

**TR CELEBRATES HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH**

Army Maj. (Ret.) Ed Pulido speaks at Hispanic Heritage program

**TR'S MOTORCYCLE GROUP**

Group completes 166-mile ride to N.C.

USS THEODORE ROOSEVELT  
**ROUGH RIDER**

ARE YOU READY FOR  
SOME **FÚTBOL?**



**TR'S QUEST FOR THE CHAMPIONSHIP**

# Rough Rider of the Week: ABEAN Banks

By MCSN Andrew Sulayao

Fresh out of A school, Sailors check in to their first command with an assortment of emotions. Some with excitement, some with caution. Oftentimes, their first impression of the ship starts as they meet fellow Sailors throughout the process of indoctrination. The first step of that process is checking in with Training Department, which features our Rough Rider of the Week (RROW).

This week's USS Theodore Roosevelt (CVN 71) RROW is Aviation Boatswain's Mate (Equipment) Airman Deanna R. Banks from Training Department's Indoctrination division.

Banks, a Carthage, Miss., native, joined the Navy in February 2010 and was assigned to the TR July 2010.

As a member of Training Department, Banks checks in new Sailors to the command. Banks manages the database to ensure newly reporting personnel receive their shipyard security badges in a timely manner, resulting in minimal delay for personnel getting

access to the shipyard. As of October 2011, she has expeditiously generated and completed welcome aboard messages for 550 newly reporting Sailors.

Bank's meticulous attention to detail and exceptional work ethic to complete these tasks has established her importance in Training Department and earned her the appreciation of her chain-of-command.

"Banks continually performs as a petty officer," said Aviation Ordinance-man 1st Class (AW) Terrence J. Raymond, Training Department's leading petty officer. "She possesses the desire and drive to better herself and those around her to produce nothing less than quality work."

Along with her work responsibilities, Banks also volunteers with the Newport News Beautification COM-REL regularly to assist with keeping the city of Newport News clean and promote positivity throughout the

community.

Banks believes that she was chosen as the RROW for her strong work ethic and her motivation.

"I believe I was chosen as the RROW because I am a dependable worker dedicated to the completion of set tasks at hand," said Banks.

Banks' future goals include rank promotions and going to college.

"I plan to advance in rank and go to college," said Banks. "I hope to get a degree in criminal justice, and I plan on making the Navy a career.

Training recognizes Banks as a key part in their success as a department.

"She is very meticulous in every database she maintains for the department," said Raymond. "Her work ethics, reliability, and professionalism are an invaluable asset to the Training Department's success."



# TR's Diversity Team hosts Hispanic Heritage program

Story and Photos by MC3 Tyrell Morris

The USS Theodore Roosevelt (CVN 71) Diversity Team packed as many TR Sailors as they could on the FAF mess decks for the standing room only 2011 Hispanic Heritage Month celebration, Oct. 4.

This year's theme for Hispanic Heritage Month was "Many backgrounds, many stories...one American spirit."

In September 1968, Congress authorized President Lyndon B. Johnson to proclaim National Hispanic Heritage Week which was to be observed during the week that included Sept. 15. In 1988, President Ronald Reagan expanded the observance to become Hispanic Heritage Month beginning on Sept. 15 and ending on Oct. 15.

Sept. 15 was chosen as the starting point of Hispanic Heritage Month because it is the anniversary of independence for five Latin American countries – Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua.

In addition, Mexico declared its independence on Sept. 16 and Chile on Sept. 18.

The guest speaker for the event was U.S. Army Maj. (Ret.) Ed Pulido. Pulido served 19 years in the Army. In 2004, while serving with the Coalition Military Assistance Training Team his hummer was hit by an improvised explosive device and his injuries led to the amputation of his left leg. The President and Gen. David Petraeus awarded him the Bronze Star, Purple Heart, Meritorious Service Medal, and Joint Service Commendation Medal by the President and Gen. David Petraeus for his heroism.

"I was extremely honored when the Diversity Team invited me to speak for TR's Hispanic Heritage Month program," said Pulido. "Diversity is what makes the U.S. military great and I am proud of the opportunity I had to serve."

Since his amputation, Maj. Pulido has been an advocate for veterans with disabilities and works to raise awareness on the needs of veterans with post traumatic stress disorder.

