



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

USS MOUNT WHITNEY (LCC 20)
FLEET POST OFFICE
NEW YORK 09501

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5720
Ser 310
6 MAR 1974

From: Commanding Officer, USS MOUNT WHITNEY (LCC 20)
To: Chief of Naval Operations (Op-09BH)

Subj: Command History

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12B

Encl: (1) USS MOUNT WHITNEY (LCC 20) 1973 Command History

1. In accordance with reference (a) enclosure (1) is submitted.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. F. Dunn".

R. F. DUNN

USS MOUNT WHITNEY (LCC 20)

1973 COMMAND HISTORY

Chronology of Significant Events

Jan 5 Change of Command, Captain Robert F. Dunn, USN, relieved Captain Orlie G. Baird, USN, as Commanding Officer USS MOUNT WHITNEY.

Jan 24 COMPHIBLANT embarked to participate in Exercise AGILE JOUSTER at Vieques Island.

Jan 25 Underway to Caribbean for Exercise AGILE JOUSTER.

Jan 27-31 Port visit Port Everglades, Florida.

Feb 3-5 Port visit San Juan, Puerto, Rico.

Feb 5-10 Exercise AGILE JOUSTER at Vieques Island.

Feb 6 COMPHIBLANT hauls down flag and departs.

Feb 10-11 Port visit Charlotte Amalie, Saint Thomas, Virgin Islands.

Feb 15 Return Naval Station, Norfolk.

Feb 20 Underway for Onslow Beach, North Carolina, to participate in Exercise ALOUD PAPA.

Feb 23 Return Naval Station, Norfolk.

Feb 27 Underway for Onslow Beach, North Carolina, to participate in Joint Service Exercise EXOTIC DANCER VI.

Apr 1 Dr. E. Rechtin, Assistant Secretary of Defense (Telecommunications) and the Honorable Robert D. Nesen, Assistant Secretary of the Navy (Financial Management) arrive.

Apr 6 Return Naval Station, Norfolk.

May 17 Underway for Mediterranean to participate in Exercise DAWN PATROL.

May 26-29 Port visit Malaga, Spain.

June 4-7 Port visit Athens, Greece.

June 7-15 Exercise DAWN PATROL in Sardinia. VADM
Murphy, COMSIXTHFLT, embarked.

June 12 ADM Colbert, CINCSOUTH, embarked. VADM
Murphy, COMSIXTHFLT, departs.

June 16-19 Port visit Cannes, France.

June 20-23 Port visit Barcelona, Spain. RADM McManus,
USN, is relieved as Commander Amphibious
Group Two by RADM Ellis, USN, in ceremonies
conducted on board.

June 23 COMPHIBGRU TWO hauls down flag and departs.

July 3 Return Naval Station, Norfolk.

July 5 VADM Finneran, COMSECONDFLT, breaks his flag
in USS MOUNT WHITNEY.

July 13 Dependents and Guests Cruise.

Aug 20 Independent Ship's Exercise in the Virginia
Capes Operation Area.

Aug 27 RADM Ellis, COMPHIBGRU TWO breaks his flag
in USS MOUNT WHITNEY.

Aug 31 Underway to Mediterranean for participation
in Joint NATO Exercise DEEP FURROW 73.

Sept 12 MOUNT WHITNEY received FY73 Battle Efficiency
Award "E" in presentation on board by RADM
Ellis, COMPHIBGRU TWO.

Sept 14-17 Port visit Rhodes, Greece.

Sept 20-29 Exercise DEEP FURROW 73 at Antalya, Turkey.
VADM Bell, COMPHIBLANT, embarked.

Sept 30-Oct 5 Port visit Istanbul, Turkey.

Oct 8-Nov 20 Participated in SIXTHFLT Contingency Operations during Middle East Crisis.

Nov 4 VADM Murphy, COMSIXTHFLT, breaks his flag in USS MOUNT WHITNEY.

Nov 9 VADM Murphy, COMSIXTHFLT, hauls down his flag and departs.

Nov 24-27 Port visit Lisbon, Portugal. RADM Ellis, COMPHIBGRU TWO, hauls down his flag and departs.

