

Week Ending Friday, March 19, 1993

Remarks to the Crew of the U.S.S.

Theodore Roosevelt

March 12, 1993

Thank you very much, Captain. I know that I won't be able to see all of you now, but I've seen as many as I could, and I've shaken hands with a lot of you. I've also reviewed your mission and been very impressed with it.

I want to recognize the presence on the ship of the 1992 Sailor of the Year, Donald Leroy Heffentrager; as well as the First Class Petty Officer of the Quarter, Gary Neff; the Senior Petty Officer of the Quarter, Gregory Ham; the Junior Petty Officer of the Quarter, Jason McCord; and the Blue Jacket of the Quarter, Airman Todd Pearson.

I've been very impressed with everything I've seen and with all the people I've met. As Commander in Chief it's immensely reassuring to me to know that the United States is served by people of such high quality and such great dedication. The Secretary of Defense, Les Aspin, and the others who are here in my company have already learned a great deal and see a lot that we admire and that we like. I thank you for your service to the country, and I look forward to the remainder of my stay here. And I wish you well on your deployment.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:40 p.m. in the Carrier Intelligence Center aboard the U.S.S. *Theodore Roosevelt*. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks. This item was not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue.

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Theodore Roosevelt

March 12, 1993

Thank you very much, Secretary Aspin, Admiral Miller, Admiral Johnson, Captain Bryant, Captain Moore, Colonel Schmidt,

General Keys, and to all of you here on the crew of the *Theodore Roosevelt*. I think I can speak for the people who came in my party, including the distinguished Members of the United States Congress who are here. This has been a wonderful day for us, and we thank you.

I am honored to be here. As many of you know, it is a great blessing and a great honor to be elected President of the United States. But there is no greater honor in the office than being the Commander in Chief of the finest Armed Forces in the world today and the finest America has ever known.

Our Armed Forces are more than the backbone of our security. You are the shining model of our American values: dedication, responsibility, a willingness to sacrifice for the common good and for the interests and the very existence of this country. Our Armed Forces today stand as one of modern history's great success stories. Look at this crew, reflecting every color, every background, every region of our society. I might say it's been a special pleasure to me to meet at least six people from my home State of Arkansas here today. I'm sure there are more of you here that I haven't met.

The American military pioneered our Nation's progress toward integration and equal opportunity. It is America's most effective education and training system. It's constantly asked to adapt to change and always, always, you have risen to the challenge. All who wear America's uniforms are what makes the United States of America a true superpower and a genuine force for peace and democracy in the world.

Yes, this carrier can extend our reach. These planes can deliver our might. They are truly extraordinary tools, but only because they are in the hands of you. It is your skill, your professionalism, your courage, and your dedication to our country and to service that gives the muscle, sinew, and the soul of our