



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 1995

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12E

Encl: (1) Command Composition and Organization
(2) Chronology
(3) Narrative
(4) Supporting Documents

1. In accordance with reference (a), enclosures (1) through (4) are submitted as USS MONTEREY's 1995 Command History.

W. R. Williams
W. R. WILLIAMS

COMMAND COMPOSITION AND ORGANIZATION

MISSION: USS MONTEREY's mission is to provide anti-air, anti-surface, anti-submarine, 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 with 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 William Cross, Commander,
Carrier Group SIX.

COMMANDING OFFICER: Captain William R. Williams, U.S. Navy

HOMEPORT: Naval Station Mayport, Florida

1995 CHRONOLOGY

01-05 JAN: Inport, Mayport, FL.
05 JAN: RADM Frank Bowman, COMCARGRU SIX, visits ship prior to REFTRA.
06-20 JAN: REFTRA, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.
16 JAN: Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday Celebration.
20 JAN: Depart Guantanamo Bay, Cuba for Roosevelt Roads, Puerto Rico.
22-24 JAN: Inport, Naval Station, Roosevelt Roads, Puerto Rico.
24 JAN: NGFS Qualification, Vieques, Puerto Rico.
24-28 JAN: Enroute Mayport, FL.
28-06 FEB: Inport, Mayport, FL.
30-03 FEB: MONTEREY participates in Surface Warfare Training Week.
30-10 FEB: TSTA II
02 FEB: PERA Brief for ROH.
06-10 FEB: Underway JAXOP AREA for TSTA II/ETG
10-20 FEB: Inport, Mayport, FL.
11 FEB: NUPOC Tour
13-17 FEB: CSTG/IHOH
20-23 FEB: Enroute to Mobile, AL, for MARDI GRAS
22-23 FEB: Conduct maneuvering and communications drills with USS STARK (FFG 31) and USS UNDERWOOD (FFG 36).
23 FEB: Arrive Mobile, AL. Man the Rails, Gun Salute, Pier Reception with CO remarks/Dignitaries. Reception held onboard MONTEREY.
23-01 MAR: MONTEREY participates in Mobile, AL, Mardi Gras celebration, including Chamber of Commerce reception, balls and ship's Drill Team participation in parades.
01-03 MAR: Enroute Mayport, FL.
03-12 MAR: Inport Mayport, FL.
06-10 MAR: LMA Assist/TSTA II
13-17 MAR: TSTA III
13-16 MAR: Underway JAXOP AREA for TSTA III and POT&I checks, including Bleed/Masker air checks, brake clutch, full power and hull vibes checks, steering and rudder post checks, and boat davit inspections.

23 MAR: NISEEAST evaluates experimental large screen JOTS display.
 24-26 MAR: Inport Mayport FL.
 28-31 MAR: Final Evaluation Period, JAXOP AREA. MONTEREY achieves CMTQ, and passes FEP.
 01-24 APR: Inport/Upkeep Mayport, FL.
 03-07 APR: CSRR Phase I/POT&I Targeting Meetings.
 03-14 APR: Warfare Commanders Conference, Dam Neck, VA.
 03-21 APR: IMAV Mayport, FL.
 10-14 APR: CSRR Phase I/POT&I Targeting Meetings.
 13 APR: Underwater Sonar Dome Inspection.
 17-21 APR: INSURV
 18 APR: Underway, INSURV Trials including SESEF checks, TACAN Range, DTE, LINK-EX, full power and steering checks, Nixie and SQR-19 tail ops, anchor tests, and Damage Control drills.
 21 APR: Embark CDS 14. Ping Pong team takes first Place in Admiral's Award Competition.
 24-24 MAY: COMPTUEX, PROA
 25 APR: RDVU with USS HAMPTON (SSN 767), USS BOONE (FFG 8), USS STARK (FFG 31), and USS DEWERT (FFG 45) for transit to COMPTUEX. Begin Basic Sensor Operations, and familiarization.
 27-28 APR: ASW Training with USS HAMPTON (SSN 767) and USS OKLAHOMA CITY (SSN 723).
 02 MAY: Exercise SM-2 Firing against drone, scores a "skin to skin" hit.
 03 MAY: Exercise SM-2 Firing in the surface mode scores direct hit.
 04-08 MAY: Arrive San Juan, Puerto Rico. Over 2000 visitors tour ship.
 09 MAY: Unrep with USS MONOGAHELA (AO 178).
 13 MAY: MONTEREY conducts SSRNM at St. Croix, and NGFS qualification at Vieques, PR. Score of 105 on NGFS Qualification is highest for the year in the Atlantic Fleet.
 14 MAY: Unrep with USS MONONGAHELA (AO 178).
 16 MAY: Spotter services, Vieques, PR.
 23 MAY: Return from COMPTUEX 95-03.
 23-29 MAY: Inport, Mayport, FL.
 30-02 JUN: Missile Onload, Charleston, SC, Weapons Station.
 03-05 JUL: Inport, Mayport, FL.

