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"Navigator"

HO'OKELE

PEARL HARBOR - HICKAM NEWS

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JBP HH celebrates grand opening of child development center for *keiki*

Story and photos by MC2 Jon Dasbach

Navy Public Affairs Support Element West Detachment Hawaii

Navy officials gathered at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam (JBP HH) to celebrate the grand opening June 20 of the new joint base child development center (CDC) at Center Drive.

The new facility is the largest CDC on the island of Oahu, measuring more than 30,000 square feet.

"Our men and women, whether on the flight line or out at sea, they need to be at ease knowing their children are being taken care of," said Capt. Jeffrey James, commander of Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam. "There's nothing more distracting

than wondering if your children are being taken care of," he said.

"These types of facilities allow Sailors and their families to deploy and go in harm's way, for the spouse to continue his or her career, with the knowledge that their kids are properly and safely being taken care of," said JBP HH Command Master Chief Brian Ortega.

"We offer facilities for six weeks old to five years old, so for infants to pre-school," said Margarita Robbins, the facilities assistant director. "It [the CDC] will consist of 304 children and a staff of about 100."

Not only is the new facility the largest on the island, but it is also environmentally friendly. The CDC

is able to generate its own power and creates all of the energy that it needs to operate.

"It's all energy sufficient, and that will help us a lot. I mean, that's what we teach the children, to recycle. This will give us inspiration to recycle more," Robbins said.

The new facility is the first military CDC to receive the Leadership and Environmental and Energy Design (LEED) Platinum certificate, which is a national certification system developed by the U.S. Green Building Council.

The CDC has an open house policy. Parents can come and visit with their children

anytime throughout the day, including breakfast, lunch and during activities.

"That's how we are here. We treat the parents just like our big ohana," explained Robbins.

Hours of operation are from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday.

"To our *keiki*, welcome to your new home," said James, prior to untying the Hawaiian maile lei and officially opening the new facility.

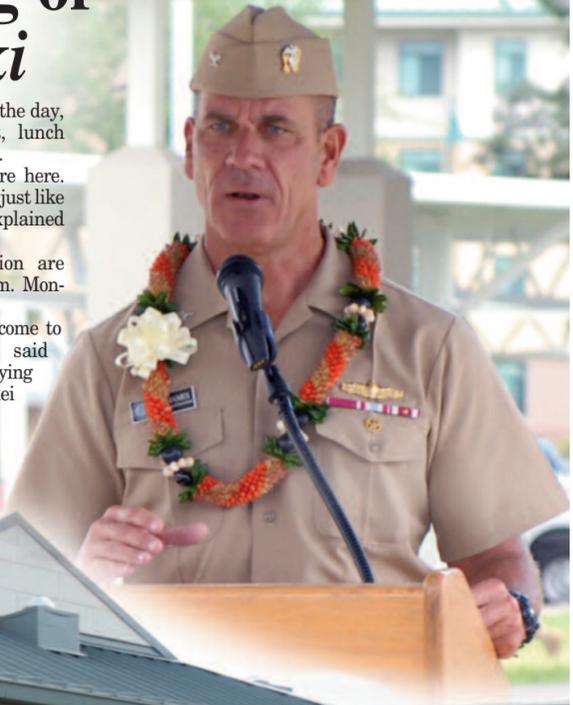


Photo Illustration



Hickam Airmen bid farewell to Bert, military working dog

Story and photo by Staff Sgt. Mike Meares

Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam Public Affairs

Following his last command, Military Working Dog (MWD) Bert leaped through a building window to subdue a perpetrator while training for a fourth deployment May 25 at Creech Air Force Base, Nev.

In moments after he emerged from the building with his partner, Staff Sgt. Paul Cruz, a 647th Security Forces Squadron (SFS) military working dog handler, the 9-year-old German shepherd collapsed.

"Initially we thought it was a leg issue or some-

thing," Cruz said. "When I noticed his tongue starting to turn blue, I knew it was a bigger problem."

The handler immediately started performing first aid while they rushed Bert to a nearby veterinary hospital for medical attention. After removing more than 600 milliliters of fluid and blood from around his heart, the doctor spelled out the worst case scenario—a tumor on his heart.

"You really can't tell sometimes that a dog is in pain or there is something big wrong with them," Cruz said. "They can't tell you, and they are working so hard to please you."

Cruz spent that night lying on the veterinarian

hospital's hard floor with MWD Bert. Cruz worried about the words of the veterinarian and what the future held for his K9 partner.

