

# ATRR

ANTONIO TURRETTO RAMOS

portfolio








By Cathy Heimer, Jet Observer

With two Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medals, two media awards, NAS Oceana Blue Jacket of the Year and of the quarter, two advancements, first place in the Military Photographers Workshop and acceptance into the Navy's photojournalism program at Syracuse University, it appears the career of Mass Communication Specialist (MC) 2nd Class ANTONIO P. TURRETTO RAMOS has taken off since reporting to the NAS Oceana Public Affairs Office Sept. 17, 2011.

Turretto Ramos arrived at Oceana as a seaman, right out of MC "A" School. He expected orders to a ship, like his friends were getting. "I asked for sea duty in the Pacific and I got exactly the exact opposite. I was pretty disappointed when I first got here," he laughed.



His arrival at Oceana was "a baptism by fire," with the annual air show the same week he arrived. One of three MCs in the office at the time, he found himself quite comfortable with a camera and selecting, captioning and releasing his own photos from the hundreds taken over the show's three days.

about me:  
**ANTONIO  
TURRETTO  
RAMOS**





# ANTUR

ANTONIO TURRETTO RAMOS  
articles



**GOOD FRIDAY**  
MIRACLE

**family**  
**Iron Chef**

**SAVE A**  
**LIFE TOUR**





# THE GOOD FRIDAY MIRACLE

Photography and Story by  
Antonio Turreto Ramos





The smell of combusting JP-5 jet fuel and the loud hum of twin F404-GE-402 enhanced performance turbofan engines waft in the air in Virginia Beach, as machines relied upon for both sword and shield taxi down the runway at NAS Oceana.

A 40,000 pound U.S. Navy F/A-18 D Hornet, assigned to Strike Fighter Squadron (VFA) 106, traveling 175 miles per hour, becomes airborne April 6, 2012. All within seconds, the student pilot demonstrates his extensive aviator training is second nature. He determines he is indeed airborne and proceeds to lift the landing gear, adjust flaps and go into full afterburner, accelerating to 287 miles per hour. Not a soul knows that in a matter of minutes, this \$29 million machine will become the subject of what will become known as a “Good Friday Miracle.”

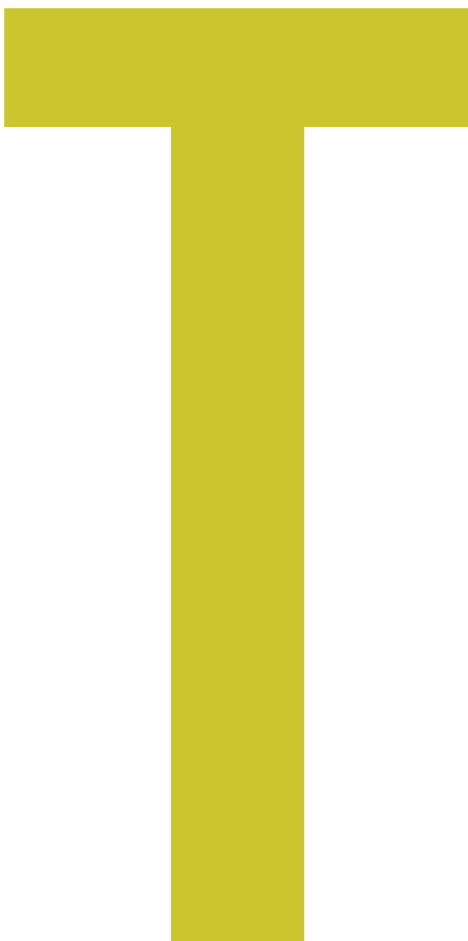
Ken Snyder, Navy Region Mid-Atlantic & Emergency Services district fire chief, was returning from his lunch hour around 12 p.m. when his radio cracks, revealing a chilling initial report from emergency dispatch requiring him to respond to a military aircraft that has crashed into the ocean. Immediately, Snyder turns his truck around and heads to the Virginia Beach oceanfront toward the emergency, but in route dispatch reports that the aircraft has actually crashed into an apartment complex. A shot of adrenaline and hundreds of critical complex decisions immediately race through Snyder’s mind, as the red lights and siren of his emergency response vehicle flash and whine as he travels against traffic to the scene.

According to Snyder, when responding to emergencies, he often sizes up the situation to better prepare himself mentally for the enormous undertaking. During that thought process, Snyder says he begins to assess the many factors of life safety, property conservation, getting there safely, access to the scene, logistics, securing the scene and managing resources, so as never to leave any installation in his charge vulnerable. On April 6, Snyder had to take into account the specific hazards and challenges unique to this emergency and combine them to determine what action he would take.

