

rec'd 4/12/90



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

USS ELROD (FFG 55)
FLEET POST OFFICE
MIAMI 34091-1509

5750
FFG55/01:db
Ser 111
23 March 1990

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 COMMAND HISTORY, USS ELROD (FFG-55)

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12D

- Encl: (1) Command Composition and Organization
(2) Chronology For 1989
(3) Narrative Summary of Command History
(4) Welcome Aboard Pamphlet
(5) Commander Phil W. Bolin, Commanding Officer
(6) Commander Bruce R. Linder, Commanding Officer
(7) Battle Efficiency Award Picture
(8) Change of Command Pamphlet

1. In accordance with reference (a) the command history of USS ELROD (FFG 55) for 1989 is forwarded. The attached enclosures highlight the year experienced by ELROD's officers and crew.


BRUCE R. LINDER

COMMAND COMPOSITION AND ORGANIZATION

USS ELROD (FFG-55) is an Oliver Hazard Perry class frigate with multiple missions. Her primary mission is Anti-Submarine Warfare and she possesses capabilities in Anti-Air Warfare and Anti-Surface Warfare. USS ELROD (FFG-55) is homeported in Charleston, South Carolina and was under the command of Commander Phil W. Bolin until 27 July 1989. ELROD is currently under the command of Commander Bruce R. Linder. USS ELROD's immediate senior command is Commander, Destroyer Squadron SIX. When deployed she was assigned two SH-60B LAMPS MK III Helicopters with side numbers 450 and 445 from HSL 44 det 3.

Enclosure (1)

CHRONOLOGY FOR 1989

01 Jan - 22 Jan Inport Charleston, South Carolina.
23 Jan - 02 Feb Middle East Force Exercise 2-89 with USS GALLERY,
USS CONNOLY and USS UNDERWOOD.
03 Feb - 12 Mar Inport Charleston.
13 Mar - 17 Mar Command Inspection.
18 Mar - 21 Mar Inport Charleston.
22 Mar - 30 Mar Atlantic Transit.
31 Mar Visit Ponta Del Gada, Azores.
01 Apr - 03 Apr Atlantic Transit.
04 Apr - 08 Apr Visit Benidorm, Spain.
09 Apr - 13 Apr Transit Mediterranean.
14 Apr - 15 Apr Transit Suez Canal.
20 Apr - 21 Apr Visit Djibouti.
28 Apr - 30 Apr Visit Bahrain.
31 Apr - 11 May Northern Persian Gulf Operations.
12 May - 13 May Visit Bahrain.
14 May - 16 May Central Persian Gulf Operations.
17 May - 19 May Visit Bahrain.
20 May - 27 May Northern Persian Gulf Operations.
28 May - 30 May Visit Ad Dammam, Saudi Arabia.
31 May - 02 Jun Exercises with Royal Saudi Naval Forces.
03 Jun - 12 Jun Visit Bahrain.
12 Jun - 17 Jun Central Persian Gulf Operations.
18 Jun - 20 Jun Visit Bahrain.
21 Jun - 01 Jul Arabian Sea Operations.
02 Jul - 03 Jul Visit Bahrain.
04 Jul - 09 Jul Northern Persian Gulf Operations.
10 Jul - 11 Jul Visit Bahrain.
12 Jul - 22 Jul Northern Persian Gulf Operations.
27 Jul Change of Command (Underway).
28 Jul - 05 Aug Northern Persian Gulf Operations.
06 Aug - 08 Aug Visit Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates.
09 Aug - 12 Aug Visit Bahrain.
04 Aug Turnover with USS BOONE in the Persian Gulf.
09 Aug Visit Djibouti.
23 Aug - 24 Aug Visit Aqaba, Jordan. King Hussein visits ship.