"I was trying to stay positive and get him back so he could live out the rest of his days on the couch in Hawaii or at the very least find him a good home," Cruz said. "I knew he wasn't going to work again."

In the morning, Cruz noticed MWD Bert seemed like he was back to normal as he was eager to get out of the clinic and get back to work.

"He didn't look like anything was wrong the next day," Cruz said. "I was feeling a little better and was

See FAREWELL, A-6

Forest City residents invited to meet, speak with leaders

Navy Region Hawaii Public Affairs

Community meetings in or near Forest City residential housing areas next week are providing an opportunity for residents to offer their ideas to housing representatives and Navy leaders, including Rear Adm. Frank Ponds, commander of Navy Region Hawaii.

"The feedback we're receiving from residents is extremely important to us,"

said Ponds. "It's been two years since we conducted town hall meetings with residents to hear their voices. This is a tremendous opportunity to foster dialog, appreciate various issues and develop mutual understanding," he added.

The Department of the Navy and Forest City Residential Management (FCRM) entered into a partnership several years ago to provide quality man-

See MEETINGS, A-4



Photo courtesy of Forest City Residential Management

A Navy housing family enjoys the outdoors in a Forest City community.

Happening today

The Navy Region Hawaii team will conduct a presentation on summer safety. The session is open to all hands and will be held from 9 to 11 a.m. today at Sharkey Theater at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam. Participation is strongly encouraged.



Wisconsin Pearl Harbor survivors return to Pearl Harbor See page A-2



USS Tucson returns to Pearl Harbor after deployment See page A-3



Navy Region admiral takes 'global force for good' message to Alabama See page A-4



647th Logistics Readiness Squadron holds change of command See page A-6



Former site of military battle doubles as nature's playground See page B-1



June 27 fitness, wellness fair to center around state-of-the-art facility See page B-3



Wisconsin Pearl Harbor survivors return to Pearl Harbor on 'Old Glory Honor Flight'

Story and photos by
MC2 Daniel Barker

Navy Public Affairs
Support Element West,
Detachment Hawaii

Eighteen Pearl Harbor survivors from across the state of Wisconsin, along with their caregivers, volunteer medical team and support staff, visited the USS Arizona Memorial, Pearl Harbor Visitor Center and other historic sites on Oahu

on June 15.

The private boat tour to the USS Arizona Memorial was led by Capt. Larry Scruggs, chief staff officer for Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, during a special visit hosted by the Navy and the National Park Service.

"Today the National Park Service is honored to welcome Pearl Harbor survivors visiting from the state of Wisconsin. We welcomed them at World War II

Valor in the Pacific at our visitor's center," said Kelsea Holbrook, a National Park Service ranger. "They visited the museums and saw the documentary film that precedes the beginning of the USS Arizona Memorial program."

The tour was part of "Old Glory Honor Flight, Return to Pearl," a program dedicated to transporting World War II veterans to see the memorials built in their honor.

"The power of that day was the power of people coming together to do what God and country had put them together to do" said Navy Chaplain Cmdr. Jon Brzek during a ceremony on the Arizona Memorial.

This year marks the 71st anniversary of the bombing of U.S. armed forces in Hawaii.

"Some of you spent three or five years away from home," said Randy Myszka, guest speaker and medical

volunteer for the group. "Most of you endured incredible hardship, but you persevered. Long before it was a buzzword, you showed us what it was like to be resilient."

There was a special presentation at the memorial for 89-year-old Mark Schaitel, one of the Wisconsin Pearl Harbor survivors on the trip, who passed away during the plane flight on the way to Hawaii. A ceremonial wreath and flag

were dedicated to him at the memorial.

The veterans also paid their respects at other historical sites including the USS Oklahoma Memorial, USS Utah Memorial, Schofield Barracks, Wheeler Field, Fort Shafter, Pacific Aviation Museum and the National Cemetery of the Pacific (Punchbowl).

This special "Old Glory" mission gave the survivors one last chance to say goodbye to their fallen comrades.

Photo Illustration

USS Tucson returns to Pearl Harbor after deployment

Story and photo by
MC1 Ronald Gutridge

Commander Submarine
Force U.S. Pacific Fleet
Public Affairs Office

Friends and families of the crew from the USS Tucson (SSN 770) gathered at the submarine piers June 14 to welcome back the Los Angeles-class submarine as she returned to Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam after completing a six-month deployment to the western Pacific region.