“As confident as you are that everything is trained, you can’t help but think, what did I forget and what am I missing? I kept doing that and I couldn’t think of anything, and that made me even more nervous,” said Snyder. “When I arrived on scene, the Beach [Virginia Beach Fire Department] was already there and actively involved in fighting the fire. Half the complex was well involved in fire.”

Snyder’s role in the response as the Navy liaison to the Virginia Beach Fire Department was to provide Navy resources to include ambulances, personnel and “crash trucks” equipped with fire-fighting foam to help subdue the flames, fed by more than 12,000 pounds of jet fuel, that devastated the structure.

According to Lt. Kristopher McAbee, instructor pilot at VFA-106, an aviator only has three to four seconds to assess and react to a mechanical failure similar to the series of mechanical malfunctions that brought this F/A-18D to the ground.









# family Iron Chef

Photography and Story by  
Antonio Turreto Ramos





military families competed head to head in the “Iron Chef – CYP Style,” April 20 at the NAS Oceana baseball fields to celebrate Month of the Military Child and promote family togetherness.

Month of the Military Child is observed annually in April to promote awareness of the sacrifices military families endure for the sake of national security, according to Cathy Mead, Child & Youth Programs (CYP) director at NAS Oceana.

“Those kids serve just like the parents do. They have to endure the separations, they have to endure the moving, they have to endure some discrimination sometimes, because they’re the new kid on the block all the time. So it’s [observing Month of the Military Child] just to bring that up and let’em know that they are really, really special kids,” said Mead.

Brand new donated grills from Home Depot, and key ingredients paid for by NAS Oceana CYP were provided for the six families to compete with. The families could also draw from a community table of items to create their dishes.

According to Mead, the Iron Chef event is designed to give families an opportunity to be together and work as a team to reach a common goal, but also noted that each family’s key ingredients for the competing dishes included cilantro, red onion, chicken, corn on the cob, one can of baked beans and basic spices. An assortment of community items such as eggs, ketchup, mustard, mayo and celery were also included in the competition’s “share table.” A secret ingredient competitors had to incorporate in their final product was presented half way through the competition. This year’s secret ingredient was zucchini.

The families competed in two Iron Chef categories: the “Big Dipper,” was for the best dip/appetizer, and the overall winning category was “Family Style Champ.”

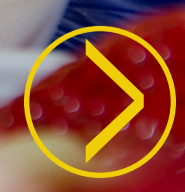
The Big Dipper category was determined by popular vote, by both judges and spectators. Those attending were given a ticket to put into a ballot box that represents each family’s dip/appetizer dish. The overall winner or Family Style Champ is decided by majority vote by a panel of judges.

Each family is also assigned a Navy culinary specialist (CS) volunteer to assist with cooking techniques, safety, sanitation, and creative contributions. Competition was fierce among the CSes, and their assigned families, to bring home the big win.

“I think our presentation is awesome and our food is great! I don’t think any other family has anything on this one. We think we’re going to take the win for the Big Dipper and having the best dish,” said CS1(SW) Renita Monroe, leading petty officer at NAS Oceana’s Hornet’s Nest Galley, about the dish and dip her family presented for the judges.









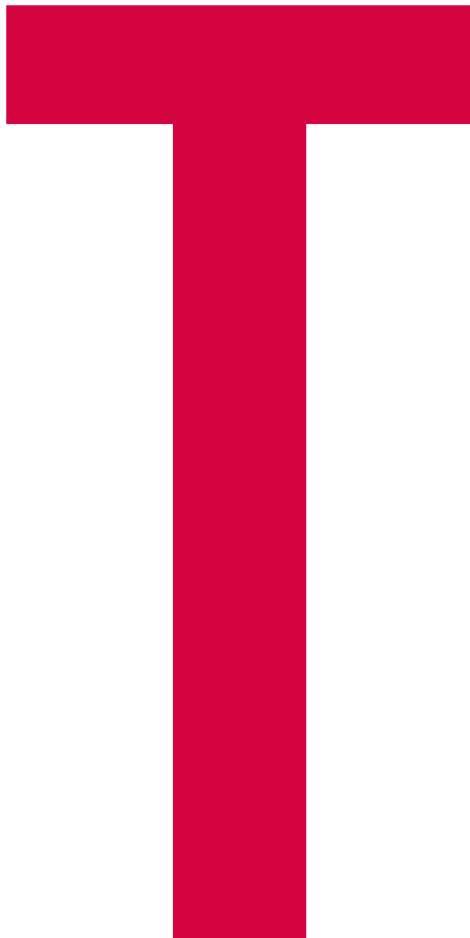
A group of people, including several in military uniforms, are gathered around a man in a black polo shirt who is leaning over a man in a blue camouflage uniform. The man in the black shirt has a yellow wristband that says "DON'T TAKE THE KEYS". The man in the blue uniform is sticking his tongue out playfully. The background shows other people in military uniforms and a dark setting.

