



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

USS MONTEREY (CG 61)
FLEET POST OFFICE
AE 09578-1181

IN REPLY REFER TO:

5750
Ser CO/030
23 Mar 12

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

Subj: USS MONTEREY (CG 61) COMMAND OPERATIONS REPORT FOR 2011

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12J

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

1. In accordance with reference (a), enclosures (1) through (3) are submitted as USS MONTEREY'S 2011 Command Operations Report.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "T. K. Kiss", is positioned above the printed name.

T. K. KISS

COMMAND DATA

Name of Command / Organization: USS MONTEREY (CG 61)

Unit Identification Code: 21450

Name and Rank of Commanding Officer: CAPT James W. Kilby (Jan 2011 -Nov 2011 / CAPT Thomas K. Kiss (Nov 2011 - Dec 2011)

Date Assumed Command: 09 October 2009 / 01 November 2011

Mission / Command Employment / Operations: MONTEREY's primary mission is to provide ballistic missile defense. MONTEREY's secondary mission is to provide air defense to a Carrier Strike Group. MONTEREY can also coordinate and execute operations in Anti-Submarine Warfare, Anti-Surface Warfare, Maritime Interdiction, Strike Warfare, and a variety of other warfare areas. MONTEREY has the capability to embark two SH-60 Seahawk helicopters. The crew trains underway primarily off the coast of Virginia, but training operations have taken her up and down the East Coast, Caribbean, and North Atlantic. When deployed, MONTEREY operates in COMSIXTHFLT, COMFIFTHFLT, or COMFOURTHFLT AORs. During 2011, MONTEREY became the first ship to deploy to the COMSIXTHFLT AOR as part of the European Phased Adaptive Approach (EPAA) for ballistic missile defense of our allies in Europe. After return from deployment in October, MONTEREY resided pierside for upkeep in Norfolk Naval Base. In November MONTEREY transited up the YORK River to off-load ammunition at YORKTOWN Naval Weapons Station. In the beginning of December MONTEREY transited to BAE Shipyard to commence a CNO Availability.

Home Port: NAVAL STATION NORFOLK, VIRGINIA

Immediate Superior in Command:

Operational: Commander, Carrier Strike Group TWO

Administrative: Commander, Naval Surface Forces Atlantic

Task Force Assigned: While deployed in COMSIXTHFLT AOR, MONTEREY reported to Commander Task Force SIX FIVE. Throughout deployment ending in October, MONTEREY assumed the role as the primary ballistic missile defense platform for Europe. While deployed MONTEREY participated with Task Force 65 in various exercises.

Enclosure (1)

Units Assigned Under Operational Control: MONTEREY embarked
HELICOPTER ANTI SUBMARINE SQUADRON (LIGHT) FOUR EIGHT,
DETACHMENT SIX

Types of Aircraft Embarked: One SH-60B Seahawk

Number of Personnel Assigned:

Officers: 38

Enlisted: 296

Civilian: 0

Command Point of Contact

Name: LT [REDACTED]

Title: Navigator

E-mail: [REDACTED] (NIPR) / [REDACTED]
(SIPR)

Phone Number: Quarterdeck: (757) 444-2317
QD (BAE) (757) 644-6101 (thru 23 March)
XO COMM: (757) 444-5236
XO DSN 564/565-5236
XO BAE: (757) 644-6103

