)

Canine Qualifications

- **Higher Certificate of Cynology (Merit)**, Compass Education and Training, UK. (2009)
- **Dog Agility Judging and Course Design**, The Agility Club, UK (2005)
- **Military Working Dog Trainer/Supervisor**, Department of Defence, U.S. Air Force, License 900030572 (2003)
- **MWD Trainer Diploma**, Hellenic Air Force, Greece (2000)
- **MWD Handler Diploma**, Hellenic Air Force, Greece (1990)

Certifications

- **Conflict Management and Negotiation**, NATO (2015)
- **Border Security**, NATO (2015)
- **Instructional System Developer**, Hellenic Air Force (2002)

Distinctions

- From the **Hellenic Air Force Chief of Staff**, (2011) & (2012)
- From the **Hellenic Air Force Supply Commander**, (2011)

Languages

English: Professional working proficiency

Greek: Native proficiency

RESEARCH – PUBLICATIONS

- Puppies – Dogs’ Good Behaviour Guide, SUB VERSION (in Greek).
- Handbook of the Military Working Dog Instructor, Hellenic Air Force, SUB VERSION (in Greek).
- Diamantakos, E. (2015) Animal Assisted Activities/Therapies Programmes in Greece, 5^o Pan-Hellenic Congress of Autism, Piraeus 16-18 October, abstract book.
- Mamuna, A. Diamantakos, E. (2015) Application of Animal Assisted Therapy Programme for Children with Autistic Spectrum Disorders – Case Study, 5^o Pan-Hellenic Congress of Autism, Piraeus 16-18 October, abstract book.
- Lieutenant Haniotakis, Y. Chief Master Sergeant Diamantakos, E., Air Supply Command. *Listing the possible factors that influence the Welfare of the Military Working Dogs serving in the Hellenic Air Force*. January 2013 (in Greek).
- Haniotakis, Y. Diamantakos, E. Manousoudakis A. Matziaras, G. Giannarakos, G. (2013) *The Beliefs of Military Working Dog Personnel as a Means to Identify Possible Welfare Factors that Influence Military Working Dogs of the Hellenic Air Force*, 10th Pan-Hellenic Conference of Small Animal Veterinary, 1-3 November 2013, Athens (in Greek).
- Diamantakos, E. Kleftras, G. *The effects of Animal Assisted Activities Programmes on the mental health, school performance and adaptation in the school environment of kindergarten pupils*. 4^o Pan-Hellenic Congress of Counselling Psychology, Thessaloniki, Greece, November 1-4, 2012 (in Greek).
- Diamantakos, E. Kleftras, G. *Animal Assisted Activities/Therapies Programmes as an alternative option of managing psychological health problems*. 3rd seminar of autistic disorders ΕΨΥΠΕΑ, Book of Abstracts, p. 32, Messologi, Greece, October 22-23, 2011 (in Greek).
- McBride, E Anne; Diamantakos, Evangelos; Viney, Debbie. *Effects of animal assisted activity on 7-11 year old girls in institutional care in Greece*. 12th International Association of Human Animal Interaction Organisations (IAHAIO) conference, Abstract Book, p. 89, Stockholm, Sweden, July 1-4, 2010.
- *Instructional System Development for the Military Dog Trainers/Instructors* for the Hellenic Air Force, 2005 (in Greek).
- *Handbook of Military Dogs Behaviour* for the Hellenic Air Force, 2005 (in Greek).

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

LECTURES

- Visitor lecturer of the Postgraduate Programme: Counselling in Special Education and Health, Pedagogic Department of Special Education, School of Human Sciences, University of Thessaly, Greece (2010 – date).
- Instructor of dog behaviour & training in the National Dog Training Centre, Hellenic (Greek) Air Force. (2000 – 2005), (2012 – 2014).
- Seminar lecturer of Hellenic (Greek) Rescue Team, Dog Teams personnel (2011).
- Seminar lecturer of Stray Dog Department, Municipality of the City of Athens (2011).
- Lectures in schools, 'Learn about the dog code of communication'.

ARTICLES

- The military dog. Past, present and future. Aviation Review Magazine, Hellenic Air Force, 2014.
- Alternative treatment of mental health problems. Animal Assisted Therapy/Activity; Panathinaiki Women's Association of South Africa, Bilingual periodical publication, March 2014
- New horizons in Greece, Animal-Assisted-Activities; The Society for Companion Animal Studies Journal (UK), Autumn 2011.

MAGAZINE INTERVIEWS

- BHMASCIENCE (in Greek), 6/10/2013, <http://www.tovima.gr/science/article/?aid=533439>
- BHMASCIENCE (in Greek), 22/05/2011, <http://www.tovima.gr/science/article/?aid=401673>

TV INTERVIEWS

- SKAI (Greek), 18/10/2014, *Like the Dog with the Cat*, Presentation of Dog Assisted Activities Programme as part of research for PhD thesis

EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES/BRIEFS

- Observed the puppy program of the US Air Force directed by Dr. Steward Hilliard, Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio TX, USA.
- Participated in seminar for Agility Judging and Course Design, held by the Agility Club, UK.
- Participated and received a distinction in an Agility Event, UK.
- Participated in seminars directed by the Dog Club of Athens, Greece.
- Participated in the 'Calming Signals' seminar directed by Turid Ragass.
- Regular visits and continuously briefed on issues regarding the organisation and operation of departments with dogs in military and police units, animal shelters, pet charities and dog clubs in the U.S.A., Germany and the UK.

MEMBERSHIPS

- Animal Behavior Society, USA
- Pet Partners, USA
- International Society for Antrozoology (ISAZ).