



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

USS ELROD (FFG-55)
FLEET POST OFFICE
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From: Commanding Officer, USS ELROD (FFG 55)
To: Director, Naval Historical Center

Subj: SUBMISSION OF 1996 COMMAND HISTORY, USS ELROD (FFG 55)

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12D

Encl: (1) Command Composition and Organization
(2) Chronology for 1995
(3) Narrative Summary of Command History
(4) Welcome Aboard Pamphlet
(5) Change of Command Ceremony Program
(6) Photo of USS ELROD (FFG 55)
(7) Article, "ELROD Assists Iranian Sailors"
(8) Article, "ELROD Operates In Middle East"
(9) Article, "ELROD Returns Home From Middle East"
(10) Article, "DOWNING"
(11) Article, "Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class [REDACTED]"
(12) Article, "Navy Officer [REDACTED] Leaves For Overseas Deployment"
(13) Article, "Military News"; [REDACTED]
(14) Article, "Navy Petty Officer 3rd Class [REDACTED]"
(15) Article, "Navy Seaman [REDACTED]"
(16) Article, "[REDACTED] is halfway through tour of duty in Persian Gulf"
(17) Article, "Military Notes"; [REDACTED]
(18) Article, "ELROD (FFG-55), EODMU-2 Hail New Skippers"
(19) COMCARGRU SEVEN msg 261010Z JAN96
(20) COMFIFTHFLT msg 030507Z JAN96
(21) COMFIFTHFLT msg 021117Z JAN96
(22) COMFIFTHFLT msg 281127Z FEB96

1. In accordance with reference (a) the command history of USS ELROD (FFG 55) for calendar year 1996 is forwarded. Enclosures (1) through (22) highlight the year experienced by ELROD's officers and crew.


G. FLANAGAN

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 20mm 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 15 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)
1996 CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS

01 JAN - 19 MAR MEF 4-95 DEPLOYMENT

01 JAN - 02 JAN INPT, UPKP, DUBAI, UAE
03 JAN - 15 JAN U/W, NORTHERN ARABIAN GULF (NAG), MIO OPS
16 JAN - 18 JAN INPT, UPKP, DOHA, QATAR
16 JAN FIFTH FLEET RECEPTION
19 JAN - 30 JAN U/W, NAG, MIO OPS

30 JAN - 05 FEB INPT, UPKP, MANAMA, BAHRAIN
06 FEB - 07 FEB U/W, MPS ESCORT OPS SAG
08 FEB - 10 FEB TRANSIT TO MUSCAT, OMAN
10 FEB - 14 FEB INPT, UPKP, MUSCAT, OMAN
15 FEB - 18 FEB U/W, TRANSIT TO DIJIBOUTI
18 FEB INPT, DJIBOUTI, BSF
18 FEB - 22 FEB U/W, TRANSIT TO AQABA, JORDAN.
23 FEB - 25 FEB INPT, AQABA, JORDAN
25 FEB U/W, GULF OF AQABA, EXERCISE INFINITE SHADOW
26 FEB U/W, TRANSIT TO PORT SUEZ. ANCHORED PORT
SUEZ, REFUELING.

27 FEB TRANSIT SUEZ CANAL
28 FEB - 29 FEB U/W, TRANSIT TO AUGUSTA BAY, SICILY

01 MAR INPT, AUGUSTA BAY, SICILY, CARGO ONLOAD, BSF
01 MAR - 05 MAR TRANSIT TO GIBRALTAR
05 MAR - 07 MAR INPT, GIBRALTAR
08 MAR - 10 MAR TRANSIT TO PONTA DELGADA, AZORES
10 MAR BSF, PONTA DELGADA, AZORES
11 MAR - 16 MAR TRANSIT TO BERMUDA
16 MAR - 17 MAR INPT, BERMUDA
17 MAR - 19 MAR U/W, TIGER CRUISE, TRANSIT TO NORFOLK, VA
20 MAR - 19 APR UPKP, NORFOLK, VA, POST DEPLOYMENT STANDOWN
19 APR CDR RIKARD RELIEVES CDR BURKE AS CO
20 APR - 02 MAY INPT, UPKP, NORFOLK, VA