05-09 JUN: Mayport, FL. Surface Warfare Training Week.
 05-16 JUN: CSRR Phase II.
 05-30 JUN: IMAV 5/22.
 06-07 JUN: Work Definition Conference, in preparation for ROH.
 12 JUN: DC WIFCOM Installed.
 12-16 JUN: Explosive Safety Inspection.
 12-30 JUN: IMAV, Mayport, FL.
 19-23 JUN: LMA, Mayport
 23 JUN: MONTEREY hosts COMCARGRU SIX Change of Command. Rear
 Admiral William Cross relieved Rear Admiral Frank Bowman.
 26-27 JUN: Medical readiness Exam.
 29 JUN: Sea Trials.
 04 JUL: Independence Day Celebration. MONTEREY Hosts Channel 12 for
 News Broadcast. Mayport Freedom Festival.
 06-24 JUL: JTF-EX 95-03, Cherry Point OPAREA.
 11 JUL: UNREP with USS MONONGAHELA (AO 178).
 15 JUL: UNREP with USS MOMONGAHELA (AO 178).
 18 JUL: Major General Keane, Dep CDR JTFEX 3-95 visits.
 19 JUL: UNREP with USS MONONGAHELA (AO 178).
 24 JUL: FINEX JTFEX 3-95.
 24-21 AUG: Inport, Mayport, FL. Pre-Operational Movement Period.
 26-24 AUG: IMAV 5/23.
 31-01 AUG: Battle Group Commanders Conference, Dam Neck, VA.
 01-03 AUG: MONTEREY sorties to avoid Hurricane ERIN.
 08 AUG: Family Cruise Day, MONTEREY entertains crew family members
 for a day of operations in the JAXOPAREA.
 14 AUG: ROH/SARP/MED Maintenance Brief.
 23 AUG: Pre-Deployment Ombudsman Meeting.
 25 AUG: Underway for USS AMERICA JTG 95-3. RADM Cross visits.
 MONTEREY enroute to the Mediterranean on ship's third
 deployment.
 25-01 SEP: MONTEREY transits Atlantic at high speed evading four
 hurricanes.
 01 SEP: MONTEREY arrives at Ponta Delgado, Azores for refueling.
 03 SEP: Strait of Gibraltar transit.

04 SEP: UNREP with USNS JOHN LENTHALL (T-AO 189).

06 SEP: CTG 440.01, Rear Admiral D'Angelo, tours MONTEREY. MONTEREY certified for Operations Sharp Guard and Deny Flight.

06-16 SEP: MONTEREY relieves USS MISSISSIPPI (CGN 40) as Adriatic REDCROWN.

10 SEP: MONTEREY operates in support of operation Deliberate Force.

11 SEP: UNREP with USNS JOHN LENTHALL (T-AO 189).

12 SEP: VERTREP with USNS SAN DIEGO (T-AFS 10).

15 SEP: POW/MIA Day ceremony.

16 SEP: MONTEREY is relieved by USS SOUTH CAROLINA (CGN 37) as Adriatic REDCROWN.

17 SEP: UNREP/VERTREP with USNS JOHN LENTHALL (T-AO 189).

18 SEP: MGEN Cliver (HQ USAFE DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS), visits MONTEREY.

19-22 SEP: Port visit in Trieste, Italy.