"Tucson had a very successful deployment supporting the theater commander's operational priorities for the western Pacific region," said Cmdr. James O'Harrah, USS Tucson commanding officer. "The crew performed in an outstanding manner, and I am very proud of their accomplishments and their professionalism."

Tucson successfully conducted missions vital to national security and participated in challenging fleet



Los Angeles-class submarine USS Tucson (SSN 770) returns to Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam after completing a six-month deployment to the western Pacific region.

exercises. Tucson also executed numerous theater level missions and conducted several port visits, which included Okinawa, Guam, Sasebo and Saipan, throughout its six months away from Pearl Harbor.

During the deployment, 22 submariners became submarine-qualified and are now entitled to wear the enlisted submarine warfare insignia also referred to as "dolphins."

A majority of the crew also completed advanced qualifi-

cations, including engineering watch supervisor, diving officer of the watch and chief of the watch. These qualifications provide greater watch bill flexibility and helped ensure that Tucson's performance will remain

strong after the upcoming departure of many senior personnel and into her next deployment.

"This deployment provided excellent training to all of our crew by providing them valuable experiences to complement their extensive professional knowledge," said O'Harrah. "These experiences will serve them well as they continue their naval careers."

This was the first deployment for about one-third of the 137 crew members, according to O'Harrah. Electronics Technician Seaman (SS) Eric Ramirez from Hermiston, Ore., who has been in the Navy for two years, described his first deployment as something he will never forget.

"This was a great learning experience for me. It enabled me to further my knowledge on submarine operations and become submarine-qualified during my first deployment," said Ramirez.

"The port visits also provided a great and unique cul-

ture observance being this is my first time traveling outside the U.S. I really enjoyed learning new things about different parts of the world."

This was Tucson's second western Pacific deployment since she underwent a 23-month depot modernization period at Norfolk Naval Shipyard, Portsmouth, Va. Improvements included upgrades in all of her electronic systems, a complete overhaul of all machinery systems, and a full external refurbishing. During that time, she conducted numerous sea trials and a port visit in San Diego before conducting an inter-fleet transfer back to the former Naval Station Pearl Harbor in 2008.

Tucson is the second ship of the United States Navy to bear the name of the Arizona city. It is the 59th Los Angeles-class attack submarine and the 20th of the improved Los Angeles-class attack submarine to be built.

(See additional photo on page A-5).

15th Wing vice commander receives Legion of Merit

The Legion of Merit decoration is presented to officers and enlisted personnel of the Armed Forces of the United States and nationals of other countries who have distinguished themselves by exceptionally meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding services and achievements.



Col. Joe Dague, 15th Wing vice commander (right), listens as Col. Sam Barrett, 15th wing commander, speaks to Airmen from the 15th wing during Dague's Legion of Merit presentation ceremony June 15 at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.



(Right) Col. Sam Barrett, 15th Wing commander, presents the Legion of Merit decoration to Col. Joe Dague, 15th wing vice commander, during a ceremony June 15 at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

Photos courtesy of 15th Wing

Diverse Views



Many nations, ships, submarines, aircraft and personnel will participate in the biennial Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC) exercise scheduled June 29 to Aug. 3 in and around the Hawaiian islands. Why is it so important to provide this training and partnership opportunity?



Aviation Structural Mechanic Safety Equipment Airman
Tina James

Navy Operational Support Center
Charlotte, N.C.

"I think RIMPAC is important to promote stability in the region and benefit all participating nations to prepare international forces for military readiness in case of conflict."

Fire Controlman 2nd Class
Stephanie Harrod

Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam



"Most of the time, our exercises involve just one or two commands. RIMPAC gives us a chance to interact with other commands, even other nations! It gives us a feeling of international oneness."



Aviation Boatswain Mate Fuels 3rd Class
Kimberly McElroy

Navy Operational Support Center
Charlotte, N.C.

"RIMPAC is important so that the public and the military can be more informed about what our Navy and partner nations do. This biannual exercise strengthens cooperation among nations to ensure safety on the seas and operations."

(Provided by MC1 Donald Randall)

Want to see your command featured in Diverse Views?
Got opinions to share?

