



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

USS MONTEREY (CG 61)
FLEET POST OFFICE
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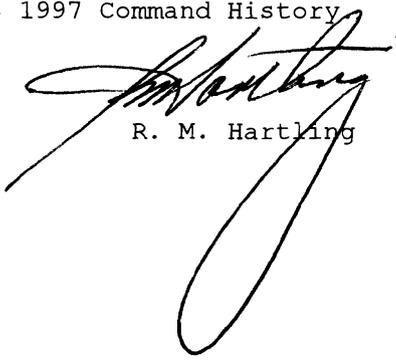
From: Commanding Officer, USS MONTEREY (CG 61)
To: Director of Naval History (OP-09BH)

Subj: **COMMAND HISTORY FOR 1997**

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12E

Encl: (1) Command Composition and Organization
(2) Chronology
(3) Narrative
(4) Ship Photograph passing Statue of Liberty

1. In accordance with reference (a), enclosures (1) through (4) are submitted as USS MONTEREY'S 1997 Command History.


R. M. Hartling

COMMAND COMPOSITION AND ORGANIZATION

MISSION: USS MONTEREY'S mission is to provide air, surface, subsurface, and strike warfare support for the Navy in today's multi-threat environment. Utilizing the unique capabilities of the Aegis Weapons System and the Vertical Launching System, along with Tactical Data Links to other ships and aircraft, MONTEREY can monitor the tactical situation and supervise the engagement of hostile forces for an entire battle group.

IMMEDIATE SENIOR IN COMMAND: RADM R.E. Suggs, Commander
Carrier Group SIX

COMMANDING OFFICER: Captain Robert M. Hartling, U.S. Navy

HOMEPORT: Naval Base Norfolk, Virginia

1997 CHRONOLOGY:

01 JAN: Regular Over Haul (ROH) Newport News Shipyard and Drydock.

13-23 JAN: Advanced Tomahawk Weapons Control System (ATWCS) Verifications.

15 JAN: Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. birthday memorial.

26 JAN: CO visits St. Mary Star of the Sea to initiate the Adopt-A-School program.

28-31 JAN: Air Warfare (AW) Functional Testing.

03 FEB: Light Off Assessment (LOA).

24 FEB: Bone Marrow Donor Drive conducted.

26 FEB: Aviation Facilities Certification (AVCERT).

03 MAR: Underway, return to Norfolk, VA (NORVA).

04 MAR: Sea Trials, Virginia Capes (VACAPES) Operating Area (OPAREA).

07 MAR: In port, NORVA.

11 MAR: Chief of Naval Operations (CNO) Executive Panel interviews crew members.

18 MAR: Underway, VACAPES OPAREA.

23 MAR: In port, NORVA.

31 MAR-
02 APR: Communications Groom.

07 APR: Tailored Ship's Training Assessment (TSTA) I; Underway, VACAPES OPAREA.

11 APR: Enroute, New York City, NY.

11-14 APR: Port Visit, New York City, NY.

15 APR: TSTA I; Underway, VACAPES OPAREA.

16 APR: Underway Replenishment (UNREP) with USNS LARAMIE (TAO 203).

19 APR: In port, NORVA.

21-25 APR: TSTA I; In port, NORVA.

28 APR: TSTA I; Underway, VACAPES OPAREA.

30 APR: Fueling At Sea (FAS) with USS George Washington (CVN 73).

03 MAY: In port, NORVA.

05 MAY: TSTA II; Underway VACAPES OPAREA.

05-09 MAY: Passive Counter Measures System (PCMS) Testing.

10 MAY: In port, NORVA.

10 MAY-02 JUN: ATWCS Developmental Testing.

12-16 MAY: TSTA II; In port, Norfolk, VA.

12-16 MAY: Logistics Management Assessment (LMA) Assist.

13-18 MAY: Combat Systems Testing.

19 MAY: TSTA II; Underway, VACAPES OPAREA.

19-23 MAY: Engineering Certification (ECERT), Engineering Training Group (ETG)/Propulsion Examination Board (PEB).

24 MAY: In port, NORVA.

27-30 MAY: TSTA II; In port, NORVA.

03 JUN: Enroute, Naval Weapons Station (NWS) Yorktown, VA.

03-05 JUN: Weapons Onload, NWS Yorktown, VA.

05 JUN: Dependents Cruise.

06 JUN: In port, NORVA.

06-08 JUN: Boy Scout Troop Visit.

