

<http://www.indianexpress.com/news/belgian-guard-dogs-to-be-deployed-in-naxal-areas/651382/>

**Indian Express** Sunday 9 October 2011

## Belgian guard dogs to be deployed in Naxal areas

Posted: Sun Jul 25 2010, 11:16 hrs Bangalore:

Where man has failed, man's best friend is being pressed into service. The central security forces have imported a little known breed of **Belgian shepherd dogs** to provide troops with early warning of Naxal attack.

These dogs, of the "**Malinois**" breed, will be deployed in the Naxal infested areas of Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh where about 120 security men have been killed in the past four months.

**Malinois Belgian** shepherds have been used with success by NATO troops in Afghanistan and Israeli troops in Gaza. The eight Malinois being trained near Bangalore for anti-Naxal duty are the litter of an Israeli male Malinois which was crossed with an American bitch.

These guard dogs will accompany CRPF patrols in the Naxal areas where previous patrols have been caught off guard and massacred by Naxal militants.

The dogs are also being trained in explosives detection and this will help in sniffing out Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) which have in the past been found buried beneath tarred roads.

The four-month old **Malinois Belgian shepherd** are presently undergoing 22-weeks training near Bangalore and will later be sent for an advanced course to the Indo-Tibetan Border Police's (ITBP) National Centre for Dog Training near Chandigarh where they will receive specialised training in explosives and narcotics detection.

Compared to the better known German shepherd, the **Belgian shepherd** is a coarser looking breed with a bigger head and heavier snout, and is therefore not popular as a domestic pet.

But they have been proved to be extremely effective for tracking duties in terrains similar to the Naxal infested areas of Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh and the contiguous areas of Orissa and West Bengal.

**Indian Express** 2010-07-25: Where man has failed, man's best friend is being pressed into service. The central security forces have imported a little known breed of Belgian shepherd dogs to provide troops with early warning of Naxal attack. These dogs, of the "**Malinois**" breed, will be deployed in the Naxal... [more »](#)

<http://www.mumbaimirror.com/article/3/20110124201101240305127607accf1a9/Belgian-dogs-to-help-police-fight-Maoists.html>

**Mumbai Mirror**

## Belgian dogs to help police fight Maoists

Posted On Monday, January 24, 2011 at 03:05:12 AM

**Raipur** Security forces deployed for anti-Naxal operations will soon be assisted by a specialised breed of imported **Belgian shepherd** dogs in 'infantry patrols' and also to provide pre-ambush warning to the troops.

Almost seven Malinois breed dogs have been trained by the premier police dog training centre of the paramilitary Indo-Tibetan Border Police academy near Chandigarh for about 22 weeks.

This is the first time that police and central security forces will be using canines in operations in the Naxal hotbeds of the country, a practice in line with the Israeli defence forces. The dogs will be deployed in states of Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand.

[http://article.wn.com/view/2011/05/08/Dog\\_breed\\_that\\_sniffed\\_out\\_Osama\\_to\\_help\\_Indian\\_forces/](http://article.wn.com/view/2011/05/08/Dog_breed_that_sniffed_out_Osama_to_help_Indian_forces/)

**DNA India** 2011-05-08: Cousins of the special breed canines, which assisted the elite US Navy SEALs in sniffing out Osama bin Laden from his safe haven in Pakistan, will now help Indian security forces in 'find and fix' anti-Naxal operations in dense forests and difficult terrains. The imported dogs, a specialised breed of the Belgian shepherds, also called '**Malinois**', are reported to be the ones which assisted the special US assault team during the operation in the garrison town of...  
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[http://www.dnaindia.com/india/report\\_dog-breed-that-sniffed-out-osama-to-help-indian-forces\\_1540803](http://www.dnaindia.com/india/report_dog-breed-that-sniffed-out-osama-to-help-indian-forces_1540803)

## **DNA Daily News & Analysis**

### **Dog breed that sniffed out Osama to help Indian forces**

Published: Sunday, May 8, 2011, 13:03 IST

Place: New Delhi | Agency: PTI

Cousins of the special breed canines, which assisted the elite US Navy SEALs in sniffing out Osama bin Laden from his safe haven in Pakistan, will now help Indian security forces in 'find and fix' anti-Naxal operations in dense forests and difficult terrains.

