



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

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

5750  
FFG 55  
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From: Commanding Officer, USS ELROD (FFG 55)  
To: Commanding Officer, Naval Historical Center  
Bldg. 57, Washington Navy Yard, DC 20375-0751

Subj: SUBMISSION OF 2004 COMMAND HISTORY

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12H

Encl: (1) Command Composition and Organization  
(2) 2004 Chronology of Events  
(3) 2004 Narrative History  
(4) Biography of CDR Stephen H. Kelley, Commanding Officer (NOV 02-SEP 04)  
(5) Photograph of CDR Stephen H. Kelley  
(6) Biography of CDR David D. Schweizer, Commanding Officer (SEP 04-Present)  
(7) Photograph of CDR David D. Schweizer  
(8) Photographs of USS ELROD and its activities in 2004  
(9) COMNAVSURFLANT 081426Z MAR 04  
(10) COMGWSTRKGRU 081345Z SEP 04  
(11) COMSECONDFLT 101303Z SEP 04  
(12) COMDESRON TWO EIGHT 101630Z SEP 04  
(13) COMNAVSURFLANT 131316Z SEP 04  
(14) COMCARAIRWING SEVEN 182210Z NOV 04

1. In accordance with reference (a), the command history of USS ELROD (FFG 55) for the 2004 calendar year is forwarded. Enclosures (1) through (14) are included to highlight significant events.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. D. Schweizer", written in a cursive style.

D. D. SCHWEIZER

**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 her commissioning, ELROD's mission has evolved to encompass Maritime Interdiction Operations (MIO), Drug Interdiction Operations, and Search and Rescue (SAR) missions.

ELROD is armed with Mk 46 Anti-Submarine Torpedoes, an Otto Malaro Mk 75 automatic 76mm gun, and a 25mm Chain Gun. Weapons, sensors 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 22 Officers and 212 crewmembers. ELROD is homeported at Norfolk Naval Station, Norfolk, VA. ELROD is under the command of CDR David D. Schweizer. ELROD's Immediate Superior in Command is Commander, Destroyer Squadron TWO EIGHT.

## 2004 CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS

USS ELROD (FFG 55)

UIC: 21236

### JANUARY

1-7 HOLIDAY LEAVE AND UPKEEP  
7-19 INPORT: NORFOLK, VA  
19-24 U/W, COMCARSTRKGRU EIGHT GROUPSAIL  
24-31 INPORT: NORFOLK, VA

### FEBRUARY

1-26 INPORT: NORFOLK, VA  
10-26 FINAL PHASE, NULKA INSTALL  
19 VISIT FROM COMMANDER IN CHIEF, UKRAINIAN NAVY  
26-28 U/W, NULKA TESTING  
29 INPORT: NORFOLK, VA

### MARCH

1-8 INPORT: NORFOLK, VA  
8-9 U/W, COMDESRON 28 GROUPSAIL  
9-15 INPORT: NORFOLK, VA  
15 U/W, TRANSIT TO YORKTOWN NAVAL WEAPONS STATION  
15-16 AMMO OFFLOAD: YORKTOWN, VA  
16 U/W, RETURN TO NORFOLK  
16-22 INPORT: NORFOLK, VA  
22 U/W, TRANSIT TO YORKTOWN NAVAL WEAPONS STATION  
22-23 AMMO ONLOAD: YORKTOWN, VA  
23 U/W, RETURN TO NORFOLK/ULM-4 EXERCISE  
23-31 INPORT: NORFOLK, VA

### APRIL

1-19 AVIATION CERTIFICATION AND ASSIST  
1-30 INPORT: NORFOLK, VA  
30 U/W, SSG 04-1 DEPLOYMENT, TRANSLANT

### MAY

1-14 U/W, SSG 04-1 DEPLOYMENT, TRANSLANT/MED TRANSIT  
1 RENDEZVOUS WITH USS ROSS (DDG 71), USS RAMAGE  
(DDG 61), USS SIRROCO (PC 6), USS TYPHOON (PC 5),  
USNS PATUXENT (TAO 201).  
HSL-42, DET 4 "LUCKY DEVILS" EMBARK  
5 INCHOP, COMSIXTHFLT  
8 DETACH USS SIRROCO, USS TYPHOON, AND USNS  
PATUXENT

