

VP-4 Celebrates the Holidays

LTJG Dustin Wilmoth

The Patrol Squadron FOUR (VP-4) “Skinny Dragons” celebrated a late Christmas on Friday December 29th aboard Naval Air Station Sigonella, Italy. The all hands celebration took place at JOX, and

was complete with some motivational words from CDR Strong, the VP-4 Commanding Officer.

Commander Brent Strong thanked the squadron for their hard work during the first month of deployment, and ensured the Dragons that what they do on deployment matters to Americans back

at home. A Christmas celebration wouldn't be

complete without costumes and a gift raffle, so the Command Services Department held the annual Christmas costume vote to determine who would wear the Santa and Christmas tree costumes during the



The “Skinny Dragons” line up for the holiday dinner buffet.



HM2 Zachary Wilson being awarded his new rank by CDR Brent Strong.

Holiday party. With 100's of votes cast on the final day, the Dragons with the most votes were Master Chief Dewayne Barnes and LCDR Jon Horn. They both took the news in stride and wore the costumes for the entire event, posing for many photo opportunities. After dinner, several gifts were raffled including gift certificates, five iPod Shuffles, and a grand prize of \$100 cash. Each department also recognized

one of their stellar Sailors with a 24 hour liberty pass to explore the beautiful Italian island of Sicily. Lastly

and after much anticipation, Commander Strong and CMC Gary Smedley announced the 2012 Command Advancement Program awardees. Three Petty Officers were meritoriously promoted one pay grade for their dedication, professional knowledge, and work



The “Skinny Dragons” doing the “wobble.”

ethic within the squadron. AWV1 Jeremy Housel, HM2 Zachary Wilson, and AD2 Blaz Kenyon were all



Master Chief Dewayne Barnes and LCDR Jon Horn showing off their costumes.

surprised to hear the news, and the “Skinny Dragon” crowd erupted in cheers. After the official business, the tables were removed and a long night of dancing and socializing ensued. When the celebration subsided, AWOCS Stanley Lenover remarked, “It was great to see the junior Sailors get to blow off some steam after a busy first month of deployment.” The “Skinny Dragons” are excited to see what the New Year has to offer for the remainder of their deployment.