



PATROL SQUADRON FOUR SKINNY DRAGONS DEPLOYMENT NEWSLETTER 2016



CDR CHRIS SMITH

COMMANDING OFFICER



CMDCM CARROL-GILLIS

COMMAND MASTER CHIEF



CDR BRYAN HAGER

EXECUTIVE OFFICER

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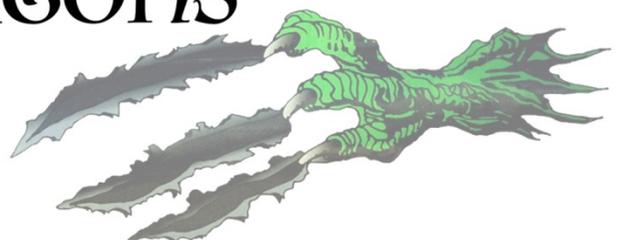
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SKINNY DRAGONS





SKIPPERS CORNER



Aloha Skinny Dragons and Families,

I am writing to you from Naval Air Station Sigonella. The Skinny Dragons have settled back into our routine here in Sigonella and we have already run into many familiar faces from previous deployments. We are also settled in nicely in Djibouti and El Salvador. The first month of deployment has been very productive, picking up right where we left off on our home cycle; all hands have made critical contributions on the ground and in the air to further our reputation as one of our Navy's best squadrons.

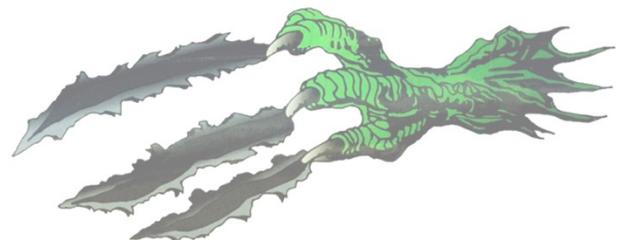
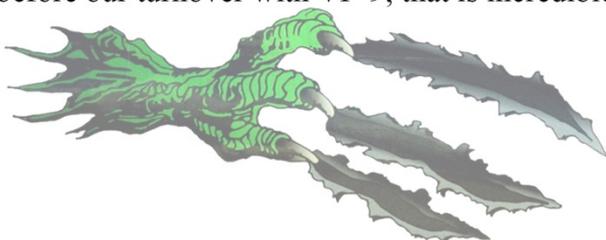
Deployment has already brought many challenges and there are surely many more to come. In fact, just getting on deployment was a pretty incredible feat in and of itself. I give many thanks to the Skinny Dragons and families who worked tirelessly to make for a successful and on-time departure from Hawaii. All of our Sailors and aircraft arrived to their deployed location four days before our turnover with VP-9; that is incredible!

What makes our arrival on deployment so impressive to me is that we did it in the midst of our Permanent Duty Station Change. Many of us were in different stages of moving our household goods and families from Hawaii to Whidbey Island or getting ready for a PCS to the next command. I have never been in a squadron that had to balance so many competing priorities. All these moving parts made it terribly hard on our families. To our VP-4 Ombudsmen and all our Skinny Dragon Families, I thank you for your service that allows us to serve. We would not be succeeding on deployment the way that we are without the unending support from our Ombudsmen and all our families. Thank you!

This month also brought our Change of Command. I hope everyone had a chance to read Skipper Spore's farewell on our squadron Facebook page. I can say without a doubt that I am a better officer and person for having worked with Skipper Spore for the last year. I know there are many more like me that would say the same thing. Skipper Spore poured his heart and soul into this squadron and our success on deployment and during the PDSC point directly to his vision, care for others, and his leadership. Farewell Skipper, you will be missed!

We have had a good first month and we have many challenges that await us; some known and some unknown. I encourage everyone who is reading this to daily live out our squadron's core values of Family, Leadership, and Integrity. If we dedicate ourselves daily to treat every Skinny Dragon like family, to lead when called upon and act with unwavering integrity, we will continue to dominate from the air and succeed in every challenge. I am excited for what lies ahead!

Mahalo,
Skipper Smith



DJIBOUTI DIRECT

Aloha from Djibouti!!!

The VP-4 Djibouti Detachment arrived ready to hit the sand running. Within a day of arriving, our maintenance and aircrew team had set up shop and were prepared to fly combat missions in support of our African allies. We work and live in CLU's, which are cargo containers that have been made into offices, shops, and living quarters. The sand here is a dry powder, and the African climate is scorching, reaching temperatures of over 90 degrees by



the early morning hours. The rare rainstorm turns the entire base into a sticky muddy mess that there is no escaping from. However, with each of these challenges, the Skinny Dragons rise ready to meet the challenge. Our maintenance team works tirelessly through the heat of the day to ensure that the aircraft is in peak condition, while the aircrew expertly accomplish each and every mission that they are tasked with. The austere conditions make the days long and hard, but the deployers here in Djibouti maintain high spirits, creating an atmosphere of friendship and comradery. Although there is not a lot of time for leisure, what little time individuals have is well used. In the early hours of the evening, the gym here is cluttered with Skinny Dragons. After the gym, many can be found at the Morale and Welfare Center, playing ping-pong, engaging in pool tournaments, or simply just relaxing after a long day of work.

