

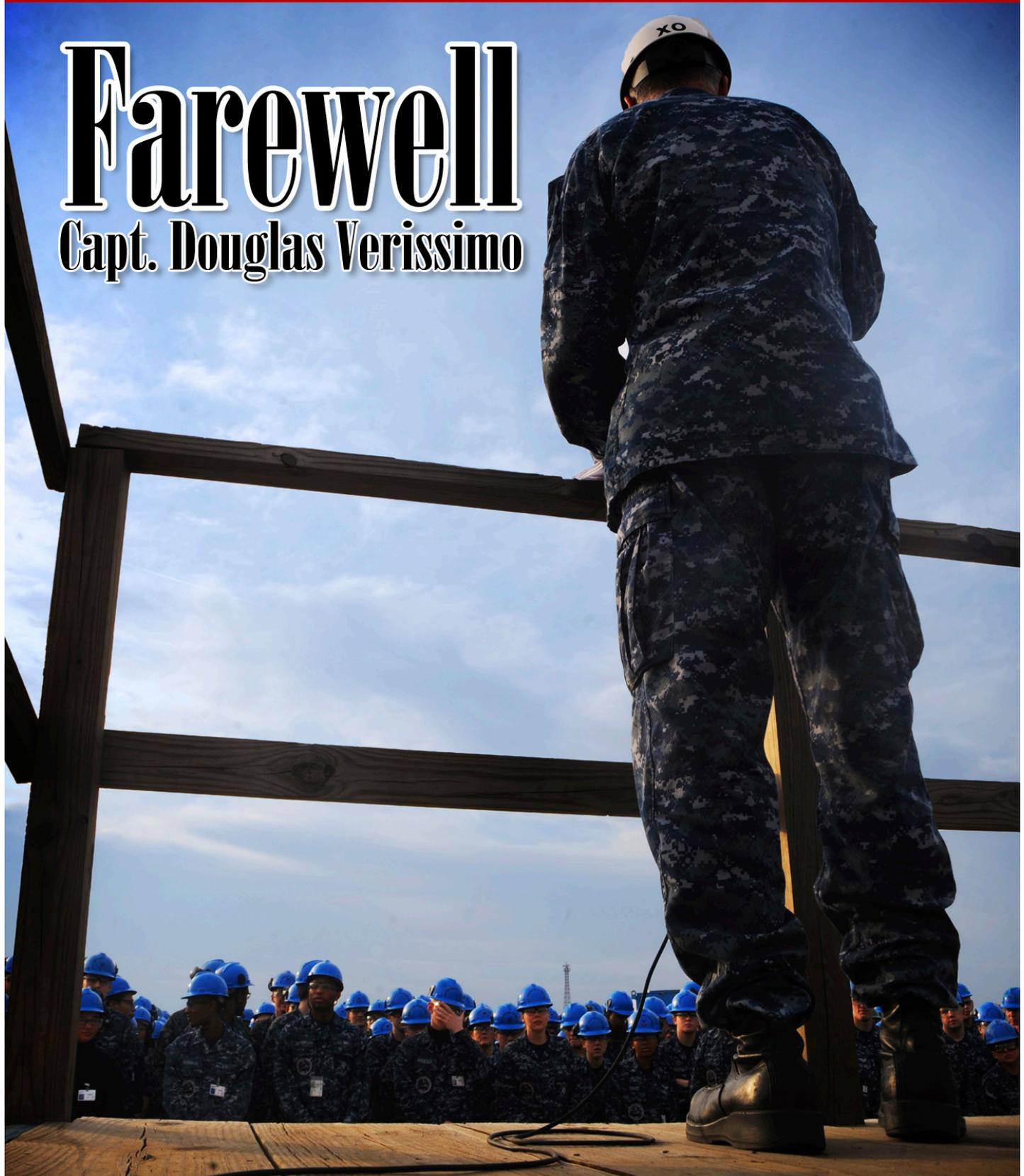
Capt. Verissimo speaks on memorable times aboard the

