



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

USS ELROD (FFG 55)

FLEET POST OFFICE

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From: Commanding Officer, USS ELROD (FFG 55)

To: Chief of Naval Operations (N09BH)

Subj: COMMAND HISTORY FOR 1992

Ref: (a) CNO ltr 5757 Ser 09BH/SH/3U505955 of 14 Sep 93

(b) USS ELROD ltr 5750 Ser 186 of 5 Aug 93

Encl: (1) USS ELROD Command History

1. As requested reference (a), enclosure (1) is resubmitted. ELROD's command history was originally mailed on 5 August 1993 (reference (b) applies).

  
PETER J. DOUGHERTY  
By direction

## COMMAND COMPOSITION AND ORGANIZATION

USS ELROD (FFG 55) is an Oliver Hazard Perry class guided missile frigate. She has proven herself capable of many missions other than the originally designated duties of Anti-Submarine Warfare (ASW) and Anti-Air Warfare (AAW) defence of convoys. ELROD's primary missions are ASW, AAW, and Anti-Surface Warfare (ASUW). ELROD is armed with MK 46 anti-submarine torpedoes, Harpoon surface to surface cruise missiles, SM-1 surface to air missiles, a MK 75 automatic, rapid fire 76mm cannon, and a Mk 15 Mod 11 Block 1 fully automatic 20mm Vulcan Phalanx Close In Weapons System (CIWS). Sensor and control systems include the AN/SQR-19 Towed Array Sonar System, the MK 96 Fire Control System, AN/SLQ-32 electronic warfare suite, AN/SPA-49 Air Search Radar, AN/SPS-55 Surface Search Radar, AN/SQS-56 Sonar, AN/SQQ-28 Sonobuoy processor, the SH-60B Helicopter, and various communication systems. USS ELROD is homeported in Charleston, South Carolina, and is under the command of Commander Donald P. Loren. ELROD's immediate senior command is Commander, Destroyer Squadron FOUR.

CHRONOLOGY FOR 1992

01 JAN	Inport Muscat, Oman
02 JAN - 13 JAN	Underway for Gulf of Oman Ops
14 JAN	Transit Straits of Hormuz (Northbound)
15 JAN	Underway for Central Arabian Gulf Ops
16 JAN - 19 JAN	Inport Mina Sulman, Bahrain
20 JAN - 24 JAN	Underway for Central Arabian Gulf Ops
25 JAN - 26 JAN	Inport Doha, Qatar
27 JAN - 28 JAN	Underway for Central Arabian Gulf Ops
29 JAN - 03 FEB	Inport Jebel Ali, United Arab Emirates
04 FEB	Transit Straits of Hormuz (Southbound)
05 FEB - 07 FEB	Inport Muscat, Oman
08 FEB - 09 FEB	Underway for Gulf of Oman Ops
10 FEB - 11 FEB	Inport Wudam, Oman
12 FEB - 15 FEB	Transit Gulf of Aden
16 FEB - 19 FEB	Transit Red Sea
20 FEB - 22 FEB	Inport Jeddah, Saudi Arabia
23 FEB - 25 FEB	Transit Red Sea
26 FEB	Transit Suez Canal (Northbound)
27 FEB - 01 MAR	Transit Mediterranean
02 MAR - 05 MAR	Inport Palma de Mallorca, Spain
06 MAR	Transit Mediterranean
07 MAR	Transit Straits of Gilbralter (Westbound)
08 MAR - 13 MAR	Transit North Atlantic
14 MAR	Transit English Channel (Northbound)
15 MAR	Transit North Sea
16 MAR - 23 MAR	Exercise TEAMWORK 92 (North Sea)
18 MAR	Crossed Arctic Circle (Northbound)
20 MAR	Crossed Arctic Circle (Southbound)
24 MAR - 30 MAR	Transit Atlantic
31 MAR	Anchored Murray's Cove, Bermuda
31 MAR - 01 APR	Transit Atlantic
02 APR - 03 MAY	Inport Charleston, South Carolina
04 MAY	Naval Weapons Station, Charleston
05 MAY - 17 AUG	Inport Charleston, South Carolina
05 MAY - 20 JUL	Ship's Restricted Availability (SRA)
06 JUL - 10 JUL	Surface Warfare Training Week
17 JUL - 14 AUG	Intermediate Maintenance Availability (IMAV)
03 AUG - 07 AUG	Integrated Shipboard Assessment (ISA)
18 AUG - 19 AUG	Inport Naval Weapons Station, Charleston
20 AUG - 22 AUG	Underway Jacksonville Op Area
23 AUG	Inport Mayport, Florida
24 AUG	Underway Jacksonville Op Area
25 AUG - 02 SEP	Inport Charleston, South Carolina
02 SEP - 04 SEP	Underway Charleston Op Area
05 SEP - 08 SEP	Inport Charleston, South Carolina
09 SEP - 10 SEP	Underway Charleston, Op Area
11 SEP - 15 SEP	Inport Charleston, South Carolina
16 SEP	Underway Charleston, Op Area
17 SEP - 22 SEP	Inport Charleston, South Carolina
23 SEP - 24 SEP	Underway Charleston Op Area for Operational Propulsion Plant Examination (OPPE) Board