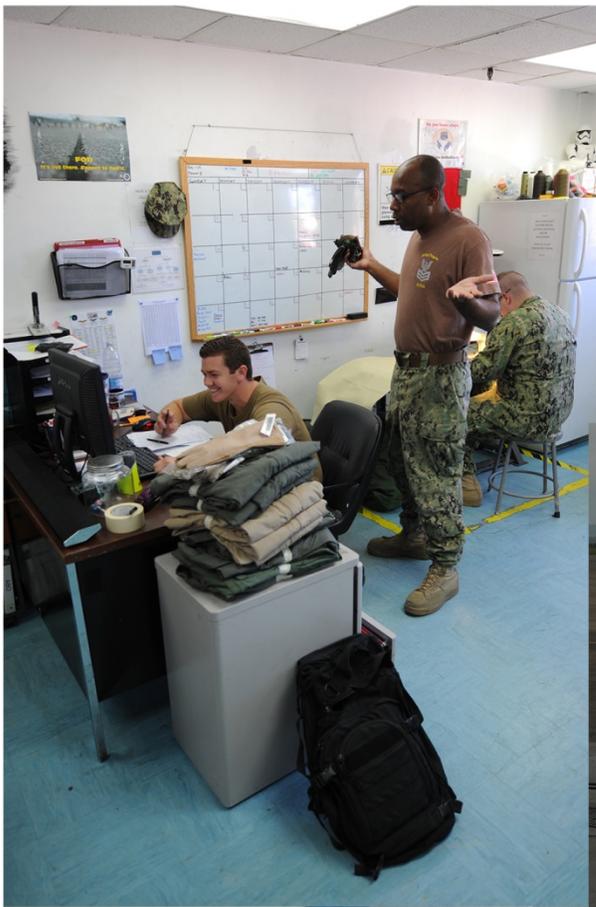


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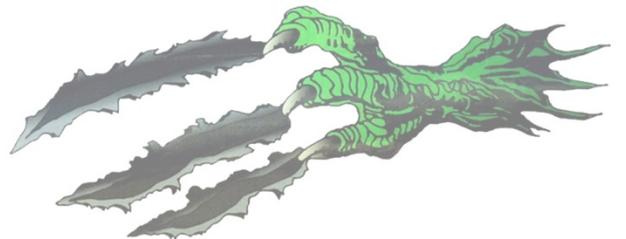
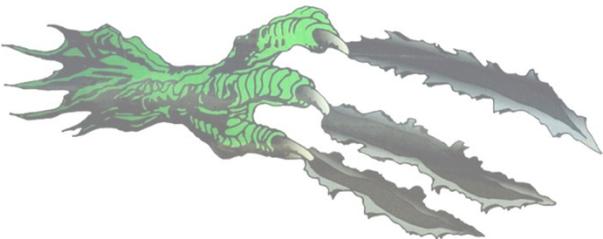


Hola from El Salvador! The Skinny Dragons have hit the ground running in Central America. We have been battling the humid days and muggy nights to keep the planes going in support of Operation Martillo. Combat Aircrews TWO, THREE, and TWELVE have already flown numerous missions that proved to be beneficial to America's War on Drugs. The professionalism and expertise of VP-4's aircrew and maintenance professionals has provided US SOUTHCOM with an invaluable asset in the region. Our long-range patrol capability means long missions for the aircrews, but also extends our area of influence in the Eastern Pacific and Western Caribbean. We are quickly becoming proficient at our mission in El Salvador and our P-3C Orions have proved to be exceptional assets for a very unique and rewarding task.





SIGONELLA ELEMENTARY FIELD DAY COMREL



Change of Command 2016



OMBUDSMAN

Aloha Skinny Dragon Ohana,

We hope everyone is doing well and that you're settling into your deployment routine. We have several announcements to provide you with, regarding opportunities in both Whidbey and in Hawaii.

For Whidbey events:

Oak Harbor School District has informed us that they are accepting applications for teaching positions for the 2016-2017 school year. Please view the attached flyer for instructions regarding the application process.

Oak Harbor will be having a free event called A CULINARY EVENT TO HONOR MILITARY SPOUSES on Saturday, May 21st, from 11 AM to 2 PM at Bakerview Restaurant! Attend for a day of food, fun and education. There will be giveaways, food sampling, wine & beer pairing, Extending Your Grocery Dollar, hospitality & food service job info, and culinary demonstrations from Award-Winning Chefs. Please RSVP by Tuesday, May 17 at 360-257-6289.

For Hawaii events, we have the following:

The ASYMCA will be hosting several camps in June, including a Robotics Camp and Camp Hero. Camp Hero is available for students 7-12 years of age of active duty service members, and Robotics Camp is available for students 9-13 years of age of active duty service members.

Finally, the Military Child Education Coalition has announced 5 upcoming free webinars available to Navy families. Upcoming webinar topics include Homework Motivation Strategies and Support, and School Transitions: What Every Parent Needs to Know. Please review their flyer and see all of the topics they have to offer!

If you have any questions, as always, please feel free to contact us!

Mahalo,
Cassie Jones and Rose Shrum
Your VP4 Ombudsman

