



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

USS ELROD (FFG-55)
FLEET POST OFFICE
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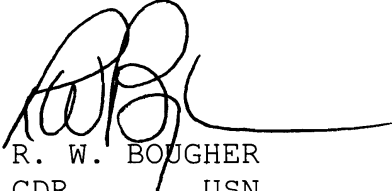
From: Commanding Officer, USS ELROD (FFG 55)
To: Commanding Officer, Naval Historical Center, Bldg
57, Washington Navy Yard, DC 20374-0571

Subj: SUBMISSION OF 1999 COMMAND HISTORY

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12D

- Encl:
- (1) Command Composition and Organization
 - (2) Chronology for 1999
 - (3) Narrative Summary of Command History
 - (4) Change of Command Pamphlet
 - (5) Photograph of USS ELROD (FFG 55)
 - (6) Biography of Commanding Officer
 - (7) Photograph of Commanding Officer
 - (8) ELROD msg 301355Z MAY 99
 - (9) ELROD msg 011310Z JUL 99
 - (10) ELROD msg 020816Z SEP 99
 - (11) CTF SIX ZERO msg 062030Z OCT 99
 - (12) ELROD msg 011741Z OCT 99
 - (13) ELROD msg 212107Z OCT 99
 - (14) COMSECONDFLT msg 102134Z NOV 99
 - (15) CINCUSNAVEUR msg 171200Z NOV 99
 - (16) COMNAVSURFLANT msg 171257Z NOV 99
 - (17) CINCLANTFLT msg 171400Z NOV 99
 - (18) "Operational Risk Management" Article

1. In accordance with reference (a), the command history of USS ELROD (FFG 55) for calendar year 1999 is forwarded. Enclosures (1) through (18) are included to highlight significant events.


R. W. BOUGHER
CDR USN

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, SM-1 (MR) surface-to-air missiles, a Mk 75 automatic, rapid fire 76mm cannon, and a 25mm chain gun. Weapons, sensors, and control systems include: Mk 32 Surface Vessel Torpedo Tubes (SVTT), Mk 13 Guided Missile Launching System (GMLS), Mk 75 76mm Oto Melara Lightweight Gun, Mk 15 Mod 11 Block 1 Close In Weapons System (CIWS), AN/SPS-49 (V) 5 Air Search Radar, AN/SPS-55 Surface Search Radar, AN/SYS-2 Integrated Air Detection System (IADT), Mk 92 Mod 6 Coherent Receiver Transmitter (CORT) Fire Control System, AN/SLQ-32 (V) 5 Electronic Warfare Suite, which includes the AN/SQR-19 Tactical Towed Array Sonar System (TACTAS), the AN/SQQ-28 Sonobuoy Processor, and the SH-60B LAMPS Mk III Helicopter.

ELROD's complement includes 18 officers and 184 crewmembers. ELROD was joined by members of HSL 44 DET 7 of Jacksonville, FL, during Mediterranean Deployment 3-99, which included 6 officers and 20 flight crew members. ELROD is homeported at Norfolk Naval Station, Norfolk, Virginia, and is under the command of Commander Robert W. Bougher, USN. ELROD's immediate senior in command is Commander, Destroyer Squadron TWO EIGHT.