Dec 6 Return Naval Station, Norfolk.

USS MOUNT WHITNEY (LCC 20)

1973 COMMAND HISTORY

Basic Narrative

- a. Captain Orlie G. Baird, USN, MOUNT WHITNEY's first Commanding Officer was relieved on 5 January 1973.
- b. Captain Robert F. Dunn has served as the Commanding Officer of MOUNT WHITNEY since 5 January 1973.

USS MOUNT WHITNEY (LCC 20)

1973 COMMAND HISTORY

A brief narrative of
the History of the Command

The Amphibious Command Ship, USS MOUNT WHITNEY (LCC 20), constructed by the Newport News Shipbuilding and Dry Dock Company, is the second in the BLUE RIDGE class of command ships. Named for the highest mountain in the original 48 states, MOUNT WHITNEY began on 8 January 1969 with the traditional keel laying ceremony; launching took place on 8 January 1970. More than 1500 guests attended MOUNT WHITNEY's commissioning ceremonies which were held at the Norfolk Naval Shipyard in Portsmouth, Virginia, on 16 January 1971.

Following outfitting, MOUNT WHITNEY sailed to Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, for six weeks of rigorous shakedown training lasting through 16 April 1971. In May MOUNT WHITNEY participated in the Joint Service Exercise EXOTIC DANCER. After completing Amphibious Operational Shakedown training and Final Contract trials in the Norfolk area, MOUNT WHITNEY spent July and August back in the builder's yard for a period of Post-Shakedown Availability. Following this she departed for the Mediterranean for service in her primary role as flagship for the Amphibious Task Force Commander, Landing Force Commander and Air Control Group Commander for the NATO Exercise DEEP FURROW 71.

Upon her return to Norfolk she underwent a period of upkeep followed by a cruise to the Caribbean in February of 1972, that included FIREX 72. Next came the Joint Service Exercise EXOTIC DANCER V, again conducted off the North Carolina coast. June and July were spent in Norfolk for engineering plant modifications which involved conversion to Naval Distillate Fuel.

Following this conversion, MOUNT WHITNEY sailed for European waters on 29 August 1972 where she participated in the major NATO Exercise STRONG EXPRESS off Norway. She returned to Norfolk on 24 October 1972.

On January 25, 1973 MOUNT WHITNEY sailed again to the Caribbean to participate in Exercise AGILE JOUSTER. She returned to Norfolk for an upkeep period on 15 February. MOUNT WHITNEY remained in Norfolk until 27 February when she returned to the North Carolina coast for Joint Service Exercise EXOTIC DANCER VI. On 17 May MOUNT WHITNEY went to the Mediterranean for Exercise DAWN PATROL and returned again to the Mediterranean on 31 August for the NATO Exercise DEEP FURROW 73. At the end of this operation MOUNT WHITNEY participated in Sixth Fleet Contingency Operations during the Middle East Crisis. She returned to Norfolk on 6 December 1973.

A unit of the U. S. Atlantic Fleet, MOUNT WHITNEY is homeported in Norfolk, Virginia, and is presently serving as flagship for Commander Amphibious Group Two and Commanding General Fourth Marine Amphibious Brigade.

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1976 COMMAND HISTORY

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the history of the command

The Amphibious Command ship USS MOUNT WHITNEY (LCC 20), constructed by the Newport News Shipbuilding and Dry Dock Company, is the second in the BLUE RIDGE class of command ship. MOUNT WHITNEY's commissioning ceremonies were held at the Norfolk Naval Shipyard in Portsmouth, Virginia, on 16 January, 1971.

Following outfitting, MOUNT WHITNEY conducted shakedown training in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, followed by participation in Exercises EXOTIC DANCER and DEEP FURROW 71.

On January 5, 1973, MOUNT WHITNEY held its first Change of Command when Captain O.G. BAIRD was relieved by Captain R.F. DUNN. The first part of 1973 saw MOUNT WHITNEY participate in Exercises AGILE JOUSTER, ALOUD PAPA, and EXOCTIC DANCER. Later in the year, MOUNT WHITNEY took part in Exercises DAWN PATROL and DEEP FURROW.