TR Sailors celebrate Dr. Seuss' birthday

USS THEODORE ROOSEVELT

ROUGH RIDER

Farewell Capt. Douglas Verissimo



The Green Belt Challenge



Aviation Boatswain's Mate (Fuels) 2nd Class (AW/SW) Jamil Allen, USS Theodore Roosevelt's first homegrown green-belt, instructs a fellow Sailor during a Continuous Process Improvement (CPI) event March 7. Photo by MC3 Sandra Pimentel

Story by MC3 Sandra Pimentel *USS Theodore Roosevelt Public Affairs*

While in the Shipyard many Sailor's have taken the time to broaden their horizons such as: earning a degree or gaining certificates, learning a new skill, or something as simple as starting a new book.

Aviation Boatswain's Mate (Fuels) 2nd Class (AW/SW) Jamil Allen is no exception to this. Allen chose to broaden his horizons by becoming the first Sailor aboard TR to earn a green belt certificate.

"It feels good to be the first," said Allen. "I enjoy knowing that I can change the way things run onboard the ship."

Allen was assigned to the Continuous Process of Improvement (CPI) department in 2011.

CPI is a DOD mandated program that fosters the improvement of any and all processes, in an attempt to find ways of reducing costs and labor time aboard ships and bring them back to mission essential readiness.

"It's a long process," said Allen. "But,

once you realize that going through and learning how a process can be changed, you really feel you make an effect in people lives."

The process begins with a white belt course on NKO, followed by yellow belt and green belt training at the GE warehouse held by a qualified instructor. Then, two events must be held and led with Sailors ranging from Commanders on down to Seaman. Once complete, instructions on package submission must be completed and submitted to SEANAV. Once approved a certification is then assigned.

"Allen is the first homegrown Sailor to earn this belt," said Chief Aviation Support Equipment Technician (AW/SW) James Bibow. "What I mean by that is that he is the first one to receive this certificate locally and he plans on moving forward with his training locally as well. He has worked hard to earn this and really enjoys what he does."

Allen will continue his training by beginning black belt training in May.

"I really have a chance to change people's lives," said Allen. "I look forward to



Electronics Technician 2nd Class (SW/AW) Rachel Urban measures travel time between work stations with a distance wheel. Photo by MC3 Sandra Pimentel

seeing what changes I can make that will change a Sailor's life."

Those interested in learning more about CPI training are encouraged to attend yellow belt training classes held on the FAF.

TR's Ghost Riders take home two trophies

Story by MC3 William McCann
USS Theodore Roosevelt Public Affairs

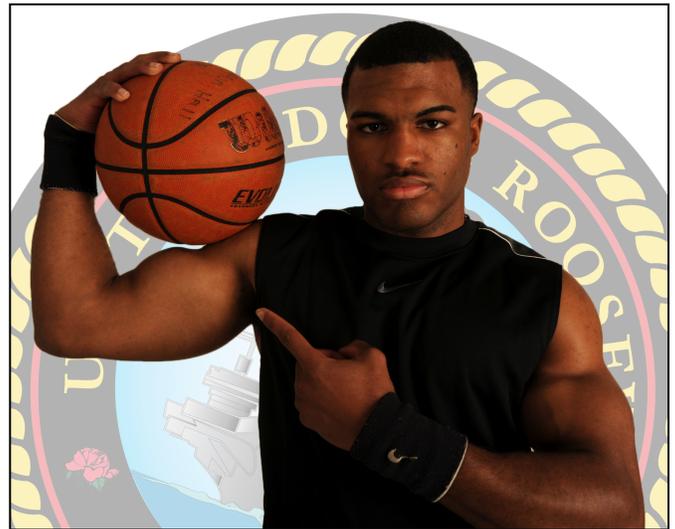
With more than 25 competing teams in the Portsmouth Basketball League, standing out is no easy task - unless you are the USS Theodore Roosevelt (CVN 71) Ghost Riders.