9 TRANSIT STRAIT OF GIBRALTAR  
DETACH USS ROSS AND USS RAMAGE  
14-17 INPORT: LA SPEZIA, ITALY  
17-21 U/W, TRANSIT TO TRIESTE, ITALY  
19 TRANSIT STRAIT OF MESSINA  
21-25 INPORT: TRIESTE, ITALY  
25-31 U/W, TRANSIT TO LA SPEZIA, ITALY

#### JUNE

1-2 U/W, TRANSIT TO LA SPEZIA, ITALY  
2 ATTACH TO STANDING NAVAL FORCE MEDITERRANEAN  
(STANAVFORMED)  
2-7 INPORT: LA SPEZIA, ITALY  
7-10 U/W, STANAVFORMED OPS/TRANSIT TO AUGUSTA BAY  
10-14 INPORT: AUGUSTA BAY, ITALY  
14-16 U/W, STANAVFORMED OPS  
16-23 U/W, OPERATION ACTIVE ENDEAVOUR, AGEAN SEA  
23-26 INPORT: SOUDA BAY GREECE  
26-30 U/W, OPERATION ACTIVE ENDEAVOUR, EASTERN  
MEDITERRANEAN/AGEAN SEA

#### JULY

1-4 U/W, OPERATION ACTIVE ENDEAVOUR, EASTERN  
MEDITERRANEAN/AGEAN SEA  
4-7 INPORT: AKSAZ, TURKEY  
7-9 U/W, OPERATION ACTIVE ENDEAVOUR, AGEAN SEA  
9-10 U/W, COMSIXTHFLT TASKING, EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN  
10-13 U/W, OPERATION ACTIVE ENDEAVOUR, AGEAN  
SEA/TRANSIT TO TARANTO, ITALY  
12 BOARDING OF M/V IRINE M.  
13-16 INPORT: TARANTO, ITALY  
16-24 U/W, OPERATION ACTIVE ENDEAVOUR, EASTERN  
MEDITERRANEAN/AGEAN SEA  
24-27 INPORT: SOUDA BAY, GREECE  
27-31 U/W, OPERATION ACTIVE ENDEAVOUR, AGEAN SEA

#### AUGUST

1-3 U/W, OPERATION ACTIVE ENDEAVOUR, AGEAN SEA  
3-6 INPORT: SOUDA BAY, GREECE  
5 COMSTANAVFORMED CHANGE OF COMMAND: RADM H. J.  
WITTHAUER (GERMANY) RELIEVED BY COMMODORE IOANNIS  
KARAIKOS (GREECE)  
6-12 U/W, OPERATIONS ACTIVE ENDEAVOUR & DISTINGUISHED  
GAMES, AGEAN SEA/TRANSIT TO TARANTO, ITALY  
12-15 INPORT: TARANTO, ITALY

15-27 U/W, OPERATION DISTINGUISHED GAMES, AGEAN SEA  
27-29 INPORT: SOUDA BAY, GREECE/PCO EMBARK  
29-31 U/W, OPERATION ACTIVE ENDEAVOUR/STANAVFORMED OPS  
31 INPORT: AUGUSTA BAY, ITALY