09-16 JUN: ATWCS Maintenance Training.

09 JUN: TSTA II; Underway, Puerto Rican OPAREA (PROA).

14 JUN: In port, Roosevelt Roads, PR.

14-18 JUN: Under-Sea Warfare (USW) Ship's Qualification Test (SQT).

17 JUN: Underway, PROA.

18 JUN: Vertical Launch Anti-Submarine Rocket (ASROC) Missile Shoot and Torpedo Exercise (TORPEX), PROA.

18-20 JUN: Naval Surface Fire Support (NSFS) Qualifications, Vieques Island, PR.

24 JUN: In port, Roosevelt Roads, PR.

27 JUN: Underway, PROA.

27-29 JUN: Missile Exercise (MISSILEX).

01 JUL: Enroute, NORVA.

03-06 JUL: Nauticus Visit Ship, NORVA.

04 JUL: Independence Day Observed.

07 JUL: Cruise Missile Tactical Qualification (CMTQ); Underway, VACAPES OPAREA.

09-11 JUL: VANDALEX; Wallops Island, VA.

12 JUL: In port, NORVA.

25 JUL: ATWCS Operational Evaluation (OPEVAL) Pre-sail conference.

25 JUL-04 AUG: ATWCS OPEVAL.

26 JUL: Enroute, Gulf of Mexico (GOMEX).

30 JUL: ATWCS Test Launch, OTL-201.

31 JUL: In port, Pensacola, FL.

01 AUG: Enroute, Mayport, FL.

04 AUG: In port, Mayport, FL.

07 AUG: Warfare Commanders Conference.

08 AUG: Enroute, NORVA.

11 AUG: TSTA III; Underway, VACAPES OPAREA.

11-15 AUG: Final Evaluation Problem (FEP).

13 AUG: FAS with USS JOHN C. STENNIS (CVN 74).

16 AUG: In port, NORVA.

18 AUG: Battle Group Training; Underway, Cherry Point
OPAREA.

23 AUG: In port, NORVA.

25-27 AUG: LMA.

28 AUG: Inclining Experiment, NORVA.

02-12 SEP: Combat Systems Readiness Review (CSRR) Phase I,
NORVA.

02-10 SEP: Second Warfare Commanders Conference, Dam Neck, VA.

15 SEP-
16 OCT: Fleet Maintenance Availability (FMAV), NORVA.

29 SEP-
10 OCT: CSRR Phase II, NORVA.

13 OCT: 222nd Birthday of the United States Navy.

16 OCT: Executive Officer LCDR C.C. Swicker departs.

16 OCT: Executive Officer LCDR S.G. Larsen arrives.

17 OCT: CV Advanced; Enroute, PROA.

28 OCT-
25 NOV: Composite Training Unit Exercise (COMPTUEX) Joint
Task Group (JTG) 98-2; PROA.

07-10 NOV: Port Visit, San Juan, P.R.

11 NOV: Veteran's Day observed.

22 NOV: Enroute, NORVA.

26 NOV: In port, NORVA.

27 NOV: Thanksgiving Holiday Observed.

08 DEC: Enroute, NWS Yorktown, VA.

08-11 DEC: Weapons Onload, NWS Yorktown, VA.

11 DEC: Enroute, NORVA.

12 DEC: In port, NORVA.

17-31 DEC: Holiday Upkeep; Inport, NORVA.

25 DEC: Christmas Holiday Observed.

NARRATIVE:

"Rough in Battle... Ready in Peace," is the maxim by which the sailors in USS MONTEREY live.

MONTEREY welcomed 1997 while in the final eight weeks of Regular Overhaul at the Newport News Shipyard and Drydock Company in Newport News, VA. The new year brought many new and exciting challenges for the crew, including the Aegis Baseline 3A upgrade, the installation and testing of the Advanced Tomahawk Weapons Control System (ATWCS), and the upcoming training evolutions to prepare for the integration of "Rough and Ready" into the USS JOHN C. STENNIS (CVN 74) Battle Group.

The shipyard provided an atmosphere which allowed the crew of MONTEREY to participate in several community activities, such as the February 24th Bone Marrow Donor Drive. The most notable contribution to the community came with the establishment of the "Adopt-A-School" program. Led by Captain Bob Hartling and Chaplain Jan Werson, crew members have routinely volunteered their spare time throughout the year at St. Mary, Star of the Sea Catholic School in nearby Phoebus, VA. Whether it was routine plumbing or electrical maintenance, assisting in an upgrade to the school's computers, painting classrooms, or leading the children in physical education, MONTEREY sailors spent countless hours volunteering their time and efforts this year.