03 MAY - 22 MAY U/W, ESCORT DECOM SSN'S TO PANAMA CANAL
03 MAY - 09 MAY U/W, TRANSIT TO GUANTANAMO BAY, CUBA
09 MAY INPT, GUANTANMO BAY, CUBA, BSF
10 MAY - 15 MAY U/W, TRANSIT TO PANAMA CANAL
15 MAY - 16 MAY U/W, TRANSIT TO GUANTANAMO BAY, CUBA
16 MAY INPT, GUANTANAMO BAY, CUBA, BSF
16 MAY - 17 MAY U/W, TRANSIT TO PORT CANAVERAL, FL
17 MAY - 19 MAY INPT, PORT CANAVERAL, FL
19 MAY - 20 MAY U/W, TRANSIT TO NAVAL WEAPONS STATION,
CHARLESTON, SC
20 MAY - 21 MAY INPT, CHARLESTON, AMMO OFF-LOAD
21 MAY - 22 MAY U/W, TRANSIT TO NORFOLK, VA
23 MAY - 28 MAY INPT, UPKP NORFOLK, VA
28 MAY U/W, DEADSTICK MOVE TO NNSY

28 MAY - 19 JUL RAV, NORFOLK NAVAL SHIPYARD (NNSY),
 PORTSMOUTH, VA
 19 JUL HOMEPORT MOVE TO CONVIENIENCE BERTHING AT
 NORFOLK NAVAL SHIPYARD, PORTSMOUTH, VA
 20 JUL - 08 AUG INPT, UPK PORTSMOUTH VA
 02 AUG FFG-7 PROBLEM CONF. (VADM STERNER, RADM
 HUCHTING, COMMODORE LOREN, CAPT BASKERVILLE,
 CAPT COBB)
 05 AUG - 06 AUG LOA
 08 AUG DOCK TRIALS
 09 AUG U/W, VACAPES, SEA TRIALS
 10 AUG - 14 AUG INPT, UPKP PORTSMOUTH VA
 15 AUG U/W, TRANSIT TO NAUTICUS, NORFOLK, VA
 16 AUG - 18 AUG INPT, NAUTICUS, NORFOLK, VA
 17 AUG CHANGE OF COMMAND, CDR FLANAGAN RELEIVES CDR
 RIKARD.
 19 AUG U/W, TRANSIT TO PORTSMOUTH, NNSY
 20 AUG - 23 AUG LMA ASSIST
 26 AUG - 06 SEP AVCERT/ARE ASSIST

 07 SEP - 09 SEP UPKP, NORFOLK, VA
 10 SEP - 11 SEP U/W, TRANSIT TO CHASN, SC
 11 SEP - 12 SEP INPT, CHARLESTON WEAPONS STATION, AMMO ONLOAD
 13 SEP - 16 SEP INPT, PTVST CHASN
 16 SEP - 19 SEP U/W, TRANSIT TO PORTSMOUTH, NNSY
 20 SEP - 29 SEP INPT, UPKP, PORTSMOUTH, VA

 30 SEP - 04 OCT CART II
 05 OCT - 10 OCT UPKP, PORTSMOUTH VA
 11 OCT U/W PARADE OF SHIPS
 12 OCT U/W, VANDALEX, VACAPES OPAREA
 13 OCT - 20 OCT UPKP, NORFOLK, VA
 21 OCT - 25 OCT ETG SPEC (U/W 23-25 OCT)
 26 OCT - 27 OCT UPKP, NORFOLK, VA
 28 OCT - 01 NOV TSTA I, CSTG

 02 NOV - 03 NOV UPKP, NORFOLK, VA
 04 NOV - 08 NOV TSTA I, FTG/CSTG (U/W 7-8 NOV)
 09 NOV - 11 NOV UPK PORTSMOUTH VA
 12 NOV - 22 NOV U/W, TSTA I FTG (INPT 16-17 NOV)
 23 NOV - 08 DEC UPKP, PORTSMOUTH VA

