



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

USS ELROD (FFG 55)

FLEET POST OFFICE

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**DECLASSIFIED**

~~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, DC 20374

Subj: SUBMISSION OF COMMAND HISTORY

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12C

Encl: (1) USS ELROD (FFG-55) Command History 1986

1. Pursuant to reference (a), enclosure (1) is submitted.

R. W. MOORE

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

USS ELROD (FFG-55)  
COMMAND HISTORY - 1986

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1. HISTORICAL NARRATIVE.

a. (U) Period of report: 1 JAN - 31 DEC 86

b. (C) 3 FEB - 28 FEB 86: USS ELROD operated with the U. S. Coast Guard and Columbian Naval forces in the southern Carribbean Sea performing Law Enforcement Operations (LEO) aimed at stemming the flow of illegal narcotics into the United States. ELROD and embarked Coast Guard Law Enforcement Detachment II seized three vessels containing cargo of 87,000 lbs of marijuana. ELROD provided tracking data on smuggling aircraft to Columbian forces ashore, enabling them to pinpoint clandestine airstrips and launch interdiction raids. ELROD was directly responsible for the discovery of a previously unknown airstrip, the confiscation of an aircraft, and the seizure of over 86,000 lbs of marijuana. ELROD and Law Enforcement Detachment II were subsequently awarded the Coast Guard Meritorious Unit Commendation with Operational Distinguishing Device by the Commandant of the Coast Guard.

c. (U) 17 - 19 MAR 86: ELROD successfully completed Supply Management Inspection, thus qualifying for the COMNAVSURFLANT Supply Excellence Award.

d. (U) 2 APR - 6 APR 86: Conducted a port visit in Baltimore, Maryland.

e. (C) 8 APR - 13 SEP 86: ELROD conducted a Post Shakedown Availability in Portland, ME to correct shipboard discrepancies which emerged during the previous year, her first year in commission. Of additional significance was the installation of the AN/SQQ-89 Towed Array Passive Sonar System, making ELROD the first Oliver Hazard Perry Class (FFG-7) ship in the Atlantic Fleet to possess this system. Before departing Portland, ME, ELROD successfully completed Engineering Light-Off Examination (21 - 22 August) and Sea Trials (3 - 5 September).

f. (U) 15 - 17 SEP 86: ELROD underwent deperming in Norfolk, VA to nullify the ship's magnetic signature.

g. (U) 19 SEP 86: ELROD returned to her homeport of Charleston, South Carolina.

h. (U) 29 SEP - 10 OCT 86: The Naval Underwater Sea System Command's LAMPS MK III Mobile Training Unit trained ELROD Combat Systems personnel and ELROD's LAMPS MK III Helicopter Detachment (HSL-44 Detachment 3) in the employment of the ship's LAMPS MK III Helicopter for anti-submarine and anti-surface warfare operations.

i. (C) 14 OCT - 17 OCT 86: ELROD conducted LAMPS MK III helicopter operations with HSL-44, Det 3 including landings and take-offs to achieve pilot qualifications and qualification of the ship's flight crew in refueling procedures, Helo crash procedures, and the recovery assist, securing and traversing (RAST) system.

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j. (C) 17 - 24 OCT 86: ELROD, in conjunction with seventeen other surface ships and three submarines, was involved in the Coordinated At Sea Training Exercise (CASTEX 1-87). Extensive and intense training was accomplished in anti-submarine warfare, providing ELROD with her first opportunity to passively track submarines (at long range) with the AN/SQQ-19 Towed Array Sonar. Training was also conducted in visual and radio communications, engineering casualties, helicopter operations, maneuvering, navigation and electronic warfare.

k. (U) 03 - 06 NOV 86: A Special INSURV Inspection was conducted on the AN-SQQ-19 Towed Array Sonar System to identify installation and observed operational discrepancies and delineate contractual responsibility for the correction of these discrepancies.

l. (U) 10 - 13 NOV 86: The Naval Underwater Sea Systems Command conducted team training in ELROD's SQQ-89 Sonar System. ELROD's anti-submarine warfare team received one week of classroom instruction on the sonar system's capabilities, strategic deployment of the array, mission planning considerations, team coordination, and internal communications procedures. ELROD then conducted one week of anti-submarine training with a U.S. submarine, logging seventy hours of passive sonar contact time.

m. (C) 8 - 17 DEC 86: ELROD participated in Tailship Proficiency Training, working with the USS VREELAND (FF-1068), USS JESSE L. BROWN (FF-1089), USS CAPADANNO (FF-1093), USS VALDEZ (FF-10<sup>6</sup>), USS NORFOLK (SSN-714), and USS STURGEON (SSN-637). Opportunities to track submarines were maximized and exercises were conducted in scenarios involving Battle Group support, barrier and area searches and extensive coordinated operations between units.

2. (U) COMMAND ORGANIZATION: Commander Richard W. Moore was the Commanding Officer throughout the reporting period.

3. (C) AMMUNITION EXPENDITURES DURING REPORTING PERIOD:

- a. Standard missiles: 1
- b. Exercise torpedoes: 2
- c. CIWS (20MM): 619 rds
- d. MK75/76MM Gun 107 rds

~~(Confid.)~~