The team, coached by Electrician's Mate 2nd Class (AW/SW) Ronnie Williams, has the best record in the entire league, with fifteen wins and one loss. The Ghost Riders won a trophy for TR for their record, and took home the championship trophy as well.

"We've been together for three years, and we always play hard," said Electrician's Mate 3rd Class John Gee, a member of the Ghost Riders. "There's a lot of camaraderie in the group, which translates to great teamwork."

Gee plays alongside ABE1 (AW) Antonio Williams, HN3 Jeremy Olds, HM3 Eddie Withers, HM3 Rashad White, AO3 Alex Miller, AO3 James Westbrook, HN Tevin Smalls, and ABEAA Anthony Molina on the Ghost Riders Basketball team.

White scored the most overall points this season, and was also voted the MVP for the entire league. The top players from the Portsmouth league



Electrician's Mate 3rd Class John Gee, a member of USS Theodore Roosevelt's "Ghost Riders" basketball team, poses with a basketball March 6.
Photo illustration by MC3 William McCann

will be advancing to the All Star game. From the Ghost Riders, White, Gee, Olds, Withers and Lyles will all be advancing to play in the event.

Story time with Dr. Seuss

Story by MC3 William McCann
USS Theodore Roosevelt Public Affairs

Strolling into the Camp Allen Elementary School on the anniversary of Dr. Seuss' birthday, one would see the inspiration and love of reading that the children's books give to its readers. Students and teachers alike were dressed in "Cat in the Hat" attire with the famous red and white striped hat decorated throughout the school.

March 2, 2012, the birthday of children's author, Dr. Seuss, kicked off the National

Education Association's "Read Across America" program.

"This is a great opportunity to work with children," said EM3 DeNaye Bradley. "It was a little

overwhelming how much fun it was to interact with these kids."

EM3 Bradley along with ITSN Marquita Galbreath volunteered their time to come read to the schoolchildren of Camp Allen's Elementary School on the birthday of Theodor Seuss Geisel, better known as "Dr. Seuss."

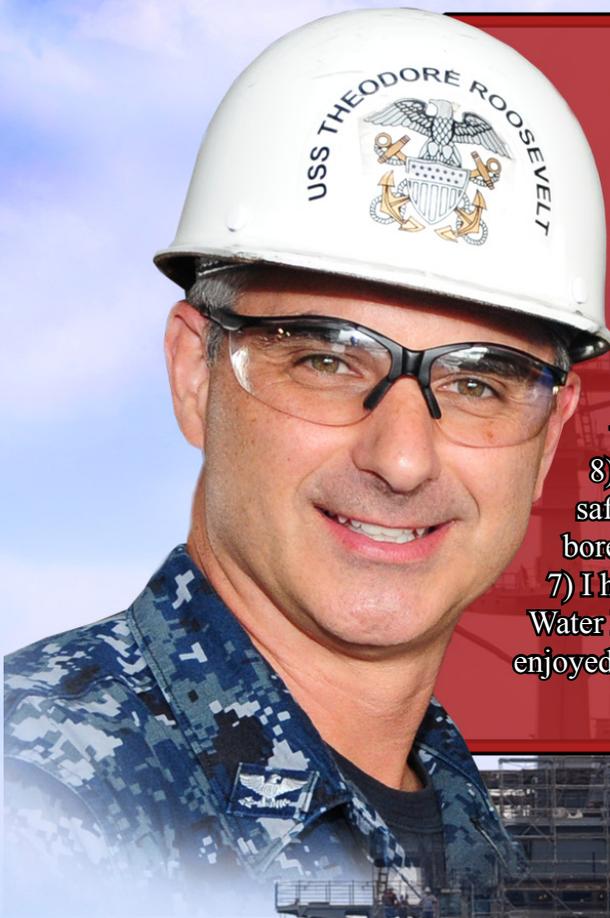
"I would definitely like to do it again," ITSN Galbreath said enthusiastically. "It felt good to do something for the kids, and they are so adorable." ITSN Galbreath is also in the process of becoming a mentor to the children of Camp Allen Elementary School.