24 SEP: UNREP with USS MONONGAHELA (AO 178).

26 SEP: Safety Standdown.

27 SEP: Damage Control Standdown.

28 SEP: UNREP with USNS JOHN LENTHALL (T-AO 189).

30-06 OCT: Port visit in Ancona, Italy.

06 OCT: Transit Adriatic.

06-07 OCT: Inport Trieste, Italy for TACAN repairs.

10 OCT: UNREP with USS AMERICA (CV 66).

12 OCT: UNREP with USNS SAN DIEGO (T-AFS 10), and USNS JOHN LENTHALL (T-AO 189).

13 OCT: MONTEREY conducts firepower demonstration for 220th Birthday of the United States Navy.

15 OCT: UNREP with USS MONONGAHELA (AO 178).

20 OCT: UNREP with USNS JOHN LENTHALL (T-AO 189).

16-21 OCT: Engineering Training Group assesses MONTEREY'S Engineering programs.

21 OCT: RADM Frank Ropers, German Navy, Commander, Standing Naval Force Atlantic, Visits MONTEREY.

25-30 OCT: Arrive Antalya, Turkey, for port visit.

25 OCT: Bridge reception for Turkish officials.

30 OCT: VERTREP with USS BUTTE (AE 27).

03 NOV: UNREP with USNS KANAWA (T-AO 196).

04-07 NOV: Exercise INFINITE COURAGE in the Central Mediterranean.

06 NOV: MONTEREY fires SM-2 during MISSILE-EX at NAMFI Range, Crete.

07-10 NOV: MONTEREY arrives at Augusta Bay, Sicily for generator change-out.

10-12 NOV: Transit to Eastern MED for multi-national Exercise BRIGHT STAR.

13 NOV: UNREP with USNS KANAWA (T-AO 196).

13-17 NOV: Exercise BRIGHT STAR.

16 NOV: UNREP with USS BUTTE (AE 10) and USNS SATURN (T-AFS 10).

17 NOV: UNREP with USS MONONGAHELA (AO 178). Arrive Port Said, Egypt in preparation for Suez Canal transit.

18 NOV: Suez Canal transit. Inchop CENTCOM, in company with USS AMERICA (CV 66).

21 NOV: UNREP with USS AMERICA (CV 66). Transit Strait of Bab El Mandab.

23 NOV: RADM Cross, COMCARGRU SIX, visits MONTEREY.

24 NOV: UNREP with USNS SPICA (T-AFS 9) and USNS PECOS (T-AO 197).

25 NOV: Strait of Hormuz transit.

25-03 DEC: MONTEREY escorts USS AMERICA (CV 66) in the North Arabian Gulf.

02 DEC: UNREP with USS MONONGAHELA (AO 178).

03 DEC: Transit Strait of Hormuz. Enroute CENTCOM outchop to support Operation JOINT ENDEAVOR and the Dayton Peace Accords.

04 DEC: MONTEREY conducts Good Order and Discipline Standown. UNREP with USS MONONGAHELA (AO 178).

06-07 DEC: Capt. Randy ROBB, Commander, Carrier Air Wing ONE, embarks for visit and briefings.

09 DEC: Suez Canal transit. UNREP with USS JOHN LENTHALL (T-AO 178).

11-16 DEC: USS AMERICA (CV 66) escort duties in the Adriatic.

12 DEC: VERTREP with USNS SATURN (T-AFS 10).

13 DEC: UNREP with USS JOHN LENTHALL (T-AO 178).

16 DEC: UNREP with USS MONONGAHELA (AO 178).

18-27 DEC: Holiday Upkeep, Naples, Italy.

21 DEC: RADM Pilling, Commander, SIXTHFLT, Visits MONTEREY

27-28 DEC: Enroute to Adriatic for duties as MARG Escort/GREEN CROWN.

28-31 DEC:

MONTEREY serves as Adriatic GREEN CROWN.