CHRONOLOGY FOR 1992 CONT'D

25 SEP - 30 SEP	Inport Charleston, South Carolina
01 OCT - 03 OCT	Transit Western Atlantic/Caribbean
04 OCT - 06 OCT	Inport Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic
07 OCT - 24 OCT	Underway Caribbean for Counter Narcotic Operations
25 OCT	Transit Panama Canal (Southbound)
26 OCT	Inport Rodman, Panama
27 OCT - 04 NOV	Underway Eastern Pacific for Counter Narcotic Operations
05 NOV - 07 NOV	Inport Manta, Ecuador
08 NOV - 09 NOV	Transit Eastern Pacific
09 NOV	Shellback Initiation
10 NOV	Transit Panama Canal (Northbound)
11 NOV - 15 NOV	Underway Caribbean for Counter Narcotic Operations
16 NOV - 19 NOV	Transit Caribbean/Western Atlantic
19 NOV	Inport Mayport, Florida
20 NOV - 23 NOV	Underway Jacksonville Op Area
24 NOV - 06 DEC	Inport Charleston, South Carolina
07 DEC - 10 DEC	Underway Jacksonville Op Area
11 DEC - 31 DEC	Inport Charleston, South Carolina

## NARRATIVE SUMMARY FOR 1992

USS ELROD started 1992 at the mid-point of a six-month deployment to the Arabian Gulf as a unit of Operation Desert Shield. The second half of the cruise was faster paced than was the first.

New Year's day was spent in Muscat, Oman, with the crew enjoying a picnic on the beach at the Royal Omani Yacht Club. ELROD departed Oman on 02 January to participate in an ASW Rex-Torp and AAW Missile firings exercise in the Gulf of Oman. From there, ELROD headed north, back into the Arabian Gulf. A brief stop in Bahrain to have the Mast Mounted Sight System removed was followed by an Encounter-Ex with the Bahraini Navy, and then a stop in Doha, Qatar. In Doha, the American Ambassador hosted a reception, a luncheon, and a Superbowl party for the crew.

ELROD left Qatar to participate in yet another Encounter-Ex, this time with the Qatari Navy. During the exercise, sharp-eyed lookouts spotted a fishing dhow in distress. Immediate assistance was rendered, and the Qatari Coast Guard was notified. ELROD remained on the scene until the Qatari vessel took the dhow under tow.

January ended and February began with a week long Technical Availability (TAV) with the USS Yosemite in Jebel Ali (the commercial port for Dubai), United Arab Emirates.

On February 4th, ELROD completed its final outbound transit of the Straits of Hormuz, and left the Arabian Gulf behind. A port call in Muscat, Oman was to coordinate a Pass-Ex with the Sultan's Omani Navy. After the two-day Pass-Ex, ELROD anchored at the Omani naval port of Wudam, Oman for a post-ex wash-up.

