



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

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

5750
Ser 55/009
03 MAR 04

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

Subj: SUBMISSION OF 2003 COMMAND HISTORY

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12H

Encl: (1) Command Composition and Organization
(2) 2003 Chronology of Events
(3) 2003 Narrative History
(4) Biography of CDR Stephen H. Kelley,
Commanding Officer
(5) Photograph of CDR Stephen H. Kelley
(6) Photographs of USS ELROD
(7) COMNAVSURFLANT 101210ZMAR03
(8) COMNAVSURFLANT 131847ZJUN03
(9) COMSECONDFLT 201340ZSEP03
(10) COMLANTFLT 221245ZSEP03
(11) USS CARR 091345ZOCT03
(12) COMGWSTRKGRU 221935ZOCT03
(13) COMDESRON TWO EIGHT 292206ZOCT03

1. In accordance with reference (a), the command history of USS ELROD (FFG 55) for the 2003 calendar year is forwarded. Enclosures (1) through (13) are included to highlight significant events.


S. H. KELLEY

COMMAND COMPOSITION AND ORGANIZATION

USS ELROD (FFG 55)

UIC: 21236

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. Since it's commissioning, ELROD's mission has evolved to include Maritime Interdiction Operations (MIO), Drug Interdiction Operations, and Search and Rescue (SAR) missions.

ELROD is armed with Mk 46 anti-submarine torpedoes, a Mk 75 automatic 76mm gun, and a 25mm chain gun. Weapons, sensor and control systems include: Mk 32 Surface Vessel Torpedo Tubes (SVTT), Mk 53 NULKA missile defense system, Mk15 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, AN/SQQ-28 Sonobuoy Processor, and the SH-60 LAMPS Mk III Helicopter.

ELROD's complement includes 27 officers and 231 crewmembers. ELROD is home ported at Norfolk Naval Station, Norfolk, VA. ELROD is under the command of CDR Stephen H. Kelley. ELROD's immediate senior is Commander, Destroyer Squadron TWO EIGHT.

Enclosure (1)

2003 CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS
USS ELROD (FFG 55)
UIC: 21236

JANUARY

1-12 HOLIDAY STAND-DOWN; IN PORT: NORFOLK, VA
12-15 IN PORT: NORFOLK, VA
14 FAST CRUISE
15-17 U/W, PRACTICE FOR INITIAL ASSESSMENT
17-31 IN PORT: NORFOLK, VA
21-23 INITIAL ASSESSMENT

FEBRUARY

1-5 IN PORT: NORFOLK, VA
4-6 CART II
5-6 U/W, CART II
6-11 IN PORT: NORFOLK, VA
10-11 VBSS TAILORED SHIP'S TRAINING ASSESSMENT (TSTA)
11-14 U/W, CO'S TIME/ENGINEERING TSTA
11 UNREP WITH USNS LEROY GRUMMAN
14-28 IN PORT: NORFOLK, VA
18 INTELLIGENCE TSTA
18-21 UNDERSEA WARFARE/DAMAGE CONTROL TSTA
24-25 CBR TSTA
28 COMMUNICATIONS TSTA

MARCH

1-4 IN PORT: NORFOLK, VA
4-7 U/W, CO'S TIME/ENGINEERING TSTA/ICE NAVCERT
7-10 IN PORT: CHARLESTON, SC
10-14 U/W, CO'S TIME/ENGINEERING TSTA/ELECTRONIC WARFARE
TSTA/SURFACE WARFARE TSTA/ NAVIGATION TSTA/ICE NAVCERT
14-31 IN PORT: NORFOLK, VA
17-21 BATTLE GROUP INPORT EXERCISE
24-28 ELECTRONIC WARFARE TSTA
31 U/W, CO'S TIME/ ENGINEERING TSTA

Enclosure (2)