NARRATIVE

The year 1995 started quickly for MONTEREY. From 06 to 20 January the ship conducted Refresher Training in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. The days were spent training in various seamanship and damage control evolutions. MONTEREY's final grades were outstanding in all areas including the superb grades for setting material conditions Yoke and Zebra. Much praise was passed to MONTEREY for its efforts during REFTRA including the following words from Rear Admiral Frank BOWMAN, COMCARGRU SIX:

"Monterey's enthusiasm and superb level of preparation were evident in the large number of exercises, lectures, and training completed during GTMO training. Your ability to set material condition YOKE with a grade of 99 was most impressive. Training Group comments that (quote) MONTEREY was simply outstanding in all areas of training (unquote) is testimony to a ship-wide commitment to excellence and professionalism. Please pass my personal well done to your crew. Keep up the great work. Sail proud."

On 22 January the ship moored in Roosevelt Roads, Puerto Rico for a two day visit. Many crewmembers took the opportunity to visit historic San Juan, P. R. Following the visit the ship conducted Naval Gunfire Support Qualifications at the weapons range in Vieques. MONTEREY began the return trip to Mayport on 24 January.

From 28 January until 6 February the MONTEREY conducted Tailored Ship's Training Assessment (TSTA) Phase II and an Engineering Training Group (ETG) visit. The ship was underway from 6 to 10 February for the underway portion of these assessments. The ship completed both evolutions with outstanding results.

MONTEREY returned to port on 10 February. The ship achieved its Combat System qualification during a visit by the Combat Systems Training Team during the week of 13 February.

The MONTEREY was underway from Mayport on the morning of 20 February enroute Mardi Gras celebrations in Mobile, Alabama. In company were USS UNDERWOOD (FFG 36) and USS STARK (FFG 31). Enroute the ships conducted maneuvering and communication drills. Embarked on the MONTEREY was an advance party from Mobile. These gentleman helped prepare the crew for the events of the upcoming MARDI GRAS. As the passed up the river to the berth it was rendered and returned a Gun Salute. Upon mooring the MONTEREY was greeted with a band and a reception by the City Council of Mobile. Things were off to an exciting start. As arrangements were made for the various events the crew was prepared to enjoy the well deserved MARDI GRAS atmosphere.

The Officers and Crew of the MONTEREY were able to attend numerous social events including a reception held by the Mobile Chamber of Commerce to officially welcome the ship to Mobile. LTJG [REDACTED] was chosen as MONTEREY'S representative for the demanding task of Mardi Gras Queen Escort. He attended all the functions with the Royal Court and preformed his duties honorably. The MONTEREY Drill Team was also a part of the numerous parades that occurred during MARDI GRAS. In one parade, CAPT Williams and his wife Karen were participants as they were driven along the parade route in a vintage convertible as the lead element. The ship's Drill Team, lead by ENS Scott Smith, was a huge success, marching in three parades. The comments on their professionalism and military bearing were revered by all who observed their performance. The entire crew enjoyed the visit to Mobile, with many experienced crewmembers claiming it was the best port they had ever visited. The MONTEREY was open for tours and over 4000 people visited in a five day period.

The ship's return to Mayport on 03 February brought also a return to the business of deployment preparations. From 06 to 10 March the ship conducted a Logistic Management Assessment (LMA) and completed TSTA II.

MONTEREY conducted TSTA III during an underway period between 13 and 17 March. This included assessment and training conducted by the Combat Systems Training Team (CSTT), Engineering Casualty Control Training Team (ECCTT) and Damage Control Training Team (DCTT) in preparation for the Final Evaluation Period (FEP) and Cruise Missile Qualifications (CMQT). Simultaneously the ship conducted the Pre-Overhaul Test and Inspection (POT&I) program which included underway checks on the Masker Air Systems, main engine brake and clutch assemblies, full power tests, vibration checks, boat davit and rudder testing.

On 20 February the MONTEREY was back underway to conduct final training for FEP, and rehearsal for the underway portion of INSURV. From 23-27 March the MONTEREY'S crew made preparations for FEP.