Command Mailing Address: USS MONTEREY (CG 61), FPO AE 09578-
1181

2011 CHRONOLOGY:

JANUARY

- 01 JAN: Observed New Years Day. In Port, Naval Station Norfolk, Virginia Pier 2, Berth 2.
- 16 JAN: Conducted crane operations to on load air department equipment and supplies.
- 18 JAN: Underway, Norfolk, Virginia in support weapons on-load at Yorktown Naval Weapons Station. Arrived in port, Yorktown Naval Weapons Station.
- 20 JAN: Underway, Yorktown Naval Weapons Station to sea for COMTUEX with USS GEORGE W. BUSH (CVN-77), USS ANZIO (CG-68), USS GETTYSBURG (CG-64) AND USS MITSCHER (DDG-57).
- 20-25 JAN: Underway VACAPES OPAREA conducting BMD ATLANTIC TRIDENT Exercise. MONTEREY became the first cruiser on the East Coast to successfully complete a live Ballistic Missile Tracking exercise.
- 22 JAN: Conducted 5" PACFIRE.
- 23 JAN: Conducted Man Overboard drills and JO ship handling exercise.
- 24 JAN: Conducted Replenishment at Sea with USNS SUPPLY.
- 28 JAN: Conducted Replenishment at Sea with USNS LEROY GRUMMAN.
- 30 JAN: Conducted 5" PACFIRE.

FEBRUARY

- 01 FEB: Underway, Jacksonville OPAREA for COMTUEX.
- 05 FEB: Conducted Replenishment at Sea with USNS JOHN LENTHALL.
- 08 FEB: Conducted Replenishment at Sea with USNS JOHN LENTHALL.

10 FEB: ENS [REDACTED] awarded Surface Warfare Officer Pin.

11-14 FEB: In port Key West, Florida.

15-23 FEB: Underway JAX OPAREA for JTFEX.

16 FEB: Conducted Replenishment at Sea with USNS JOHN LENTHALL.

19 FEB: Conducted Replenishment at Sea with USNS JOHN LENTHALL.

24 FEB - 03MAR: MONTEREY Pre-Overseas Movement period.

MARCH

01 MAR: In Port, Naval Station Norfolk, Virginia Pier 2, Berth 2.

03 MAR: Conducted Navy Wide E-6 Exam.

07 MAR: Underway from Norfolk, Virginia in support of European Phased Adaptive Approach Ballistic Missile Defense deployment.

10 MAR: Conducted Navy Wide E-5 Exam.

11 MAR: In-chop SIXTHFLT.

15 MAR: ENS [REDACTED] awarded Surface Warfare Supply Corps Officer Pin.

16-17 MAR: Brief Stop for Fuel Portsmouth, United Kingdom.

17 MAR: Conducted Navy Wide E-4 Exam.

20-24 MAR: In port Aarhus, Denmark.

27 MAR: Entered Antwerp via the lock system.

27 MAR - 2 APR: In port Antwerp Belgium. MONTEREY hosted over 450 NATO Flag Officers and dignitaries for high level BMD Briefs and tours

APRIL

02 APR: Departed Antwerp Belgium via the Lock system.

04 APR: Conducted 5" PACFIRE.

06 APR: In port Rota, Spain. Brief stop for fuel.

06-07 APR: Anchored Rota, Spain.

07 APR: Conducted Straits of Gibraltar Transit.

09-12 APR: In port Naples, Italy utilizing Mediterranean Mooring.

14 APR: Conducted Replenishment at Sea with USNS KANAWHA.

15-19 APR: In port Haifa, Israel.

22 APR: Conducted Replenishment at Sea with USNS ROBERT E PEARY.
Conducted personnel transfer utilizing USS STOUT's RHIB.

23 APR: Conducted Man Overboard drills and JO Ship handling.

27 APR: Conducted Man Overboard drills and JO Ship handling.

28 APR: Conducted Replenishment at Sea with USNS KANAWHA.

MAY

01 MAY: Underway SIXTHFLT AOR in support of European Ballistic Missile Defense deployment.

04 MAY: Conducted small arms qualification shoot.

05 MAY: ENS [REDACTED] awarded Surface Warfare Officer Pin.

06 MAY: Conducted small arms qualification shoot.

07 MAY: ENS [REDACTED] awarded Surface Warfare Officer Pin.

08-10 MAY: In port Souda Bay, Greece.