 09 DEC - 13 DEC LMA
 14 DEC - 15 DEC UPKP, PORTSMOUTH VA
 16 DEC - 20 DEC TSTA I ETG (U/W 17-19 DEC)
 21 DEC - 31 DEC INPT PORTSMOUTH VA, HOLIDAY LV & STANDDOWN

1996 NARRATIVE

The start of 1996 found the USS ELROD in the port of Dubai, United Arab Emirates. With more than half of her six-month Arabian Gulf deployment complete, the officers and crew enjoyed some long awaited liberty before returning to the North Arabian Gulf (NAG) on 3 January. While in the NAG, ELROD continued to conduct Maritime Interception Operations (MIO OPS) in support of U.N. sanctions against Iraq.

After twelve days ELROD headed south to Doha, Qatar. The command had been asked to host a reception onboard for the Commander of Fifth Fleet, Vice Admiral Redd, and preparations began immediately. The reception took place on the evening of 16 January and was attended not only by VADM Redd, but over 25 various ambassadors, foreign dignitaries, and Emirs. The flight deck was transformed into an elegant covered terrace, complete with Persian rugs, soft lighting and a champagne fountain. The event was a resounding success. On 19 January ELROD left port and again headed north for MIO OPS in the NAG.

On 30 January ELROD returned to Bahrain for six days of rest and relaxation. The ship was then called upon to provide escort and protection for two Maritime Prepositioning Ships (MPS) enroute to the South Arabian Gulf (SAG). Upon completion of escort duties ELROD left the Arabian Gulf behind, transitted the Strait of Hormuz, and arrived in Muscat, Oman on 10 February for three days of liberty.

ELROD departed Muscat on 14 February, rounded Saudi Arabia and, after a brief stop in Djibouti for fuel, proceeded into the Red Sea. On 23 February, the ship arrived in Aqaba, Jordan. The crew spent two days viewing the sights of this truly remarkable port, as well as making final preparations for Exercise Infinite Shadow.

On 25 February, ELROD and three Jordanian warships commenced Exercise Infinite Shadow. With the United States Ambassador to Jordan embarked upon ELROD, the exercise was a great success, providing valuable training for all involved. That evening ELROD parted company with her Jordanian friends and proceeded north toward Port Suez. On the morning of 27 February, after spending the night at anchor, ELROD entered the Suez Canal enroute to the Mediterranean Sea.

On 28 February, ELROD left the Suez behind and began steaming west toward her homeport of Norfolk. A brief stop in Augusta Bay, Sicily allowed the ship to refuel, pick up cargo, and drop off "Early Birds" - those crewmembers who would enjoy an early arrival back in the States. The "Early Birds" flew home from Sicily and would in turn stand duty for the first two weeks after ELROD's arrival in Norfolk. This would allow the remaining crewmembers to

enjoy some well deserved time off with their families immediately upon arrival.

ELROD transitted the Mediterranean and arrived in Gibraltar on 5 March. After three days of liberty in this unique port, ELROD began the transit of the Atlantic on 8 March. The ship arrived in Bermuda on 16 March, having stopped briefly for refueling in Ponta Delgada, Azores. In Bermuda, ELROD welcomed aboard approximately 40 "Tiger Cruise" participants - various family members and friends of crewmembers - who would ride the ship during the final three day transit to Norfolk Naval Station.

The Tigers and crew enjoyed one night in Bermuda before departing on the morning of 17 March enroute home. During the Tiger Cruise, ELROD entertained her guests with various exciting demonstrations including gunshoots, helicopter operations, a full-power run, and a "Steelbeach Picnic" on the flightdeck.

March 19th marked the end of the MEF 4-95 deployment, as ELROD welcomed the sight of family and friends on the pier anxiously awaiting the return of their loved ones. The highly successful cruise was complete, and ELROD had once again demonstrated her ability to meet every challenge and operational committment without fail. Immediately upon arrival, ELROD began a well-deserved one month leave and standdown period.

