



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

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12D

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1. The command history of USS ELROD (FFG 55) for 1993 is forwarded in accordance with reference (a).

H. L. Broughton
H. L. BROUGHTON

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) defense 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/SPS-49 Air Search Radar, AN/SPS-55 Surface Search Radar, AN/SQS-56 Sonar, AN/SQQ-28 Sonobouy processor, the SH-60B Helicopter, and various communication systems.

USS ELROD is homeported in Charleston, South Carolina, and is under the command of Commander H.L. Broughton, II, USN. ELROD's immediate senior in command is Commander, Destroyer Squadron FOUR, and for operations is assigned to the DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER Battle Group (CCDG-8/CDS-32).

CHRONOLOGY FOR 1993

01 - 10 Jan Inport Charleston/Leave/Upkeep
11 - 15 Jan Underway, Deck Landing Quals, Jax OPAREA
16 Jan - 04 Feb Inport Charleston/TSTA I/Upkeep
05 - 22 Feb Underway, TSTA II/GTMO/RefTra
23 Feb - 04 Mar Inport Charleston/TSTA I/Upkeep
05 Mar Change of Command
06 - 07 Mar Inport Charleston/Upkeep
08 Mar Naval Weapons Station Goose Creek/Onload
09 - 28 Mar Inport Charleston/TSTA I/Upkeep
29 Mar - 02 Apr Underway, TSTA II/Deck Landing Quals
03 - 04 Apr Inport Charleston/Upkeep/CSA Preps
05 - 15 Apr Underway, MEFEX 3-93/Missile Shoot
16 - 18 Apr Inport Charleston/Upkeep/CSA Preps
19 - 23 Apr Underway, CSA Preps, Chasn OPAREA
24 - 26 Apr Inport Charleston/Upkeep/CSA Preps
27 - 29 Apr Underway, CSA
30 Apr - 09 Jun Inport Charleston/POM/Upkeep
10 Jun Deploy SNFL 2-93
10 - 21 Jun Transit/Training w/USN Nitro
21 Jun BSF Rota, Spain
22 - 24 Jun Transit to Augusta Bay, Sicily
25 - 27 Jun Turnover w/USN Moosbrugger in Augusta Bay
28 - 30 Jun Underway Ionian Sea/Work-ups w/HNLMS Witte de With

01 - 02 Jul Transit to Souda Bay, Crete
03 - 09 Jul Port visit Souda Bay, Crete
10 - 11 Jul Transitex with USS Hawes, HMS Cardiff, and HS Kounternouris en route Montenegro OPAREA

12 - 16 Jul Patrol Montenegro OPAREA
17 Jul Transit to Bari, Italy
17 - 20 Jul Port visit Bari, Italy
21 Jul Transit to Montenegro OPAREA
22 Jul - 02 Aug Patrol Montenegro OPAREA
03 Aug Transit to Venice, Italy
04 - 12 Aug Port visit Venice, Italy
13 Aug Transitex to Montenegro OPAREA w/HNLMS Crijnsen, and HNLMS P.V. Almonde

14 - 18 Aug Patrol Montenegro OPAREA, CGT 440.01 embarked (CWMCF)

19 Aug Disembark CTG 440.01, en route Corfu, Greece
20 - 24 Aug Port visit Corfu, Greece
25 Aug Transit to Montenegro OPAREA
26 Aug - 04 Sep Patrol Montenegro OPAREA
05 Sep Transit to Catania, Italy
06 - 12 Sep Port visit Catania, Italy
13 - 15 Sep Transit to Montenegro OPAREA
16 - 23 Sep Patrol Montenegro OPAREA
24 - 25 Sep Transit to La Maddalena, Sardinia
26 Sep - 04 Oct TAV w/USN Simon Lake in La Maddalena, Sardinia