11 MAY: In port Souda Bay, brief stop for parts. ENS [REDACTED] awarded Surface Warfare Officer Pin.

12 MAY: Conducted 5" and CIWS PACFIRE.

13-18 MAY: Anchored Piraeus, Greece.

21 MAY: "Cinema at Sea" Flight deck movie night.

22 MAY: Steel beach picnic hosted by the Chief's Mess. Promotion ceremony held in the Wardroom for ENS [REDACTED], ENS [REDACTED] and ENS [REDACTED].

23 MAY: Conducted Replenishment at Sea with USNS LARAMIE.

24 MAY: PASSEX with Greek navy. Conducted flashing light, Air Defense, and Electronic Warfare exercises.

26-28 MAY: Petty Officer INDOC training conducted.

29 MAY: Steel beach picnic hosted by the First Class Petty Officer Association.

30 MAY: Held a Memorial Day and Battle of Midway remembrance Ceremony.

JUNE

01 JUN: Underway SIXTHFLT AOR in support of European Ballistic Missile Defense deployment.

02 JUN: Conducted Replenishment at Sea with USNS BIG HORN.
Held command awards Ceremony and Captains Call on the flight deck.
Conducted 5", CIWS and crew served weapons PACFIRE.

03 JUN: AM1 (AW) [REDACTED] reenlistment held in the HELO Hangar.

04 JUN: Conducted transit to the Black Sea through the Dardanelles and Bosphorus Straits.

06-09 JUN: In port Constanta, Romania.

07 JUN: Held press conference and tour for Romanian dignitaries in support of the country's agreement to host the Navy AEGIS ashore program. MONTEREY hosted a reception for Ambassador Gitenstein, VADM Harris and other Romania dignitaries.

08 JUN: Operation Handclasp volunteers in company with local US Marine detachment delivered medical supplies to a local hospital, and school supplies to two local schools. Conducted tour centered on AEGIS and Ballistic Missile Defense for Embassy personnel.

10 JUN: Asian Pacific Islander ceremony held on the Mess Decks.

11-15 JUN: In port Odessa, Ukraine.

15-16 JUN: Underway Black Sea for Operation SEA BREEZE 2011.

20-23 JUN: In port Batumi, Georgia.

23 JUN: Conducted DIVTAC exercise with 2 Georgian Coast guard patrol boats, QM1 [REDACTED] and QM3 [REDACTED] onboard Georgian vessels to conduct training and assist with flag hoist signaling drills. Immediately following QM1 and QM3 recovered via MTY RHIB.

25 JUN: BINGO night hosted by the Second Class Petty Officer Association on the mess decks. Conducted transit to Souda Bay, Greece through the Dardanelles and Bosphorus straights.

- 26 JUN: Conducted Replenishment at Sea with USNS JOHN LENTHALL.
- 27 JUN: Held command awards Ceremony and Captains Call on the flight deck.
RHIB personnel transfer conducted with USS RAMAGE (DDG-61).
Talent show held on the flight deck.
- 28 JUN-08 JUL: Mid-deployment Availability in Souda Bay, Greece.

JULY

- 01 JUL: In Port, Souda Bay Greece, for mid-deployment Availability.
- 04 JUL: Observed Fourth of July. Held command picnic behind the Argonaut center on the pier.
- 08 JUL: Conducted anchor drop test.
- 10 JUL: QM3 (SW) [REDACTED] reenlistment held on the Mess decks.
- 13 JUL: Conducted Replenishment at Sea with USNS JOHN LENTHALL.
- 17 JUL: Steel beach picnic hosted by the Wardroom.
- 19 JUL: Conducted Replenishment at Sea with USNS JOHN LENTHALL.
- 20 JUL: Conducted 5" PACFIRE.
- 21 JUL: RHIB personnel transfer conducted with USS RAMAGE (DDG-61).
Helicopter "Day Light Qualifications" conducted on USS RAMAGE.
- 24 JUL: Conducted replenishment at Sea and Vertical Replenishment at Sea with USNS ROBERT E. PEARY.
- 25 JUL: LTJG [REDACTED] awarded Surface Warfare Officer Pin.