The Final Evaluation Period and Cruise Missile Qualification commenced on 28 March with an early morning underway. For the next three days the ship was drilled in all warfare areas. The MONTEREY performed to the highest of standards and passed FEP and CMTQ with above average scores in all areas. With the successful completion of FEP, TSTA and CMTQ the MONTEREY was now qualified to deploy. RADM Bowman congratulated MONTEREY saying,

"The successful completion of FEP and CMTQ is but another milestone that has showcased MONTEREY'S attention to detail and professionalism. Congratulations and well done on completion of this important pre-deployment requirement. Sail Proud."

Starting on 01 April the MONTEREY commenced a combined TARGET and Combat Systems Readiness Review (CSRR) with a concurrent inport POT&I visit. This was the first combined TARGET/CSRR and POT&I visit for an AEGIS Class Cruiser. In the past the procedure was to hold a TARGET/CSRR and then a POT&I visit. The crew of the MONTEREY met the challenge with positive results. The procedures that were developed on the MONTEREY established the pattern for future combined TARGET/CSRR and POT&I visits.

On 03 April MONTEREY'S Department Heads and Commanding Officer began another stage of our work-up for our deployment by taking part in the pre-COMPTUEX Commanders Conference at TACTRAGRULANT in Dam Neck, Virginia. The POT&I events and Commanders Conference concluded just in time for the ship's first INSURV Inspection which lasted from 17-21 April. After the successful completion of this rigorous and comprehensive inspection, MONTEREY began final preparations for COMPTUEX 95-3.

COMPTUEX began on 24 April as MONTEREY rendezvoused with other battle group units to conduct the event in the Puerto Rico Operating Area. COMPTUEX included successful SM-2 firings against air and surface targets. During COMPTUEX MONTEREY enjoyed a port visit in San Juan, Puerto Rico during which over 2000 visitors toured the ship. A picnic for the crew was hosted by the San Juan Navy League.

While in PROA MONTEREY requalified at the NGFS range in Vieques and received a final score of 105.42. RADM BOWMAN passed the following compliment:

"To the entire USS MONTEREY team for superb NGFS results announced in USS MONTEREY FIREX! grade summary. Your score of 105.42 only comes with hard work and an outstanding example of the professionalism found on the USS MONTEREY. Congratulations on an exceptional demonstration of skill. Rough and Ready

continues to lead the way."

MONTEREY returned to Mayport on 24 May. On 30 May the ship was underway for its predeployment weapons onload in Charleston, SC, returning to Mayport on 3 June. Following return to homeport the ship entered an IMAV from 5-30 June during which time the ship also participated in a ROH Work Definition Conference, and completed installation of a Damage Control Communications System (WIFCOM), an Explosive Safety Inspection, and an extremely successful Logistics Maintenance Assist visit.

On 23 June MONTEREY hosted the Commander, Carrier Group SIX, Change of Command Ceremony for Commander Carrier Group Six, in which RADM William CROSS relieved RADM Frank BOWMAN. RADM Cross relayed the following message to MONTEREY following the ceremony,

"Greatly appreciate your support of the Change of Command last Friday. The superb attention to every detail and the obvious pride with which MONTEREY attended to every task at hand was most impressive. Preparations by the deck division and Mess Specialists, execution by the Gunners Mates and watchstanders, and the professionalism and combat ready crew. Please extend my sincerest appreciation to all Officers, Chiefs, and Sailors for a job well done. I am proud to have MONTEREY as my first Flagship!"

On 6 July JTF-EX 95-3 began. The exercise stressed all warfare areas of MONTEREY concentrating on operations in a joint warfare environment. Additionally during this period LCDR D. A. Mee relieved P. W. OKANE at sea as Executive Officer. MONTEREY had the honor of hosting MGEN Keane, Deputy Commander JTFX 3-95, on 18 July for a brief familiarization visit.

The return to Mayport on 24 July marked the beginning of MONTEREY'S pre-operational movement (POM) period. Hurricane Erin forced an emergency sortie of all ships from the Mayport basin from 01-03 August during the first POM leave period and while Captain Williams was in Norfolk for a Battle Group Commanders Conference. The ship sortied successfully with only sixty percent of its crew onboard. For this action, RADM Cross sent the following:

"Tremendous job, as always, by the crew of MONTEREY during your short notice sortie in the face of Hurricane Erin. Your professionalism and dedication were once again displayed as you rapidly and safely put to sea in the midst of an intense maintenance availability with only 60% of the crew aboard. Well Done!"

