



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

USS ELROD (FFG-55)
FLEET POST OFFICE
AE 09568-1509

5720
FFG 55

From: Commanding Officer, USS ELROD (FFG 55)
To: Commanding Officer, Naval Historical Center,
Bldg. 57, Washington Navy Yard, DC 20375-0751

Subj: SUBMISSION OF 2002 COMMAND HISTORY

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12H

Encl: (1) Command Composition and Organization
(2) 2002 Chronology of Events
(3) 2002 Narrative Summary of Events
(4) Photograph of USS ELROD (FFG 55)
(5) CDR C. J. Neary Biography,
Commanding Officer (01JAN02-15NOV02)
(6) Photograph of CDR C. J. Neary
(7) CDR S. H. Kelley Biography,
Commanding Officer (15NOV02-31DEC02)
(8) Photograph of CDR S. H. Kelley
(9) Change of Command Pamphlet
(10) CINCUSNAVEUR 151539ZMAR02
(11) COMTRBATGRU 172121ZMAR02
(12) COMNAVSURFLANT 071743ZMAY02
(13) CINCLANTFLT 301816ZMAY02
(14) COMCANFLT LANT 042118ZNOV02
(15) CTF 88 051228ZNOV02
(16) COMCARGRU EIGHT 062150ZNOV02
(17) COMCARGRU EIGHT 131600ZJAN03
(18) COMNAVSRFLANT 212155ZFEB03

1. In accordance with reference (a), the command history of USS ELROD (FFG 55) for the calendar 2002 year is forwarded. Enclosures (1) through (18) are included to highlight significant events.


S. H. KELLEY

COMMAND COMPOSITION AND ORGANIZATION

USS ELROD (FFG 55) is an OLIVER HAZARD PERRY-Class Guided Missile frigate. Originally designed for Anti-Submarine Warfare (ASW) and Anti-Air Warfare (AAW) duties, ELROD has been highly successful in conducting Maritime Interception, Drug Interdiction Operations, and Search and Rescue (SAR) missions.

ELROD is armed with Mk 46 anti-submarine torpedoes, Harpoon surface-to-surface cruise missiles, SM1 (MR) surface to air missiles, a Mk 75 automatic, rapid fire 76mm gun, and 25 mm chain gun. Weapons, sensors, and control systems include: Mk 32 Surface Vessel Torpedo Tubes (SVTT), Mk 13 Guided Missile Launching System (GMLS), Mk 15 Mod 11 Block 1B Close In Weapons System (CIWS), AN/SYS-2 Integrated Air Detection System (IADS), Mk 92 Mod 6 Coherent Receiver Transmitter (CORT) Fire Control System, AN/SLQ-32 (V) 5 Electronic Warfare Suite, which includes the AN/SQQ-28 Sonobouy Processor, and the SH-60 LAMPS Mk III Helicopter.

ELROD's complement includes 27 officers and 208 crewmembers. ELROD is home ported at Norfolk Naval Station, Norfolk, Virginia, and is under the command of Commander Stephen H. Kelley. ELROD's immediate senior in command is Commander, Destroyer Squadron TWO EIGHT.

Enclosure (1)

2002 CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS

JANUARY

1-3 INPORT AKSAZ, TU
3-21 U/W DEPLOYMENT
5 UNREP WITH USNS KANAWHA
13 VERTREP/UNREP WITH USNS SPICA
19 VERTREP/UNREP WITH USNS SPICA
22-26 INPORT AUGUSTA BAY, IT
27-31 U/W DEPLOYMENT

FEBRUARY

1-9 U/W DEPLOYMENT
4 UNREP WITH FGS RHOEN
6 VERTREP WITH USNS SPICA
7 UNREP WITH USNS KANAWHA
8 VBSS EXERCISE WITH TCG GOKCEADA
9-12 INPORT SOUDA BAY, CRETE
13-28 U/W DEPLOYMENT
20 UNREP WITH USNS SPICA, LEAPFROGS WITH USS EMORY S.
LAND
22 RDVU WITH HMS SHEFFIELD AND TGS GOKCEADA,
COMSTANAVFORMED VISIT, ADEX, LINKEX
23-27 EXERCISE DOGFISH
23 UNREP WITH USNS KANAWHA
24 VERTREP WITH USNS KANAWHA
26 UNREP WITH FGS RHOEN
28 UNREP WITH USS SEATTLE, ANCHOR AUGUSTA BAY, IT