# SAVE A LIFE TOUR

Photography and Story by  
Antonio Turretto Ramos







The Save a Life Tour stopped at the Center for Naval Aviation Technical Training Unit (CNATTU) April 10 – 12 to deliver high-impact alcohol awareness training to Sailors and Marines at NAS Oceana.

The tour travels the continental United States stopping at high schools, colleges and military installations and also travels worldwide, including military installations overseas, promoting a message of individual responsibility. The program includes a hard-hitting short film, speaker presentation and the opportunity to drive Save a Life's Tour's drunk driving simulator.

According to Chief Gas Turbine System Technician-Mechanical (SW) Kenneth Dunnings, Drug and Alcohol Program Advisor (DAPA) at Training Support Center (TSC), the tour stopped at CNATTU because of the volume of young Sailors and Marines in a student status assigned there and because of the prime location.

"We figured that because we have the hangars available, we could serve the whole community by getting everyone together and touching everyone at one time," said Dunnings. "It's not only just for the students, it's the staff members, it's for the base, it's for the civilians. This program helps and touches the spectrum across the board."

Christopher Rich, Save a Life Tour manager, shared his personal experiences during the speaker presentations, as well as the stories of others who have connected with him over the years.

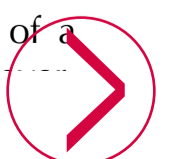
Rich lost his best friend's sister to an alcohol-related accident, but retells the story as if she was his own sister. Rich said the two families were very close and the impact of the loss was felt as if he'd lost his own sister.

"I tell my story because people really seem to connect with my experience," said Rich. "After the presentation, people, complete strangers, share their stories and their loss with me and I try to do them justice by repeating those stories to others, so their loss is not in vain."

Rich, reflecting on the stories he's heard, said he's noticed a recurring theme regarding the deaths of service members in alcohol-related accidents. According to Rich, service members come home from deployments and seem to be more prone to making bad decisions.

"You waited a year to come home and now all of a sudden, you do something stupid, not because you're a bad person, because you just made a bad choice...When you come home, you just want to have a good time, which is fine, you can have a good time, you just have to be responsible," said Rich.

- ^ After the video and presentation, those attending had the opportunity to drive the drunk driving simulator. The simulator emulates a three-
- ✓ dimensional environment interpreted from behind the wheel of a vehicle. The driver's steering, acceleration and brake functions are...

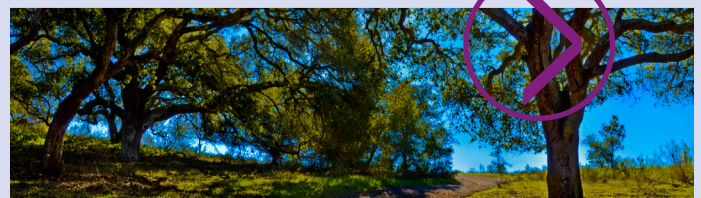
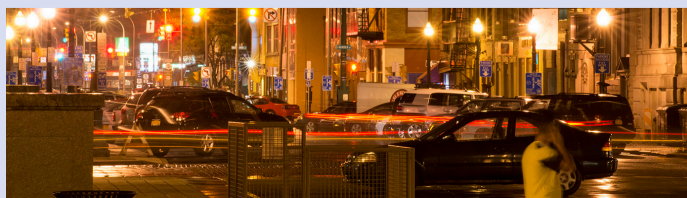
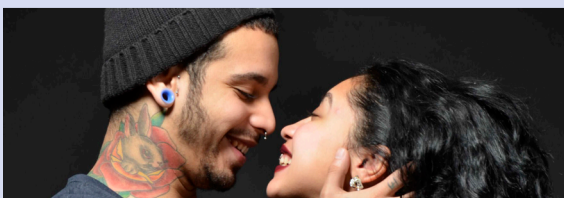