August 08 was the POM turnover day upon which personnel from the two POM leave periods were both onboard. MONTEREY used this opportunity to hold a Family Day Cruise for Family and Friends of the MONTEREY team. POM concluded on 21 August and MONTEREY began final preparations for deployment.

MONTEREY departed Mayport on 25 August 1995 three days ahead of the rest of the battle group which remained inport to finish maintenance that was interrupted by an emergency sortie for another hurricane. The ship dodged four hurricanes during a high speed independent transit across the Atlantic enroute to duties as Adriatic REDCROWN. The ship refueled on 1 September in Ponta Delgado, Azores.

On 3 September MONTEREY chopped to SIXTHFLT and passed through the Strait of Gibraltar. On 6 September MONTEREY relieved USS MISSISSIPPI (CGN 40) as Adriatic REDCROWN and began participation in Operations DENY FLIGHT and

SHARP GUARD. Both of these Operations enforced United Nation Security Resolutions designed to restore peace in the Former Yugoslavia.

On Tuesday, September 19, after twenty-five days at sea, MONTEREY moored in Trieste, Italy for a three day port visit. Located at the northern end of the Adriatic Sea, Trieste is a slow-paced city with over half the population being retirees. Sights there included the ruins of an ancient Roman theater, an impressive ivy-covered fortification that overlooked the city, and a richly ornate cathedral. After calling home, tasting the Italian fare, and pounding miles of pavement through the shopping district the crew set the Sea and Anchor Detail Friday morning September 22 and returned to station in the Adriatic as the escort for USS AMERICA (CV 66).

MONTEREY received word that our next port visit would be in Ancona, Italy, a city that had not hosted an American warship in over two years. The tour guide described Ancona as "an industrial, unattractive port town in the region of the Marches that does, however, have an interesting, though small and semi-abandoned historical center." Given this inauspicious report, the crew was happily surprised with the quality of this Italian city located on the eastern coast just south of Venice. In the evening, the streets were filled with people. MONTEREY Sailors were welcomed warmly. With two cathedrals, a Romanesque World War I monument, and an abundance of ice cream shops and sidewalk cafes, crewmembers had an enjoyable visit to Ancona, Italy.

On Friday, 6 October, after six days in Ancona, the ship was underway and by that evening were back in Trieste for an overnight visit to change out the TACAN antenna which had suffered a lightning strike. The next afternoon the ship was underway headed for duties as CV escort.

On 13 October MONTEREY celebrated the Navy's birthday in style. Carrier Air Wing ONE entertained the battle group with a fire power demonstration, and MONTEREY followed suit with a gunfire demonstration. MONTEREY and AMERICA departed the Adriatic on 21 October for port visits in the Eastern Mediterranean.

Enroute to Antalya, Turkey, MONTEREY responded to a distress call from the Austrian sailing vessel VENTUS which had a critically injured crewmember onboard. While participating in the International Ecker 1000 mile Yacht Race, the VENTUS had become disabled in heavy seas and one of the crewmembers had suffered a severe head injury. MONTEREY's embarked helicopter, CUTLASS 474 (HSL 46 Det 9) quickly evacuated the man and transported him to the AMERICA where a Navy medical team was waiting. Additionally MONTEREY assisted in clearing fouled lines on the yacht. Despite the heroic efforts of MONTEREY's air detachment, the yachtsman died of his injuries onboard AMERICA. Race officials praised the Navy's efforts and honored the crews of MONTEREY and AMERICA at the race's closing ceremonies.

MONTEREY anchored in the clear waters of Antalya on the morning of 25 October. A tourist city attracting many Europeans, Antalya has numerous tourist attractions. Sights there included the domes and minarets of the Moslem Mosques, the enshrined remains of St. Nicholas, and the stonework of Hadrian's Gate built over twenty centuries ago. Sizzling kabobs, beautiful Persian Carpets and inexpensive leather goods were offered throughout the markets, and busy streets by insistent hawkers. On 30 October, after five days of liberty the ship was underway enroute Exercise INFINITE COURAGE.

