

Seabee come, Seabee go, dog stay

By Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Richard Doolin

SASEBO, Japan - The member of Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 133, Detachment, Sasebo, who's been longest at Fleet Activities, Sasebo, Japan, isn't human; she's a dog, and her name is Zoe.

Zoe is NMCB 133 Sasebo detachment's mascot. NMCB detachments rotate through Sasebo every few months, but Zoe stays. She's been the mascot for six NMCB detachments.

Zoe, a brown-and-white mutt with a lot of pit-bull terrier, is four-years-old. A Sasebo dog, she was adopted from an animal shelter three-and-a-half years ago.

Constructionman Mechanic (SCW) Caleb Reilly looks after Zoe.

"I groom her, bathe her, clip her nails, take her out for walks, and just hang out with her. Or she hangs out with me, I should say. She comes up to my office," said Reilly.

Every day Reilly takes Zoe for a long walk around base. On these walks Zoe has no problem with people, but cats are a different matter.

"She's very timid, very, she's almost kind of hesitant towards people," Said Reilly. "The only thing that she would probably try to harm is cats. She does not like them. When we're on our walks I have her on a leash, so it's not a big deal, but she chases cats. I guess that's a typical dog thing, though."

When Reilly and Zoe met, things were awkward.

"When we first arrived it was kind of difficult," said Reilly. "She was a little hesitant at the turnover, a little more shy, kind of kept to herself a little bit. And then, about two weeks after the other battalion left, she kind of opened up, and you know she was more friendly."

Builder 2nd Class (SCW) Daniel McCluskey said Zoe has changed a lot since he first met her three years ago.

"She was a little bit smaller. She wasn't exactly a pup. She was like probably about two years old," said McCluskey. "She was a really good dog. She's actually gotten a lot better. She's more calm now, which is good. She used to be really hyper."

Zoe is spayed, and doesn't have a boyfriend.

On their walks Reilly sometimes takes Zoe to a kennel on base.

"She's real friendly with other dogs. She'll go over and see if one of her friends is over there [*at the kennel*], and hang out there for a while," said Reilly. "Sometimes she gets to interact with them, like when their owners around, they'll let their dog out, and she can go play with them and stuff. She's really friendly with dogs."

Lt. Nathan Chenarak, officer-in-charge NMCB 133 det., Sasebo, is proud of Zoe.

"She's a great dog. She's passed from det. to det. She's the det. Mascot," said Chenarak. "About maybe three dets. ago we had two dogs at the same time; the old dog was kind of not too friendly. But she's [*Zoe's*] a really well behaved dog, does tricks, and she's a good dog."