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DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

USS ELROD (FFG 55)
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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 1988
- (3) Narrative Summary of Command History
- (4) Family Gram
- (5) Welcome Aboard Pamphlet
- (6) Ship's Photograph
- (7) Commanding Officer's Photograph

1. In accordance with reference (a) the command history of USS ELROD (FFG 55) for 1988 is forwarded. The attached enclosures highlight the year experienced by ELROD's officers and crew.

BRUCE R. LINDER

COMMAND COMPOSITION AND ORGANIZATION

The USS ELROD (FFG-55) is an Oliver Perry class frigate with multiple missions. The ship's primary mission is ASW and it possesses capabilities in AAW and ASUW. The USS ELROD (FFG-55) is homeported in Charleston, South Carolina and was under the command of Commander Phil Warren Bolin in 1988. The USS ELROD's immediate senior command is Commander, Destroyer Squadron SIX. When deployed it was assigned two SH-60B LAMPS MK III Helicopters with side numbers 450 and 455.

CHRONOLOGY FOR 1988

01 - 03 JAN 88 ANCHORED AT MINA SULMAN, BAHRAIN
04 - 09 JAN 88 UNDERWAY PERSIAN GULF
10 - 15 JAN 88 PORT VISIT BAHRAIN
16 JAN - 09 FEB 88 UNDERWAY PERSIAN GULF
10 FEB 88 TRANSIT STRAIT OF HORMUZ IN COMPANY WITH USS RICHMOND
K. TURNER (CG-20), USS CARR (FFG-52), AND USS GALLERY
(FFG-26)
20 - 22 FEB 88 PORT VISIT AQUABA, JORDAN
24 FEB 88 TRANSIT SUEZ CANAL EN ROUTE GENOA, ITALY
27 FEB 88 CENTRAL MEDITERRANEAN EN ROUTE GENOA, ITALY. TRANSIT
STRAIT OF MESSINA
29 FEB - 03 MAR 88 PORT VISIT GENOA, ITALY
04 - 07 MAR 88 PORT VISIT TOULON, FRANCE
08 - 09 MAR 88 EN ROUTE ROTA, SPAIN, TRANSIT STRAIT OF GIBRALTAR
10 MAR 88 ARRIVE AND DEPART ROTA, SPAIN EN ROUTE AZORES
14 MAR 88 ARRIVE AND DEPART AZORES FOR ATLANTIC TRANSIT
22 MAR 88 ARRIVE IN CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA
23 MAR - 06 JUL 88 SELECTED RESTRICTED AVAILABILITY IN CHARLESTON,
SOUTH CAROLINA
07 - 10 JUL 88 POST SELECTED RESTRICTED AVAILABILITY SHAKEDOWN
IN CHASOA
11 JUL 88 NAVAL WEAPONS STATION, CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA FOR
WEAPONS ONLOAD
11 JUL - 27 JUL 88 INPORT CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA
28 JUL 88 DEPART CHARLESTON FOR NORTH ATLANTIC CNO PROJECT
K-1245
11 - 15 AUG 88 PORT VISIT EDINBURCH, SCOTLAND
18 AUG 88 ON STATION COMMENCE CNO PROJECT K-1245
30 AUG 88 CNO PROJECT K-1245 COMPLETE EN ROUTE LIVERPOOL,
ENGLAND
03 - 05 SEP 88 PORT VISIT LIVERPOOL, ENGLAND
19 SEP 88 ARRIVE CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA
20 SEP 88 TYPE COMMANDER EXERCISE
21 SEP - 02 OCT 88 INPORT CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA
03 - 09 OCT 88 ATLANTIC SECURITY EXERCISE 1-89
10 - 16 OCT 88 INPORT CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA
17 OCT 88 DEPART CHARLESTON FOR NORFOLK, VIRGINIA
20 OCT 88 ARRIVE NORFOLK, VIRGINIA
21 OCT - 13 NOV 88 DRY DOCK
14 NOV 88 COMMENCE COMBAT SYSTEMS READINESS REVIEW PHASE I
17 NOV 88 DEPART NORFOLK EN ROUTE CHARLESTON
18 NOV 88 COMPLETE COMBAT SYSTEMS READINESS REVIEW PHASE I
19 - 28 NOV 88 INPORT CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA
29 NOV - 01 DEC 88 OPERATIONAL PROPULSION PLANT EXAMINATION
REHEARSAL
02 - 04 NOV 88 INPORT CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA
05 - 06 DEC 88 OPERATIONAL PROPULSION PLANT EXAMINATION
07 - 31 DEC 88 INPORT CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA

