

EDD 387 SAM

Born in January 1997, Sam was recruited in 1998 and trained by Sapper Quinn (The Wrecker) at the School of Military Engineering (SME) at Moorebank in NSW. He was teamed up with Sapper Sullivan in 1999 and posted to the 3rd Combat Engineer Regiment (3 CER) based at Townsville. In 2000 they were deployed to Operation Gold and in 2002 they were deployed on counter-terrorist duties at the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) at Brisbane. In 2003 Sam was back to SME and was reteamd with LCPL John Cannon when he attended his long term schooling Basic Dog Handlers Course (12 months). This meant that John and Sam had a period of twelve months together and formed a strong bond between them. In 2004, John and Sam were posted to the Incident Response Regiment at Holsworthy near Sydney and in November 2005, Sam was deployed to Afghanistan on Special Operations Task Group (SOTG 1 & 2), operating out of the Australian Compound at Tarin Kowt (TK). At the completion of SOTG 2, John returned to Australia (RTA) but had to leave Sam in-country because there was no replacement EDD available to relieve him. Lance Corporal (LCPL) Craig Turnbull arrived in Afghanistan and teamed-up with Sam for SOTG 3. Sam RTA in late 2006 and passed through the Australian Quarantine Inspection Service (AQIS) 30 day quarantine checks at Eastern Creek near Sydney. Sam returned to duty with the IRR and retired on age in early 2007. Sam was discharged out of the Army and given into the care of John Cannon. John took Sam with him on posting to 1 CER in Darwin and Sam enjoyed his home life with John's family. But Sam was not strictly speaking on the retired list. John took Sam into 1 CER for on-the-job-training of new combat engineer sappers who were ramping up their EDD handling skills. At March 2012, Sam is still living with the Cannon family.