# ANTER

ANTONIO TURRETTO RAMOS

photography  
& video



















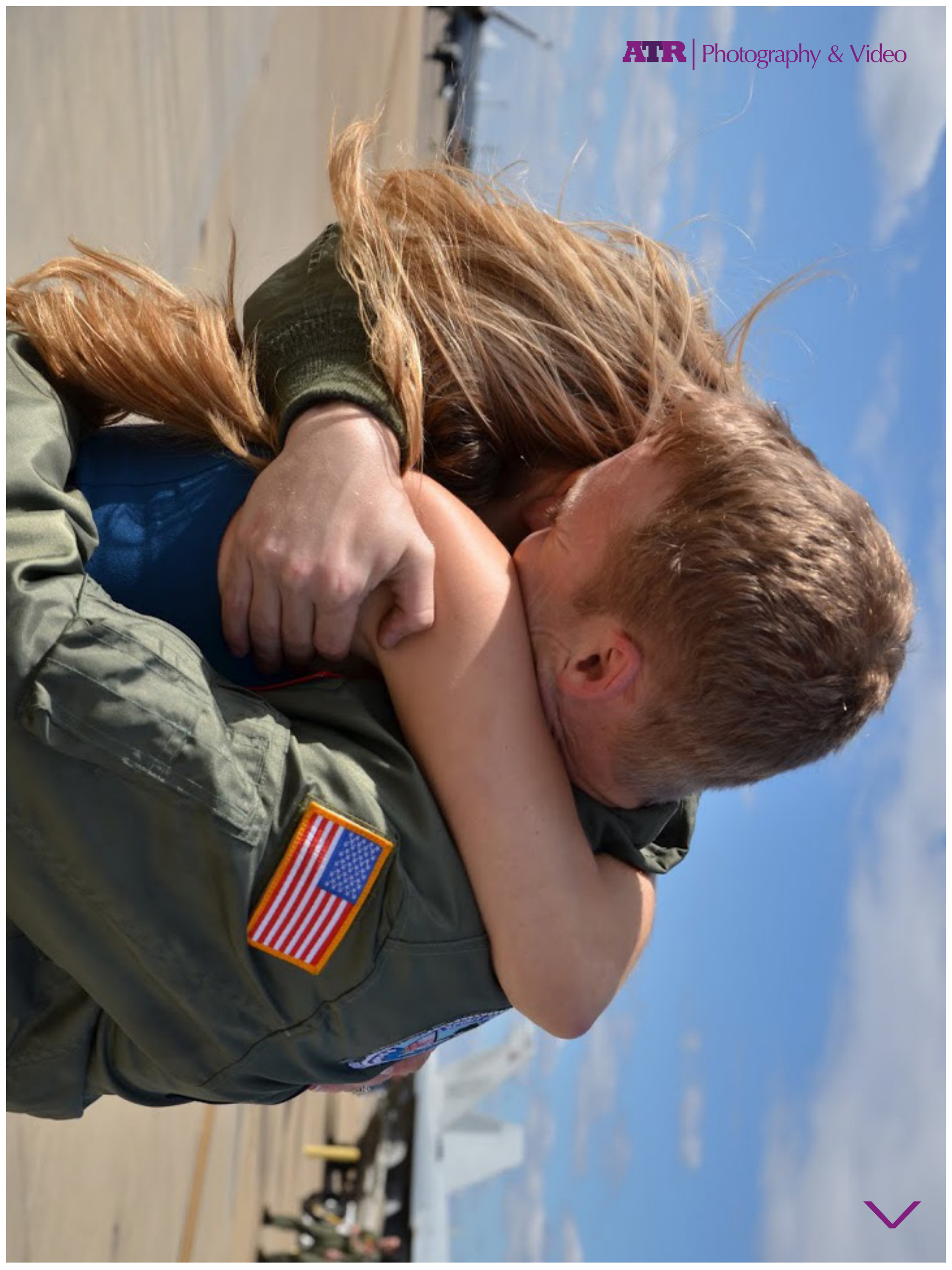
























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