

Mine Detection Dog Partnership Program

Update for the American Task Force for Lebanon



The Marshall Legacy Institute (MLI) thanks the American Task Force for Lebanon (ATFL) for your continuing support of our humanitarian mission to free the world of landmines. Through the sponsorship of two Mine Detection Dogs (MDDs), you are enabling thousands of people in Lebanon to farm, walk, and play on their land without fear of these hidden killers.

Since 2001, MLI's Mine Detection Dogs have assisted the Lebanese Armed Forces (LAF) to release 1,093,000 square meters of land! All of this land has been returned back to the people for use in agriculture, and tourism and economic development. Please see below updates on the work of MDDs *Atos* and *Zaatar*, sponsored by ATFL:

MDD *Atos*, sponsored by ATFL in 2014, retired in November 2019 and was released from the LAF for adoption by James Kassouf at his home outside Beirut. During the last year of his working lifetime, *Atos* assisted in searching 38,300 square meters of land, and since 2014, he helped to search an astounding 268,230 square meters of land, an area twice the size of the Pentagon! In 2019, *Atos* worked in the ancient town of Tyre in the southern Lebanon, in Mount Lebanon, Jbeil province, and in Zahle in the Beqaa Valley. *Atos* is now enjoying his much-deserved retirement with Mr. Kassouf.

MDD *Zaatar*, sponsored by ATFL in 2018, was certified to International Mine Action Standards in March 2019. Since then, *Zaatar* has worked to sniff out landmines in the same missions with MDD *Atos* in the southern and eastern parts of Lebanon. Towards the end of the 2019 demining season, *Zaatar* also provided quality control to a manual demining team in the coastal city of Batroun. The released land in this area will be returned to the people for use in agriculture.

The LAF estimates that the work of *Atos* and *Zaatar* benefitted 2,275 people in 2019 alone. On behalf of the people of Lebanon and the LAF, we thank the American Task Force for Lebanon for your enduring support of our humanitarian mission to free Lebanon of landmines.



MDDs *Zaatar* and *Atos*



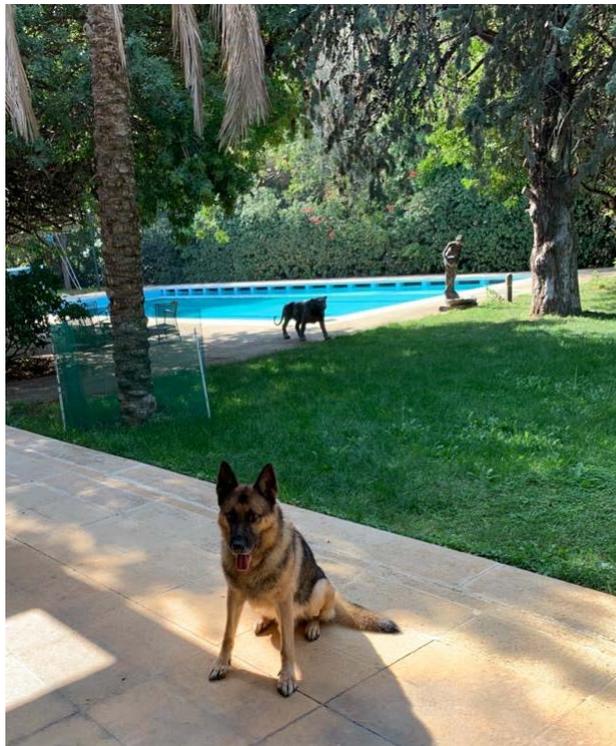
MDD *Zaatar*



MDD *Zaatar* working with his handler



Atos explores his new home



Atos enjoys retirement at his new home