Drop us a line at editor@hookelenews.com or karen.spangler@navy.mil

Enlisted crew member wears historic uniform



Photo courtesy of www.ourflagwasstillthere.org

This photo is of a watercolor illustration depicting an enlisted member of a barge crew in typical dress uniform during the War of 1812. This year commemorates the bicentennial of the War of 1812. More than 40 tall ships and naval war ships arrived in Baltimore's inner harbor last week to begin the city's "Star Spangled Sailabration," the national launch of the War of 1812 and the writing of "The Star Spangled Banner."

HO'OKELE

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Navy Region Hawaii admiral takes 'global force for good' message to Alabama

Bill Doughty

Navy Region Hawaii Public Affairs

The commander of Navy Region Hawaii and Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific is back at work June 18 after four days of community partnership-building in his home state of Alabama.

Rear Adm. Frank Ponds' visit to Selma, Birmingham, Montgomery and Tuskegee was part of the Navy's 50 flag officers in 50 states community outreach initiative.

Ponds met with mayors, business leaders and educators. He visited the Birmingham VA Medical Center, the Birmingham Civil Rights Institute, University of Alabama and Tuskegee University, and he spoke to Kiwanis, Lions and Rotary clubs about the Navy's mission of protecting commerce on the world's oceans.

Millions of tons of cargo are shipped through the Alabama State Port Authority each year to more than 175 locations worldwide. More than 100,000 jobs in the state are linked directly to trade.

"Alabama is important to the Navy, and the Navy is important to Alabama," said Ponds.



U.S. Navy photo by Ensign Myron Johnson

Rear Adm. Frank Ponds, commander of Navy Region Hawaii and Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific, meets and shares sea stories with former World War II Prisoner of War Fred Frey during the admiral's visit to the Birmingham VA Medical Center.

His message to each group included the CNO's sailing directions, Navy's commitment to renewable energy and other global issues and how they related locally.

"I spoke about what the Navy is doing, especially in the Pacific, as a global force for good - in partnership building, maritime security and humanitarian/civic assistance support, such as Pacific Partnership. The partnerships we build

help us promote understanding and cooperation that ultimately helps businesses in Alabama," Ponds said.

Ponds also spoke about the context and consequences of the War of 1812 (200 years ago this year) and Battle of Midway (70 years ago this month), two pivotal events that shaped the Navy and the nation.

He engaged with school administrators, educators

and students at various levels.

At Tuskegee University, Ponds met with professors and students at the College of Engineering and Physical Sciences.

"I showed him the work we have with the Navy and some other research related to STEM - science, technology, engineering and mathematics," said Heshmat Aglan, professor and associate dean. "The admiral met with Ph.D. students and also high school students who are part of our program."

"We had very fruitful discussions, and we hope we can develop an even greater partnership with the Navy," Aglan said.

Ponds stopped at Birmingham's Horizons School, whose mission statement reads, "preparing young adults with learning difficulties for an independent life."

"Our students were very impressed," said Dr. Jade Carter, school director. "What Adm. Ponds was able to do was give concrete specifics about very global concepts - and they got it. Rarely is someone so able to communicate a global message in a way that students can really connect with."

At a Kiwanis Club talk, he spoke about the Navy's

importance and relevance to Alabama.

John "Lex" Williamson Jr., youth scholarship committee chairman for the Boys and Girls Club of Central Alabama, sent an email to Ponds after the talk.

"As you know, Alabama has a long history of leadership in the Navy," Williamson wrote. "My father, from Birmingham, retired as a captain, but was the creator of the Williamson Turn while at sub chaser training school in Miami in the early '40s. He was also the executive officer on the USS England which sank six Japanese submarines in 12 days in the Pacific. I am bragging, but he would have enjoyed your representing the Navy."

During his visit June 11-14, Ponds gave several media interviews and spoke about the people who comprise today's Navy.

"Right now, we have the most highly educated, highly trained and highly patriotic individuals serving as we have ever had in the history of this country," he said. "The generation that is serving today are a fabulous bunch. And their families are committed to that service as well."

Ponds credited his Alabama roots for his work ethic,

family values and commitment to service.

Ponds was raised in western Autauga County. He graduated from Autaugaville High School in 1977 and earned a bachelor of science degree from the University of Alabama in 1982. He received his commission from Officer Candidate School in 1983.

From his office window at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam (JBPHH), Ponds can look at the 11 surface warships that comprise Naval Surface Group, Middle Pacific. Dozens of ships will be arriving next week for the Rim of the Pacific exercise which starts June 29.

