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CO'S CORNER



Skinny Dragon Ohana,

As I travel around to each detachment site and see the extreme effort put forth by our Skinny Dragons, I can easily convey to all who read this latest newsletter that our spirits are high, our preparedness is exceptional, and our motivation is unmatched. It takes highly trained and selfless individuals to excel in the military on deployment. What I have seen in all the Sailors is astounding! I cannot begin to explain in words the feeling I get everyday knowing that we have the best squadron in the Fleet, and I am so lucky and humbled for the opportunity to lead these fine young men and women halfway around the world in a time of conflict. I truly am honored. This month, I would like to take time to congratulate our newest Chiefs. Each and every one of them has the professional skill, the motivation, and the integrity to flourish in their new positions of leadership. It is with great pride that I would like to congratulate the hard work and enduring spirit of AMEC McGregor, AZC Holzhauser, and AWOC

Cherhoniak for striving for excellence and earning it. Bravo Zulu!

Enjoy this latest newsletter, and remember that if you have any questions or concerns contact our two great Ombudsmen by email (skinnydragonombudsman@gmail.com) or by phone: Rebecca Mitchem (904-525-2313) and Ashley Flynn (618-365-0614). Each week we invite family and friends to check the Squadron's Facebook page for "Photo Fridays". The photos encompass daily life, and special occasions at each of the detachment sites.

Ciao,
Skipper Hanks

SIGONELLA DIRECT

Hello from NAS Sigonella! To honor the memory of the September 11th attacks, this month's direct will reflect upon those who have been called to arms to keep our great nation safe. The Skinny Dragon Ohana remains vigilant, standing the ready and executing missions, always prepared to serve the needs of our nation. Thirteen years after the attacks in New York City and Washington D.C., each and every VP-4 Sailor is reminded of the importance of their job and our mission focus continues to be as strong as ever. With this in mind, our maintenance professionals worked tirelessly cleaning and repairing an aircraft that was grounded due to a rare fuel cell contamination. The fix was forecast to



take months to complete, but thanks to the incredible effort and dedication of airframers, the task was completed weeks ahead of schedule! Our maintenance professionals put another war bird back into the fight; there's no better scene than an empty hangar and a full mission ready flight line! Bravo Zulu AM1 Nicholas Libby, AM1 Nathaniel Messer, AM2 Mitchell Colangelo, AM2 Ana Gonzalez, AM2 Justin Henning, AM2 Kevin Sposato, AM2 Margaret Mele, AM3 Vanessa Muniz, AM3 Nicole Pietsch, AM3 Yeong Lee, AM3 Grant Hayes, AM3 Jeffrey Csorba, AMAN MarieStephanie Deleon and AMAN Brandon Womack.

DJIBOUTI DIRECT

Skinny Dragons continue to take care of business in Djibouti. Quarters were held at the beginning of the month to present awards to well deserving Skinny Dragons. All visitors have been impressed with how well the detachment works as a team, now enjoying the fall weather, with temperatures starting to drop below 100 degrees! The First Class Petty Officers Association put on a BBQ for all those in the desert which was a big hit! Thanks to AWF1 Lambert and AE1 Wentworth for keeping the grills hot and the steaks medium rare.



The Maintenance Professionals continue to adapt and overcome a dynamic working environment. As a direct result of their hard work, mission completion has led to an extremely satisfied customer. The DJ Skinny Dragons keep the torch burning and will spread aloha spirit until we are back on the island!

SOUDA DIRECT

The Skinny Dragon Team at detachment site NSA Souda Bay is working hard to fly missions and patrol the waters of the Mediterranean. Combat Aircrews tag team the flights and have learned how to maintain a warfighting posture while enjoying recreational activities unique to the Island of Crete. With mission completion the top priority, our combat aircrews work day and night patrolling for submarines, surface vessels, and mariners in distress, standing ready to support the Fleet Commander requirements. Of course, none of the mission requirements here could be met without the determination and hard work of the maintenance professionals who remain extremely active in keeping the planes ready to fly. A special Bravo Zulu to the ordnance team of AO2 Elliott, AO3 Myers, AO3 Torres, AO3 Greb, AOAN Eastman, and AOAN Cardin! Their efforts were critical to our aircrews, and their teamwork has met and exceeded the standard for our VP-4 family in Souda Bay!

NORTHERN COASTS

The Finnish-led and hosted exercise was based out of Turku, Finland, with the objective of conducting maritime operations in confined and shallow waters, supported by air and special operations in a multi-national framework. In a coordinated operations environment, the Skinny Dragons conducted maritime missions alongside participants from Canada, Denmark, Finland, Germany, and Sweden. Prior to their first mission in the exercise, VP-4 Sailors displayed the capabilities