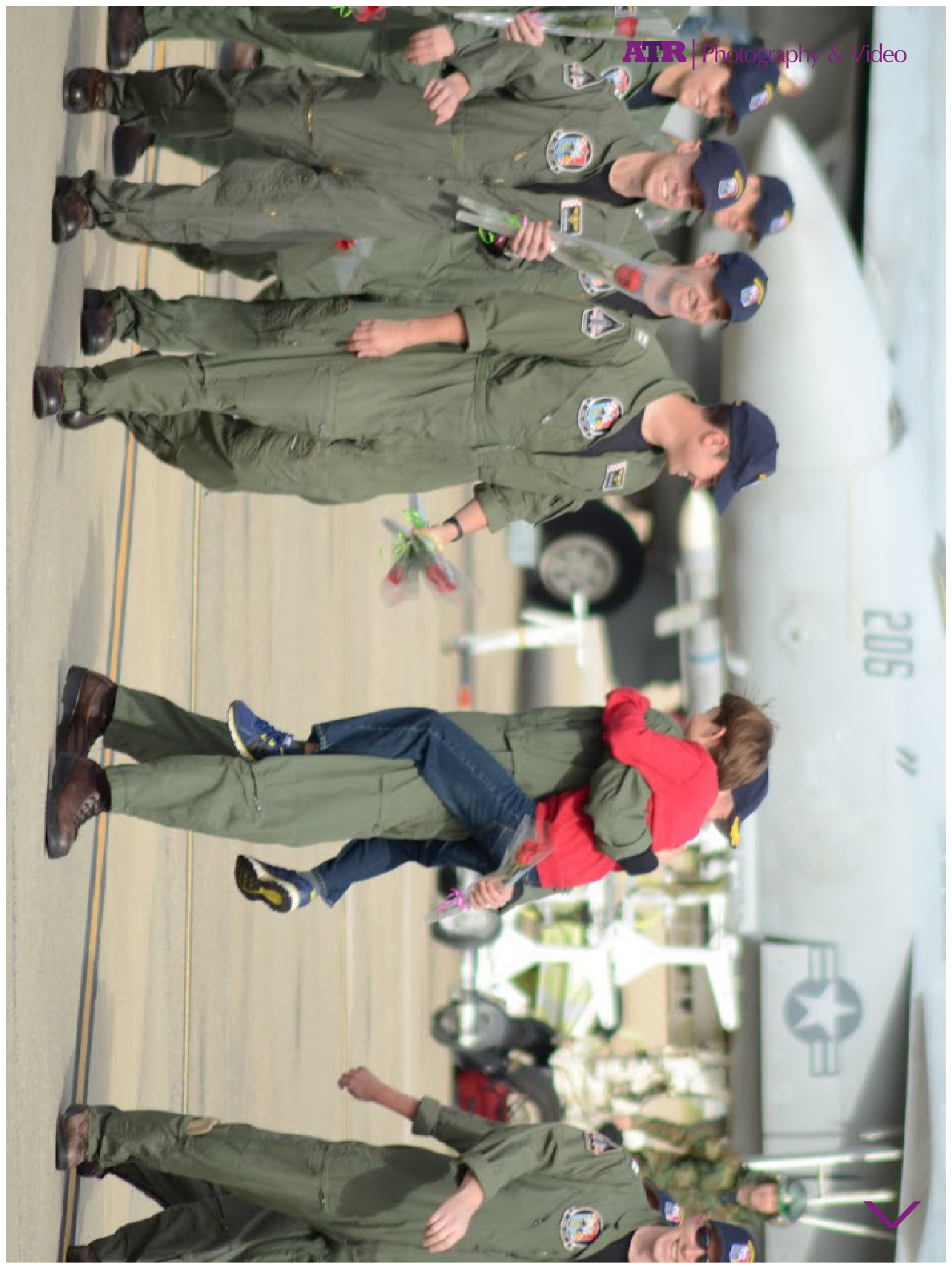
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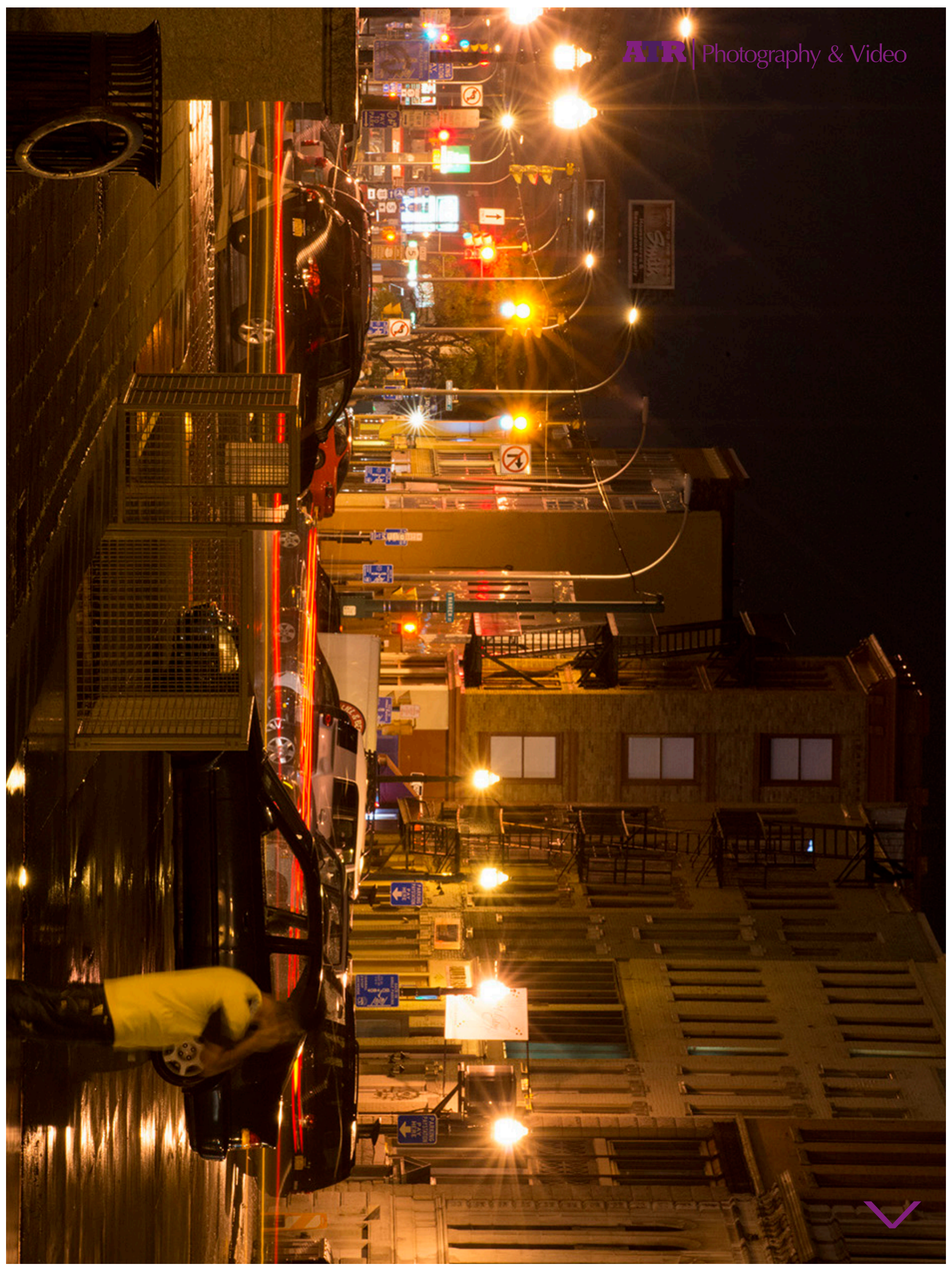




