

TODD R. VORENKAMP

3 EMERALD STREET | WESTERLY, RI 02891 | 707-845-8633
TRVPHOTO.COM@GMAIL.COM

Academic History

MFA Photography, 2011

Academy of Art University, San Francisco, CA

BS Marine Transportation, 1996

United States Merchant Marine Academy, Kings Point, NY

Professional Experience

Dakota College at Bottineau

Adjunct Instructor - Photography

2017 - Present

- Instructing and facilitating undergraduate level college photography courses to include Photo 1, Intermediate Photography, Digital Darkroom, Outdoor Photography, Documentary Photography, Portrait Photography, Photography Concepts, Photography Practicum, Commercial Photography, and Portfolio Review.

Academy of Art University

Course Developer

2017 - Present

- Author and editor of course material for graduate-level college photography courses to include Photography Concept and Photographic Lighting.

B&H Photo Video

Acting Creative Content Manager / Senior Creative Content Writer

2015 - Present

- Management of the B&H Explora blog team of 8 writers and operations/graphics/support staff.
- Liaison between B&H Marketing, Web Space Marketing, UX, and other departments with Explora.
- Responsible for writing long-form and short content for B&H Explora on photography and photographic education.
- Generate ideas for new articles and shape editorial content to include graphic design projects, podcasts, and videos.
- Manage multiple long-term and short-term projects simultaneously while producing fresh content for the Explora blog.
- Engage with readers and customers on the Explora blog to answer questions pertaining to articles and products.

B&H Photo Video

Web Content Quality Assurance Editor / Product Expert / Content Writer

2013 - 2015

- Utilize expert knowledge of product categories to copy edit, verify and correct product descriptions and information.
- Research and fact-check content for diverse product lines including pro photo, sports optics, and telescopes.
- Write content for product descriptions and B&H Explora blog articles on photography and photography education.
- Create and maintain a B&H Style Guide for both writers and editors.

Hudson River Community Sailing

Sailing Instructor / Youth Educator

2013 - Present

- Instruct and conduct private sailing lessons for adults and syllabus-based training for grade school students, high school students, and Columbia University students.

Masters, Mates & Pilots

Third Mate, Ocean-Going Vessels

2012 - 2015

- Lead navigation bridge watches and cargo watches onboard merchant vessels at sea.
- Serve as safety officer onboard; responsible for maintaining and inventorying safety equipment.

National Geographic Expeditions

Photography Workshop Instructor

2011 - 2017

- Teach students of all skill levels in the art of photography alongside National Geographic staff photographers.
- Instruct students in editing of and processing digital images using the latest Adobe and Apple software.

United States Coast Guard

Coast Guard Aviator – Lieutenant

2007 - 2012

- Accomplished search and rescue helicopter aircraft commander; hand-picked for special missions and assignments.
- Conducted rescue missions in treacherous conditions in maritime and mountainous environments saving 16 lives.

Facilities Engineering Officer

2010 - 2011

- Managed facilities and infrastructure of a \$19 million Coast Guard base.
- Oversaw engineering projects totaling nearly \$2 million in infrastructure improvements.
- Realigned and prioritized projects, liaised with contractors, oversaw bidding, ensured project completion, while supervising 13 Coast Guardsmen.

Public Affairs Officer

2009 - 2011

- Managed public affairs, strategic communications and day-to-day media activities for the Coast Guard in Northern CA.
- Established and cultivated relationships with media sources and journalists to obtain optimal media coverage.
- Collaborated with superior officers to project strategic positioning and messaging for public affairs efforts.

- Authored press releases, conducted local and national interviews, and served as speechwriter for senior personnel.
- Graduate of the Defense Information School Coast Guard Public Affairs program.

Educational Services Officer

2008 - 2010

- Provided higher education career counseling services, enrollment and tuition assistance and college testing services to over 250 Coast Guardsmen.