26 JUL: SH1 (SW) [REDACTED] retirement held on the Flight Deck.

27 JUL: Held command awards ceremony and Captains Call on the flight deck.

27-29 JUL: In port Augusta Bay, Italy.

28 JUL: OS2 [REDACTED] reenlistment held on the Mess Decks.

AUGUST

01 AUG: Conducted Personnel transfer in Koper, Slovenia harbor. Received 2 Croatian Naval personnel, 2 Albanian personnel, and LCDR [REDACTED] the Chief Engineer returning from Emergency leave.

06 AUG: OC spray level 1 and level 2 courses conducted on the flight deck.

07 AUG: Conducted personnel transfer outside of Pula, Croatia Harbor entrance. 2 Croatian Naval personnel, 2 Albanian Naval personnel departed.

09 AUG: Conducted Replenishment at Sea with USNS BIG HORN.

10 AUG: Participated in Operation Atlantic Sentry in the Eastern Mediterranean.

12-15 AUG: In-port Corfu Greece, at anchor.

12 AUG: Reception held onboard for Mr. Spiridon Spirou the Regional Governor of the Ionian Islands, Mr. Ioannis Trepekliis the Mayor of Corfu, Mr. Christos Irakliis Skourtis the Regional Governor of Corfu, and other VIPs and dignitaries.

15-16 AUG: Transit to RAS Rendezvous North of Crete, Greece.

17 AUG: Conducted Replenishment at Sea with USNS BIG HORN.

18 AUG: Conducted SURFEX 25NM west of Crete followed by DIVTACS. USS CARNEY (DDG-64) and USS RAMAGE (DDG-61) were OPFOR. Transferred parts and charts to USS RAMAGE via RAMAGE RHIB.

19-22 AUG: In port Kusadasi, Turkey.

22 AUG: PASSEX with 2 Turkish naval vessels. DIVTACS and SURFEX conducted.

23 AUG: INSURV schedule of events rehearsal.

24 AUG: Conducted Replenishment at Sea with USNS JOHN LENTHALL.

25AUG - 02SEP: INSURV schedule of events rehearsal.

26 AUG: Conducted 5" and CIWS INSURV PACFIRE check.

27 AUG: "Cinema at Sea" Flight deck movie night.

29 AUG: While headed east toward Augusta Bay Sicily, MTY tasked to reverse track and relieve USS RAMAGE from exercise defense of Israel RELENTLESS ARCHER. USS RAMAGE suffered stern tube seal casualty.

31 AUG: Arrived in BMD Exercise Box 15 NM off the coast of Israel.

SEPTEMBER

01 SEP: Underway SIXTHFLT AOR in support of European Ballistic Missile Defense deployment. Conducted Navy Wide E-6 Exam. Promotion ceremony held in the Wardroom for LCDR [REDACTED], LT [REDACTED], LT [REDACTED] and LT [REDACTED].

02 SEP: Conducted full power run, crash back and full power steering checks as part of the INSURV SOE rehearsal.

03-07 SEP: In port Souda Bay, Greece. Port visit to Cannes, France for same time period cancelled due to lack of transit time.

07 SEP: Deployment officially extended for 1 month. Return to homeport date shifted from 03OCT to 04NOV.

08 SEP: Conducted Navy Wide E-5 Exam.

09 SEP: Crew enjoyed Holiday Routine.

10 SEP: Conducted Swim Call.

11 SEP: Conducted Replenishment at Sea with USNS BIG HORN off the coast of Libya. 9-11 Memorial ceremony conducted by the Second Class Petty Officer's Association.

