



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

USS ELROD (FFG-55)
FLEET POST OFFICE
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From: Commanding Officer, USS ELROD (FFG 55)
To: Commanding Officer, Naval Historical Center, Bldg. 57,
Washington Navy Yard, Washington, DC 20374-0571

Subj: SUBMISSION OF 1997 COMMAND HISTORY, USS ELROD (FFG 55)

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12D

Encl: (1) Command Composition and Organization
(2) Chronology for 1997
(3) Narrative Summary of Command History
(4) Welcome Aboard Pamphlet
(5) Photo of USS ELROD (FFG 55)
(6) USS ELROD msg 230438Z AUG 97
(7) USS ELROD msg 031707Z OCT 97
(8) USS ELROD msg 270641Z OCT 97

1. In accordance with reference (a), the command history of USS ELROD (FFG 55) for calendar year 1997 is forwarded. Enclosures (1) through (9) highlight the year experienced by ELROD's officers and crew.


J. B. VODZIS
By direction

COMMAND COMPOSITION AND ORGANIZATION

USS ELROD (FFG 55) is an Oliver Hazard Perry class guided-missile frigate. Originally designed as a primary platform for Anti-Submarine Warfare (ASW) and Anti-Air Warfare (AAW) duties, ELROD has been highly successful in conducting Maritime Interception and Drug Interdiction Operations and Search and Rescue (SAR) missions.

ELROD is armed with Mk 46 anti-submarine torpedoes, Harpoon surface-to-surface cruise missiles, SM-1 (MR) surface-to-air missiles, a Mk 75 automatic, rapid fire 76mm cannon, and a 25mm gun. Weapons, sensor, and control systems include: MK 32 SVTT launchers, MK 13 Guided Missile Launching System (GMLS), MK 75 76mm Oto Melara Lightweight gun, MK 15 Mod 11 Block 1 Close In Weapons System (CIWS), AN/SPS-49 (V)5 Air Search Radar, AN/SPS-55 Surface Search Radar, AN/SYS-2 Integrated Air Detection System (IADT), MK 92 Mod 6 Coherent Receiver Transmitter (CORT) Fire Control System, AN/SLQ-32(V)5 Electronic Warfare Suite, which includes the AN/SQR-19 Tactical Towed Array Sonar System (TACTAS), the AN/SQQ-28 Sonobuoy Processor, and the SH-60B LAMPS MK III Helicopter.

ELROD's complement is comprised of 17 Officers and 212 crew members. ELROD is homeported in Norfolk, Virginia at the DESRON Convenience Berths in Norfolk Naval Shipyard, and is under the command of Commander Glenn Flanagan, USN. The shipyard is actually located in Portsmouth, Virginia, giving ELROD a very unique home. When not deployed, ELROD's immediate senior is Commander, Destroyer Squadron TWO EIGHT.

USS ELROD is currently engaged in a period of upkeep and training in her homeport of Portsmouth, Virginia.

USS ELROD (FFG-55)
1997 CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS

JAN

01 - 05 HOLIDAY UPKEEP/STANDDOWN
06 - 07 UPKEEP, PORTSMOUTH VA
08 - 10 U/W, VACAPES, CONDUCT NAVOSH
11 - 12 UPKEEP, PORTSMOUTH VA
13 COMMENCE TSTA II ETG
14 U/W, VACAPES
15 - 16 FASTCRUISE, PORTSMOUTH VA
17 COMPLETE TSTA II ETG
18 - 26 UPKEEP, PORTSMOUTH VA
* 18 - 21: INDUSTRIAL HEALTH SURVEY
27 - 30 U/W VACAPES, CONTINUE TSTA II ETG
31 COMPLETE TSTA II ETG

FEB

01 - 28 UPKEEP, PORTSMOUTH VA
10 COMMENCE TSTA II CSTG
28 COMPLETE TSTA II CSTG

MAR

01 - 02 UPKEEP, PORTSMOUTH VA
03 - 07 U/W, VACAPES, CONTINUE TSTA II CSTG
08 - 23 UPKEEP, PORTSMOUTH VA
* 10 - 18: CSRR PHASE II
* 10 - 21: TARGET
* 11 - 14: MEDICAL READINESS EXAM
24 - 27 U/W VACAPES, CONDUCT TSTA III ITT, EMBARK
AIRDET
28 COMPLETE TSTA III ITT
29 - 30 UPKEEP, PORTSMOUTH VA
31 COMMENCE FEP

APR

01 - 02 CONTINUE FEP
03 - 04 U/W VACAPES, COMPLETE FEP,
05 - 22 UPKEEP, PORTSMOUTH VA
* 07 - 11: ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SURVEY
* 07 - 18: CSRR PHASE II
* 21 - 22: COMMAND INSPECTION, DESRON 28
23 - 27 HOST AZALEA FESTIVAL, NAUTICUS, NORFOLK VA
28 - 29 WEAPONS ONLOAD, YORKTOWN VA
30 U/W VACAPES, ARMED HELO RDT&E

