

Pease Greeters say Farewell to VP-4

On Wednesday, 28th November 2012, members of Patrol Squadron FOUR (VP-4) were offered a warm farewell from the patriotic members of the Pease Greeters on their last stop in the US prior to deploying overseas. Stepping off the plane at Pease International Airport in NH, the members of VP-4 were immediately reignited with high spirits as they were led through the airport on their way to an unexpected buffet of food and drinks, all the while, surrounded by hundreds of Greeters cheering, clapping, and showing their support. The ceremony continued with a picture under the Pease welcome sign to be added to Hero's Walk, a hallway in the Pease airport dedicated to the service members who have passed through. As the Pease Greeters gathered, VP-4 was blessed from the Greeters Chaplain and Colors were presented. The National Anthem was sung and "the shirt off their back", a sweater signed by the Pease Greeters was given to LCDR Jamy Brassfield. LCDR Brassfield stated, "Within 10 hours, we had run the gambit of emotions: from saying goodbye to our families to a hero's send off. I don't usually struggle for words, but the rousing send off we received left me speechless. The generous volunteers at Pease reminded every one of us why it is, we do what we do. It is truly amazing to receive such homecomings and sendoffs compared to my father's generation that came home from Vietnam welcomed by empty terminals and protests. We are blessed to know that the people of this great nation support us." They were then saluted saying, "We, the old Warriors, salute you, the young Warriors".

As the ceremony came to an end, the members of Patrol Squadron FOUR were given a star from retired flags to carry on them as well as a beanie from Prayer Shawl Ministry with an attached saying "Knitted for you with appreciation & pride in every stitch". The Greeters presented their last hugs and handshakes prior to the VP-4 members entering the plane. With high spirits, satisfied bellies and nice warm heads, the emotional service members said their last goodbyes. As the plane taxied for takeoff, the patriotic members of the Pease Greeters had gathered outside the gate around a lit up American flag, in the cold of night, for one last spectacular showing of support to the VP-4 members as they waved sparklers and gave their one last goodbye.

Patrol Squadron Four would like to thank the Pease Greeters for their support and hospitality. It was a remarkable experience that will not be forgotten. Pictures of the experience as well as information about the Pease Greeters can be found at <http://www.peasegreeters.org/>.



LCDR Jamy Brassfield delivers a speech of appreciation after receiving "the shirt off their back," a sweater signed by the Pease Greeters.