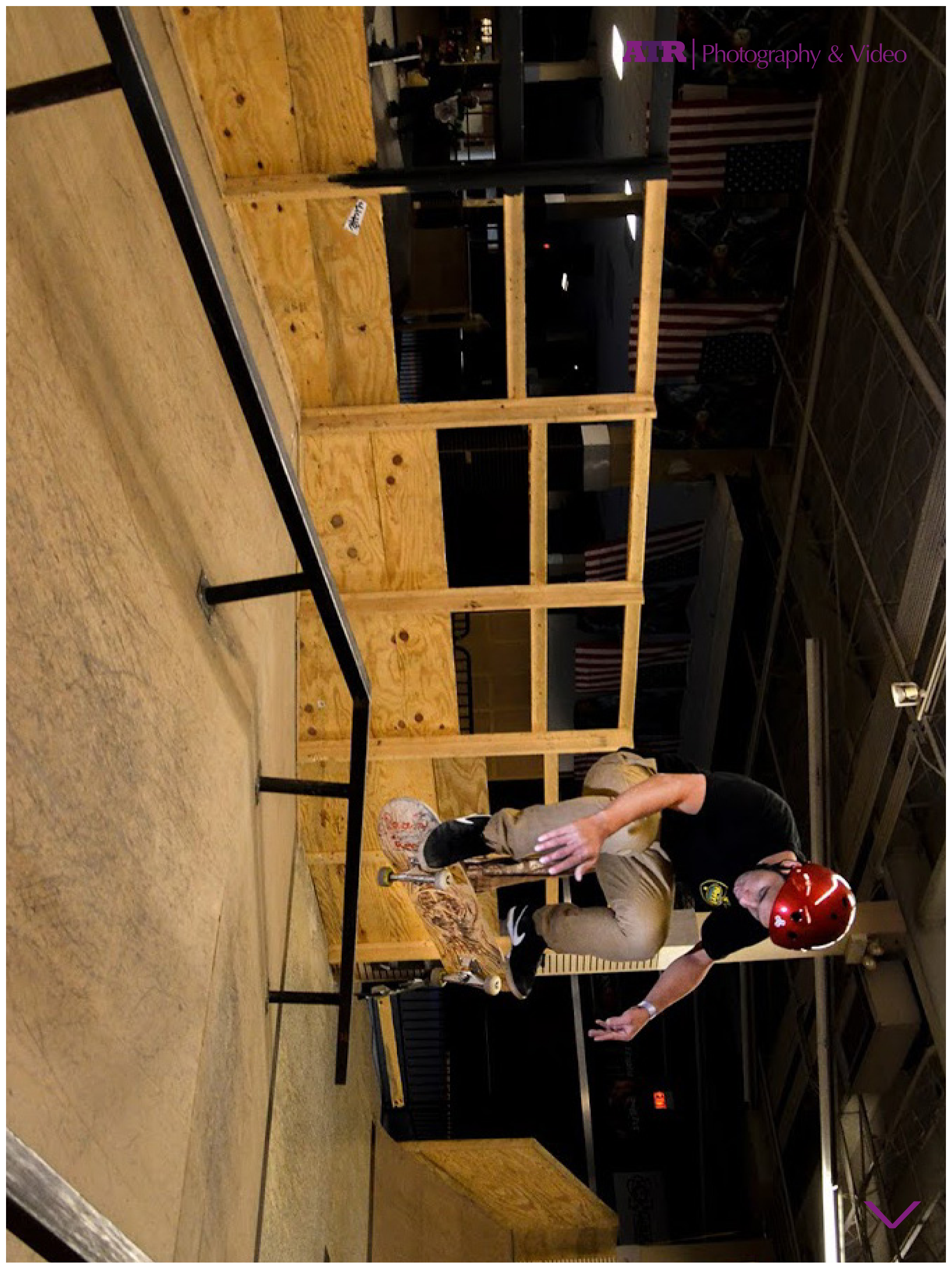
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