



Cpl. Jeff M. Nagan

(Above) Petty Officer 3rd Class Cary K. Oneal, ordnance technician, PATRON Detachment, repairs a wire on the pressurized chutes of the P-3C Orion Wednesday. The chutes fire buoys used for submarine detection. (Left) Petty Officer 2nd Class Jay H. Mapson, aviation electrician, PATRON Detachment, tightens a screw on a gage in the cockpit of the P-3C Orion, Wednesday.

PATRON Detachment takes roost at Camp Lemonnier

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THE HORN COURIER

Since the war on terrorism began more than three years ago, trans-national terrorists throughout the globe are finding it difficult to travel due to increased U.S. efforts to identify and capture them.

A small Navy detachment aboard Camp Lemonnier is helping win the war by watching over international waters for suspicious, illegal or terrorist activity.

The Commander Task Force - 57 Patrol Squadron Detachment has been forward deployed to Djibouti to aid in Operation Enduring Freedom's Maritime Interception Operations, said Lt. Cmdr. Jim Wucher, detachment officer-in-charge. They are supporting the Combined Force Maritime Component Commander, Combined Joint Task Force - Horn of Africa and Combined Task Force -150 missions.

The detachment is mainly comprised

of maintenance sailors and aircrew from Patrol and Mobile Operational Control Center - Middle Pacific from Kaneohe Bay, Hawaii, and augmented by Patrol Squadron 16 from Jacksonville, Fla. Wucher stated that VP-9 currently has similar detachments throughout the Central Command area of operations in support of Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom.

The detachment has been deployed since June, but has only been flying out of Djibouti since August, according to Wucher.

The detachment flies the P-3C Orion, which is a land-based, long range patrol aircraft. The P-3C version in Djibouti has improved radar, electro-optics, weapons and survivability. The aircrew uses the high-tech sensors to accomplish their mission of maritime patrol and intelligence, surveillance and reconnais-



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Petty Officer 3rd Class Chris P. Backlund, mechanic, PATRON Detachment, looks over one of the P-3C Orion engines Wednesday. The P-3C is capable of operating on two of its four engines for longer flights.

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