Electronics Technician 3rd Class DeNaye Bradley reads to schoolchildren at Camp Allen Elementary School.

Photo by MC3 William McCann

Capt. Douglas



10) I remember my first day actually taking over the reigns as XO of this ship was such a blur. It's such an overwhelming job to step into. During the first couple of weeks I always worried that I was missing something. Thankfully that stress went away in time, and I'm proud to say I didn't miss anything very big.

9) It was really fun on a professional level to see water pouring into the dry dock for the first time. It really felt like all of our hard work was paying off.

8) I had fun being bit by a dog in front of the whole crew during the safety stand down one year. I realize most of the audience was probably bored by it, but I still had fun doing it.

7) I had a lot of fun getting the chance to cap some folks at the Ocean Breeze Water Park. It was sort of like my only "port call" during this tour, and I really enjoyed the whole experience.

**Feb
2011**

Sailors and shipyard workers work together to complete work on the ship's mast

**March
2010**

Capt. Douglas C. Verissimo checks onboard TR as the new XO

**May
2011**

TR successfully floods the dry dock, preparing the ship for its first "underway" since 2009

TR s
depar
and

C. Verissimo's Top 10 TR Memories

- 6) I got to walk across the 220-foot tall crane at the shipyard, which used to be over our ship. I've never been that far above ground without a cockpit covering me.
- 5) I really enjoyed handing out cookies during cleaning stations, I'll miss that.
- 4) It's not one of my favorite memories, but I certainly remember the first time I disappointed Capt. Ladd Wheeler when he was CO, and he definitely let me know it. It was a learning experience though, and it helped me improve as an XO.
- 3) I definitely remember taking Indoc classes on tours of the ship when we were in drydock, and being able to walk underneath the ship and going all the way to the top of the tower was amazing. I think seeing the underside of an aircraft carrier is one of the Seven Wonders of the World.
- 2) I think the most standout moment during RCOH for me was when they landed the mast, and TR looked like a ship again.
- 1) My number one memory from my tour here is the first time I walked into the safety stand down. I remember walking into the room and seeing 2,500 blue uniforms, and realizing that in a way I was responsible for all of them. That was the first time it really hit me how important my job was.



**May
2011**

Successfully
departs dry dock
and moves to
Pier 3

**October
2011**

TR celebrates its
25th anniversary

**March
2012**

Verissimo
departs TR and
heads out to Joint
31 in Norfolk,
Va.

KNOW YOUR RATE:

ET

Story by MCSN Andrew Sulayao
USS Theodore Roosevelt Public Affairs

It's obvious to most that it's difficult to see clearly in a poorly-illuminated environment. In the middle of the ocean at night, however, nothing is illuminated. Ships and submarines that aren't obviously lit while in the water are virtually invisible.

That's where radars and the Navy's Electronics Technicians (ET) come in.

According to history.navy.mil, radar was first tested by the Navy in 1937 onboard USS Leary (DD-158). Two years later aboard USS New York (BB-34), a group of foreign destroyers were attempting a torpedo run on a line of battleships. Thanks to the ship's newly-installed radar, the enemy ships were detected at 5,000 yards and destroyed.

Radar had officially come to life.

The rate of Electronics Technician was first established as the ratings of Radarman and Sonarman in 1943 during World War II. However, prior to the creation of those ratings, radars were operated by Radiomen, which is currently known as the rate of Information Systems Technician. Operators of the radars were often Yeomen, Storekeepers, or Seaman.