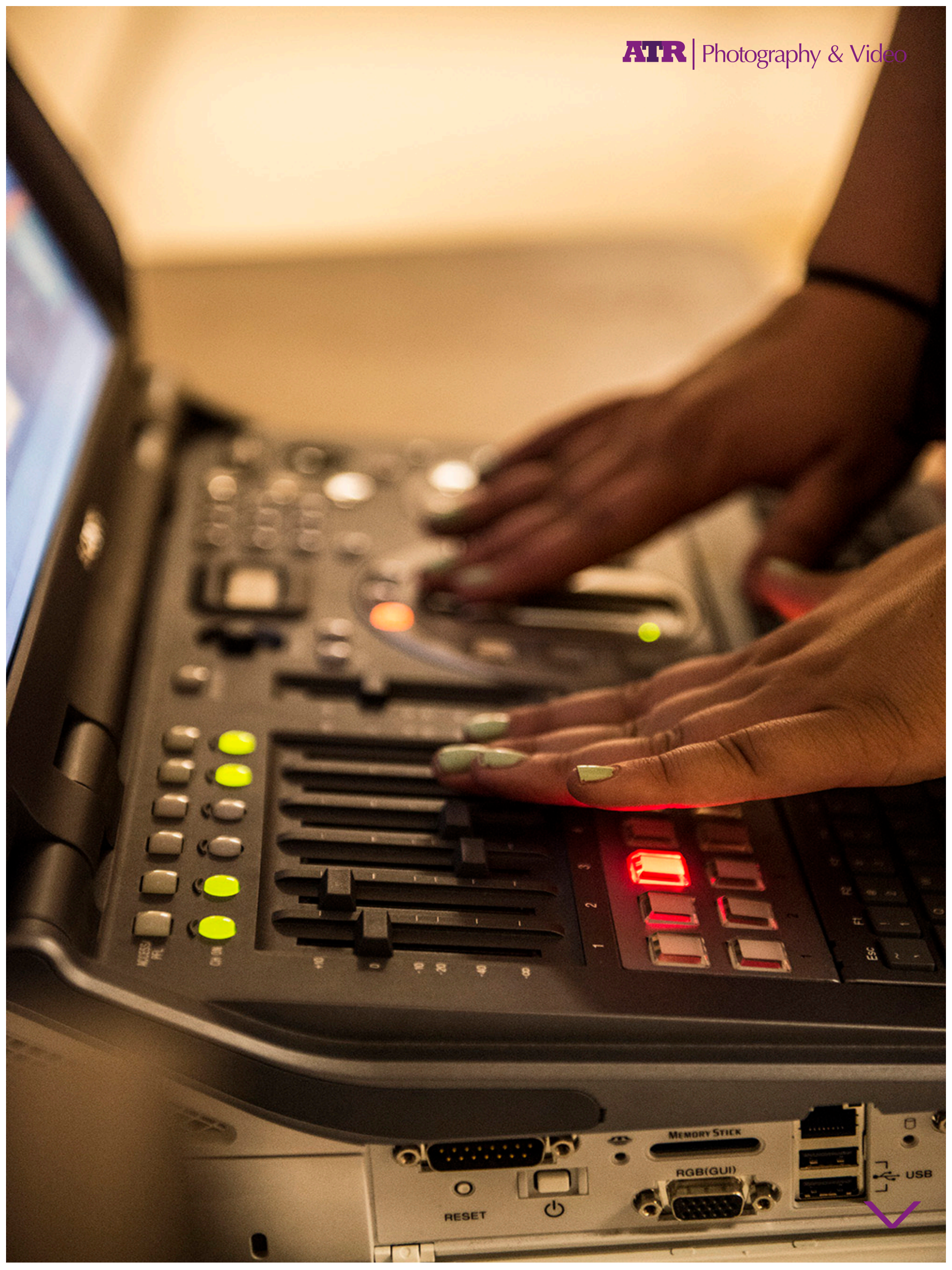
