On 19 April, ELROD's Commanding Officer, Commander Jeff Burke, was relieved of his duties and Commander Rick Rikard temporarily assumed command until a permanent Commanding Officer could complete his required pipeline training. Commander Rikard had previously commanded the USS GALLERY (FFG-26) from May 1993 - March 1995.

The standdown period concluded and ELROD resumed business as usual on 20 April, remaining in Norfolk through 2 May. On 3 May, ELROD got underway to provide escort and protection for two decommissioned submarines being towed to the Panama Canal for further transit to the west coast. Stopping in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba for fuel on 9 May, the ship arrived at the entrance to the Panama Canal on 15 May. With the completion of escort duties, ELROD turned around and began her return transit, again stopping in Cuba for refueling. Having completed her mission three days earlier than anticipated, ELROD was rewarded with a port visit to Port Canaveral, Florida from 17-19 May.

ELROD departed Port Canaveral on 19 May having, among other things, been privileged to witness a launch of the Space Shuttle while in port. ELROD stopped at Naval Weapons Station, Charleston, SC to offload ammunition, and arrived back in Norfolk on 22 May.

On 28 May, ELROD made a deadstick transit from Norfolk Naval Base to Norfolk Naval Shipyard (NNSY) in Portsmouth, entering a Restricted Availability (RAV) period for brief post-deployment

overhaul. The RAV lasted less than two months, and on 19 July, the ship left the Industrial Area and relocated to the NNSY Convenience Berths. These berths would in turn become ELROD's new home, as she joined the remaining members of Destroyer Squadrons EIGHTEEN and TWO EIGHT permanently homeported in Portsmouth.

For the next few weeks the ship remained in port. On 2 August, ELROD hosted a conference onboard, attended by Vice Admiral Sterner, Rear Admiral Huchting, Commodore Loren, Captain Baskerville, and Captain Cobb. The purpose of this meeting was to identify problems associated with the Navy's FFG-7 Class Frigates in order to improve future classes of warships.

On 5-6 August, ELROD conducted her Light Off Assessment (LOA). Two days later the ship conducted Dock Trials and Sea Trials. This marked the beginning of ELROD's basic training phase in preparation for another Arabian Gulf deployment in July 1997.

On 17 August, Commander Glenn Flanagan assumed command of USS ELROD, relieving Commander Rikard whose interim duties had lasted four months. The Change Of Command ceremony was held onboard ELROD, moored at Nauticus in downtown Norfolk. Captain Donald P. Loren, Commander Destroyer Squadron TWO EIGHT, was the guest speaker.

Following the Change Of Command, ELROD continued with the Basic Training Phase with an intensive period of assist visits, inspections and assessments. The Logistics Management Assessment (LMA) Assist Visit from 20-23 August was first on the schedule, followed by the Aviation Certification (AVCERT) from 2-6 September. Four days later the ship got underway for Charleston, SC to onload ammunition. The ship enjoyed some liberty in her old homeport before returning to Portsmouth on 19 September. On 30 September, the ship began the Command Assessment of Readiness And Training (CART II).

On 11 October ELROD participated in the Parade of Ships for Fleet Week, Hampton Roads, with the rails manned and the Battle Ensign flying as she sailed past a crowd of visitors and VIP's on the Norfolk waterfront and proceeded to sea to participate in a missile training exercise (VANDALEX) in the Virginia Capes Operating Area. October 21-25 saw the Engineering Afloat Training Group Atlantic Fleet conduct assessments on ELROD's engineering plant and personnel. This was followed by the Combat Systems Training Group assessment portion of Tailored Ships Training Availability (TSTA I) from 28 October-1 November. TSTA I continued the following week with the Fleet Training Group through 22 November, with weekends spent in port.

ELROD remained in port for the next several weeks, including the Thanksgiving holiday, and conducted the Logistics Management Assessment from 9-13 December. The ship was next underway 17-19

December to complete the final portion of TSTA I with the Engineering Training Group.

Upon arrival back in Portsmouth, ELROD began the Christmas leave and standdown period which would last through the new year. As 1996 came to a close, the officers and crew of USS ELROD found themselves near the end of the Basic Training Phase, with a mere seven months remaining before their next deployment.