USS ELROD (FFG 55)
1999 CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS

JANUARY

01-31 INPORT NORFOLK NAVAL SHIPYARD, PORTSMOUTH, VIRGINIA

FEBRUARY

01-11 INPORT NORFOLK NAVAL SHIPYARD, PORTSMOUTH, VIRGINIA

12-19 U/W, JTFEX 99-1

20-21 INPORT ROOSEVELT ROADS, PUERTO RICO

22-26 U/W, JTFEX 99-1

27-29 INPORT NORFOLK NAVAL SHIPYARD, PORTSMOUTH, VIRGINIA

MARCH

01-21 INPORT NORFOLK NAVAL SHIPYARD, PORTSMOUTH, VIRGINIA

22-23 INPORT NAVAL WEAPONS STATION YORKTOWN, VIRGINIA

24-25 U/W VACAPES OPAREA FOR TRAINING

26-28 ANCHORED IN ELIZABETH RIVER GOLF 3 ANCHORAGE

29-31 INPORT NORFOLK NAVAL SHIPYARD, PORTSMOUTH, VIRGINIA

APRIL

01-30 INPORT NORFOLK NAVAL SHIPYARD, PORTSMOUTH, VIRGINIA

MAY

01-20 UPKEEP/PREPARATIONS FOR DEPLOYMENT

21 CHANGE OF COMMAND CEREMONY

22-23 UPKEEP/PREPARATIONS FOR DEPLOYMENT

24 UNDERWAY, VACAPES, BEGINNING OF SIX MONTH
DEPLOYMENT. HSL 44 DET 7 EMBARK USS ELROD

25-31 U/W, ATLANTIC CROSSING

JUNE

01-02 U/W, EASTERN ATLANTIC

03 TRANSIT STRAITS OF GIBRALTER, INCHOP 6TH FLEET

04-07 INPORT MALAGA, SPAIN

08 U/W, WESTERN MEDITERRANEAN SEA

09 LOGISTICS RUN TO NAS SIGONELLA BY HELICOPTERS

10 U/W EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN SEA

11 DARDANELLES AND BOSPHORUS STRAITS TRANSIT

12-15 INPORT VARNA, BULGARIA

16-18 EXERCISE COOPERATIVE PARTNER 1999

19-22 INPORT VARNA, BULGARIA

23-25 EXERCISE COOPERATIVE PARTNER 1999

26-27 INPORT VARNA, BULGARIA

28 BLACK SEA OPERATIONS

29 DARDANELLES AND BOSPHORUS STRAITS TRANSIT
30 AEGEAN SEA TRANSIT

JULY

01 MEDITERRANEAN SEA TRANSIT
02-06 INPORT ANTALYA, TURKEY
07-16 U/W CENTRAL MEDITERRANEAN/ADRIATIC SEA
08-10 WAR-AT-SEA EXERCISE I WITH CTF-60 WARSHIPS
17-21 INPORT HAIFA, ISRAEL
22-24 EXERCISE SEA BREEZE
22-25 U/W AEGEAN SEA/CENTRAL MEDITERRANEAN SEA
26-31 INPORT SOUDA BAY (HANIA), CRETE, GREECE

AUGUST

01 INPORT SOUDA BAY (HANIA), CRETE, GREECE
02-09 U/W CENTRAL/WESTERN MEDITERRANEAN SEA
04-07 WAR-AT-SEA EXERCISE II WITH CTF-60 WARSHIPS
10-17 INPORT LA MADDALENA, SARDINIA, ITALY
18-31 U/W CENTRAL/WESTERN MEDITERRANEAN SEA
18-22 WAR-AT-SEA EXERCISE III WITH CTF-60 WARSHIPS
23-31 OPERATION TORCHLIGHT

SEPTEMBER

01-12 OPERATION TORCHLIGHT
13-14 U/W AEGEAN SEA
15-22 INPORT DUBROVNIK, CROATIA
23-26 U/W CENTRAL/WESTERN MEDITERRANEAN SEA
27-30 INPORT GENOVA, ITALY

OCTOBER

01-10 U/W WESTERN/CENTRAL MEDITERRANEAN SEA
04-08 EXERCISE SHARK HUNT
11-18 INPORT MARSEILLES, FRANCE
17 DAY OF HOPE CELEBRATION WITH NAVY LEAGUE
19-24 WAR-AT-SEA EXERCISE IV WITH USS RAMAGE
25-31 INPORT TRIESTE, ITALY

NOVEMBER

01-04 U/W CENTRAL/WESTERN MEDITERRANEAN SEA
05-10 INPORT ROTA, SPAIN
11-20 U/W TRANSLANT
20 HSL 44 DET 7 DEBARK
21 U/W WESTERN ATLANTIC
22 INPORT NORFOLK, VIRGINIA
23-30 STAND-DOWN AND MAINTENANCE

DECEMBER

01-31

POST DEPLOYMENT STAND-DOWN AND MAINTENANCE

1999 NARRATIVE

USS ELROD (FFG 55) started 1999 inport at the Norfolk Naval Shipyard in Portsmouth, Virginia. ELROD was underway in February to participate in the Theodore Roosevelt Battle Group (JTFEX). This pre deployment exercise enabled the ships in the THEODORE ROOSEVELT Battle Group to hone Command and Control and war fighting skills in preparation for operations in the Mediterranean and Adriatic Seas. A brief port visit to Roosevelt Roads, PR was completed prior to the return transit. Final preparations for deployment and a pre overseas movement leave period took place in March and April in addition to a short underway period in the Virginia Capes.

A Change of Command ceremony was conducted on 21 May on the Flight Deck while the ship was berthed at Nauticus Maritime Center in Norfolk, VA. The ceremony witnessed the transfer of command from CDR Thomas R. Address, USN to CDR Robert W. Bougher, USN. After the Change of Command ceremony, the focus of the ship returned to the business of getting underway for six month deployment.

ELROD got underway from Nauticus on the morning of May 24th and would soon embark Detachment Seven of HSL Forty-Four from Jacksonville, Florida. She would not return home until November 22nd.

June witnessed ELROD transiting through the Straits of Gibraltar and entering the Sixth Fleet Area of Operation. The first week of June included a port call in Malaga, Spain. It was here that many crewmembers, new to the Navy, received their first port visit. The visit was short, but allowed the crew to experience a real Spanish bullfight and visit the remains of an ancient hilltop fortification.