MAY

01 U/W, VACAPES, CONTINUE ARMED HELO RDT&E
02 - 08 UPKEEP, PORTSMOUTH VA
09 - 11 U/W ENROUTE NSRR, PUERTO RICO, EMBARK AIRDET
12 INPORT, NSRR PUERTO RICO
13 - 15 U/W, CONDUCT MAYFLY MISSILE EXERCISE

16 - 18 INPORT, NSRR
 19 - 30 U/W CARIBBEAN
 * 19 - 23: CONDUCT TACDEVEX
 * 24 - 30: CONDUCT INDEX
 31 INPORT TORTOLA, BVI

JUN
 01 - 02 INPORT TORTOLA, BVI
 03 - 06 INPORT ST. MAARTEN
 07 - 12 U/W CONDUCT OPFOR W/ G.W. BATTLE GROUP
 13 - 16 U/W ENROUTE YORKTOWN VA
 17 WEAPONS ONLOAD, YORKTOWN VA
 18 - 30 POM PERIOD, PORTSMOUTH VA

JUL
 31 - 14 POM PERIOD, PORTSMOUTH VA
 15 U/W MEF 97 DEPLOYMENT
 16 - 26 TRANSIT ATLANTIC
 * 17: REFUEL, BERMUDA
 * 24: REFUEL, AZORES
 27 U/W ENTER MEDITERRANEAN
 28 - 30 INPORT PALMA DE MAJORCA, SPAIN
 31 U/W TRANSIT MEDITERRANEAN

AUG
 01 - 02 U/W TRANSIT MEDITERRANEAN
 03 - 05 INPORT KOS, GREECE
 06 - 07 U/W TRANSIT MEDITERRANEAN
 08 TRANSIT SUEZ CANAL
 09 - 11 TRANSIT RED SEA
 12 INPORT, REFUEL DJIBUTI
 13 - 17 U/W TRANSIT GULF OF ADEN/NORTH ARABIAN SEA/
 GULF OF OMAN
 18 TRANSIT STRAIT OF HORMUZ
 19 TRANSIT SOUTH/CENTRAL ARABIAN GULF
 20 - 21 INPORT MANAMA, BAHRAIN
 22 - 23 U/W DIVERT/ESCORT OPERATIONS
 24 - 30 INPORT MANAMA, BAHRAIN
 31 U/W ENROUTE NORTH ARABIAN GULF (NAG)

SEP
 01 - 10 CONDUCT MARITIME INTERDICTION OPS, NAG
 11 ENROUTE DUBAI, UAE
 12 - 15 INPORT DUBAI, UAE
 16 U/W ENROUTE NAG
 17 - 20 CONDUCT MARITIME INTERDICTION OPS, NAG
 21 - 27 INPORT MANAMA, BAHRAIN; CONDUCT VOYAGE REPAIR
 AVAILABILITY (VRAV)
 28 U/W ENROUTE NAG
 29 - 30 CONDUCT MARITIME INTERDICTION OPS, NAG

OCT
 01 - 08 CONTINUE MARITIME INTERDICTION OPS, NAG
 09 ENROUTE DUBAI, UAE

10 - 13 INPORT DUBAI, UAE
14 U/W ENROUTE NAG
15 - 21 CONDUCT MARITIME INTERDICTION OPS, NAG
22 ENROUTE STRAIT OF HORMUZ
23 TRANSIT STRAIT OF HORMUZ
24 CONDUCT OPERATIONS, GULF OF OMAN
25 - 30 PARTICIPATE IN GULFEX, GULF OF OMAN
31 TRANSIT STRAIT OF HORMUZ; ENROUTE MANAMA,
BAHRAIN

NOV

01 - 08 INPORT MANAMA, BAHRAIN
09 U/W ENROUTE NAG
10 - 30 CONDUCT MARITIME INTERDICTION OPS, NAG

DEC

01 - 05 INPORT DUBAI, UAE
06 - 12 U/W TRANSIT STRAIT OF HORMUZ, GULF OF OMAN,
NORTH ARABIAN SEA, GULF OF ADEN
13 - 17 CONDUCT EXERCISE INDIGO SERPENT
* 13: HOST RECEPTION FOR SAUDI
DIGNITARIES
18 U/W ENROUTE AQABA, JORDAN
19 - 21 INPORT AQABA, JORDAN
* 20: HOST RECEPTION FOR COMMANDER OF
JORDANIAN NAVY
22 U/W ENROUTE SUEZ CANAL
23 TRANSIT SUEZ CANAL
24 - 27 ENROUTE NAPLES, ITALY
28 - 30 INPORT NAPLES, ITALY
31 U/W ENROUTE ROTA, SPAIN

1997 NARRATIVE

The start of 1997 found USS ELROD (FFG-55) enjoying the last week of a holiday standdown period before returning to work on 08 January. ELROD got underway the same day to the Virginia Capes operating area (VACAPES) to conduct the Navy Occupational Safety and Health survey (NAVOSH). Upon successful completion of NAVOSH, ELROD would begin to focus heavily on the pre-deployment workup cycle.

