



**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 Naval Yard,  
Washington D.C. 20374

**Subj:** COMMAND HISTORY; FORWARDING OF (OPNAV REPORT 5720-1)

**Ref:** (a) OPNAVINST 5720.12C

**Encl:** (1) Ship's History 1984  
(2) Narrative of Significant Events  
(3) Ship's Fact Sheet  
(4) Biography of Commanding Officer  
(5) Photograph of Commanding Officer  
(6) List of Commanding Officers

1. In accordance with reference (a), enclosures (1) through (6) are forwarded.

  
R. C. JOHNSON, Jr.

Copy to:  
COMSECONDFLT  
COMNAVSURFLANT  
COMPHIBGRU TWO  
COMPHIBRON TWELVE

**USS MOUNT WHITNEY (LCC-20)  
SHIP'S HISTORY 1984**

05 Jan RADM Steele, COMNAVSAFECEN calls on COMSECONDFLT.  
09 Jan Fast Cruise 1-84.  
11 Jan Underway for Vacapes OP Area.  
13 Jan Transit to Newport, R.I.  
14 Jan Inport, Newport, R.I. (ESTABLISH CONTACT 84).  
19 Jan COMMO Allen calls on COMSECONDFLT.  
20 Jan Underway for Norfolk, Virginia.  
21 Jan Inport, Norfolk, Virginia.  
25 Jan Commodore Cummings, Canadian Naval Attache, calls on COMSECONDFLT. COMSECONDFLT departs for Monterey, California.  
27 Jan COMPHIBGRU TWO embarks.  
29 Jan COMSECONDFLT returns.  
30 Jan FOURTH MAB embarks.  
31 Jan RADM McCarthy (COMCARGRU ONE) calls on COMSECONDFLT.  
02 Feb Captain Gatje (NAVEASTOCEANCEN) calls on COMPHIBGRU TWO.  
13 Feb Engineering Plant lite off. MOUNT WHITNEY CPO's hosted by HMS ILLUSTRIOUS Senior Enlisted Mess OSCOT. MOUNT WHITNEY hosts reception for HMS ILLUSTRIOUS Wardroom, SACLANT Mess.  
14 Feb MOUNT WHITNEY CPO's host luncheon for senior HMS ILLUSTRIOUS Rates (CPO Mess). COMMO Anderson (JCS) calls on COMSECONDFLT.  
18 Feb Underway for UNITED EFFORT/TEAMWORK 84.  
12 Mar MAJGEN Martin Vadset (COMLANDON) calls on VADM Metcalf, ADM Rogers, and GEN Smith. MAJ GEN Gray (CG 2d MAR DIV) arrives to observe TEAMWORK 84.  
13 Mar VADM Fitch (COMASGRU), COMMO Dingemans (COMUKNLPHIBGRU), and BGEN Garrod (COMD 3 CDO BDE), arrive for news conference.  
15 Mar LT GEN Miller (FMFLANT), COL Alexander (G3 FMFLANT), LTCOL Vercauteren (Aide FMFLANT), arrive to observe TEAMWORK 84. MAJ GEN Berg (COMNON) visits USS MOUNT WHITNEY for luncheon.  
17 Mar His Excellency Joseph M.A.H. Luns (NATO Secretary General), His Excellency Kjeld Vibe (Norwegian Ambassador to NATO), His Excellency Dr. Hans-Georgwieck (German Ambassador to NATO), His Excellency Jacob G.N. Dehoop (Netherlands Ambassador to NATO), His Excellency Sir John Graham (United Kingdom Ambassador to NATO), His Excellency Otto Burch (Danish Ambassador to NATO), and His Excellency David M. Abshire (U.S. Ambassador to NATO), arrive to observe TEAMWORK 84.  
18 Mar Ambassador Austad (U.S. Ambassador to Norway) arrives for meeting with COMSTRIKFLTLANT/luncheon.  
19 Mar GEN Berg (COMNON), MGEN Gravick (COMNAVAIRNON), MGEN Vadset (COMLANDNON), VADM Rein (COMNAVNON), COL Starkland (CHOD REP) arrive via helo for "Passing Control Ashore" ceremony.  
20 Mar Mr. Cox (Assistant Secretary of the Navy) arrives for post exercise brief.  
26 Mar Inport Bergen, Norway.  
27 Mar Commanding Officer calls on RADM Helle (COMNAV DISTVEST). COMSTRIKFLTLANT hosts reception onboard.  
28 Mar Underway for Portsmouth, England.

Enclosure (1)

30 Mar Inport Portsmouth, England. Lord Mayor of Portsmouth makes return call on COMSTRIKFLTANT.

02 Apr COMSTRIKFLTANT hosts reception onboard.

03 Apr Ambassador Price (U.S. Ambassador to UK) arrives onboard for luncheon/tour.

04 Apr COMPHIBSTRIKFOR (RADM Rogers) debarks.

06 Apr Underway for Lisbon, Portugal.

09 Apr Inport Lisbon, Portugal. COMSTRIKFLTANT calls on U.S. Ambassador to Portugal, Chief Of Naval Staff, and CINCIBERLANT. Commanding Officer calls on COMARCONT (VADM Joaquim Neves Cardoso Tavares), (also CINCIBERLANT). COMSTRIKFLTANT hosts reception onboard.