The next port of call was Varna, Bulgaria. After transiting through the Bosphorus and Dardenelles, ELROD pulled into this busy Black Sea port. Varna was home to ELROD while she participated in the Partnership for Peace exercises between NATO and aspiring NATO countries from Eastern Europe. The year's participants in the exercise

were France, Greece, Turkey, Bulgaria, Romania, and Georgia. The United States was represented by both ELROD and the Coast Guard Cutter BEAR (WMEC 901). The Partnership for Peace went extremely well with ELROD and the Bulgarian oiler ATIYA (302) conducting the first ever astern refueling between a United States warship and a former Communist Bloc nation oiler. In addition to conducting exercises, ELROD started a tradition that would last for the remainder of the deployment – hosting a reception on the Flight Deck. Military Officers from the participating ships and staffs ashore were invited to attend. This was a complete success and set the tone for future receptions. As for Varna itself, the crew had an amazingly good time. The prices were extremely reasonable and the citizens of Varna went out of their way to ensure that the crewmembers of the participating navies were well treated. As most ELROD sailors had never been to an Eastern European port, this provided an opportunity to experience a culture far different from our own.

In July, ELROD visited Antalya, Turkey. The local government hosted a fireworks demonstration to celebrate the 4th of July. The fireworks were carried on barges anchored near ELROD and USS PETERSON (DD 969), the flagship for STANAVFORMED. This magnificent display demonstrated the goodwill of the local Turkish people for the visiting Americans.

ELROD visited Haifa, Israel next. This visit was to be one of the most popular visits for the crew as many were able to visit both Bethlehem and Jerusalem. The port call allowed many to make a religious, as well as historic, pilgrimage and included such sites as the “Wailing Wall,” the remains of a Roman market, and a view of the new face of Israeli-Palestinian relations. The USO in Haifa provided a place for the crewmembers to relax and watch television, call home, or use the Internet and provided a place to recreate away from the ship. While in Israel, ELROD and the USCGC DALLAS (WHEC 716), participated in Exercise “Sea Breeze” with the Ukrainian Navy. This exercise was of extreme importance to the developing relations between the United States and the new Ukrainian Republic and included Anti-Submarine Warfare (ASW) and Anti-Surface Warfare (ASUW) tactics and procedures. Also practiced was an Underway

Replenishment (UNREP) maneuver in which both sides demonstrated ship handling abilities and UNREP techniques. At the conclusion of the exercises, the ELROD and DALLAS hosted a reception that was attended by the Officers and Chief Petty Officers of the ships involved.

After leaving Haifa, ELROD transited the eastern Mediterranean Sea bound for Souda Bay on the Greek Island of Crete. This port visit was significant in that the Chief Engineer, LT Jack Meagher, was wed to Efthia Padadaki, whom he had met while serving as port services officer on a previous tour.

While transiting to the Italian island of Sardinia, ELROD participated in the first of a series of war-at-sea exercises with the ships of CTF. Once at Sardinia, ELROD made her way to the small island of La Maddelena. There the ship commenced a maintenance availability with the USS EMORY S. LAND (AS-39).

ELROD next headed for the Croatian town of Dubrovnik. Located along the Dalmatian coastline, the town is known for the ancient fortress-like walls, which surround it. This port visit provided a good respite for the crew and many great photo opportunities. While in Dubrovnik, ELROD hosted a reception for the US Ambassador, Mr. Montgomery, as well as personnel from IFOR. This was the third reception hosted by ELROD during the deployment.

From Dubrovnik, ELROD traveled south and west to Genoa, Italy. This port offered the chance to see the city from which Christopher Columbus hailed in addition to other historical sites.

ELROD participated in exercise Shark Hunt in October with the Spanish diesel submarine MISTRAL and the Marine Prepositioning ship MV SGT MATEJ KOCAK (TAK-3005). The exercise tested ELROD's ability to protect a High Value Unit from a Diesel submarine.

ELROD next headed for Marseilles, France. This port provided ELROD with the unique opportunity to participate in a foreign relations project with the local US Navy League called the "Day of Hope." This project involved ELROD and her crew hosting a number of children from local hospitals. The McDonalds Corporation and local businesses sponsored the event. The event was a complete success and one of the highlights of the deployment.

The latter part of October included a War-at-Sea exercise with USS RAMAGE (DDG 61). This was successful and demonstrated the capabilities of the FFG platform in simulated combat with a DDG.

Trieste, Italy was the next port of call for ELROD. This port provided a chance to experience the flavor of Austrian as well as Italian culture. Many crewmembers took advantage of the proximity of Slovenia and visited the small, former Yugoslav country.

ELROD then sailed south and west across the Mediterranean Sea arriving in Rota, Spain on the 5th of November for the last European port call of deployment. On November 11th, ELROD commenced the transit west across the Atlantic Ocean.

ELROD returned to Norfolk Naval Station on November 22nd and entered a post-deployment and holiday leave stand-down.