



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

**USS MOUNT WHITNEY (LCC 20)
FLEET POST OFFICE
NEW YORK 09517**

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From: Commanding Officer, USS MOUNT WHITNEY (LCC 20)
To: Director of Naval History (OP-09BH), Washington Navy Yard,
Washington, D.C. 20374

Subj: Command History; forwarding of (OPNAV Report 5720-1)

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12C

Encl: (1) Narrative of significant events 1980
(2) Ship's Fact Sheet
(3) Biography of Commanding Officer
(4) List of Commanding Officers

1. In accordance with reference (a), enclosures (1) through (4) are forwarded.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "L. L. Lubbs", is written over the typed name.

L. L. LUBBS
By direction

Copy to:
COMPHEBGRU TWO

USS MOUNT WHITNEY (LCC-20)
NARRATIVE OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS 1980

Jan 26 CAPT Vernon C. SMITH relieved Captain John J. KINGSTON as
Commanding Officer, USS MOUNT WHITNEY (LCC-20).

Feb 24-Mar 24 MOUNT WHITNEY conducted Refresher Training in Guantanamo Bay,
Cuba.

Mar 24-27 Inport Nassau, Bahamas. Ship was visited by Governor General
of Bahamas.

Jun 2-3 MOUNT WHITNEY was inspected by Board of Inspection and Survey.

Jul 22-Aug 1 MOUNT WHITNEY conducted Mobile Sea Range READEX 2-80 and controlled
live missile firings for several ships.

Aug 29-Sep 24 MOUNT WHITNEY participated in Exercise United Effort/Teamwork 80
operating with over 60,000 NATO personnel from 8 countries with
116 ships and 400 aircraft. VADM T. J. BIGLEY, COMSTRIKFLTANT;
RADM W. C. HAMM, Jr., COMPHIBGRU TWO; and BGEN E. C. CHEATHAM, Jr., CG
FOURTHMAB; were embarked for the exercise which involved intensive
training activity in the North Atlantic.

Sep 24-30 Ship conducted a port call at Wilhelmshaven, W. Germany.

Oct 3-9 MOUNT WHITNEY conducted a port call at Portsmouth, England.

Oct 10-15 Ship called at Rotterdam, Netherlands.

Dec 23 MOUNT WHITNEY earned her third consecutive Battle "E" Award
including Engineering and Operations Department "E's" for
excellence in missile, gunnery, damage control, and engineering.

USS MOUNT WHITNEY (LCC-20)
FACT SHEET

The USS MOUNT WHITNEY (LCC-20) was constructed by the Newport News Shipbuilding and Drydock Company, and is the second in the Blue Ridge class of command ships.

The ship is named for the 14,946 foot peak in the Sierra Nevada mountain range in California, the first ship in the Navy to bear this name.

The 620 foot MOUNT WHITNEY, with a complement of 740 men and officers, serves as flagship for the Commander, U.S. Second Fleet; Commander, Amphibious Group TWO; and the Commanding General, Fourth Marine Amphibious Brigade; and as a command platform for the Commander, Tactical Air Control Group TWO during amphibious operations. The ship is homeported in Norfolk, Virginia.

Since commissioning, the ship has participated in several fleet exercises in the Mediterranean, the Caribbean and the North Atlantic. The ship under went two six month overhauls in the Philadelphia Naval Shipyard: in 1974 and 1979. MOUNT WHITNEY's long list of accomplishments and awards include participation in the July 4, 1976 International Naval Review in New York city. Six Battle Efficiency ("E") awards, receipt of the Meritorious Unit Commendation and numerous department efficiency awards. MOUNT WHITNEY has won consecutive Battle "E" Awards in 1972, 1973, and 1974; and repeated this in 1978, 1979, and 1980. Additionally, in 1980 the ship won departmental efficiency awards in Engineering, Amphibious Assault, Damage Control, Gunnery, Surface to Air Missile System, and in Communications.

One of the largest and most sophisticated command ships ever commissioned, MOUNT WHITNEY embodies elements of some of the latest military command and communications systems currently in operation, afloat or ashore. A modular amphibious control center gives the Amphibious Task Force Commander control of all tactical phases of landing operation. This control is greatly enhanced by MOUNT WHITNEY's NTDS (Naval Tactical Data System) which presents an instantaneous visual display of the tactical situation of friendly and enemy forces. The heart of the system is the four computers located in the Automatic Data Processing Module. Display of tactical information and real time tactical situations is available from any one of the 28 consoles located in the various command control modules. This complex is served by one of the largest tactical intelligence centers and communications units in the Navy.

There are many interesting facts about MOUNT WHITNEY.

The ship's communications center can handle 75,000 messages a month, and its intelligence center is the most sophisticated of its kind afloat in any Navy.

Although her main fighting equipment is her electronics and communications suit, MOUNT WHITNEY is also armed with two rapid fire 3"/50 gun mounts and the Basic Point Defense Missile System consisting of two launchers, capable of firing eight Sparrow III missiles each.

The ship carries enough food to feed the crew for ninety days. It also can transport supplies to support an emergency evacuation of 3,000 people, should this be necessary. Its evaporators produce over 100,000 gallons of fresh water daily, enough to meet the needs of a large ocean liner.

The ship travels at a maximum of 23 knots and her fuel capacity is over 1,000,000 gallons of Navy distillate and JP-5 fuel. This would permit the ship to steam at 16 knots for 35 days--from Norfolk, Virginia to Mozambique in the Indian Ocean and back.

The ship's two anchors weight 11 tons each and are attached to 180 fathoms (1080 feet) of anchor chain. Each chain weighs about 25 tons. The rudder is over 22 feet tall and enables the ship to turn in a circle 500 yards in diameter. Total electrical capacity is 7,500 kilowatts, a sufficient amount to power a small city.

Enclosure (2)

LIST OF COMMANDING OFFICERS
OF USS MOUNT WHITNEY

1. Captain O. G. BAIRD, USN, relieved January 5, 1973
2. Captain R. F. DUNN, USN, relieved June 21, 1974
3. Captain L. H. BIBBY, USN, relieved June 12, 1976
4. Captain R. M. BURRIS, USN, relieved September 2, 1977
5. Captain J. J. KINGSTON, USN, relieved January 26, 1980
6. Captain V. C. SMITH, USN, Commanding through 1980