United States Navy

Naval Aviator - Lieutenant Commander

1998 - 2007

- Skilled logistics and search and rescue helicopter aircraft commander with key leadership responsibilities, including:
 - Officer-in-Charge of a 52-man search and rescue team.
 - Responsible for training for junior copilots; developing staff for career advancement.
- Conducted rescue missions in treacherous conditions in maritime and mountainous environments saving 8 lives.
- Deployed aboard helicopter-capable ships during Operation *Enduring Freedom* and Operation *Iraqi Freedom*.

Search & Rescue Detachment Officer-in-Charge

2006 - 2007

- Leader of search and rescue unit responsible for supporting federal, state and local government organizations.
- The unit consisted of 35 enlisted Sailors, 7 civilian contract helicopter mechanics, 10 naval aviators, and 2 helicopters.
- Developed best practices for helicopter coordination with air traffic control that led to improved communication, efficiency and safety for flight line personnel.
- Managed million dollar operations and flight hour budget.

Maintenance Officer

2004 - 2006

- Directed maintenance of two \$17 million helicopters and management 31-man maintenance team.
- Streamlined and improved maintenance efficiency through implementation of several Lean Six Sigma processes.

Morale, Welfare, and Recreation Officer

2003 - 2004

- Organized and coordinated innovative social events and fund-raisers that led to improved squadron morale.

Detachment Division Officer

2002 - 2003

- Utilized extensive safety knowledge to train detachment personnel on issues critical in the safe completion of over 600 combat support flight hours.

Aircrew Training Officer

2001 - 2002

- Served as aircrew training instructor for helicopter enlisted aircrew.

Ground Training Officer

2000 - 2001

- Revamped the squadron's pilot training program.

Student Naval Aviator

1998 - 2000

- Excelled at courses consisting of 190 hours of flight training and 294 hours of systems development curriculum.

Deployments

- USS *Rainier* (AOE-7 – Battlegroup Logistics Ship) Operation *Enduring Freedom*, Operation *Iraqi Freedom* – USS *Constellation* (CV-64 – Aircraft Carrier) Battlegroup
- USS *Nimitz* (CVN-68 – Nuclear Aircraft Carrier) Interfleet Transfer
- USS *Tarawa* (LHA-1 – Amphibious Assault Ship) Operation *Kernel Blitz*
- USS *John C. Stennis* (CVN-74 – Nuclear Aircraft Carrier) Combined Forces Exercise

Rotor & Wing Magazine

Contributing Writer & Photographer

2006 - Present

- Generated and pitched ideas for articles; finalized specific stories, angles and sources.
- Conducted reporting for assigned articles while verifying facts and statistics from various sources.
- Produced high-quality imagery to accompany assigned articles.

Vertical Magazine / Maritime Executive Magazine / Aviation Maintenance Magazine

Contributing Writer & Photographer

2013 - 2014

- Generate and pitch ideas for articles and features to senior editorial staff.
- Conduct research, interviews and reporting for assigned articles while verifying facts and statistics from various sources.
- Finalize specific stories, angles and sources and assemble into a coherent feature story.

Rotor Review Magazine

Editor-in-Chief

2002 - 2003

Assistant Editor

2001

Associate Editor

2000

- Responsible for the timely delivery of a high-quality publication, including planning and direction for future issues.
- Supervised magazine production from story generation through publication.
- Oversaw staff of writers and editors and served as lead staff photographer.
- Edited articles for flow and composition as well as spelling and grammar.
- Served as final approver for all creative elements of magazine including editorial plan, content and layout.

Roundel Magazine (BMW Car Club of America)

Contributing Writer & Photographer

2000 - 2008

- Generated and pitched ideas for features to editorial staff.
- Produced high-quality imagery to accompany assigned articles.

United States Merchant Marine Academy Department of Continuing Education

Program Manager / Professional Education Instructor

1996 - 1998

- Educational administrator in charge of course preparation, planning and instruction of military training programs.
- Classroom instructor for marine communications, bridge watchstanding, damage control/firefighting, and tankerman courses.