15 SEP: Conducted Navy Wide E-4 Exam.

16 SEP: Held Chief Petty Officer pinning ceremony on the flight deck.

17 SEP: Conducted CIWS PACFIRE.

18 SEP: Steel beach picnic hosted by the Wardroom.

23 SEP: In port Souda Bay Greece, conducting brief stop for fuel, parts and food.

25 SEP: Steel beach picnic hosted by the First Class Petty Officer Association. ENS [REDACTED] awarded Surface Warfare Officer Pin.

26 SEP: Conducted a night RHIB parts transfer from USS RAMAGE (DDG-61) to MONTEREY utilizing MONTEREY's RHIB.

29 SEP: Streamed TACTAS for INSURV ASW rehearsal.

30 SEP: Conducted INSURV ASW DTE rehearsal. Retrieved TACTAS.

OCTOBER

01 OCT: Underway SIXTHFLT AOR in support of European Ballistic Missile Defense deployment.

02 OCT: Conducted Replenishment at Sea with USNS BIG HORN. Conducted PAX transfer w/USNS BIG HORN, receiving 2 SPS-49 Tech reps.

03 OCT: ENS [REDACTED] awarded the Surface Warfare Supply Corps Pin.

04 OCT: Conducted CIWS PACFIRE.
ENS [REDACTED] awarded the Surface Warfare Officer Pin.

05 OCT: Conducted PAX transfer in Souda Bay Harbor to transport 1 MONTEREY crew member to shore.

08 OCT: Conducted PAX transfer USS DONALD COOK, receiving 2 crew members.
Conducted Replenishment at Sea with USNS JOHN LENTHALL.

09 OCT: Conducted PAX transfer outside of Augusta Bay, Italy Harbor to transport 2 DONALD COOK crew members to shore.

09-10 OCT: Took shelter south of Sicily just outside of territorial waters from 9-12 foot seas.

12-15 OCT: In port Palma, Spain.

12 OCT: VADM Pandolfe arrives for a visit and tour of MONTEREY.

16 OCT: Conducted the Straits of Gibraltar transit.

17-20 OCT: In port Rota, Spain for turnover with USS THE SULLIVANS DDG-68.

17 OCT: Turnover brief held onboard MONTEREY for USS THE SULLIVANS.

18 OCT: Ballistic Missile Defense brief held onboard MONTEREY for USS THE SULLIVANS.
Commodore Schaffer DESRON 60 onboard for luncheon with the wardroom and short tour, followed by All HANDS call on the flight deck.

- 19 OCT: Prospective Commanding Officer, Captain Kiss arrives.
Hail and farewell held to honor Captain Kilby and Captain Kiss.
- 23 OCT: LTJG [REDACTED] awarded the Surface Warfare Officer Pin.
- 24 OCT: ENS [REDACTED] awarded the Surface Warfare Officer Pin.
- 27 OCT: Out Chopped SIXTH Fleet, In-chopped FLT Forces Command.
- 30 OCT: Final decision made to terminate Tiger Cruise due to rapidly deteriorating weather.
CWO3 [REDACTED] awarded the Surface Warfare Officer Pin.
- 31 OCT: Closed to 150NM from Mayport for the VENOM fly-off. En-route Norfolk, Virginia.
Conducted awards ceremony and ESWS Pinning ceremony on the flight deck.
Held Change of Command rehearsal on the flight deck.
Second Class Petty Officer Association hosted a Halloween costume contest and karaoke night.

NOVEMBER

- 01 NOV: Captain Thomas K. Kiss relieved Captain James W. Kilby as USS MONTEREY's Commanding Officer on MONTEREY's flight deck 10NM off the coast of Virginia.
Deployment Homecoming.
- 03 NOV: Commenced first Post deployment stand-down 96 HR liberty period.
- 09 NOV: Attended the Work Package Execution Review conference and BAE Pre-Arrival Conference at the NSSA building.
Commenced second Post deployment stand-down 96 HR liberty period.
- 14 NOV: Post deployment stand-down ends.
Underway, Norfolk, Virginia in support weapons

on-load at Yorktown Naval Weapons Station.
Arrived in port, Yorktown Naval Weapons Station.