03 March, 1997 was the first time MONTEREY had been underway since her dead-stick transit to the shipyard in June of 1996. Once on the open ocean, it was difficult to imagine that the crew had been land-locked for nearly one year; The crew, the ship and the sea were once again united, and working together smoothly.

1997 progressed through several training cycles, testing periods, equipment grooms, and assessments. Throughout the spring and summer, MONTEREY participated in a Light Off Assessment (LOA), Aviation Facilities Certification (AVCERT), Tailored Ship's Training Assessment (TSTA) I and II, Passive Counter Measures System (PCMS) Testing, ATWCS Testing, Logistics Management Assessment (LMA), Engineering Certification (ECERT), and countless hours of training, both in and out of port. All hands were eagerly anticipating the honor and privilege of being the JOHN C STENNIS Battle Group's first Air Warfare Commander and the first vessel to successfully employ the Advanced Tomahawk Weapons Control System.

Mid-way through TSTA I, the crew was rewarded with an exciting port visit to the "Big Apple." Because of their hard work and dedication throughout the yard period, MONTEREY spent 11-14 April at Pier 81 in New York City. The crew went sight-seeing, took in Broadway shows, visited Times Square, and ate at the many restaurants recommended by the CO - a Bronx native. The crew of MONTEREY displayed exemplary behavior that weekend, and provided tours to over 1,000 people.

TSTA I continued, both in and out of port, until the end of April. TSTA II was initiated during the underway period in the first week of May, and continued well into June. 19-23 May proved to be an exhausting week for the engineers as they were evaluated during ECERT. Their hard work and training paid off, as MONTEREY passed ECERT with flying colors.

During the first week of June, MONTEREY ventured to the Naval

Weapons Station in Yorktown, VA, for the first of two major weapons onloads in 1997. Small arms, chaff, 5"/54 powders and projectiles, Vertical Launch ASROCs, Tomahawks, SM-2s, and Harpoons were expeditiously and safely loaded into MONTEREY. On June 5th, many friends and family members of MONTEREY personnel joined us for a Dependents Cruise. All visitors were on board by 0700, and MONTEREY departed down the York River and into the open ocean for the afternoon. MONTEREY returned to Naval Base Norfolk in the early evening.

With a near-full load out of weapons, it became apparent that MONTEREY was ready to intensify her training in combat effectiveness. On 18 June, the Sonar Technicians and ASW Team had their opportunity to put their months of training to the test. Their VLA missile shoot was a record-breaking success in accuracy, as it landed very close to the intended target. Officials from Port Hueneme Surface Warfare Center classified the results as being the most successful VLA launch they had ever observed. The ASW Team, however, was not finished with their outstanding performance. Their evaluation, solution, and launch of an over-the-side exercise torpedo proved to be equally accurate, as it acquired the target multiple times.

After a day of flawless performances in ASW, the Gunner's Mates and Firecontrolmen came up to bat. During MONTEREY'S two-day long Naval Gunfire Support Qualifications at Vieques Island, PR, another near-perfect evolution occurred. MONTEREY scored a 105.32 out of a possible 106 points on the range. This score was achieved in spite of two separate casualties. Mount 51 had a hot-gun misfire early

in the afternoon. While the situation was safely being resolved forward, MT 52 kept bombarding the range with precision. Within three hours of the initial casualty report, MT 51 again showered the beach with 5" rounds. A hydraulic leak in MT 52 late in the qualifications put the aft mount out of commission for the night. However, MT 51 answered the call for fire and lit the dark Caribbean skies with picture-perfect coordinated illumination rounds.

By the last week of June, it was apparent that MONTEREY'S Sonar Technicians and Gunners Mates could handle ordnance delivery. Now the Air Warfare team was to have their turn. A dual-ship missile event held in the Puerto Rican Operating Area between 27 and 29 June proved to be a very successful mission for MONTEREY and USS THE SULLIVANS. In a two-day period, "Rough and Ready" launched five SM-2 missiles, all of which were evaluated as "hits." After a successful several weeks in the PROA, MONTEREY meandered home to Norfolk, arriving July 1st.

