

# Honoring Our Warriors In The Wind

By Abel

*This is a time to honor our heroes. The men and women that volunteer to serve our country and at times put their lives on the line to defend our freedom, our country, and our way of life.*

*This is a tribute to our Warriors In The Wind.*

Major Mark Goehring has served our country for the past 15 years in the Air Force. His primary job was ICBM Crew Member and Instructor, but also "flew" DSCS and WGS Communication Satellites. He is currently a flight commander and instructing at the Advanced Space Operations School in Colorado Springs, CO.

Mark started riding motorcycles in 2003 but has been riding snowmobiles, ATVs, Jet skis, etc literally his whole life. If it had an engine, he rode it to the limit! It was a pretty easy transition for him. This is only his second bike. He upgraded from his previous ride, a Yamaha V-Star 1100, which was pretty big step up in all aspects.

Mark started researching "Custom" looking bikes after meeting Jesse James when he was in California. (He was shooting "Monster Garage" and using the runway at Vandenberg Air Force Base, where Mark was stationed, to test one of their "drop tank jet cars". Afterwards Jesse took the afternoon to meet all the airmen on the base.)

Purchased in 2006 from "Biker's Dream" when they used to be on Tejon Street in Colorado Springs, Mark chose the black bike as it would be a clean canvas for anything he came up with for paint.

The paint scheme evolved when Mark and his artist (James Cope of Colorado Springs) started brainstorming. "I know I wanted something unique. I went with "Anubis" as he was the half human, half dog guardian of the Egyptian afterlife. My rationale was, any true rider feels like he or she is part of their motorcycle. Since it is a Big Dog and I am human, it was a perfect fit" said Mark.

As you walk around the bike, the paint tells a story.

*(Continued on next page)*



**Thank You For Your Service Mark - From A Grateful Nation**



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*(Continued from previous page)*

The front fender has the head of Anubis leading the way to protect the rider. The tail of the front fender has an Ankh, which was known as the “key of life” depending on which interpretation you believe. (His helmet is painted to match the front fender.) The main tank sees Anubis protecting a female figure whom has not yet passed on to the afterlife. On either side of the tank, you see what represents “heaven” (stairs leading up to an open door) and “hell” (stairs lead down to a closed door) to show how Anubis would guide the souls on the correct path. The battery covers also reflect spirits of an angelic side and demonic side. Finally, the rear fender represents a female figure ascending to the afterlife with the hopes that Anubis will guide her safely and protect her from demons.

The bike is a 2006 Big Dog, K-9. It has a 117 CI (1916 CC) S&S Motor with a 6 Speed Baker Transmission. Mark upgraded to a Vance and Hines “Big Radius” exhaust system and installed “Vision” brake and clutch levers and “Tribal” forward controls, pegs and grips. It is set up for carrying passengers (when he actually will cover the art) and has an 18” sissy bar and luggage rack. The bike is 9 feet long with a 300mm rear tire and 42 degree total rake. Mark took this bike to, and passed, the advanced rider's course to the amazement of his instructors!

Believe it or not, the bike has been on FIRE! The voltage regulator overheated while riding and actually caught fire inches from the fuel line. Mark managed to find a fire extinguisher in time to save it from burning up. American Motorcycles of Colorado Springs came and picked him up and got the bike road worthy again in no time!

This is Mark’s daily rider and has around 12,000 miles on it to include being RIDDEN to Sturgis last year. He has won five awards in the few bike shows he has entered to include best chrome, best paint, best custom, and fan favorite.

## ***Author’s Note:***

I found out prior to this being published that Mark was being deployed for a tour of duty in Afghanistan. Please keep Mark and his family ( his wife Katrina and his daughter Victoria) in your thoughts and prayers until he is back home safe and in the wind once again.

Special thanks to Ginger who is the featured model and whose energy and enthusiasm contributed to the success of the day.