18 NOV: Underway, Yorktown Virginia to sea for I-365
Pre-INSURV Assessment and demonstration.

19 NOV: Arrived in port Norfolk, Virginia.

24 NOV: Observed Thanksgiving Day.

DECEMBER

01 DEC: Conducted Dead stick to BAE Shipyard, Norfolk
Virginia. Commenced CNO Availability.

02 DEC: Promotion ceremony held in the Wardroom for LTJG
[REDACTED].

08 DEC: RADM Thomas arrives for I-300 brief and tour.

09 DEC: Held Frocking Ceremony, Command Advancement
Promotions and Captains Call on the Barge top
deck.
CO attended Ashore-Afloat Commanders Conference.

13 DEC: CS3 [REDACTED] reenlistment held on the Barge Mess
Decks.
Commenced first Holiday Stand-Down leave period.

25 DEC: Observed Christmas Day.

28 DEC: Commenced second Holiday Stand-Down Leave
period.

2011 NARRATIVE

USS MONTEREY (CG-61) began the year in port Norfolk, preparing for COMTUEX and deployment. The majority of the year was spent away from homeport, beginning with COMTUEX in January and February, followed by an eight month European Ballistic Missile Defense deployment in the SIXTHFLT AOR.

On January 20th after weapons load out at Yorktown Naval Weapons Depot, MONTEREY went to sea with USS GEORGE W. BUSH (CVN-77), USS ANZIO (CG-68), USS GETTYSBURG (CG-64) AND USS MITSCHER (DDG-57) for COMTUEX through February 10th. She pulled into Key West Florida on the 11th of February for 3 days of liberty. MONTEREY left Key West on Feb 14th to commence JTFEX through Feb 23rd.

In early March, MONTEREY began her eight month European Ballistic Missile defense deployment conducting the Trans-Atlantic voyage en-route Portsmouth England for a 2 day brief stop for fuel. Throughout the month, the chain of command also held the E-4, E-5 and E-6 exams.

Towards the end of the month, MONTEREY pulled into Aarhus, Denmark from the 20-24th and then Antwerp, Belgium from the 27th - April 2nd.

On the second of April, MONTEREY pulled out of Antwerp, Belgium and conducted the southern transit toward Rota, Spain. MONTEREY departed Rota, Spain after a brief stop in port for fuel and then anchoring over night outside of the harbor and conducted the transit through the Straits of Gibraltar. The crew enjoyed liberty in Naples Italy from 9-12 April, followed by a port visit to Haifa Israel from 15-19 April.

In May, MONTEREY conducted Defense of Israel synthetic BMD training exercises off the coast of Israel. Additionally, MONTEREY participated in a PASSEX with the Greek Navy. Three Officers received their Surface warfare Officer qualifications. The Memorial Day and Battle of Midway remembrance ceremony brought the month to a close.

The majority of June was spent in the Black Sea, building and strengthening ties with Romania, Ukraine and Georgia. MONTEREY transited the Dardanelles and Bosphorus Straits on June 4th, and was met by the Russian Cruiser CAREN. The first port visit was in Constanta, Romania from 6-9 June. A large press conference discussing AEGIS ashore in Romania was held on 7 June, followed by a tour and reception onboard MONTEREY for Romanian dignitaries and Embassy personnel. A few days later the crew enjoyed a port visit to Odessa Ukraine from the 11th-15th. Planning meetings and the embarkation of Ukrainian and Georgian Officers took place for Operation SEA BREEZE 2011. Batumi, Georgia provided a grand welcome from 20-23 June with a

welcoming celebration on the pier and onboard MONTEREY including a performance by a local youth drumming band. MONTEREY departed the Black Sea on 25 June in accordance with the MONTREUX agreement conducting the southbound Bosphorus and Dardanelles straits transits. MONTEREY closed out the month of June and entered July in port Souda Bay, Greece on the 28th for the 10 day mid deployment availability.