CG 61 had the privilege of being Visit Ship at the Nauticus Museum in downtown Norfolk for the Independence Day weekend. Nearly 2,000 people came to tour the ship during the three-day visit. On the Fourth of July, the brow was secured to all tours at 1600, and only friends and families were allowed on board to watch one of the most spectacular fireworks displays on the Atlantic coast.

By the second week of July, MONTEREY was again underway, this time heading toward Wallops Island for a VANDALEX. Again, MONTEREY'S Air Warfare team provided an outstanding display of teamwork and professionalism. During this exercise MONTEREY launched a single SM-2 using "auto-special" weapon selection doctrine. Once a certain number of criteria were met by the incoming drone target, the Aegis Weapons

System provided a textbook launch sequence. As the drone closed on the Stennis Battle Group, a complete silence fell over MONTEREY'S Combat Information Center. That silence was broken, however, when the crew could see the missile cell opening, followed quickly by Standard Missile exhaust flames. The cheers from CIC could be heard several decks above and below the 02 Level!

MONTEREY returned home on 12 July in order to make preparations for her next at-sea period, which would prove to be historic for the United States Navy. MONTEREY was underway for the Gulf of Mexico on 26 July in order to perform the first surface vessel launch of an Advanced Tomahawk Weapons Control System (ATWCS) Tomahawk Land Attack Missile (TLAM). The anxiety and adrenaline was flowing in the Combat Information Center (CIC) on 30 July. With two F-15's in chase, the ATWCS TLAM successfully launched, separated, and flew its pre-programmed path in the Gulf of Mexico and over southern Alabama, before entering Eglin AFB for recovery.

MONTEREY spent the next three days visiting Pensacola, FL., prior to heading around the Florida peninsula to Mayport. After spending the first week of August in a working port environment, MONTEREY headed home. While en route, MONTEREY completed Tailored Ship's Training Assessment (TSTA) III and Final Evaluation Problem (FEP) evolutions.

The latter half of August through mid-October were spent in port Norfolk, where MONTEREY entered her Fleet Maintenance Availability (FMAV) period, in preparation for a Comprehensive Training Unit Exercise (COMPTUEX), Joint Task Force Exercise (JTFEX), and a February 1998 deployment. During this in port period, MONTEREY went through a lengthy and thorough Target and Combat Systems Readiness Review, which

groomed most pieces of gear in the Engineering and Combat Systems Departments.

Only three days after the Navy's 222nd birthday, the MONTEREY bid a fond farewell to Executive Officer, LCDR C.C. Swicker. His replacement, LCDR S.G. Larsen, was welcomed on the morning that CG 61 departed for CV Advanced in the Puerto Rican Operating Area. The transit to the OPAREA allowed MONTEREY to support advanced carrier training for the crew of USS John C Stennis. On 28 October, the long-anticipated COMPTUEX commenced.

A very hectic environment, with around-the-clock operations, existed during the entire exercise. On 03 November, MONTEREY participated in her final missile shoot for the year, this time launching two more Standard Missiles. "Rough and Ready" launched a total of ten missiles in 1997. Considering that MONTEREY has launched only 40 missiles in its lifetime, these ten account for 25% of all VLS launched ordnance in its history!

The excitement of a combat environment was temporarily put on hold while MONTEREY spent 07-10 November in Old San Juan, PR. Many crew members spent their time sightseeing, sunbathing, and enjoying the quaint environment and history of Old San Juan. MONTEREY departed San Juan on Veterans Day for the completion of COMPTUEX and the transit back to Norfolk. Following nearly six weeks at sea and a warm welcome home in Norfolk, the crew spent a well-deserved Thanksgiving weekend with their families.

On 08 December, MONTEREY was again underway, en route to Naval Weapons Station Yorktown, in order to complete her pre-deployment load-out. Despite poor weather conditions and a few logistics challenges,

MONTEREY executed a safe and successful onload. After the three-day ordnance onload period, MONTEREY left Yorktown completely loaded out, with the exception of Tomahawks. Because a few technical difficulties still existed in the Advanced Tomahawk Weapons Control System, MONTEREY did not load TLAM's.

Upon return to Norfolk, MONTEREY crew members celebrated the holidays with a Christmas party at the Breezy Point Officer's Club in Norfolk on 12 December. Many laughs were shared, awards were presented, and prizes were won throughout the night. The holiday stand down period commenced on 17 December. The Christmas holiday was observed in port, Norfolk, on 25 December 1997.