Pulido gave a very inspiring and motivational speech about his life and



U.S. Army Maj. (Ret.) Ed Pulido was the guest speaker for the USS Theodore Roosevelt (CVN 71) Hispanic Heritage Month celebration.

military experiences that earned him a standing ovation.

"As we serve with diverse backgrounds it is important that we depend on each other to ignore and try to erase the racial stigmas of the world, said Pulido. "This country was built on racial diversity and we must utilize that diversity to achieve greatness."

TR's Commanding Officer, Capt. William Hart, presented Pulido with a plaque, TR ballcap, and challenge coin. After the program, Pulido stayed to talk to many TR Sailors and had lunch with members of the Diversity Team. The supply department and food service officer made a cake for the event and served a Hispanic themed lunch.

"I thoroughly enjoyed the entire program, the speaker was excellent and he left an everlasting impression on me," said Machinist's Mate 1st Class (SW/AW) Juan P. Cardona. "It feels good to get some extra attention one month out of the year," said. "It lets me know our history and heritage have not been forgotten."



Army Maj. (Ret.) Ed Pulido, guest speaker for the USS Theodore Roosevelt (CVN 71) Hispanic Heritage Month celebration cuts the cake with members of Diversity Team.



# The Rough Riders kick off the season

Story and photos by MCSN Andrew Sulayao

***The USS Theodore Roosevelt (CVN 71) Rough Riders soccer team played their first game against the USS Harry S. Truman (CVN 75) at the Parade Grounds Soccer Fields in Norfolk, Va., Oct. 15.***



Engineman Fireman Sarah Curtindale attempts to stop a player from USS Harry S. Truman's (CVN 75) team during Wednesday's game.

In the first half, the Rough Riders were a few players short of playing. With only six players on the field and one goalie with no available substitutions, their offense and defense had to work harder to compete. The Truman played aggressively and as a result, man-

aged to get two goals before the end of the first half.

"We were doing great for having such a small amount of people," said Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class Christopher Church, the Rough Riders' coach. "They were only up by two goals so I knew we still had a chance."

TR came out strong in the second half, pushing a ball past Truman's goalkeeper in the first 10 minutes. Personnel Specialist 3rd Class Eugene Obiri passed the ball for the assist to Aviation Ordnanceman 3rd Class (AW) Foster, leaving the score 2-1.

The Rough Riders continued to play aggressively for the second half, creating several close opportunities to even the score. The Truman played composed and was able to capitalize on a penalty kick and score two additional goals before the final whistle.

The game against the Truman ended 5-1.

"It was a tough loss," said Church. "It would have been great to have a few more players out there and give the Truman a little more competition."

TR hopes to learn from the experience and move



The USS Theodore Roosevelt (CVN 71) Rough Rider soccer team shakes hands with the USS Harry S. Truman (CVN 75) following the Truman's 5-1 victory over the TR.

forward as the season progresses.

“Regardless of the lack of numbers, we had opportunities we weren’t able to capitalize on,” said Church. “I think if we had finished our chances we could have won that game, but I think fatigue sets in and makes it difficult to really play at the best of our ability.”