The imported dogs, a specialised breed of the Belgian shepherds, also called '**Malinois**', are reported to be the ones which assisted the special US assault team during the operation in the garrison town of Abbottabad where the special forces lowered themselves from helicopters to storm the al-Qaeda leader's lair.

"This is the first time that police and Central security forces will be using canines in operations in the Naxal hotbeds of the country - a practice in line with the Israeli and NATO forces operating in Afghanistan and other places. They find the target, which can either be a suspect human or landmine, and alert their handlers thereby fixing the unwanted element," a senior security officer involved in the training of these sniffers said.

The breed that is being trained for the Indian security forces is a litter of an Israeli male **Malinois** crossed with an American bitch.

These guard dogs will accompany police and CRPF patrols in the Maoist-affected areas where previous patrols have been caught off guard and have suffered casualties because of hidden landmines and surprise ambushes of the Naxal cadres.

The first batch of about seven dogs, imported last year, have been trained by the specialised trainers of the paramilitary Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) in the rough terrains of the Karnataka-Andhra Pradesh border.

The ITBP has a world-class facility near Chandigarh for training dogs for Central security forces and police. The **Malinois** has the best combination of sharp smell, endurance, speed, intelligence and adaptability to the harsh Indian climate and have a remarkable ability to sniff out IEDs and deep hidden landmines, thereby saving the lives of many troops, the officer said.

The dogs, in the later stage, could also be made to wear infra-red night sight cameras on their bodies to undertake reconnaissance missions, the officer said.

General David Petraeus, Commander of US forces in Afghanistan, has in the past hailed the capabilities of the dogs, describing them as highly reliable and totally irreplaceable.

"The capability they (the dogs) bring to the fight cannot be replicated by man or machine," Petraeus had said.

The US military is reported to have taken the services of dogs since the civil war days. Currently, the US Army has an estimated 2,800 dogs working to detect IEDs and helping soldiers out on the battlefields.

In Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand, forces like CRPF, BSF and ITBP have had more than 300 casualties last year in Maoist attacks owing to IED blasts or Naxal ambushes.

"A police dog is an essential component of a strike squad. This part was missing in the Naxal theatre of operations. These dogs will be able to avert major casualties and ambushes by giving early signals to their masters," a senior officer at the joint headquarters of Naxal operations at Raipur in Chhattisgarh said.

<http://www.deccanherald.com/content/159423/us-commandos-took-military-dog.html>

## Deccan Herald Sunday 9 October 2011

US commandos took military dog along for Osama strike Washington, May 6 (PTI)

*The elite unit of US Navy SEALs which killed Osama bin Laden inside Pakistan had a specially-trained explosives-sniffing dog for the surgical strike.*

The commandos numbering 79 brought along the military dog for the covert operation at bin Laden's compound in the garrison town of Abbottabad on Sunday, according to US media reports.

The fearless four-legged recruit was strapped to an assault team member during the operation in which the special forces lowered themselves down ropes from the helicopters to storm the al-Qaeda leader's secret lair.

It is unclear what the role of this particular canine was in the 40-minute helicopter raid but he was probably there to sniff out explosives, detect weapons or even apprehend fleeing suspects.

The dog used in the US raid would have run down the 9/11 mastermind if he had tried to escape, according to the reports.

The breed of the dog who has not been named was not known and he seems to have been unharmed in the operation and left with his team-mates.

The identity of the military super-dog, like that of the 79 Navy SEALs will remain a secret. But experts say the canine is either a German shepherd or **Belgian Malinois** — breeds the US army believe have "the best overall combination of keen sense of smell, endurance, speed, strength, courage, intelligence and adaptability to almost any climatic condition", according to a military fact sheet cited in the New York Times.

In the Abbottabad compound raid, the dog was equipped with protective body armour before rappelling onto the ground from a hovering helicopter in a support harness attached to its handler, according to the media reports.

This particular dog was known for its bomb-sniffing prowess and 'The Daily' reports it was trained to "sniff out enemy troops from up to [3km] away".

