

## CRASH, SPELLED CHRACH

Heroes are defined by their actions, but not limited by their species. Military working dog Chrach (pronounced "Crash") was awarded the 12th Annual Animal Hero Award at Luke AFB for his service to the country.

### NOTE

Respect is at the root of the Profession of Arms and bonds every Airman together. It is the feeling of esteem or deference for people, equipment, and resources... including animals.

On 26 January 2012, while conducting a joint patrol with the Afghan local police, Chrach and his Air Force handler was diverted to an improvised explosive device (IED) detonation involving an Afghan police vehicle. Upon arriving at the blast site, they began a search of the area for secondary devices in the debris field. Chrach alerted handlers to a second IED located only four meters from the initial blast site. It contained 50 pounds of homemade explosives. This discovery prevented any additional loss of life or injury while the recovery of the site was completed.

While this discovery saved lives and enabled safe movement for U.S., coalition, and host nation forces, and the local population, it is not Chrach's only accomplishment. During his deployment, Chrach found 50 blasting caps that could be used to make IEDs, an assault rifle, another IED with 40 pounds of homemade explosives, and a remote firing device.

No tool or machine compares to the overwhelming intellectual and olfactory abilities of a military working dog. They keep Airmen, Marines, Soldiers, and Sailors safe, and Chrach has an undeniable record of success in doing just that.