January 13 saw the commencement of the Tailored Ship Training Availability, or TSTA II. The first round would assess the effectiveness of the ship's Engineering Training Team (ETG). Stage one of the assessment was successfully completed on 17 January after one day at sea and a two day "fast cruise" inport Portsmouth.

The next event in store for ELROD was the Industrial Health survey. This inspection was conducted from 18-21 January while inport Portsmouth. Following this event, ELROD went to sea to complete the ETG portion of TSTA II.

The month of February was spent entirely inport. With the Engineering portion of TSTA II complete, it was time to begin assessment of the Combat Systems Training Group (CSTG). From 10-28 February, CSTG effectively demonstrated their proficiency for the TSTA II inspectors. The first week of March saw ELROD get underway and complete the final portion of TSTA II CSTG.

The remainder of the month of March was very busy. In a span of 11 days ELROD conducted three different assessments. The first was the Combat Systems Readiness Review (CSRR) commencing 10 March. This was followed by TARGET (an engineering plant assist visit) and the Medical Readiness Exam. With the successful completion of these evolutions, ELROD was ready to commence the Integrated Training Team (ITT) phase of the TSTA II assessment.

Underway in the VACAPES from 24-27 March, ELROD demonstrated the integration of all the training teams, including Engineering, Combat Systems, and Damage Control. This underway period also saw HSL-48, the Air Detachment that would deploy with ELROD in July, embark the ship for the first time during the training cycle. With a successful TSTA II ITT behind her, ELROD was now ready to commence the Final Evaluation Period (FEP).

FEP began on 31 March inport Portsmouth. On 03 April, the ship got underway for two days to complete the assessment. Immediately after putting the success of FEP behind her, ELROD underwent an Environmental Health Survey and commenced CSRR Phase II. These events were followed by a command inspection by ELROD's parent Destroyer Squadron, DESRON 28.

With the command inspection completed on 22 April, ELROD got underway the following day for Nauticus, the National Maritime Center in downtown Norfolk. The ship had been selected to host the annual Azalea Festival. The crew enjoyed the week of festivities, hosting tours and enjoying the benefits of being moored in the downtown area.

ELROD departed Norfolk and proceeded directly to the Naval Weapons Station in Yorktown to onload weapons. After this two day

evolution, ELROD proceeded to sea and embarked to conduct testing of the armed SH-60B helicopter which would deploy with her in July. On 01 May the ship returned to port for one week of upkeep before getting underway on 09 May.

ELROD would find herself operating in the Caribbean Sea for the next five weeks in preparation for the upcoming deployment. After a brief stop in Puerto Rico to embark the Air Det, ELROD participated in the MAYFLY Missile Exercise. This exciting exercise saw ELROD successfully launch eight missiles in a three day period. Following MAYFLY, the ship conducted the Tactical Development and Independent Deployment Exercises. Upon completion of these key exercises, ELROD enjoyed some well deserved liberty in the Caribbean Islands of Tortolla and St. Martin.

After her port visits, ELROD participated in an exercise with the GEORGE WASHINGTON Carrier Battle Group during which three more missiles were launched. The ship then headed for home, first stopping in Yorktown for the final weapons onload prior to deployment. On 18 June, ELROD arrived back in Portsmouth and commenced the pre-deployment leave and standdown period.

On 15 July the ship began the MEF 3-97 deployment. The transit across the Atlantic included stops in Bermuda and the Azores for fuel. In addition, the ship enjoyed Mediterranean port visits to Palma de Majorca, Spain and Kos, Greece prior to transitting the Suez Canal on 08 August. After a short fuel stop in Djibouti, ELROD entered the Arabian Gulf on 18 August.

After a brief stop in Bahrain for turnover, ELROD commenced what would become routine for the next four months: enforcing the United Nation's Sanctions against Iraq. Operating in primarily the North Arabian Gulf (NAG), ELROD conducted 78 queries, 45 redirects, and 23 boardings of commercial vessels. Additionally, during her time in the Gulf ELROD escorted three sanction violators, assisted two fishing dhows in distress, and conducted 19 UNREPs. ELROD visited both Bahrain and Dubai, UAE for periodic port visits, including a short Voyage Repair Availability (VRAV) in Bahrain. The ship left the Gulf briefly from 24-30 October to participate in a joint exercise with the British and French Navies called GULFEX.

ELROD departed the Arabian Gulf on 06 December and began the slow transit west. There would be several stops along the way however. First, the ship would participate in an exercise with the Saudi Navy called Indigo Serpent. This event was kicked off by a reception onboard the ship for many high ranking diplomats. Following completion of the exercise, ELROD proceeded to Aqaba, Jordan for a port visit, again having the opportunity to host a formal reception for several distinguished guests. ELROD departed Aqaba and entered the Suez Canal on 23 December.

The ship proceeded across the eastern Mediterranean Sea and transitted to Naples, Italy, where the crew enjoyed four days of liberty. On the final day of the year, ELROD left Italy and continued her return journey, home only 15 days away.