As commander of Navy Region Hawaii, where he leads more than 3,200 civilian and military personnel, Ponds provides support at JBPHH on Oahu and Pacific Missile Range Facility on Kauai to units assigned to Commander U.S. Pacific Fleet, providing readiness support that enables warfighters to operate forward.

For more information, visit www.navy.mil, www.facebook.com/usnavy, or www.twitter.com/usnavy.

For more news from Commander, Navy Region Hawaii, visit www.navy.mil/local/cnrh/.

Meetings will provide opportunities for residents to give feedback

Continued from A-1

agement of the Navy's military family homes.

"Forest City is committed to providing exceptional customer service to our residents," said Tom Carter, vice president of military housing for Forest City. "We are listening very carefully to the messages our residents are giving us at these meetings, and their input will help us focus on the areas we need to improve in," he added.

Ponds and Carter will be joined by Capt. Jeffrey James, commander of Joint Base Pearl Harbor-

Hickam, in leading the community meetings scheduled for next week:

June 26, 5:30 p.m., FCRM Hokulani Community Center.

June 27, 5:30 p.m., Wahiawa Annex Chapel.

June 28, 5:30 p.m., FCRM Pearl City Community Center.

Additionally, two meetings will be held in July:

July 10, 5:30 p.m., FCRM Moanalua Terrace Community Center.

July 12, 5:30 p.m., FCRM Hokulani Community Center.

Two more meetings will be held in September, with specific

dates and times to be announced at a later date.

In addition to the opportunity to provide feedback to Forest City and Navy leaders about general issues, the community meetings will present information about the recent changes to the Residential Energy Conservation Program that will be incorporated Navy-wide this year.

The pilot RECP program launched in January 2011 at Navy Region Hawaii and at Marine Corps Housing at Parris Island and Beaufort, S.C. and

was considered very successful. Commander, Navy Installations Command announced that RECP will be rolled out to the rest of the Navy's public private venture (PPV) housing beginning in October.

At that time, all RECPs will use a 10 percent buffer above and below the average monthly electricity usage by PPV residents. As a result, Navy Region Hawaii's current 20 percent buffer will be lowered to 10 percent in October. Residents can learn more about RECP at one of the community meetings or visit

the Navy Region Hawaii website at <http://bit.ly/Mysetx>.

"These community meetings provide opportunities for residents to discuss other residential issues pertaining to safety, comfort and quality customer service, even if those issues are not part of the Residential Energy Conservation Program," Ponds said.

"I hope residents will come out and share their opinions because that's the best way for Forest City to learn how they are doing," he added. "Good communication builds greater understanding."

Pearl Harbor-Hickam *Highlights*



(Above) Staff Sgt. Ricky Renfro, 6547th Security Forces Squadron military working dog (MWD) handler, and MWD Jimmy, honor Military Working Dog Bert during a memorial ceremony June 13 at the Missing Man Memorial, Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam. Bert died May 25 due to complications from a tumor found on his heart. (Story on page A-1)

U.S. Navy photo by David Underwood Jr.



(Left) Friends and families of the crew of USS Tucson (SSN 770) gathered June 14 at the submarine piers at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, to welcome back the Los Angeles-class submarine. Tucson completed a six-month deployment to the western Pacific region.

U.S. Navy photo by MCI Ronald Gutridge

(Below) An unexpected highlight of the 647th Logistics Readiness Squadron change of command June 14 was the appearance of the USS Pearl Harbor (LSD 52), which edged down the channel as it returned to sea.

U.S. Navy photo by Jim Murray



Pearl Harbor survivors visit the USS Arizona Memorial during a private tour hosted by JBPHH and the National Park Service. The tour was part of the Old Glory Honor Flight "Return to Pearl!" in which the World War II veterans from Wisconsin were able to pay their respects at historic sites on Oahu.

U.S. Navy photo by MC2 David Kolmel



647th Logistics Readiness Squadron holds change of command

Jim Murray

Naval Supply Fleet
Logistics Center Pearl
Harbor Public Affairs

In a change of command held June 14 at the Missing Man Formation at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Lt. Col. Mark Clifford relieved Lt. Col. Andrew "Grumpy" Hunt as commander of 647th Logistics Readiness Squadron.

Clifford reports from the U.S. Air Force Academy where he was the deputy department head for physical education as well as the deputy commander of Cadet Group Four.

Hunt, who took the helm of the 647th LRS in June 2010, is bound for Joint Base Lewis-McChord near



U.S. Air Force photo by David D. Underwood Jr.