#### SEPTEMBER

1-4 INPORT: AUGUSTA BAY, ITALY  
1 USS ELROD CHANGE OF COMMAND: CDR STEPHEN H.  
KELLEY RELIEVED BY CDR DAVID D. SCHWEIZER  
3 STANAVFORMED DUTIES TURNOVER WITH USS UNDERWOOD  
3-8 U/W, MED TRANSIT/TRANSIT TO ROTA, SPAIN  
8 STRAIT OF GIBRALTAR TRANSIT  
INPORT: ROTA, SPAIN FOR REFUELING  
8-17 U/W, TRANSLANT  
16 HSL-42, DET 4 "LUCKY DEVILS" DEBARK  
17 RETURN TO HOMEPORT  
COMNAVSURFLANT VISIT  
END OF 2004 DEPLOYMENT  
17-30 INPORT: NORFOLK, VA

#### OCTOBER

1-18 INPORT: NORFOLK, VA  
18-22 U/W, COMCARSTRKGRU EIGHT (GEORGE WASHINGTON  
STRIKE GROUP) GROUPSAIL  
22 DETACH COMCARSTRKGRU EIGHT  
22-27 U/W, CO'S TIME/TRANSIT TO YORKTOWN NAVAL WEAPONS  
STATION  
27-29 AMMO OFFLOAD: YORKTOWN, VA  
29 U/W, TRANSIT TO NORFOLK  
29-31 INPORT: NORFOLK, VA

#### NOVEMBER

1-19 INPORT: NORFOLK, VA  
1-23 CONTINUOUS MAINTENANCE AVAILABILITY  
19-23 U/W, CO'S TIME/MH-60R TESTING  
23-30 INPORT: NORFOLK, VA  
29-30 SELF CONTAINED BREATHING APPARATUS/REVERSE  
OSMOSIS UNIT INSTALL

#### DECEMBER

1-31 INPORT: NORFOLK, VA  
1-17 SELF CONTAINED BREATHING APPARATUS INSTALL  
1-31 REVERSE OSMOSIS UNIT INSTALL  
17-31 HOLIDAY LEAVE PERIOD

## 2004 NARRATIVE HISTORY

USS ELROD (FFG 55)

UIC: 21236

The year 2004 started with ELROD at the end of its training cycle and beginning preparations for deployment to the Mediterranean Sea. The first underway in January presented ELROD with one last chance to operate with the GEORGE WASHINGTON CARRIER STRIKE GROUP before the carrier and its escorts departed to perform operations in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Following an intense week of plane guard exercises and maneuvering drills, the Strike Group turned east and began the trip across the Atlantic and ELROD, along with ROSS and RAMAGE, returned to homeport.

During the months of February, March, and April, ELROD was involved in workups to prepare for the summer deployment. February brought the final phases of the installation of the groundbreaking NULKA decoy system. The install was followed by a successful test of the system, with ELROD being used as the prototype platform for the entire FFG-7 Class. Along with ammunition offload/onload at Yorktown Naval Weapons Station and some structural repairs to our port refueling station, ELROD completed a successful Aviation Certification to prepare our facilities to receive the Helo Detachment for deployment.

The final day of April was Deployment Day. ELROD departed Norfolk at approximately 0900 and took charge of USS ROSS (DDG 71) and USS RAMAGE (DDG 61) as the Surface Action Group Commander of Surface Strike Group 04-1.

By the first of May, ELROD had rendezvoused with the remainder of the ships that would be crossing the Atlantic with SSG 04-1: USS SIRROCO (PC 6), USS TYPHOON (PC 5) and USS PATUXENT (TAO 201). ELROD also embarked two SH-60B helicopters from HSL-42 DET 4, the "Lucky Devils." ELROD was proud to add the professional crew and pilots of the detachment to the ELROD family. With its traveling companions, ELROD conducted numerous training evolutions and refuelings to maximize the opportunity to work with such diverse ships. The Patrol Craft proved exceptionally useful in helping ELROD prepare for a small boat attack. Following INCHOP into COMSIXTHFLT, SIRROCO, TYPHOON and PATUXENT detached and steamed for Rota, Spain while SSG 04-1 continued on to cross the Strait of Gibraltar into the Mediterranean Sea.