04 Oct Transit to Montenegro OPAREA

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05 - 19 Oct	Patrol Montenegro OPAREA
20 Oct	Transit to Corfu, Greece
20 - 24 Oct	Port visit Corfu, Greece
24 Oct	Transit to Montenegro OPAREA
25 Oct - 04 Nov	Patrol Montenegro OPAREA
04 - 05 Nov	Transit to Pireaus, Greece
05 - 08 Nov	Port visit Pireaus, Greece
08 - 09 Nov	Transit to Montenegro OPAREA
09 - 16 Nov	Patrol Montenegro OPAREA, CGT 440.01 embarked
17 Nov	Debark CTG 440.01
17 - 19 Nov	Transit to Palma, Spain
20 - 23 Nov	Port visit/turn over w/USS DALE Palma, Spain
24 Nov	Transit to Rota, Spain
25 - 28 Nov	Port Visit/refuel/stores on load Rota, Spain
29 Nov - 01 Dec	Transit to Azores
01 - 02 Dec	BSF Azores
02 - 06 Dec	Transit to Bermuda
06 Dec	BSF/RON/embark "Tigers" Bermuda
07 - 10 Dec	Transit to Charleston, SC with Tigers
10 Dec	Completed SNFL 2-93
11 - 31 Dec	Inport Charleston, SC, for leave/upkeep

NARRATIVE SUMMARY FOR 1993

USS ELROD began 1993 during a leave and upkeep period in the ship's homeport of Charleston, South Carolina. The ship was to spend the first five months of the year preparing for a six-month deployment. ELROD spent the second week of January in the Jacksonville OPAREA conducting Deck Landing Quals (DLQ's) for pilots from the LAMPS III training squadron. The rest of the month was back in Charleston doing inport training and preparations for REFTRA.

ELROD went to Naval Station Guantanamo Bay, Cuba for REFTRA during February. The crew was extensively trained in Damage Control, Chemical, Biological, and Radiological (CBR) Warfare Defense, Ship Handling, and Navigation. In addition to the usual GTMO training, ELROD also conducted a "MED Moor" exercise - an evolution that was to prove invaluable when the ship stopped in Naples, Italy later in the year.

On 5 March, Commander Hubert (Buzz) L. Broughton, II, USN relieved Commander Donald P. Loren, USN as Commanding Officer, USS ELROD. The ceremony took place pierside, Naval Station Charleston. The guest speaker was Rear Adm. David E. Jeremiah, Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

The rest of March and most of April saw ELROD conducting preparations for Combat Systems Assessment (CSA). The preparations included periods at sea as well as inport Charleston. An exercise that assisted ELROD's preparations as well as helping to train a deployer was MEFEX 3-93. ELROD acted as an "Orange Force" unit from April 5th until 15th. The training was capped off with a highly successful surface-to-air missile shoot on Sunday 11 April. After MEFEX, all efforts were focused on CSA preparations. The subsequent high scores achieved by "Team ELROD" during the assessment proved the value of the entire crew's efforts.

ELROD conducted a pre-deployment Intermediate Maintenance Availability (IMA) with SIMA Charleston throughout the month of May. Systems throughout the ship were groomed and repaired to ensure optimum readiness for the upcoming deployment. Many of the crew took the limited opportunities for leave during this period.

In the first days of June, ELROD's scheduled deployment date was moved up by ten days. The pace of preparations was stepped up another notch. A "Dependents' Day Cruise" combined an opportunity for the sailors to show their families the fruits of their labors, and a final chance to test all of the systems worked on during the IMAV.

On 10 June, ELROD sailed for the Mediterranean to relieve USS MOOSBRUGGER as the United States' representative in NATO's Standing Naval Force Atlantic Squadron (STANAVFORLANT). Following a brief stop for fuel in Rota, Spain, ELROD arrived in Augusta Bay, Sicily for the turn-over of duties. On 27 June, the turn-over was complete, and ELROD was officially part of STANAVFORLANT.

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Leaving Augusta Bay, ELROD conducted transit training with the Dutch ship HNLMS WITTE DE WITH. This training gave ELROD valuable insight into the daily operations of STANAVFORLANT ships. The training continued until ELROD arrived in Souda Bay, Crete for a port visit.

While in Souda Bay, ELROD celebrated American Independence Day with a traditional Fourth of July picnic on a local Greek beach. The day was filled with volleyball, sun, sand, and barbecue. The sailors thoroughly enjoyed themselves as they shared their activities and food with many of the local children. On July 12th, ELROD reported on station for patrol duties in support of Operation SHARP GUARD, the first crisis response in STANAVFORLANT's 25 year history. The NATO and Western European Union operation was established to enforce UN sanctions imposed by the UN Security Council resolutions to prohibit the importation of products conducive to war fighting.

