



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

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

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From: Commanding Officer, USS MOUNT WHITNEY (LCC 20)

To: Director of Naval History (Op-09B9)

Subj: Command History

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12B

Encl: (1) USS MOUNT WHITNEY (LCC 20) 1974 Command History

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

L. H. Bibby
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USS MOUNT WHITNEY (LCC 20)

1974 COMMAND HISTORY

Chronology of Significant Events

Jan 7 General Robert J. DIXON, USAF, CINCAFLANT (COMTAL) visits.

Jan 14-15 Underway trials for material inspection, INSURV inspection board.

Jan 15 VADM VANNOY, COMPHIBLANT, arrives. RADM ELLIS, COMPHIBGRU TWO, breaks flag.

Jan 28 RADM GRAVELY, COMCRUDESGRU TWO arrives, Combat Systems Exercise 1-74 commences.

Feb 1 RADM GRAVELY, COMCRUDESGRU TWO departs, Combat Systems Exercise 1-74 ends.

Feb 5 J. William MIDDENDORF, II, Under Secretary of the Navy, visits.

Feb 12 COMPHIBGRU TWO hauls down flag and departs.

Feb 13 Inspector General, Atlantic, arrives.

Feb 21 Underway for Vieques.

Feb 25 Arrive Vieques, BGEN LANAGAN, USMC, CG, 2nd MARDIV and LTGEN AXTELL, USMC, CG, FMFLANT, arrive and depart.

Feb 28 Underway, conducted ISE (Springboard 74).

Mar 1-6 Inport Roosevelt Roads, P. R.

Mar 7 Underway LANTFLT Weapons Range.

Mar 9 Arrive St. Thomas, V. I., for port visit.

Mar 11 Underway LANTFLT Weapons Range.

Mar 12 Conducted missile firing exercise- first such event on board an LCC.

Mar 16 Arrive, Port Everglades, Florida.

Mar 19 Underway for Norfolk, VA.

Mar 21 Return to Naval Station, Norfolk, VA. Commence upkeep period.

Jun 28 Dependent's cruise held while moored.

Jul 1 Arrival of CINCLANTFLT Propulsion Examining Board.

Jul 8 Off-load ammunition at anchorage.

Jul 10 MGEN VARENIUS, Royal Swedish Coast Artillery, COS to CINC Royal Swedish Navy, arrives and departs.

Jul 12 Underway for Philadelphia Naval Shipyard.

Jul 13 Arrive Philadelphia Naval Shipyard. Commence regular yard period.

Jul 30 "COMPHIBLANT Best Large Mess" award presented by RADM ELLIS, COMPHIBGRU TWO.

Aug 7 Moved into Dry Dock #5, Philadelphia Naval Shipyard.

Sep 10 RADM FISHER, CINCLANTFLT, ACOS for Material, visits.

Oct 7 VADM ADAMSON, COMPHIBLANT, arrives and departs.

Oct 23 Meritorious Unit Citation and third consecutive Battle Efficiency "E" award presented by RADM ELLIS, COMPHIBGRU TWO.

Nov 11 Undocked from Dry Dock #5, moved to pier 4, Philadelphia Naval Shipyard.

Dec 12 Under Secretary of Navy for Manpower and Reserve Affairs visits.

Dec 20 Successfully completed 600 PSI Initial Light Examination conducted by CINCLANTFLT.

USS MOUNT WHITNEY (LCC 20)

1974 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 shakedown training. She then participated in Exercise EXOTIC DANCER IV, and was flagship for the Amphibious Task Force Commander during NATO Exercise DEEP FURROW 71.

In February 1972, MOUNT WHITNEY cruised the Caribbean as part of Exercise FIREX 72. This was followed by Exercise EXOTIC DANCER. After conversion to Naval Distillate Fuel in July, she sailed for the North Atlantic to take part in the major NATO Exercise STRONG EXPRESS off the coast of Norway. It was during this cruise that she received the first of three consecutive Battle Efficiency "E" awards.

On 5 January 1973, MOUNT WHITNEY held her first change of command. Captain O. G. Baird, USN, was relieved by Captain R. F. Dunn, USN, in ceremonies on the flight deck.

In early 1973, MOUNT WHITNEY made cruises to the Caribbean and off the coast of North Carolina involving Exercise AGILE JOUSTER, ALOUD PAPA and EXOTIC DANCER VI. Two trips across the Atlantic filled out that year as she participated in Exercise DAWN PATROL and DEEP FURROW 73. DEEP FURROW was extended due to the Middle East Crisis. Her second Battle Efficiency "E" was awarded at this time.

MOUNT WHITNEY's Basic Point Defense Missile System was installed in early 1974, and Operation AGILE JOUSTER provided an opportunity to successfully test it. Exercise SOLID SHIELD, preceded by SMART SALUTE and ALOUD UNIFORM, occupied MOUNT WHITNEY's spring schedule.

MOUNT WHITNEY's second change of command took place 21 June 1974. Captain L. H. Bibby, USN, relieved Captain R. F. Dunn, USN, in ceremonies held in Norfolk.

THE SHIP'S NAME

Soaring 14,495 feet above sea level, the highest point in the original 48 United States, Mount Whitney is the culminating summit of the Sierra Nevada (Spanish, "Snowy Mountains"), a range extending more than 400 miles in central California.

Viewed from Lone Pine in Owens Valley, Mount Whitney rises precipitously almost 11,000 feet above the valley floor and forms one of the most spectacular mountain views in the world. The summit itself looks like a gently sloping table. Large angular blocks of granite litter the surface, and the steep sides of the mountain are furrowed by avalanche chutes 50 to 100 feet deep.

In 1926 the craggy mountain was included in a 352-square-mile addition to the Sequoia National Park, a land of giant trees, deep canyons and shining sky-blue lakes.

First climbed in 1873, MOUNT WHITNEY bears the name of Josiah Dwight Whitney, Chief of the California Geological Survey in 1864.

The USS MOUNT WHITNEY is the first naval vessel to bear the name of this famous landmark.