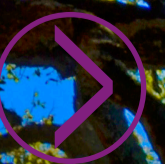
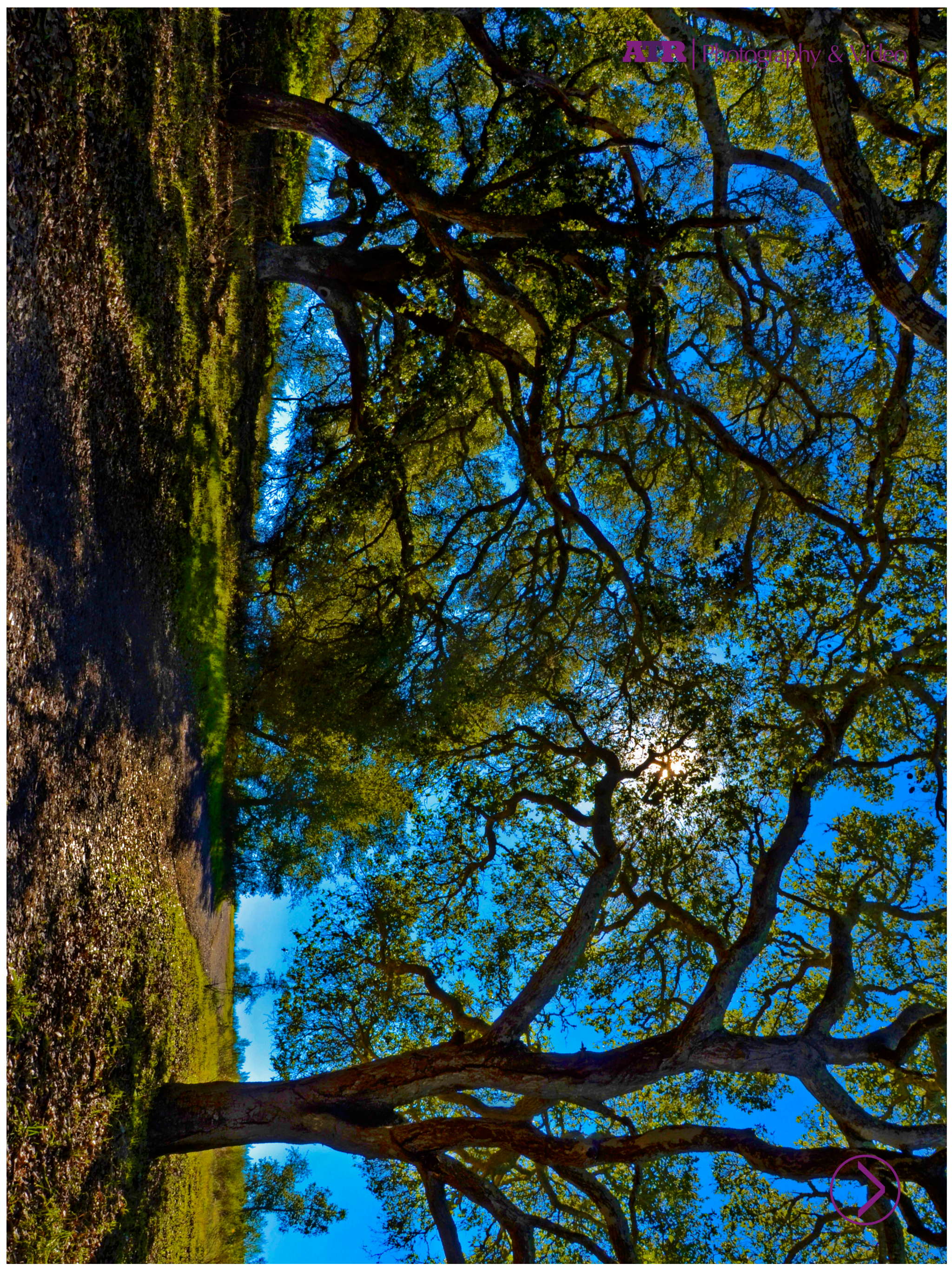














# CARVING *Waves*

DoD Worldwide Military Photography Workshop

THE 20TH ANNUAL DoD WORLDWIDE MILITARY PHOTOGRAPHY WORKSHOP (WMPW) was hosted by the Defense Information School, Fort George G. Meade, MD, 03 to 09 June 2012.

The purpose of this workshop is to improve professional knowledge, proficiency and qualifications of DoD photographers and photojournalists. Workshop faculty members will provide technical instruction to increase the effectiveness, ability, and visual communication skills of attendees to provide the highest quality imagery to the department of defense.

Selection for attendance will be competitive and limited to 25 photographers/photojournalists. To ensure maximum benefit, those attending the workshop are required to have a strong background and working knowledge in still photography.

Eligibility: personnel from all services, holding a photographer / photojournalist specialty code, and DoD employed civilian photographers may apply. Attendees will be selected based on their portfolio and command recommendation.





# CARVING *waves*

with **BRUCE "SNAKE" GABRIELSON**

**Video by Sgt. Alvin Parson and  
MC3 Antonio Turretto Ramos**

[click video to play](#)