The German and Belgian shepherd dogs can run twice as fast as humans, so if bin Laden tried to escape on foot the dog could have stopped his getaway, the Atlantic reported. The most commonly used breeds in the US military in Pakistan and Afghanistan are the German Shepherd and the **Belgian Malinois**. These dogs are typically well-protected, wearing body armour and infra-red night sight cameras. They're valuable dogs, well-trained and highly effective.

The US is believed to have more than 500 dogs in service in Pakistan and Afghanistan. According to the U.S. Air Force, the bite from a German shepherd, one of the breeds used by the military, has a force between 400 and 700 pounds.

Military dogs go through rigorous training that is just as demanding as what human troops go

through. Last year, at a cost of more than USD 20,000 per unit, the SEALs bought four tactical vests for their dogs, according to The New York Times.

The vests are reported to have infrared and night-vision cameras that allow handlers to use a monitor from up to 1,000 yards away to see what the dog sees. The handler is also able to communicate with the dog through a speaker on the vest. General David Petraeus, Commander of U.S. forces in Afghanistan, has in the past hailed the capabilities of the dogs, describing them as highly reliable and totally irreplaceable.

"The capability they [the dogs] bring to the fight cannot be replicated by man or machine," according to Petraeus.

"(Dogs) can sense biological, chemical, or radiological nuclear or explosive elements in the air better than security technology can, like sensors, drones, like UAV's, these types of things," Halo Corporation President Brad Barker was quoted as saying by the US media.

Barker said it's no surprise that a dog was on the mission to get bin Laden. The Halo Corporation is an elite team of former special operations and intelligence people. He said these dogs train much in the same way their two-legged SEAL counterparts do and jump from helicopters right along with them. As for their gear, they're heavily armoured and ready to hit the ground running.

"Bullet-resistant vests that can stop a blade, can stop a bullet, they get helmets on them to increase their survivability, night vision goggles, thermal imagery," he said.

The dog on the bin Laden mission was there to detect explosives. Their ability to get into confined spaces and send back live video of interiors of buildings is crucial to let teams of SEALs know when it's safe to enter, ensuring the mission's success.

"It takes a special dog with special breeding, a tremendous amount of patience from a handler and then still only a select few make it to be SEALs best friend," Barker said. "By all measures of performance, their yield outperforms any asset we have in our industry."

US Military has actually taken the services of dogs since the Civil War days. Currently, the US Army has an estimated 2,800 dogs working to detect IEDs and helping soldiers out on the battlefields.

The military dogs are a fighting force on four legs that are able to parachute into action, rappel into combat and swim into a skirmish. They are outfitted with protective body armour and a powerful bite.

The war dogs wear ballistic body armour that is said to withstand damage from single and double-edged knives, as well as protective gear which shields them from shrapnel and gunfire.

Wearing oxygen masks, the pooches have been trained to jump from aircraft at 25,000ft, before seeking out insurgents in hostile environments.

The animals will attack anyone carrying a weapon and have become a pivotal part of special operations as they crawl unnoticed into tunnels or rooms to hunt for enemy combatants.

The cameras on their heads beam live TV pictures back to the troops, providing them with critical information and warning of ambushes.

While its bite may be impressive, it is a military dog's exceptional ability to detect bombs that makes it indispensable to soldiers, experts said.

"They've spent millions of dollars trying to come up with the best bomb detection technology," said Rebecca Frankel, deputy managing editor of foreignpolicy.com, who writes "War Dog of the Week" for the site.