MARCH

1-5 U/W DEPLOYMENT
3 ADEX, GUNEX
6 INPORT ROTA, SPAIN
7-18 U/W DEPLOYMENT
9 DETACH STANDING NAVAL FORCES MEDITERRANEAN (SNFM)
ENTER US FORCES ATLANTIC
10-18 ATLANTIC TRANSIT
17 UNREP WITH USNS LEROY GRUMMAN
18 MAGNUM 445 DETACHES USS ELROD
19 ARRIVE NORFOLK, VA, DEPLOYMENT 2001-2002 COMPLETE
20-31 LEAVE AND UPKEEP, INPORT NORFOLK, VA

APRIL

1-22 LEAVE AND UPKEEP, INPORT NORFOLK, VA
23 FAST CRUISE
24-26 U/W, VACAPES OPAREA, SUPPORT OF NFESC ROBOSKI
PROJECT
26-30 INPORT NORFOLK, VA
29-30 FLEET MAINTANCE AVAILABILITY

MAY

1-17 FLEET MAINTANCE AVAILABILITY
1-19 INPORT NORFOLK, VA.
20-21 U/W, TRANSIT TO NEW YORK CITY, TIGER CRUISE
22-28 INPORT NEW YORK CITY, NY, FLEET WEEK 2002
29-30 U/W TRANSIT TO NORFOLK, VA, TIGER CRUISE
30 UNREP WITH USNS LEROY GRUMMAN
31 INPORT NORFOLK, VA

JUNE

1-2 INPORT NORFOLK, VA
3-6 U/W, VACAPES OPAREA, CORTRAMID
6 UNREP/HIGHLINE TRANSFER WITH USNS LEROY GRUMMAN
6-11 INPORT NORFOLK, VA
12-13 U/W, TRANSIT TO BALTIMORE, MD
13-17 INPORT BALTIMORE. MD
17-18 U/W, TRANSIT TO NORFOLK, VA
18-25 INPORT NORFOLK, VA
26 U/W, TRANSIT TO YORKTOWN NAVAL WEAPONS STATION,
ARRIVE YORKTOWN NAVAL WEAPONS STATION
27 AMMO OFFLOAD/ONLOAD
28 U/W, TRANSIT TO NORFOLK, VA, FAMILY DAY CRUISE,
ARRIVE NORFOLK, VA
28-30 INPORT NORFOLK, VA

JULY

1-14 INPORT NORFOLK, VA
10-11 SAFETY STANDDOWN
15 U/W, TRANSIT TO NORSHIPCO
15-31 DRYDOCK SHIP'S RESTRICTED AVAILABILITY
18 ENTER DRYDOCK

AUGUST

1-30 DRYDOCK SHIP'S RESTRICTED AVAILABILITY, DRYDOCK
NORSHIPCO

Enclosure (2)

SEPTEMBER

1-31 DRYDOCK SHIP'S RESTRICTED AVAILABILITY
1-3 DRYDOCK NORSHIPCO
3 EXIT DRYDOCK

OCTOBER

1-16 DRYDOCK SHIP'S RESTRICTED AVAILABILITY
7 U/W, TRANSIT TO NORFOLK, VA
INPORT NORFOLK, VA
15 FAST CRUISE
16 U/W, SEA TRAILS
17 U/W, TRANSIT TO YORKTOWN NAVAL WEAPONS STATION,
ARRIVE YORKTOWN NAVAL WEAPONS STATION, AMMO ONLOAD
18 U/W, TRANSIT TO NORFOLK, VA
18-27 INPORT NORFOLK, VA
28-31 U/W, USS HARRY S. TRUMAN BATTLE GROUP OPFOR
EXERCISES

NOVEMBER

1-5 U/W, USS HARRY S. TRUMAN BATTLE GROUP OPFOR
EXERCISES
5-12 INPORT NORFOLK, VA
13 U/W, VACAPES OPAREA
13-17 INPORT NORFOLK, VA
15 CHANGE OF COMMAND
18-21 U/W, VACAPES OPAREA
21-30 INPORT NORFOLK, VA
23-30 FLEET MAINTENANCE AVAILABILITY