Between July and November, ELROD spent 68 days operating in the Operation SHARP GUARD Montenegro Oparea. ELROD held primary warfare duties during the majority of her eight front line patrols, including two periods as flagship for CTG 440.01 (CWCMF). ELROD's helicopter (Magnum 455) flew 140 sorties for a total of 560 flight hours, the majority of which were Surface Surveillance missions.

In between SHARP GUARD patrols, ELROD had the opportunity to make port visits in several areas of Italy and Greece. During August, the visits were in Venice, IT and Corfu, GR.

In September, the ship visited Catania, IT for six days. The stop gave crewmembers an opportunity to take care of official and personal business at nearby NAS SIGONELLA. During the last week of the month, ELROD made another working port stop, this one in La Maddalena, Sardinia, where a mid-deployment Tender Availability (TAV) was conducted alongside USS SIMON LAKE. Over 100 jobs from throughout the ship were accomplished by SIMON LAKE's repair department.

A brief stop in Naples, IT followed La Maddalena. Many crewmembers took the opportunity for tours to Rome or Pompeii. Later in October ELROD had a chance to visit Corfu for a second time. The absence of crowds of summer tourist gave the island a completely different character than had been seen just two months before.

Piraeus, Greece, the port city for Athens, was the final Greek port in ELROD's deployment. A three day visit to the port gave crewmembers an opportunity to visit the ancient city with its historic sites including the Parthenon, temples to the Greek gods, and the original stadium for Olympic games.

ELROD left the Adriatic for the last time on 16 November. As is traditional with the departure of ships from STANAVFORLANT, a "Sail Past" was held. The crew donned costumes and performed skits while the ship sailed close to the British frigate HMS BEAVER; an experience that no one will forget, and a fitting ending to Adriatic Ops.

ELROD's last port visit as a part of STANAVFORLANT was to turn over duties with USS DALE (CG 19) while in Palma de Mallorca, Spain. Following briefings and turn-over of various

materials and equipment, DALE assumed the NATO duties on 22 November.

A final stop in Rota, Spain over Thanksgiving weekend finished ELROD's assignment to Sixth Fleet. Fuel stops in the Azores and in Bermuda gave ELROD the legs needed for a solo transit back to Charleston. The ship took the opportunity provided by the Bermuda fuel stop to embark a group of "tigers" for the two-day transit to Charleston. The "tigers", male relatives of crewmembers, all enjoyed their slice of true Navy life.

On 10 December, ELROD returned home to Naval Station, Charleston, SC. The crew was warmly received by families and friends long missed, and too long not seen. The rest of the month was spent with crewmembers enjoying a well deserved holiday leave and stand-down period, and an unscheduled availability with SIMA Charleston. Even though the ship had just returned from deployment, it was scheduled to go back to sea for two more months in just a few weeks.

In 1993 USS ELROD proved again that the ship and crew are fully capable of meeting all challenges. Moving smoothly from one high-priority task into another, the operational tempo never diminished. Training and dedication led to accomplishments that will be hard to match and virtually impossible to exceed.

COAT OF ARMS USS ELROD (FFG-55)

The ship's crest is a heraldic representation of Marine Major Henry T. Elrod's heroic actions during the Battle of Wake Island in December 1941. It was during this battle that Major Elrod was killed, and for his actions was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor.

The colors of blue, red, and gold (yellow) are those of the Navy and the Marine Corps. The chevron in the shield has fifteen crenellations to represent the number of days the embattled Marines held Wake Island against a vastly superior Japanese invasion force. The fireball in the upper part of the shield represents Major Elrod's single-handed sinking of the Japanese destroyer Kisaragi after being the sole U.S. plane to penetrate a squadron of enemy fighter-bombers protecting the Japanese battle groups. Similarly, the pheons on both sides of the fireball represent the two Japanese planes shot down by Major Elrod. The broken aviator's wings and the war hammer symbolize Major Elrod's further distinguished actions in ground combat after all the aircraft in his squadron had been destroyed. The hammer also signifies the destructive force of the guided missile frigate ELROD.

Major Elrod's service as a Marine Officer is symbolized by the unsheathed mameluke sword, which also draws attention to the fact that he was among the first to engage the Japanese in World War II. The blue background and thirteen stars represent the Medal of Honor awarded to Major Elrod for his heroic actions on Wake Island. The gold wreath, pointed downward, commemorates his honorable death in action.