Enclosure (3)

After detaching ROSS and RAMMAGE immediately after completing the Strait of Gibraltar transit, ELROD continued on towards its intended port of Genoa, Italy. Force protection concerns, however, caused a diversion to the Italian Naval city of La Spezia approximately 100 miles south of Genoa. The town offered the crew much needed shore leave and was accessible to several notable Italian landmarks such as Florence and Pisa. Also available to the crew was the *Cinque Terre*, or the "Five Towns" a network of beautiful villages in the surrounding hills which offered unparalleled dining and shopping for ELROD Sailors.

Following the visit to La Spezia, ELROD took a journey around the boot of Italy to visit the town of Trieste on the Italian/Slovenian border. This town also allowed Sailors to explore the surrounding Italian countryside. From the canals of Venice, to the Eastern charms of Split, Croatia to the 18<sup>th</sup> Century grandeur of Lubjijana, Slovenia, ELROD's crew was never without opportunities. After departing Trieste, ELROD once again embarked for La Spezia. Once there, ELROD attached to Standing Naval Force Mediterranean, the naval arm of NATO, and proceeded to familiarize itself with the workings of ships from Germany, Great Britain, Italy, Greece, Spain and Turkey. After this orientation period, the task force departed for an intense week of evolutions and training together, including a port visit to Augusta Bay, Sicily.

The port of call in Sicily was followed by three more days of maneuvers in the central Mediterranean. The ships then were assigned to various patrol areas across the region as part of NATO Operation Active Endeavour. The ship's orders were to query, identify, and process all shipping encountered in our area. If any proved suspicious or was a known contraband carrier, ELROD would request further instructions and would be directed to either openly trail, covertly trail, or board the vessel. Over the course of the next three months, ELROD would query over 1000 ships, trail over 20, and board one. ELROD continued to patrol the region, which alternated between the area just south of the island of Crete to just off the coastal waters of Israel and Lebanon, for two months.

While patrolling, ELROD was given the opportunity to visit ports of call in the region. These consisted of multiple visits to Taranto, Italy, Souda Bay, Greece, and Aksaz, Turkey. Taranto offered the typical good dining and shopping that the crew had come to expect from Italy but was also within driving distance of Naples and Pompeii,

allowing our Sailors a rare opportunity to see those historic cities. Souda Bay also enjoyed fine food and the ship's MWR team offered tours to other locations on the island, particularly the beautiful Samaria Gorge and the ancient palace of Knossos. ELROD visited the port of Aksaz, Turkey. Unfortunately, due to security concerns, the crew could not leave the Turkish Naval Base there. However, the facilities on the base were good, and allowed the crew a much needed chance to relax and recharge enjoying the excellent hospitality of the Turkish people.

In August, ELROD was detached from Operation Active Endeavour and tasked with Operation Distinguished Games, which consisted of primary maritime security for the Olympic Games being held in Athens. ELROD actively patrolled the shipping routes in the Eastern Aegean Sea, and performed so well that we earned a mention on Greek television. Following the end of the Olympics, ELROD began her trek back across the Mediterranean. On the last stop in Souda Bay, ELROD picked up the next Commanding Officer, CDR David Schweizer. He rode with the ship to Augusta Bay, Sicily, where command was turned over to him from CDR Stephen Kelley in a ceremony on the flight deck. ELROD performed another turnover in Augusta Bay as well, turning over STANAVFORMED duties to the USS UNDERWOOD.

With all duties relieved, ELROD began her Trans-Atlantic journey on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of September. She transited the Strait of Gibraltar on the 8<sup>th</sup> and finally returned home on the 17<sup>th</sup> of September 2004.

Following return to homeport, ELROD entered a period of upkeep and preparation for the upcoming training cycle. In October, ELROD participated in a groupsail with the remainder of Carrier Strike Group Eight. ELROD was also given the opportunity to test the new MH-60R helicopter on our flight deck in November, and once again set the standard by serving as a prototype platform. In December, she began major work on her engines and auxiliary equipment in preparation for the availability the following January, completing the year in the holiday leave period.