In 1945, the Radioman rating name was changed to Electronic Technician's Mate, and then to Electronics Technician with a new rating badge in 1948 - both of which are still in use today.

"The Navy has always been in need for ETs," said Senior Chief Electronics Technician (SW/AW) John Coffman, systems test officer and combat systems maintenance manager of USS Theodore Roosevelt (CVN-71)'s Combat Systems department. "We as ETs

are responsible for radars, navigation, communications and much more. The equipment we use is important and valuable to the Navy."

The importance of the rate of ET is known up and down the chain-of-command in Combat Systems.

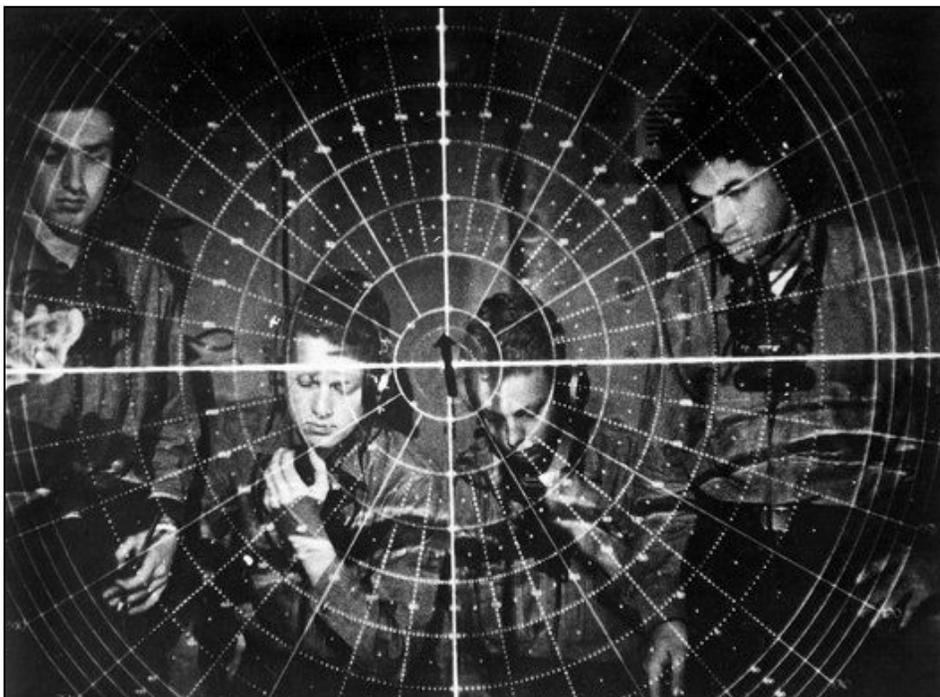
"Without us to aid in communications, you have a multi-billion dollar ship with no clear mission," said Electronics Technician 3rd Class (SW) Randy Stubbs. "We can be used anywhere that has communications, whether at sea or on-shore. We're an all-in-one rate."

According to most ETs, there is a certain perception that comes along with the rate.

"Everyone perceives us to be smart, because we can fix almost anything," said Electronics Technician 2nd Class (SW/AW) Sabrina Leija. "The skills that come along with learning our rate are very technical and they can be beneficial not only here in the Navy, but in the civilian sector."

Overall, being a Navy Electronics Technician allows one to hold a certain and distinguished pride in today's generation.

"I've worked in different in many different jobs in my 24 years in the Navy, but I hold being an ET very near and dear to my heart," said Coffman. "It's a difficult, but rewarding job that stimulates the mind. It's inherent for ETs to always learn, and always think. ET's are known as 'Everything-Techs,' and how could we not be? Being an ET rules!"



Navy Radarmen observe a radar screen for enemy activity while their ship patrols the Pacific Ocean during World War II.