DECEMBER

1-16 INPORT NORFOLK, VA
1-13 FLEET MAINTENANCE AVAILABILITY
17-19 U/W, VACAPES OPAREA
20-31 HOLIDAY STANDDOWN

2002 NARRATIVE SUMMARY OF EVENTS

The year of 2002 was a testament ELROD's capabilities and involvement in world affairs. ELROD began 2002 in the middle of her Mediterranean Deployment. Her efforts were focused on Maritime Interdiction and conducting inquiries of merchant vessels in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. ELROD deployed with the USS THEODORE ROOSEVELT Battle Group, but was detached from the Battle Group upon the crossing of the Atlantic. Once detached ELROD joined the North Atlantic Treaty Organization's (NATO) Standing Naval Forces Mediterranean (SNFM). Here she was an important asset throughout her deployment, monitoring merchant shipping and assisting the training of NATO Forces.

The largest training activity during the deployment was OPERATION DOGFISH, a multinational Anti-Submarine Warfare (ASW) Exercise. Working in partnership with the British, French, German, and Turkish Navies, ELROD participated in Active and Passive ASW Tracking, ASW Screening, and Choke Point Transits. ELROD trained with the Turkish ship GOKCEADA in support of Visit, Board, Search, and Seizures (VBSS) training. Before concluding her time in the Mediterranean ELROD took part in an Air Defense Exercise and a LINK Exercise to ensure the coordination of communication and defenses with our NATO Allies.

The Deployment held many opportunities to interact with the locals of the Mediterranean. There were a multitude of Underway Replenishments, including one with a foreign vessel, and port calls, giving the ELROD crew a chance to see the different cultures. Underway Replenishments occurred with the FGS RHOEN, USNS SPICA, USNS KANAWHA, and USNS JOHN LENTHALL. Port visits included Aksaz, Turkey, Souda Bay, Crete, Augusta Bay, Italy, and Rota, Spain.

ELROD remained detached from the USS THEODORE ROOSEVELT Battle Group and crossed the Atlantic as a lone ship. She returned to her homeport of Norfolk, VA on the 19th of March to be reunited with family members and loved ones.

After a brief standdown, ELROD went underway to support the Naval Facilities Engineering Service Center's ROBOSKI Project, the creation of ship deployed training device to prepare the crew for small boat attacks.

Enclosure (3)

May was an exciting month for ELROD, having been selected to participate in FLEET WEEK 2002. ELROD was able to enjoy the hospitality of New York City, as well as share in her sadness, by taking part in the solemn memorial ceremony of removing the last pillar of the World Trade Center. She also presented the colors at a local parade in the Bronx. Her crew could be seen proudly wearing the uniform on the streets of New York City.

The month of June was busy time for the ship, including a brief underway to give NROTC Midshipmen from Georgia Tech and Notre Dame a glimpse of the possible career as a Surface Warfare Officer, a trip to Baltimore, MD to give the crew a liberty port, and an Ammo Offload at Yorktown Naval Weapons Station where ELROD offered family members the ability to ride along during the return transit to Norfolk, VA.

In the middle of July, ELROD entered NORSHIPCO Shipyards for a Drydock Ship's Restricted Availability. This was a period of hard work for the crew which would last until the middle of October. During the Drydock period, the ship received a overhaul of major equipment to keep ELROD on the cutting edge of Surface Warfare in the 21st Century.

The month of October held underways set aside for Sea Trials and an Ammunition Onload at Yorktown Naval Weapons Station. Once all testing on equipment was completed ELROD began her Operational commitments, beginning by participating in the HARRY S TRUMAN Battle Group's JTFEX as the Opposition Force, where she was highly successful in aiding the training of the next Battle Group to deploy.

Commander C. J. Neary was relieved by Commander S. H. Kelley as the Commanding Officer of ELROD on the 15th of November. Once Commander Kelley had assumed the role as CO, ELROD went to sea for a brief period at the end of November and middle of December to perform shipboard maintenance and training. With the Holiday Season approaching, and being underway during deployment last year, ELROD went into a Holiday Standdown to allow servicemembers to spend time with their families and friends.

Enclosure (3)