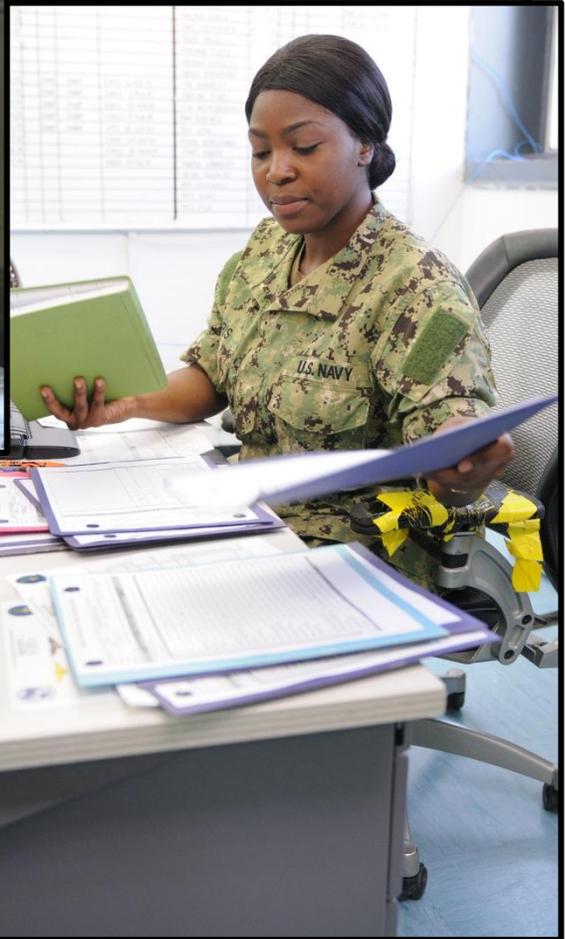


of their P-3C Orion aircraft to Commander of the Finnish Navy, Rear Adm. Kari Takanen, as he visited the aircraft. For three days, the Sailors executed combined anti-submarine and anti-surface warfare operations with allied partners, improving interoperability in a dynamic, coordinated operations environment. “It was an awesome experience to show our partners the professionalism and skill of our aircrew!” said Lt. Jarrett Bibb, a Naval Flight Officer for NOCO 2014. “It feels good to put to use all the hard work that we’ve been doing at home and on deployment.” In highlighting the P-3’s ASW capabilities, the VP-4 aircrews successfully tracked an exercise submarine and executed a crisis response scenario to provide joint operations interoperability training in a multi-threat environment. VP-4 completed three missions during their week in Turku, conducting eleven hours of exercise support.

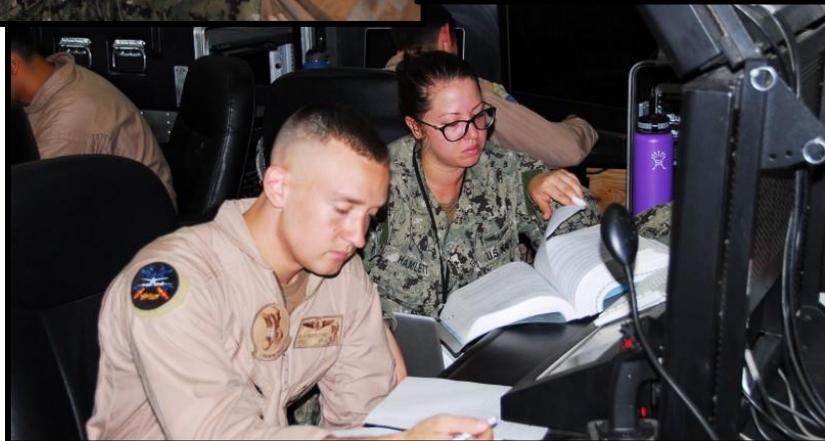
Exercise Northern Coasts 2014 gave the opportunity for VP-4, as a part of CTF-67, to conduct anti-submarine warfare and maritime domain awareness while promoting cooperative maritime safety and security near the Baltic Sea.

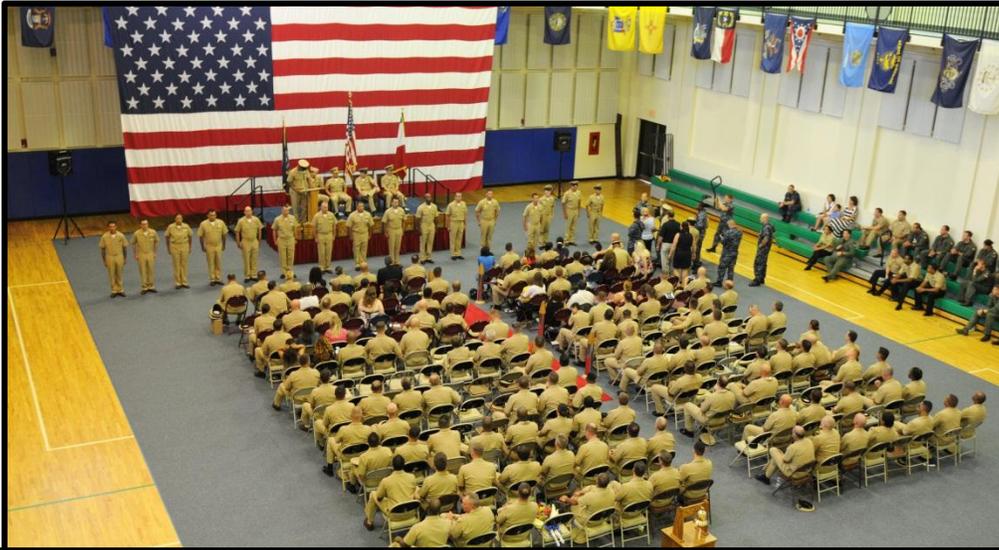
VP-4 IN ACTION















SKINNY DRAGONS IN THE SPOTLIGHT!!



Navy Air Medal

LT Dickson
LT Wilson
AWOC Cherhoniak
AWO2 Angle
AWO2 Kohl
AWO2 Minor
AWO2 Phillips
AWV2 Stones
AWF2 Vandivort



Navy Marine Corps Commendation Medal

AWOC Bailey



Navy Marine Corps Achievement Medal

AWVCS Hopper
AT1 Vaillancourt
YN2 Riddle
AME2 Smith



Newly Qualified Enlisted Aviation Warfare Specialists

PSC Ramirez
NCC Valdez
AWF2 Gomez
AWO2 Hayes
AWO2 Phillips
AWO2 Spencer
AWO2 Stair
AO3 Myers
AT3 Rollings
AMEAN Strazanac



Flag Letter of Commendation

AM1 Richmond

Newly Qualified CDI

AWF2 Gomez
AE2 Looney
PR3 Mansaray
AM2 Sposato
AO2 Watt

