

1984 saw the second half of Lawrence's Persian Gulf Tour. It was during this time frame that the Iranian P3 ignored repeated warnings about approaching the ship. As the weapons spaces sat in Condition 3 wartime operations, the orders were given to both the missile and gun systems to load and sync up on the P3. With missiles on the rails and MT52 loaded, Lawrence went to general quarters. Flares and machine guns were fired in the direction of the P3 to give him one last chance to turn away from Lawrence. That and the sight of two surface to air missiles pointed at him convinced the P3 to turn and head back to Iran. This incident made the front page of many newspapers around the world.

Time came to depart the Gulf and head home. After transiting the Suez and Mediterranean Sea, Lawrence had a port visit in Palma de Mayorca, Spain and a brief stop in the Azores. Crew were then greeted by hundreds of family and friends when the ship moored at Pier 21 in Norfolk.

Memorial Day Weekend had Lawrence towed up river to downtown Norfolk to be tour ship for the cities annual Harborfest Weekend. Lawrence had to be towed because the boilers were apart for repairs. The ship was tied up at Metro Machine across the river from Town Point Park and Waterside Market Place. Visitors to the ship were shuttled by ferry between the two points. Several thousand visited the ship over the three-day period.

After Harborfest, Lawrence remained at Metro Machine for additional work to the ship.