Lt. Col. Mark B. Clifford takes the guidon from Col. Dann Carlson, commander of 647th Air Base Group and deputy commander of Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, as he assumes command June 14 of the 647th Logistics Readiness Squadron. Lt. Col. Andrew W. Hunt (right) is the former commander.

Tacoma, Wash.

A 1997 graduate of the U.S. Air Force Academy, Clifford also earned a Ph.D. in sport administration from the University of New Mexico. He is a logistics readiness officer who has served in a variety of squadron and staff positions.

Most notably, he served as the fuels support officer for Air Force One and as a logistics plans and operations officer for the Joint Special Operations Command. He has deployed in support of Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom.

As the head of the 647th LRS, Clifford will lead more than 150 personnel, manage a 300-vehicle fleet, and oversee a \$65 million supply inventory. In addition, he

will serve as the logistics readiness division (Code 450) department head and senior Air Force officer under the NAVSUP Fleet Logistics Center Pearl Harbor. He will also be the joint base 41 department head.

The 647th Logistics Readiness Squadron provides logistical management and support to Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, the 15th Air Wing, Headquarters Pacific Air Command and more than 140 associate organizations. On an annual basis, the 647th Logistics Readiness Squadron moves more than 19,000 passengers, 7,294 short tons of cargo, 2,500 personal property shipments, and processes in excess of 215,000 supply transactions.



C-17 lands on gravel-surfaced semi-prepared airstrip for RED FLAG-Alaska

RED FLAG-Alaska is one of the largest international air-combat employment exercises in the world and is designed to test the specific capabilities of the military units that take part in the exercise and increase their chance of survival during actual combat.

A C-17 Globemaster III aircraft from the 535th Airlift Squadron at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, awaits takeoff from a gravel-surfaced semi-prepared airstrip after landing there for a delivery mission June 15.

(Upper right) Capt. Adrian Martin, a pilot from the 535th Airlift Squadron at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, turns a C-17 Globemaster III aircraft on a gravel-surfaced semi-prepared airstrip.

U.S. Air Force photos by Capt. Ben Sakrisson

Farewell to MWD Bert: 'good job buddy'

Continued from A-1

already thinking about planning for his retirement."

That early afternoon, MWD Bert collapsed again with no hope of resuscitation.

Fallen Warrior remembered "Those who call themselves dog handlers are truly the only ones who understand the bond between a military working dog and his handler," said Tech. Sgt. Roy Barden, 647th SFS Military Working Dog section NCOIC. "It is a bond that cannot be broken, even in death."

Military Working Dog Bert's "end of watch" was honored in a ceremony June 13 at Hickam's Missing Man Memorial where base leadership gathered to pay their respects to a fallen warrior.

"Bert's dedication to his work, even to the end, is continued proof of how stoic and driven these dogs are to ensure mission success," Cruz said. "I will always remember him as a fighter."

Military Working Dog

Bert, whelped in April 2003, was certified as an explosive detector dog in April 2006 at the Department of Defense Military Working Dog School, Lackland Air Force Base, Texas. He was trained to detect a myriad of explosive ordnance.

During his seven-year career as an Air Force military working dog, Bert deployed with his handlers multiple times: Forward Operating Base McHenry, Iraq, January to July 2008, and two undisclosed locations in Southwest Asia in 2009 and 2010.

During the June ceremony, Lt. Col. Michael Gimbrone, 647th SFS commander, pointed out the rarity of having every MWD handler who had ever worked with MWD Bert in attendance: Staff Sgt. Bradley Sears, Tech. Sgt. Jeremy Nichols, Tech. Sgt. Nathan Combs, Tech. Sgt. Roy Barden and Cruz.

"Like other defenders, MWD Bert gave many years of faithful service to the

Department of Defense and our great nation," Gimbrone said. "Throughout the years, he faithfully stood by the side of (his) handlers, engaged in missions of national and strategic importance."

Like humans, a dog's personalities and quirks earn them reputations. Cruz spoke of the time he spent with MWD Bert and his easygoing personality. He said the first time he saw Bert he thought, "This has to be the laziest dog I've ever seen," because Bert was laying down eating.

A seasoned veteran of the force, Bert will also be remembered for another quirk, "crazy eyes," as Cruz called it. The German shepherd's eyes didn't point in the normal direction, but Cruz said that didn't stop him from always looking out for his handler.

"Good job buddy," Cruz said in his closing remarks. "Please look out after our military working dog teams deploying in harm's way."