On February 13, ELROD rendezvoused with the other ships of the Eisenhower battle group, and started the transit home. As the ships transited through the Red Sea, a distress call was monitored from the U. S. flagged sailboat "Jake's Fantasia". They were being stopped and boarded by rebels from the Ethiopian civil war. ELROD was ordered to stand-by to render assistance and remained in the area to show the flag and display concern regarding the crew. As ELROD arrived in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia shortly after leaving the immediate area, the Ethiopian government released "Jake's Fantasia" and its crew unharmed. When ELROD left Jeddah, it transited through the Red Sea and Gulf of Suez, and then sailed north through the Suez Canal.

In March, ELROD had a liberty port for four days in Palma de Mallorca, Spain, a needed break for all hands. ELROD left Palma and the warm Mediterranean for exercise "Teamwork 92" in the North Sea. Balmy conditions were soon forgotten as the ship encountered twenty-foot seas, hundred knot winds, and freezing temperatures off the coast of Norway. All non-Bluenoses were properly initiated when the ship crossed the Arctic Circle.

Calm seas and warm temperatures were a welcome relief as ELROD picked up the "Tigers", (dependent males), who would ride from Bermuda back to Charleston. Various events showed the tigers what life at sea is like and filled the days en route to Charleston. April 2nd marked ELROD's long anticipated return home to family and friends.

April was spent in a post-deployment stand-down. ELROD made a trip up-river to the Naval Weapons Station to conduct a weapons off-load in early May, and then returned to the Charleston Naval Station for a Ship's Restricted Availability (SRA).

During the SRA, which lasted from May 5 until July 14, over 600 jobs were completed. Phalanx was upgraded to a Mod 11 Block 1 model, the MK 13 GMLS was overhauled and upgraded, crew head facilities were completely overhauled, all laundry equipment was replaced, and all weather decks were refinished. As busy as the crew was with the SRA, there were other things going on at the same time. Admiral Redd, Commander, Cruiser-Destroyer Group Twelve conducted an awards ceremony on ELROD on May 7. In July, ELROD won Charleston's Surface Warfare Training (SWT) week competition, completed the SRA, and started an IMAV.

ELROD started the steps needed to return to operational readiness during August. The Integrated Shipboard Assessment was passed with scores of good to excellent in all areas. Sea trials were conducted, and preparations for the Operational Propulsion Plant Examination (OPPE) began. These continued until the last week of September, when ELROD passed OPPE with an overall grade of Good.

In October, ELROD left Charleston to conduct Counter Narcotic Operations in the Caribbean Sea and Pacific Ocean. The ship's first stop was in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic. There, the crew participated as honor guards while the remains of Christopher Columbus were moved to the new tomb and lighthouse built to mark the 500th anniversary of his discovery of the New World. During the procession, ELROD's saluting battery conducted echoing fire to the Dominican flagship in a 21-gun salute to Columbus.

Moving to another front to the war on drugs, ELROD sailed southward through the Panama Canal and into the Eastern Pacific Ocean in late October. In November, a trip across the equator to Manta, Ecuador showed the crew a different culture than they had experienced before. As the ship returned to the northern hemisphere, the slimy polliwogs in the crew were duly initiated into the realm of Davy Jones and became trusty and honorable shellbacks. Their suffering was but a token penance for their crimes!

On November 10th, ELROD passed back through the Panama Canal and into the Caribbean. After another week of Drug Interdiction operations, ELROD sailed back to Mayport, and Charleston. Following Thanksgiving weekend, ELROD was back at sea, this time providing flight deck services for SH-60B pilots in refresher training. On December 11, the ship returned to Charleston and the start of a well deserved holiday stand-down, which lasted for the rest of the year.

During 1992, USS ELROD operated in over half of the globe. Patrol areas included the Arabian Gulf, Gulf of Oman, Indian Ocean, Red Sea, Mediterranean Sea, Atlantic Ocean, North Sea, Norwegian Sea, Caribbean Sea, and eastern Pacific Ocean. Operations were conducted from north of the Arctic Circle to south of the equator. Missions encompassed peace keeping, multi-mission warfare (AAW, ASW, and ASUW), anti-drug smuggling operations, and training. ELROD worked with navies from Great

Britain, Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, Oman, Qatar, Spain, France, Canada, and the Dominican Republic. In all areas, in all missions, and with all forces, ELROD represented excellence in action and set the example for others to follow.