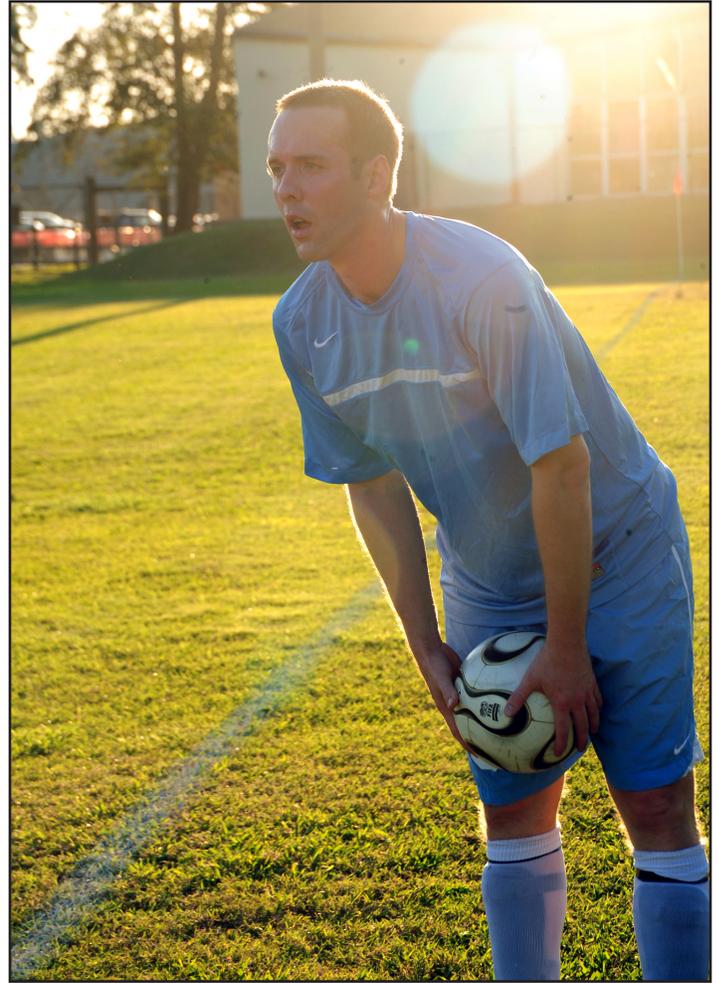
TR wants to rebound from this loss and continue its reign as one of the top teams in the league.

“Last fall we went undefeated and won the championship, and the past spring, we lost in the championship,” said Church. “We have a solid team, so I am going to expect a lot from them. I think we’ve set the bar pretty high in the past, and I want us to meet high expectations and win the championship.”

TR also experienced a change of coaches from Aviation Boatswain’s Mate (Handling) 2nd Class Christopher Brown to Church.

“Brown led this team with great success so it is definitely tough taking his place,” said Church. “But I really enjoy working with these players and hope to continue the dominance that Brown set before me.”

Overall, the season has much in store for the Rough Riders. With a change of coaches and a new mindset, there will be a lot to look forward to during the year.



Electronic’s Technician 2nd Class (SW/AW) Gary Holton prepares to throw the ball in during Wednesday’s Soccer game against USS Harry S. Truman (CVN 75)



Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class Christopher, the coach of USS Theodore Roosevelt’s (CVN 71) soccer team, talks to his team moments before the start of the match against USS Harry S. Truman (CVN 75)

# TR Sailor returns from 12-month IA assignment

By MC3 Tyrell Morris

Information Systems Technician 3rd Class Timothy Gathers, from Combat Systems Department CS-3 division, returned from a 12-month individual augmentation (IA) to Camp Eggers in Kabul, Afghanistan in July.

Camp Eggers is used by all U.S. military branches and is home to the NATO Training Mission – Afghanistan (NTM-A)/Combined Security Transition Command – Afghanistan (CSTC-A).

“I worked 12-hour days, 6 days a week,” said Gathers. “It definitely took some time to get used to the working hours.”

During his time at Camp Eggers, Gathers was responsible for communication support and spent the majority of his time as a convoy escort. Being a convoy escort is a very dangerous job. You have to be vigilant and alert for possible threats, attacks, and improvised explosive devices.

“There was never a moment when I feared my life was in danger,” said Gathers. “I guess I got lucky.”



Gathers volunteered to go IA.

“I wanted to get the ‘boots on the ground’ experience,” said Gathers. “I felt like going IA would be a good move for my naval career.”

Much like a deployment with a ship, an IA assignment allows Sailors to save a lot of money. Gathers received Imminent Danger Pay, Combat Zone Tax Exclusion,

Hardship Duty Pay, and Incidental Expense per diem.

“The money I was able to save was one of the best parts of my IA experience,” said Gathers.

The biggest adjustment for Gathers was serving in a joint service environment and working with reservists. When Sailors are away from their command it is important to their morale to hear from their chain-of-command and shipmates they worked with before leaving.

“My chain-of-command kept in touch with me while I was away and that made being away from my TR family a little easier,” said Gathers. “It made me feel good to know they cared about me and how I was doing.”

When Gathers returned from his IA he had to adjust to being back in the shipyard and working with almost a completely new chain of command.