APRIL

1-4 U/W, CO'S TIME/ ENGINEERING TSTA
4-7 IN PORT: NORFOLK, VA
7 COMMUNICATIONS TSTA
7-11 U/W, CO'S TIME/ENGINEERING TSTA
8 UNREP WITH USNS LEROY GRUMMAN
11-21 IN PORT: NORFOLK, VA
19 AVIATION TSTA
21-23 U/W, UNDERWAY DEMONSTRATION
23-28 IN PORT: NORFOLK, VA
28-29 U/W, FINAL EVALUATION PROBLEM
29-30 IN PORT: NORFOLK, VA

MAY

1-6 IN PORT: NORFOLK, VA
6-8 U/W, GROUPSAIL
8-19 IN PORT: NORFOLK, VA
19 U/W, CO'S TIME/SWAT LIVE FIRE EXERCISE
ANCHOR: ANNAPOLIS, MD
19-23 ANCHOR: ANNAPOLIS, MD
23 U/W, CO'S TIME/SWAT LIVE FIRE EXERCISE
23-31 IN PORT: NORFOLK, VA
27 EXTORP AMMO ONLOAD
27-31 FLEET MAINTENANCE AVAILABILITY

JUNE

1-17 IN PORT: NORFOLK, VA
1-13 FLEET MAINTENANCE AVAILABILITY
17-23 U/W, CO'S TIME/INSURV PRACTICE
23-26 IN PORT: BOOTH BAY, ME
27-30 U/W, CO'S TIME/INSURV PRACTICE
29 UNREP WITH USNS LEROY GRUMMAN

JULY

1-9 IN PORT: NORFOLK, VA
9-16 U/W, AUTEK/GROUPSAIL
16 UNREP WITH USNS LARAMIE
16-23 IN PORT: NORFOLK, VA
21-24 BOARD OF INSPECTION AND READINESS SURVEY (INSURV)
23 U/W, INSURV
23-31 IN PORT: NORFOLK, VA

AUGUST

1-4 IN PORT: NORFOLK, VA
4 U/W, WEAPONS ONLOAD TRANSIT
4-6 IN PORT: YORKTOWN NAVAL WEAPONS STATION, VA
6 U/W, TRANSIT TO NORFOLK/DEPENDANTS DAY CRUISE
6-14 IN PORT: NORFOLK, VA
8 COMDESRON 28 CHANGE OF COMMAND
11-15 ANTI-TERRORISM FORCE PROTECTION (ATFP) CERTIFICATION
14 U/W, TRANSIT TO GOLF ANCHORAGE
14-15 ANCHORED: GOLF ANCHORAGE FOR ATFP
15 U/W. TRANSIT TO NAVAL STATION PIERS
15-30 IN PORT: NORFOLK, VA
18-22 BATTLE GROUP INPORT EXERCISE
25-30 FLEET MAINTENANCE AVAILABILITY

SEPTEMBER

1-16 IN PORT: NORFOLK, VA
1-12 FLEET MAINTENANCE AVAILABILITY
16-20 U/W, HURRICANE ISABEL SORTIE
20-25 IN PORT: NORFOLK, VA
25 U/W, NAVCERT
25-30 IN PORT: NORFOLK, VA
39-30 COMMAND, CONTROL, COMPUTER, COMBAT, COMMUNICATIONS
READINESS ASSESSMENT (C5RA)
HULL, MECHANICAL, ELECTRICAL READINESS ASSESSMENT
(HMER)

OCTOBER

1-16 IN PORT: NORFOLK, VA
2 MK 13 MISSILE LAUNCHER DIVESTMENT
9-11 C5RA & HMER
14 HSL-42 EMBARK
16-27 U/W, COMDESRON-28 GROUPSAIL
18 UNREP WITH USNS ARCTIC
20 RADM STARLING VISIT
26 SWARMEX/UNREP WITH USNS ARCTIC
27 PHASE I NULKA INSTALL BEGINS
27-31 IN PORT: NORFOLK, VA

NOVEMBER

1-13 IN PORT: NORFOLK, VA
13-30 U/W, COMPTUEX 04-1
16 SINKEX: EX-USS YOSEMITE

DECEMBER

1-4 IN PORT: MIAMI, FL
4-19 U/W, COMPTUEX 04-1
19-31 IN PORT: NORFOLK, VA
20-31 HOLIDAY STAND-DOWN

2003 NARRATIVE HISTORY
USS ELROD (FFG 55)
UIC: 21236

In 2003 ELROD again flexed her capability in all mission areas. Following a relaxing holiday standown period, ELROD dove into her inter-deployment training cycle duties by getting underway to prepare for the Initial Assessment for the Engineering Department. She performed well after leaving the shipyards late in 2002 and proceeded with the Initial Assessment at the end of January.