Enclosure (2)

25 Aug - 27 Aug Transit Suez Canal.
28 Aug - 31 Aug Transit Mediterranean Sea.
01 Aug - 06 Sep Visit Palma De Majorca, Spain.
08 Sep Visit Rota, Spain.
12 Sep - 13 Sep Visit Ponta Del Gada, Azores.
14 Sep - 20 Sep Atlantic transit.
21 Sep Joined Task Group 40.1.3 - (Charleston Hurricane Sortie) northwest of Bermuda.
22 Sep - 24 Sep Anchored, Charleston outer harbor awaiting restoration of Cooper River navigational aids eliminated by Hurricane Hugo.
25 Sep - 26 Sep Inport Mayport, Florida.
27 Sep Arrive Charleston.
28 Sep - 22 Oct Inport Charleston.
23 Oct - 02 Nov LANTSUBASWEX 1-90.
03 Nov - 05 Nov Visit Port Everglades, Florida.
08 Nov Inport Charleston, South Carolina.
09 Nov Underway for Combat Systems Assessment.
10 Nov - 03 Nov Inport Charleston.
04 Dec - 08 Dec Board of Inspection and Survey (INSURV).
09 Dec - 31 Dec Inport Charleston.

NARRATIVE SUMMARY OF COMMAND HISTORY

In January of 1989 ELROD, participated in Middle East Force Exercise 2-89 with USS GALLERY, USS CONNOLY, and USS UNDERWOOD. USS ELROD departed Charleston on 22 March to begin a six month deployment to the Persian Gulf. After a port visit in Benidorm, Spain and a Suez Canal transit, ELROD arrived in the Persian Gulf in late April. During the deployment, ELROD crewmembers enjoyed liberty in Bahrain, Ad Dammam, Saudi Arabia, and Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates. During these visits, ELROD crewmembers served as unofficial American diplomats, hosting numerous functions and tours of the ship for foreign military, business, and civilian dignitaries. American and British expatriate communities were especially welcoming and gracious hosts, organizing and inviting many ELROD sailors into their homes for a good home cooked meal and genial hospitality.

ELROD, assigned to the Navy's Middle East Force, spent the majority of its overseas assignment demonstrating American Naval presence and escorting American-flagged merchant shipping in this volatile corner of the world. During a portion of its deployment, ELROD was part of Joint Task Force Middle East.

On 27 July, Commander Bruce R. Linder relieved Commander Phil W. Bolin as Commanding Officer during a flight deck ceremony in Sitrah Anchorage, Bahrain. On 14 August ELROD sailed through the Strait of Hormuz at the mouth of the Persian Gulf for the last time. ELROD stopped for a three day port visit in Aqaba, Jordan on 22 August. A group of sailors visited Petra, an ancient city carved into the mountain landscape's stone walls and a setting for a scene from the latest Indiana Jones movie. On the afternoon of 23 August his majesty King Hussein of Jordan visited ELROD with his two young sons. The King, an accomplished helicopter pilot, landed his Royal Jordanian Helicopter onto ELROD's flight deck and spent an hour touring the ship and greeting crewmembers. Upon departure the young princes received ELROD ballcaps and the King performed an impressive aerial display high above the ship in the Royal Helicopter. On their way across the Mediterranean the crew enjoyed one final week of rest and relaxation by visiting the port city of Palma de Majorca, located in the Balearic islands off Spain's southeastern coast.

ELROD's return to Charleston was delayed by Hurricane Hugo. The crewmembers watched from seaward as Hugo smashed into their home port on September 21, the very day they were scheduled to return. Upon return to Charleston, ELROD crewmembers participated in the effort to rebuild the city.

On 23 October, ELROD participated in LANTSUBASWEX 1-90 with ships of the Royal Navy, Canadian Navy, and U.S. Navy as well as Dutch, British, Canadian and U.S. Navy patrol Aircraft. The crew relaxed in Fort Lauderdale, Florida upon completion of the exercise.

ELROD achieved a "clean sweep" of all Mission Area and Departmental Excellence awards for her performance during the competitive cycle of 1 April, 1988 through September 30 1989. The "clean sweep" included Excellence awards in Anti-Submarine Warfare, Anti-Air Warfare, Anti-Surface Warfare, Electronic Warfare, Command, Control and Communications, Main Propulsion, Damage Control, Navigation/Deck Seamanship, and Supply. ELROD was selected as the Battle "E" winner among the eleven FFG's in Destroyer Squadron Six.