MOUNT WHITNEY's Basic Point Defense Missile System was installed in early 1974. This was followed by Operation AGILE JOUSTER and Exercises SMART SALUTE, ALOUD UNIFORM and SOLID SHIELD. MOUNT WHITNEY's second Change of Command took place 21 June 1974, when Captain R.F. DUNN was relieved by Captain L.H. BIBBY. MOUNT WHITNEY departed 13 July 1974 for a complex overhaul in the Philadelphia Naval Shipyard.

During this yard period, MOUNT WHITNEY was awarded the Meritorious Unit Commendation for its service in support of the Navy's Human Goals Plan. The ship also recieved a satisfactory grade on the 600 PSI Initial Light Examination conducted by CINCLANTFLT in December.

During 1975, MOUNT WHITNEY participated in Exercises AGATE PUNCH and SOLID SHIELD and celebrated the Navy's 200th Birthday in Fort Lauderdale, Florida.

As 1976 began, MOUNT WHITNEY received a satisfactory grade from the CINCLANTFLT Propulsion Examination Board team. Immediately following this, MOUNT WHITNEY got underway for the Caribbean. With the embarked staffs of COMPHIBGRU TWO, and 4th MAB, MOUNT WHITNEY became a central figure in Exercises CARIBEX and RUM PUNCH.

In March 1976, COMSECONDFLT embarked with his staff. May found MOUNT WHITNEY off the coast of North Carolina participating in Exercises ALOUD CHARLIE and SOLID SHIELD 76. The latter is the annual combined service exercise that this year involved nearly 80,000 personnel from all services.

On June 7, MOUNT WHITNEY left Norfolk to conduct Mobile Sea Range evaluations, and to take part in the International Naval Review that was to be held in New York City July 4. During a stop in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, MOUNT WHITNEY experienced its third Change of Command as Captain R.M. BURRIS relieved Captain L.H. BIBBY on 12 June 1976.

During the Mobile Sea Range evaluation, MOUNT WHITNEY coordinated not only the firing of the various ships missiles but also controlled the drones that were used as targets. This test was highly successful.

July 2 found MOUNT WHITNEY in company with a 50-ship task force for the ceremonial entry into New York Harbor on July 3 to begin the International Naval Review. The task force, with representative naval units from many nations of the world, was under the tactical command of Vice Admiral J.J. SHANAHAN, COMSECONDFLT, embarked in MOUNT WHITNEY.

During the ceremonies commemorating the 200th Birthday of the United States, MOUNT WHITNEY fired a 21 gun salute to the United States and a 19 gun salute to the Senior Reviewing Official, Vice President Nelson ROCKEFELLER.

During the several days of open visiting that followed, MOUNT WHITNEY entertained many thousands of people. The Chief of Naval Operations hosted a luncheon on board MOUNT WHITNEY for 50 Chiefs of Naval Services on July 5.

After a month long stay in Norfolk, MOUNT WHITNEY got underway again, this time for the North Atlantic and Exercises TEAMWORK 76 and BONDED ITEM. TEAMWORK 76, under the command of Vice Admiral SHANAHAN, acting now as Commander Striking Fleet Atlantic, was a major NATO exercise that included nine countries and tens of thousands of personnel. MOUNT WHITNEY spent the major portion of this exercise off the coast of Norway.

Port visits during this cruise were varied and interesting. Amsterdam, Holland, was the first stop, followed by Hamburg, Germany, and Portsmouth, England. Again, it was time for MOUNT WHITNEY to operate with a task force for Exercise BONDED ITEM off the coast of Germany.

The final port visit for MOUNT WHITNEY proved to be a first in nearly seven years for any U.S. Navy vessel, as the ship pulled into Dublin, Ireland.

During the crossing to Norfolk, MOUNT WHITNEY received the Operational Plant Propulsion Examination. Weather prevented completion of the exercise and, as a result, a week after returning to Norfolk, MOUNT WHITNEY was again underway to complete the OPPE. It was completed in fine fashion, with MOUNT WHITNEY receiving a satisfactory grade.

A unit of the U.S. Atlantic Fleet, MOUNT WHITNEY is homeported in Norfolk, Virginia.