During the months of February, March, and April, the pace of ELROD's intense training schedule continued to build as the ship and crew began a series of Tailored Ships Training Assessments (TSTA). ELROD got underway five times in three months and received assessments in Visit, Board, Search and Seizure (VBSS), Intelligence, Undersea Warfare, Surface Warfare, Engineering, Damage Control, Chemical, Biological, Radiological (CBR) Defense, Electronic Warfare, Navigation, Communications, and Aviation. All of the assessments culminated in an Underway Evaluation and a Final Evaluation Problem.

ELROD's most important lesson learned was that although ELROD is only funded for one VBSS team, two are necessary in order to facilitate greater effectiveness and flexibility in real world operations.

During the summer months ELROD began preparations for the Board of Inspection and Readiness Survey (INSURV), a detailed material examination given to all ships every five years. In preparation for INSURV, ELROD completed several practice underways, engineering evolutions, and live fire exercises. ELROD returned to Norfolk at the end of July for INSURV and performed well, accomplishing all assigned tasks with the utmost professionalism.

ELROD was able to visit some great ports of call on the East Coast of the United States. Anchoring in Charleston, SC, the crew of ELROD was able to visit sites such as Fort Sumter and the USS YORKTOWN museum in Charleston Harbor. While anchored in Annapolis, MD, the CO and XO were invited to a garden party with

Enclosure (3)

the Superintendent of the U.S. Naval Academy while several of the former midshipmen in ELROD's wardroom were able to visit their alma mater. In Booth Bay, ME, ELROD was given a taste of New England, and was honored to participate in the local Windjammer festival and parade.

In August, ELROD went to Yorktown Naval Weapons Station for ammo onload and later in the month engaged in an anchorage in Hampton Roads for training. In September, ELROD sortied with all of the ships in Naval Station Norfolk in order to avoid Hurricane Isabel as it slammed into the eastern seaboard. Upon our return we began the Command, Control, Computer, Combat, Communications Readiness Assessment (C5RA) and the Hull, Mechanical, and Electrical Readiness Assessment (HMEERA) as a continuation of the training cycle. In accordance with the MK 13 Divestment plan, the Mk 13 Guided Missile Launching System (GMLS) was removed from ELROD in the first week of October.

At the end of October, ELROD got underway for a GROUPSAIL with the rest of Destroyer Squadron TWO EIGHT. This gave ELROD a chance to engage in close-quarters maneuvers with other ships, track and kill exercises, and a SWARMEX evolution in which ELROD was able to train for tracking and killing several small, fast-moving targets. Following GROUPSAIL, Phase I of the Mk 53 NULKA install began and ELROD was proud to welcome HSL-42 "Proud Warrior" helicopter detachment to the ELROD crew.

November and December were occupied by COMPTUEX 04-1, a massive training underway with the rest of the GEORGE WASHINGTON Strike Group. ELROD engaged in tracking, close quarters steaming, multiple anti-submarine warfare exercises, and live fire exercises. ELROD also participated in five massive battle problems with the strike group and several other U.S. Naval ships and submarines acting as the opposing force. At the midpoint of COMPTUEX 04-1, ELROD traveled to Miami, FL for a port visit, giving the crew some much needed rest and a chance to enjoy the warm weather. ELROD was also honored with a visit from the family of MAJ Henry T. Elrod, the ships namesake.

Following the COMPTUEX 04-1, ELROD returned to Norfolk, VA and began it's Holiday Standown period into the end of another year of training and professional development for USS ELROD.