Gathers received a Joint Service Achievement Medal for his service while on his IA assignment.

## PHOTO FIND

Can you find the **8** out of place items in this photo?

1. Ruler
2. Baseball bat
3. Wrench
4. Ballcap
5. Grenade
6. Batman
7. Tiger
8. TR the Man



Members of USS Theodore Roosevelt's (CVN 71) Rough Rider Motorcycle Group take a break from the 166-mile bike ride to Outerbanks N.C., in front of the Bodie Island Lighthouse.

Photo by MC3 Christopher Church

Photo Find by MC2 (EXW) Joey Morgon

# TR's Rough Rider Motorcycle Group on the road again

By MC3 Christopher Church

A thunderous roar of motorcycle engines met the brisk beach air as Sailors from USS Theodore Roosevelt (CVN 71) worked their way from Chesapeake, Va. down through the Outerbanks, N.C. The group of approximately 50 Sailors enjoyed the miles of sand and beach villages while traveling the open road.

TR's Rough Rider Motorcycle Group enjoyed a 166-mile bike ride to North Carolina and back to Va. on September 30, 2011.

"I was very surprised at how many people came out," said Electronics Technician 3rd Class (EXW) John Meisner, who was recently elected at the president of the Rough Rider Motorcycle Group. "It built a lot of camaraderie among riders from the command and let the new riders learn from the experiences of those who have been riding for years."

The trip was meant to give Sailors the experience of riding with a group for a long trip, as well as giv-

ing Sailors an opportunity to stay in North Carolina for the beginning of the Outerbanks Bike Week.

"I feel the riders who came learned a lot along the route," said Meisner. "Along the way I saw Sailors working together using hand signals for passing and to warn other Sailors of obstacles.

"The ride was close enough to for Sailors to head back after lunch, or to go and enjoy the first couple of days of bike week down here."

The Sailors stopped along the way to enjoy the Bodie Island Lighthouse, one of several lighthouses dotted along the North Carolina coast.

"I love riding my bike and being able to travel to new places," said Meisner. "Doing both at the same time by taking this scenic trip was great."

Sailors ended their trip together by enjoying lunch at Fishbones Raw Bar and Grill. While eating lunch they shared stories about their ride.



Two members of USS Theodore Roosevelt's (CVN 71) Rough Rider Motorcycle Group take a break from the 166-mile bike ride to Outerbanks N.C., in front of the Bodie Island Lighthouse.

Photo by MC3 Christopher Church



USS Theodore Roosevelt's (CVN 71) Rough Rider Motorcycle Group prepare to hit the road after a short break in their 166-mile bike ride to Outerbanks N.C.

Photo by MC3 Christopher Church

"It was my first time with the group, but I met a lot of great people," said Aviation Boatswain Mate (Handling) 2nd Class (AW/SW) Jose Torres, who was recently elected the vice-president of the Rough Rider Motorcycle Group. "They were all awesome people to ride with, and I'm glad to get to ride with them all again."

The ride was an opportunity for Sailors to learn about motorcycle safety and to take a break from the stresses of a normal Navy workday.

"It's Friday, I got to sleep in and ride my motorcycle instead of going to work," said Lt. Cmdr. Rodney Norton, TR's admin officer. "It was a good day."

The motorcycle group plans on riding down the Colonial Parkway in October for its last ride of the year.

# Photo of the Week



USS Theodore Roosevelt's (CVN 71) Navigator Capt. Roger Curry has shoulder boards put on his uniform by his children at his capping ceremony on the USS Wisconsin in Norfolk, Va., Sept. 30.

Photo by MC2 Corey Hixson

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## — NOTICE — From the Shipyard

### NEW WALKWAYS INSIDE THE YARD

*One step towards a new safety culture.*

**What is happening:** The shipyard has recently painted 7.5 miles of new walkways and crosswalks in an effort to further protect pedestrians.

**What do they look like:** The new walkways are outlined with white paint. Cross walks have horizontal stripes. Most crosswalks have pedestrian signs.

**What are the rules:** If there is a crosswalk or walkway, you are required to use them. Avoid driving vehicles in designated walkways. Do not place material or equipment in the walkways or crosswalks. Do not ride a bicycle in the walkway.