MONTEREY sailors celebrated July 4th in the picnic area behind the Argonaut center. Food and games were available to all. MONTEREY conducted an anchor drop test on 8 July during the outbound transit from Souda Bay. On 25 July, MONTEREY received confirmation that the Scheduled Trieste, Italy port visit was cancelled due to port loading. MONTEREY reversed track out of the Adriatic Sea en-route Augusta Bay, Italy for a shorter port visit from 27-29 July to intercept parts, mail and personnel.

August 1st began with a personnel transfer in the Koper, Slovenia Harbor (adjacent to the Trieste, Italy harbor). MONTEREY received two Albanian Officers and two Croatian Officers for a VBSS training exercise. Following the exercise, MONTEREY transited South and then East to participate in Exercise Atlantic Sentry. August 12-15 were spent in port Corfu, Greece at anchor. A reception was held onboard on the 12th for the governor of the Ionian Islands, the Mayor of Corfu and many other VIPs and Greek dignitaries. MONTEREY rounded out the month of August with a port visit to Kusadasi, Turkey and a PASSEX with the Turkish Navy. The highlight of Kusadasi by far was the tour of the ancient city of Ephesus. MONTEREY also commenced the INSURV preparation.

September began with the Navy-wide E-6 advancement exam and the promotion of the Executive Officer, the Combat Systems Officer, and the Supply Officer. Shortly after, MONTEREY pulled into the familiar port of Souda Bay, Greece for the 3rd time from the 3rd to the 7th. To date MONTEREY has spent approximately the same number of days in Greece as she has in homeport this year. Prior to getting underway from Souda Bay, Captain Kilby briefed the crew on MONTEREY's official deployment extension.

In October there was one SWSCO pinning and four SWO Pinnings. MONTEREY transferred two sailors from USS DONALD cook to Augusta Bay, Italy. Following the personnel transfer from 9-10 October, MONTEREY took shelter south of Sicily 12 NM off the coast from 9-12 foot seas that surrounded the Island of Sicily and extended for 100NM in every direction. From 12-15 October, MONTEREY sailors enjoyed liberty in Palma, Spain. The 17th-20th was spent in Rota, Spain conducting turnover briefs and transferring material and some supplies to the USS THE SULLIVANS. On October 27th, MONTEREY in-chopped to Fleet Forces

Command. Utilizing advanced weather models and forecasting by an embarked Aerographer's Mate, MONTEREY successfully avoided two large weather systems by diverting south. The decision was made on 30 October to cancel the Tiger Cruise scheduled for 1 Nov due to weather concerns. MONTEREY closed to 150 NM off the coast of Florida to fly the Helicopter off and slipped between two very large weather systems producing waves in excess of 15 feet off the coast and upwards of 20 feet further out to sea.

On November 1st Captain Kilby was relieved by Captain Kiss. The change of command ceremony was held on the flight deck 10NM off the coast of Virginia while enroute to Norfolk. MONTEREY pulled into Norfolk, Virginia at 1130.

On 14 November, MONTEREY got underway for a short transit up to Yorktown for a post-deployment offload of weapons in preparation for the upcoming shipyard availability, returning to Norfolk on 19 November after a 24 hour I-365 Pre-INSURV Assessment and demonstration.

MONTEREY began December with a dead-stick transit to the BAE shipyard where she commenced a CNO availability scheduled to run through April 2012. A promotion ceremony was held in the wardroom for the Ship's Navigator. On 8 December, MONTEREY hosted RADM Thomas onboard for the INSURV I-300 brief and short tour. Christmas Day was observed on the Barge and on the Dec 28th, MONTEREY commenced the 2nd Christmas Stand-Down period.

In 2011 MONTEREY traveled approximately 31,000 miles and enjoyed 18 port visits in 15 different ports.