**The Examiner** 2011-05-06: According to Cable News Network (CNN) and FOX News, there was at least one working dog on the scene during the raid on Osama bin Laden on May 2, 2011 (Pakistan Standard Time). Among the commandos was a **Malinois** detection dog (for bomb sniffing) who was attached to a team member. The SEALs were lowered, including the canine, from a Black Hawk helicopter into bin Laden's hideout.... more »

**New York Times** 2011-05-05: The identities of all 80 members of the Navy Seal team who thundered into Abbottabad, Pakistan, and killed Osama bin Laden are the subject of intense speculation, but perhaps none more so than the only member with four legs. [more »](#)

### *The Death of Osama bin Laden*

[http://www.nytimes.com/2011/05/05/science/05dog.html?\\_r=1](http://www.nytimes.com/2011/05/05/science/05dog.html?_r=1)

## **New York Times**

### **A Bin Laden Hunter on Four Legs**

Published: May 4, 2011

The identities of all 80 members of the American commando team who thundered into Abbottabad, Pakistan, and killed Osama bin Laden are the subject of intense speculation, but perhaps none more so than the only member with four legs.

#### **How Osama bin Laden Was Located and Killed**

Little is known about what may be the nation's most courageous dog. Even its breed is the subject of great interest, although it was most likely a German Shepherd or a **Belgian Malinois**, military sources say. But its use in the raid reflects the military's growing dependence on dogs in wars in which improvised explosive devices have caused two-thirds of all casualties. Dogs have proved far better than people or machines at quickly finding bombs.

Gen. David H. Petraeus, commander of United States forces in Afghanistan, said last year that the military needed more dogs. "The capability they bring to the fight cannot be replicated by man or machine," he said.

Maj. William Roberts, commander of the Defense Department's Military Working Dog Center at Lackland Air Force Base in Texas, said the dog on the raid could have checked the compound for explosives and even sniffed door handles to see if they were booby-trapped. And given that Saddam Hussein was found hiding in a narrow, dark hole beneath a mud shack in Iraq, the Seal team might have brought the dog in case Bin Laden had built a secret room into his compound.

"Dogs are very good at detecting people inside of a building," Major Roberts said.

Another use may have been to catch anyone escaping the compound in the first moments of the raid. A shepherd or a **Malinois** runs twice as fast as a human. Tech Sgt. Kelly A. Mylott, the kennel master at Langley Air Force Base in Virginia, called dogs ideal for getting someone who is running away without having to shoot them. "When the dogs go after a suspect, they're trained to bite and hold them," Sergeant Mylott said.

Some dogs are big enough that, when they leap on a suspect, the person tends to drop to the ground, Sergeant Mylott said. Others bite arms or legs. “Different dogs do different things,” she said. “But whatever they do, it’s very difficult for that person to go any further.”

Finally, dogs can be used to pacify an unruly group of people — particularly in the Middle East. “There is a cultural aversion to dogs in some of these countries, where few of them are used as pets,” Major Roberts said. “Dogs can be very intimidating in that situation.”

Sergeant Mylott said that dogs got people’s attention in ways that weapons sometimes did not. “Dogs can be an amazing psychological deterrent,” she said.

There are 600 dogs serving in Afghanistan and Iraq, and that number is expected to grow substantially over the next year, Ensign Brynn Olson of the United States Central Command said. Particularly popular with the troops are the growing number of Labrador retrievers who wander off-leash 100 yards or more in front of patrols to ensure the safety of the route. A Silver Star, one of the Navy’s highest awards, was awarded posthumously in 2009 to a dog named Remco after he charged an insurgent’s hide-out in Afghanistan.

The training of dogs in Navy Seal teams and other Special Operations units is shrouded in secrecy. Maj. Wes Ticer, a spokesman for United States Special Operations Command, said the dogs’ primary functions “are finding explosives and conducting searches and patrols.”

“Dogs are relied upon,” he continued, “to provide early warning for potential hazards, many times, saving the lives of the Special Operations Forces with whom they operate.”

Last year, the Seals bought four waterproof tactical vests for their dogs that featured infrared and night-vision cameras so that handlers — holding a three-inch monitor from as far as 1,000 yards away — could immediately see what the dogs were seeing. The vests, which come in coyote tan and camouflage, let handlers communicate with the dogs with a speaker, and the four together cost more than \$86,000. Navy Seal teams have trained to parachute from great heights and deploy out of helicopters with dogs.

The military uses a variety of breeds, but by far the most common are the German shepherd and the **Belgian Malinois**, which “have the best overall combination of keen sense of smell, endurance, speed, strength, courage, intelligence and adaptability to almost any climatic condition,” according