Exercise INFINITE COURAGE was a multi-national event designed to test the ability of the battlegroup to defend a friendly nation from a hostile enemy. The highlight of the exercise was a live missile firing conducted at the NATO Missile Firing Installation at Souda Bay, Crete. MONTEREY succeeded in engaging a high speed low elevation target with a SM-2 missile.

During INFINITE COURAGE the ship experienced severe degradation in the performance of Gas Turbine Generator Number Two. A quick schedule change

directed MONTEREY to Augusta Bay, Sicily to change out that engine. MONTEREY arrived in Augusta Bay on 07 November and the crew enjoyed two days of liberty as the engineers changed out the generator.

On 10 November MONTEREY was underway heading to the Eastern Mediterranean for Exercise BRIGHT STAR. Organized by the United States Central Command, BRIGHT STAR is a multi-national, land, sea and air exercise that included participation by naval units of Great Britain, France, Egypt and the United States. MONTEREY participated in several anti-air warfare and undersea warfare exercises.

Upon completion of BRIGHT STAR on 17 November, MONTEREY, USS AMERICA (CV 66), USS MONONGAHELA (AO 178) and USS BUTTE (AE 28) positioned to transit the Suez Canal enroute to a period of operations in the Arabian Gulf. MONTEREY transitted the canal on 18 November completing the 110 mile transit in a little over 13 hours. On the banks of the canal the crew saw the remnants of destroyed tanks and barbed wire from the Israeli invasion two decades before. To the east, villages grew around small clusters of palm trees, and sand bags surrounded Egyptian gun emplacements. Donkeys, camels, exotic architecture, and monuments to the Egyptian military dotted the landscape and were silent observers to our slow passage through this exotic land.

Following a transit of the Red Sea and North Arabian Gulf during which the crew enjoyed a sumptuous Thanksgiving feast on 23 November, MONTEREY and AMERICA entered the Arabian Gulf on 25 November. MONTEREY and AMERICA operated in the North Arabian Gulf in support of Operations VIGILANT SENTINEL and SOUTHERN WATCH. Although these operations in the Commander, FIFTH FLEET, Area of Operations were scheduled to last three weeks, the emerging peace process in the Balkans changed MONTEREY's tasking. MONTEREY transitted out of the Arabian Gulf on 3 December after earning the Southwest Asia Service Medal.

Following a high speed transit of the North Arabian and Red Seas, MONTEREY commenced a 9 December transit of the Suez Canal and was back in the Mediterranean that evening. A high speed dash to the Adriatic left AMERICA and MONTEREY on station on 12 December operating in support of the Dayton Peace Accords and the introduction of NATO's Implementation Force (IFOR) into the Former Yugoslavia. MONTEREY joined a large number of NATO units participating in Operation JOINT ENDEAVOR, the Commander, Strike Force South Operation to support the ongoing peace initiative.

After one week on station, MONTEREY was released to proceed to a port visit in Naples, Italy. After forty days underway the ship Med-moored in Naples on 19 December. The Naval Support Activity exchange and the USO were welcome sights for the crew. Many crewmembers flew family members to Italy in order to spend the holidays together. Rome was a favorite stopping point for most of the crew as they took advantage of ship-arranged tours and buses to visit that historic city. For those who stayed in Naples, the hospitality and warmth of that city made the holiday season very special. Sorrento, Pompeii and the sights surrounding Mt. Vesuvius attracted others in the crew.

The highlight of the Christmas visit was the opportunity to attend Christmas Eve Mass at the Vatican. Dozens of crewmembers, representing diverse faiths, journeyed to Rome to witness the historic event which transpired amid the majestic setting of St. Peter's Cathedral.

MONTEREY was underway again on 27 December enroute the Adriatic to assume duties as "Green Crown" the Amphibious Ready Group escort. MONTEREY closed out 1995 where she had spent the large majority of her deployment, in the Adriatic, supporting actions to create peace in the Balkans.