NARRATIVE SUMMARY OF COMMAND HISTORY

On January 1, 1988 USS ELROD (FFG-55) was in Mina Sulman, Bahrain celebrating New Years Day after 45 straight days at sea. At the beginning of 1988 ELROD was in the midst of the second half of her first deployment (Middle East Force deployment 4-87). In the month of January ELROD conducted patrols in the northern Persian Gulf and several close escort missions of American flagged tankers through the Strait of Hormuz. ELROD moored pier side, Bahrain January 10 - 15 for a well deserved port visit. The crew relaxed at the Administrative Support Unit Bahrain and shopped in downtown Manama, the capitol of Bahrain. In February ELROD was in the northern Persian Gulf; a dogfight between Iranian and Iraqi aircraft occurred in the vicinity of ELROD during this period. On February 10, ELROD transited the Strait of Hormuz in company with USS RICHMOND K. TURNER (CG-20), USS CARR (FFG-52), and USS GALLERY (FFG-26) to begin her 7,500 mile return journey to Charleston.

After a brief refueling stop in Djibouti, Africa, the first port of call was a visit to Aquaba, Jordan from February 20 - 22. The crew enjoyed an all-day tour atop the Jordanian mountains and a visit to the ancient stone city of Petra.

ELROD transited the Suez Canal and conducted ASW operations in the central Mediterranean on her way to Genoa, Italy. ELROD arrived in Genoa for a port visit February 29 - March 3. In Italy, the crew enjoyed guided tours of Pisa and Florence. The ship entered the port of Toulon, France on March 4.

ELROD, along with USS RICHMOND K. TURNER (CG-20), USS CARR (FFG-52), and USS GALLERY (FFG-26) left Toulon, France on March 7. On March 9, The ships transited the Strait of Gibraltar and briefly stopped at Rota, Spain. ELROD conducted ASW operations and was visited by Combat Systems Mobile Training Team and Gas Turbine Mobile Training Team en route to the Azores. After a refueling stop in the Azores on March 14, the ships were underway for the Atlantic transit to Charleston. ELROD arrived back in Charleston on March 22.

ELROD remained in Charleston for a Selected Restricted Availability from March 23 - July 6. From July 7 - 10 the ship was underway in the Charleston operational area for a post Selected Restricted Availability shakedown. During this period the ship conducted crew training, including junior officer ship handling, boat crew training, abandon ship drills and helo crash on deck drills. Upon return to Charleston on July 11 the ship went to the Naval Weapons Station, Charleston for a weapons on-load.

ELROD was underway for the North Atlantic on July 28 in company with USNS TRUCKEE to conduct the Critical Sea Test (CNO Project K-1245). The purpose of this project was to test a newly developed sonar which was installed on USNS TRUCKEE. Eight civilians were embarked with ELROD. They used the ELROD's sonar equipment to gather data on the new sonar. ELROD arrived in Edinburgh, Scotland on August 11 -15 for a port visit. Crew members toured the Scottish Highlands, Loch Lomand, and the historic castle of Mary Queen of Scots. From August 18 - 30 ELROD was on station conducting the Critical Sea Test. The ship moored at the NW Canada Branch Number 3 Berth in the maritime city of Liverpool on September 3. Crew members visited some of the English pubs and sampled British ale. ELROD left England on September 6 and met USNS TRUCKEE for the Atlantic transit to Charleston. The ship arrived back home, in Charleston on September 17.

ELROD was underway again on October 3 to conduct Atlantic Security Exercise 1-89. The purpose of these exercises were to perfect techniques for leading submarines out of home port. On October 18 the ship was underway to Norfolk for dry dock. In dry dock, ELROD's sonar dome was repaired and her hull was cleaned and painted. The Combat Systems Readiness Review was conducted from November 14 - 18. ELROD passed with no grade less than excellent. The ship was back in Charleston on November 19. ELROD passed the 3-M inspection on November 24. ELROD rehearsed for the Operational Propulsion Plant Examination in the Jacksonville Operational Area from November 29 to December 1. The ship successfully conducted the Operational Propulsion Plant Examination on December 5. December 15 - 31 the officers and crew of ELROD enjoyed a well deserved leave period.