Hear This (US Merchant Marine Academy Student Newspaper)

Editor-in-Chief

1993 - 1996

- Supervised newspaper production from planning, concept, story generation and editing through layout and publication, in addition to serving as lead photographer.

Qualifications and Skills

| | |
|------------|-------------------------|
| Leadership | Photographic Art |
| Teaching | Photographic Technology |
| Teamwork | Maritime Expertise |
| Management | Aviation Expertise |

Licenses:

- Merchant Marine USCG Licensed Third Mate, Unlimited Tonnage; Oceans
- FAA Commercial Instrument Helicopter and Single-engine Airplane Pilot
- FAA Commercial Drone Operator

Aviation:

- 2500 total flight hours
- 750 flight hours – HH-65C
- 1000 flight hours – CH-46D
- 110 flight hours – UH-3H
- 200 flight hours – MH-60S
- 215 shipboard landings (night/day)
- 2400 external cargo transfers (night/day – picks/drops)
- 450 Night/Instrument flight hours
- 200 Night Vision Device flight hours

Awards and Honors

Search and Rescue Aviator:

- 22 lives saved

US Coast Guard:

- Coast Guard Achievement Award – F/V *Flamingo* rescue
- Commandant’s Letter of Commendation – F/V *Scomas’* rescue

US Navy:

- Navy Commendation Medal – NAS Whidbey Island Search and Rescue
- Navy Marine Corps Achievement Award – Helicopter Combat Support Squadron *Eleven*.

College:

- Ralph Peat '61 Award - *For Leadership and Dedication to the USMMA Waterfront Training Program*
- USMMA Sailing, Power and Crew Squadron 1996 Achievement Award
- USMMA Sailing, Power and Crew Squadron Service Award
- Bridge Simulator Class "Top Watch" Recipient
- Varsity Letter Winner - Offshore Sailing, 4 years
- Named "Shipmate of the Month" on the S.S. *Sea-Land Crusader*

High School:

- Varsity Letterman Cross-Country/Indoor Track/Outdoor Track
- Captain Cross-Country Team
- Verie E. Hartwell Award - *Presented to the athlete who has made the greatest contribution to his team through dedication, leadership, and sportsmanship.*
- Award for Excellence in a Language Study - Latin

Publications and Presentations

Photography

- Images of Water 2011 – City of Eureka – Best in Show
- US Coast Guard People's Choice Photo Contest 2011 – 3rd Place
- Images of Water 2010 – City of Eureka – 3rd Place
- Northwest Eye 2010 – Humboldt Arts Council – Two submissions chosen.
- Humboldt County Pulp Mills - Solo Show - City of Eureka Arts Alive 2010
- Naval Helicopter Association Photo Contest 2009 –1st Place
- San Diego Aerospace Museum Amateur Photography Contest 2003
 - People's Choice Award
 - 2nd Place – Adult
- Official USCG images have appeared in many publications and web sites.
- Photos have appeared on the cover of books, magazines, and newspapers, and have accompanied feature articles.

Writing

Several hundred articles have appeared in print and on the web covering photographic, naval, maritime, aviation, and automotive topics.

- *Operation Homecoming: Iraq, Afghanistan, and the Home Front, in the Words of U.S. Troops and Their Families.* Edited by Andrew Carroll. Anthology of eyewitness accounts, private journals, short stories, and other writings. Contributing writer.
- *Smithsonian Air & Space Magazine* — Contributing writer.
- *Rotor Review* – Naval Helicopter Association's quarterly magazine. Editor-In-Chief. Articles and photos in nearly every issue for a ten year span.
- *Vertical* – International helicopter industry magazine. Regular contributor of feature articles.
- *Rotor & Wing* – International helicopter industry magazine. Regular contributor of feature articles.
- *Talon* – US Coast Guard H-65 helicopter newsletter.
- *Flight Lines* – US Coast Guard aviation newsletter.
- *Professional Mariner* – Contributor to a maritime industry journal.

