



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY  
USS ELROD (FFG 55)  
FLEET POST OFFICE  
MIAMI 34091-1509

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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ - Unclassified upon removal of Enclosure (1)

From: Commanding Officer, USS ELROD (FFG 55)  
To: Director of Naval History (OP 09BH), Washington Navy Yard,  
Washington, D.C. 20374

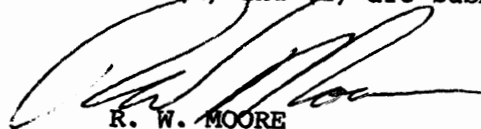
Subj: SUBMISSION OF COMMAND HISTORY

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12C

Encl: (1) USS ELROD (FFG 55) Command History 1985

*Removed* (2) Commissioning Book USS ELROD (FFG 55) *Held in Incl. Source Folder*

1. Pursuant to reference (a), enclosures (1) and (2) are submitted.

  
R. W. MOORE

DECLASSIFIED BY: CNO (N09N2)  
OPNAVINST 5513.16 SERIES  
DATE: Nov 2005

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USS ELROD (FFG 55)  
COMMAND HISTORY - 1985

1. Historical Narrative

- a. (U) Period of Report: 1 Jan - 31 Dec 1985
- b. (U) 7 Jan: Nucleus crew reported to Pre-commissioning Unit ELROD at Bath Iron Works in Bath, Maine. Remainder of the crew formed at Fleet Training Center, Norfolk, VA. Official commencement of Pre-com ELROD (FFG-55).
- c. (U) Crew moved on board the ship.
- d. (U) 10 May: Bath Iron Works officially delivered the ship to the United States Navy in a ceremony. Captain Treiber, Deputy Supervisor of Shipbuilding, Bath, Maine accepted FFG-55 for the Navy.
- e. (U) 18 May: The official commissioning of USS ELROD (FFG 55) took place at Bath Iron Works, Bath, Maine at 1120 under cloudy skies. Commander Richard Warren Moore, USN, [REDACTED] assumed command as Commodore David F. Chandler, USN, Deputy Commander Naval Surface Force Atlantic placed the ship "in commission". As guest speaker, Commodore Chandler charged the entire crew in ELROD to live up to the example set by the ship's namesake, Major Henry Talmadge Elrod, USMC. Major Elrod was posthumously awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor for Valor during the Battle of Wake Island in December 1942. Commodore Chandler also told the crew to take to heart the ship's motto "War Ready to Preserve Peace." Also in attendance was the Supervisor of Ship-

Enclosure (1)

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building Conversion and Repair in Bath, Maine, Capt. E.C. Webster, USN, and the President of Bath Iron Works Mr. William Haggett.

- f. (U) 24 June - USS ELROD (FFG 55) sailed away from Bath, Maine.
  
- g. (C) 24-26 June - Lamps III Helicopter operations were conducted on ELROD. Landings and take-offs were accomplished to achieve deck qualifications, and the ship's Recovery Assist, Security and Traversing System was successfully tested and used.
  
- h. (U) 3-8 July: The USS ELROD was in Brunswick, GA., the nearest port to the hometown of the ship's namesake, Major Henry T. Elrod (USMC), for a ceremonial commissioning conducted on 6 July. Among the attendees at the ceremony was Commander in Chief, U.S. Atlantic Fleet, Admiral Wesley L. MacDonald, USN, the Honorable Mack Mattingly (R-Ga), Deputy Commander, Naval Surface Force, U.S. Atlantic Fleet, Commodore David F. Chandler, USN, 30 survivors of the Battle of Wake Island, and Major Elrod's two sisters, Farrar Elrod Ramsey, and Mildred Elrod Reinhardt, as well as other distant relations. Mrs. Norma McDonald, wife of Adm. MacDonald and USS Elrod's sponsor, also was in attendance.
  
- i. (U) 9 July: USS ELROD arrived in homeport of Charleston, S.C. for the first time.

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- j. (U) 5 Aug - 17 Sept: USS ELROD was in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba for Shakedown Training. After successful completion of training and the Operational Propulsion Plant Examination (certification) USS ELROD returned to Charleston, S.C.
- k. (C) 23 Sept - 1 Nov: The Combat Systems Qualifications Tests (CSSQT) were conducted to ensure the proper operability of the USS ELROD's missile and gun systems. Tracking exercises were completed to test radar/gun alignment, as well as rehearsal of missile firing procedures.
- The USS ELROD satisfactorily completed CSSQT with the successful firing of two standard missiles, both of which were recorded as (constructive) hits on the drone. Successful Surface Gunnery and Close in Weapons System (CIWS) firings were also successful. Port visits were conducted in Roosevelt Roads, Puerto Rico; St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands; and Nassau, Bahamas.
- 26-27 Sept: The USS ELROD was involved in the evasion of Hurricane Gloria, operating in conjunction with the USS NICHOLAS, (FFG 47), USS WAINWRIGHT (CG 28), USS DE WERT (FFG 45), and USS NICHOLSON (DD 982).

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1. (C) 2-4 Nov: Weapons Systems Alignment Trials were conducted on the range south of St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands to determine the operability and accuracy of the USS ELROD's ASW weapons systems. This included the measurement of prime functions from target to sensor to control system, fire control system to weapon, and finally weapon performance to target. The USS ELROD concluded WSAT with the successful firing of two exercise torpedoes, both of which were recorded as (constructive) hits on the target. Prior to departing the area a self generated noise survey was conducted to assess the effectiveness of noise suppression systems and methods.

m. (U) 9-12 Dec: Insurv/(Final Contract Trials) Inspection held to identify shipboard discrepancies to be corrected during Post Shakedown Availability. Many of these deficiencies had emerged during Shakedown Training, Combat Systems Qualifications Tests, and Weapons Systems Alignment Trials.

2. (U) Command Organization: Commander Richard W. Moore was the Officer in Charge of the Pre-commissioning Unit Elrod from 7 Jan - 17 May 1985. He assumed duties as Commanding Officer, USS ELROD (FFG-55) 18 May 1985 and was in command throughout the rest of the reporting period.

3. (C) Ammunition Expenditures During Reporting period:

- a. Standard Missiles - 2
- b. Exercise Torpedoes - 2
- c. CIWS (20mm) - 878 rds
- d. MK 75/76 mm Gun - 152 rds

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4. (U) Homeport: Pre-commissioning Unit Elrod was located at Bath Iron Works, in Bath, Maine from 1 Jan - 17 May. Upon commissioning on 18 May, USS ELROD (FFG 55) was assigned to the homeport of Charleston, S.C.