Photo courtesy of Sciencephotolibrary.com

Rough Rider of the Week: AN Causey



Story and photo by MCSN Andrew Sulayao
USS Theodore Roosevelt Public Affairs

This week's USS Theodore Roosevelt (CVN 71) Rough Rider of the Week is Airman Seaman Jon T. Causey from Weapons Department's G-4 Division.

Causey, a native of Charlotte, NC, joined the Navy in August 2010 and was assigned to TR 10 months later in October 2012. Before arriving aboard TR, he was enrolled in Basic Underwater Demolitions/SEAL training in Coronado, Calif.

Causey was chosen as RROW because of his commanding work ethic as a damage control maintenance technician and military bearing as a motivated Sailor.

"Doing what you're told when

you're told without complaint is something I believe is expected of anyone in the service of their country," said Causey. "This, more often than not, does not happen as it should. I seek to hold true to this work ethic and perhaps influence those around me by doing so."

According to Chief Aviation Ordnanceman (AW/SW) Jonathan L. Boyd, Causey's relentless commitment to the mission is apparent in all assigned endeavors.

"Airman Causey is the poster child of military bearing," said Boyd. "His pride in service is evident by his immaculate uniform appearance. Performance in every aspect has been of the highest caliber and always exceeds my highest

expectations."

With Causey's strong attitude toward his naval career, he has been responsible for the accomplishment of 364 maintenance actions on 974 pieces of damage control equipment, replacement of nine fire plugs, and the completion of seven divisional spaces including two cargo/weapons elevator shafts ahead of schedule.

"In his short time aboard, Airman Causey has already obtained his required qualifications ahead of schedule," said Boyd. "He is a quarter of the way through his Enlisted Air Warfare Specialist (EAWS) and has developed a rigorous study regiment to be followed by the junior sailors around him. His relentless commitment to the mission is apparent in all assigned endeavors."

While Causey's leaders have nothing but praise toward the Rough Rider of the Week, he himself displays humility when it comes to his new title.

"When I found out I received RROW, I was taken back," said Causey. "The people who chose me to be RROW set their Sailors up for success and pushes us to advance ourselves every day. I do my part and the rest falls in place."

Causey is now looking ahead toward his future as a naval officer.

"As of right now, I seek to earn my qualifications and advance," said Causey. "I plan to hopefully make it to Officer Candidate School while I'm in the Navy."

In his spare time, Causey enjoys working out, swimming, and spending time with friends.

Photo of the Week

Capt. Douglas C. Verissimo, Executive Officer of USS Theodore Roosevelt (CVN 71), serves ice cream on the mess decks during an Ice Cream Social in the Huntington Ingalls Shipyard in Newport News, Va. March 7, 2012. The social was provided as a way to bid Capt. Verissimo a fond farewell before joining his next command. (Photo by Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class Sandra A. Pimentel



PHOTO FIND



Photo Find by MC3 John Donnelly

Can you find the 6 out of place items in this photo?

1. Pencil
2. Apple
3. Cobra
4. Shovel
5. Coffee Cup
6. Funny hat

Staff

Commanding Officer

Capt.
William Hart

Executive Officer

Capt.
Douglas Verissimo

Public Affairs Officer

Lt. Cmdr. Karen Eifert

Media Officer

Lt. j.g. Michael Larson

Senior Editor

MCCS (SW/AW/EXW)
David Collins

Editor

MC2 (SW) Austin Rooney

Layout & Design

MC2 (SW) Austin Rooney
MCSN Timothy Haake

Rough Rider Contributors

MC3 William McCann
MC3 Sandra Pimentel
MCSN Andrew Sulayao
MCSN (SW) John Kotara

Command Ombudsman

April Kumley
cvn71ombudsman@yahoo.com

The Rough Rider is an authorized publication for the crew of USS Theodore Roosevelt (CVN 71).

Contents herein are not necessarily the views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. government, Department of Defense, Department of the Navy or the Commanding Officer of TR.

All items for publication in the The Rough Rider must be submitted to the editor no later than three days prior to publication.