- *Roundel* – Contributor to the BMW Car Club of America’s monthly magazine.
- *Hear This* - US Merchant Marine Academy student newspaper. Editor-In-Chief.

Professional Organizations

- Society of Photographic Educators (2017-present)
- Naval Helicopter Association - Trustee (1999-present)

Select Bibliography

- Photography Student? Here is Some Advice From Teachers
 - <https://www.bhphotovideo.com/explora/photography/tips-and-solutions/photography-student-here-is-some-advice-from-teachers>
- 6 Ways a Formal Education Can Benefit Your Photography
 - <https://www.bhphotovideo.com/explora/photography/tips-and-solutions/6-ways-formal-education-can-benefit-your-photography>
- 11 Thoughts on Photographic Composition
 - <https://www.bhphotovideo.com/explora/photography/tips-and-solutions/11-thoughts-introduction-photographic-composition>
- 30 Questions You Should Ask Before You Take a Photograph
 - <https://www.bhphotovideo.com/explora/photography/tips-and-solutions/30-questions-you-should-ask-you-take-photograph>
- 13 Creative Exercises for Photographers
 - <https://www.bhphotovideo.com/explora/photography/tips-and-solutions/13-creative-exercises-photographers>
- 44 Tips to Improve Your Photography
 - <https://www.bhphotovideo.com/explora/photography/tips-and-solutions/44-tips-improve-your-photography>
- Complete archive: <https://www.bhphotovideo.com/explora/users/todd-vorenkamp>
- Comments from readers

Great information. Great writing. Easy reading is hard writing. I am archiving this and will read over and over. — John I.

This perhaps the most concise and easy to understand explanation of this subject. — John M.

I teach some basic photography courses and am involved with a photography group at Rice University. That said, I believe this article is one of the best and most concise I have seen/read about the subject. Lot easier reading than my graduate courses in optics. Keep up the good work. — John C.

This article, along with the many others that are published on B&H are absolutely amazing. I enjoy reading these articles full of information allowing me to develop a deeper understanding and appreciation for what photography truly is...a form of art. — JC

Thank you for explaining aperture and shutter speed etc. in a lucid and understandable way for a novice in photography. — Pankaj D.

Best explanation of depth of field I have ever read - thank you, and I look forward to the next installment. — Gill M.

That was very good on how you explain it and I found it to be better than many books that I have read. — Alfred A.

Thank you SO much for this informative mini-series. Your explanations and associated pictures are the best I've seen. Your examples where you think through the "exposure math" out loud were enlightening. You should publish 10 of those per week, almost as 'practice,' as I think that's when it all clicked for me! — Craig F.

One of the most succinct, well-illustrated, and focused explanations I've seen. And, rarely do I see an article mention the important aspects of the scene and the goal. Despite having read quite a bit on the subject I may have learned something. Well-done article! — Dale S.

I am an electrical engineer that had absolutely no idea what a histogram was, and even with better than average analytical abilities, thought a general knowledge of the subject would be too daunting – so I did not pursue it. Based on reading your other great articles, I was confident this was the time to start my education on the subject. Your 10-minute article makes me now feel totally comfortable with the subject, leaving me with the desire to take pictures, just to look at the histograms. Thank you very much!!! — Rod S.

Thank you for the clarity with which you communicate your knowledge. — Anthony L.

What I love most of the article is the way it's written; it's ALMOST scientific, but one keeps on reading, like a book, to find out what's going on next. The beautiful photos trying to show/explain what is written. They come a long way. I WILL read the article again, if only to enjoy the photos again. Great! — Warner P.

Excellent! These articles were well balanced between detail, and simplicity. I was able to gain sufficient knowledge to be removed for the "dangerous" category. Thank you. — Thomas K.

Nothing beats a writer who can make complex topics simple. It's not an easy task -nice job! I'm looking forward to your other articles. — Norm C.

This is the best, most articulate and easy to understand article I've ever read on photography. Thanks! — Jeff W.