12 Apr Underway for Norfolk, Virginia.

19 Apr Inport Norfolk, Virginia.

09 May COMTHIRDFLT (VADM Jones) and COMSERVGRU TWO (RADM Toole) call on COMSTRIKFLTANT.

10 May COMTHIRDFLT (VADM Jones) and USCOMSOLANT (RADM Taylor) call on COMSTRIKFLTANT.

15 May COMPHIBRON EIGHT embarks. COMPHIBRON TWELVE calls on Commanding Officer for lunch/tour of USS MOUNT WHITNEY.

29 May Commanding Officer of USS TICONDEROGA calls on COMSTRIKFLTANT. Underway for LANTRAMID I.

31 May Inport, Boston, Massachusetts.

01 June Commanding Officer of USS John Hancock calls on COMSTRIKFLTANT.

02 June COMSTRIKFLTANT and Commanding Officer attend Captain's Reception hosted by The Mayor's Office, City of Boston. COMSTRIKFLTANT attends Captain's Ball at City Hall Inner Courtyard. CPO's Reception hosted aboard FRG GORCH FOCK.

03 June Re-enlistment of USS MOUNT WHITNEY personnel aboard the USS CONSTITUTION by COMSTRIKFLTANT. "Review Of Sail" headed by SSS Spirit of Massachusetts viewed by distinguished visitors onboard USS MOUNT WHITNEY. Fireworks over Boston Harbor.

04 June Underway for ISE.

08 June Inport Norfolk, Virginia.

14 June Flag Day.

15 June USS MOUNT WHITNEY ship's picnic.

18 June Fourth MAB embarks.

20 June COMPHIBGRU TWO calls on COMPHIBRON EIGHT. Commanding General FOURTH MARINE AMPHIBIOUS BRIGADE Change of Command.

27 June Deputy CECLANT (RADM Forquet) calls on COMSTRIKFLTANT.

03 July CDS TWO (CAPT Andrilla) calls on COMSTRIKFLTANT.

05 July RADM Costello, VADM Briggs (COMNAVSURFLANT) calls on COMSTRIKFLTANT.

20 July MGEN Godfry (USMCHQ INSPECTOR GENERAL) calls on CG FOURTH MAB and Commanding Officer USS MOUNT WHITNEY.

23 July BGEN Loomey (CG 6th MAB) calls on CG FOURTH MAB.

30 July COMPHIBRON EIGHT debarks.

07 Aug Fast Cruise 2-84.

10 Aug ADM McDonald (SACLANT, CINCLANT, CINCLANTFLT) calls on COMSTRIKFLTANT for awards ceremony.

Enclosure (1)

15 Aug SMI Inspection begins.  
 16 Aug SMI Inspection concluded.  
 20 Aug RADM Wellman (CHIEF IG INSPECTOR) onboard for IG Team tour, calls on COMSTRIKFLTANT and Commanding Officer.  
 21 Aug Fast Cruise 3-84.  
 23 Aug Underway for READEX 2-84  
 01 Sept Inport Saint Thomas, Virgin Islands anchored. VADM Mustin (Perspective COMSECONDFLT) calls on COMSTRIKFLTANT.  
 02 Sept Underway for Norfolk, Virginia.  
 04 Sept VADM Mustin departs.  
 07 Sept Inport Norfolk, Virginia.  
 11 Sept Underway. Sortie to anchorage for Hurricane Diana Evasion.  
 12 Sept At anchorage Chesapeake Bay.  
 13 Sept Underway for Norfolk, Virginia. Inport Norfolk, Virginia.  
 14 Sept COMSECONDFLT Change of Command aboard USS GUAM. VADM Mustin relieved VADM Metcalf.  
 17 Sept VADM Mustin (COMSTRIKFLTANT) arrives onboard. 3-M Inspection begins.  
 27 Sept COMPHIBGRU TWO embarks.  
 04 Oct FOURTH MAB embarks.  
 19 Oct Personnel Inspection (Dress Blues). Director, Defense Intelligence Agency visits ship.  
 24 Oct Fleet Master Chief visits CPO's.  
 26 Oct COMPHIBGRU TWO debarks.  
 06 Nov VADM Fromm (WEST GERMAN CNO) tours USS MOUNT WHITNEY.  
 08 Nov NAVMACSLANT watch standers visit and tour.  
 13 Nov Berth shift to berth 252.  
 14 Nov Army War College students visit and tour.  
 Intelligence Analysts visit and tour.  
 19 Nov Berth shift to berth 251.  
 20 Nov AFCEA visit brief.  
 28 Nov Armed Forces Staff College visit and tour.  
 30 Nov TSSOC visit.  
 07 Dec ADM McDonald (CINCLANTFLT) calls on COMSECONDFLT.  
 10 Dec COMDESRON TEN MUTTS brief.  
 11 Dec Fast Cruise 4-84.  
 12 DEC Battle Force Inport Training.

USS MOUNT WHITNEY (LCC 20)  
NARRATIVE OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS 1984

Feb 18 - Apr 19 MOUNT WHITNEY, with Commander Striking Fleet Atlantic Commander Amphibious Group TWO and Commanding General FOURTH Amphibious Brigade embarked, served as the command ship for exercises UNITED EFFORT/TEAM WORK 84/AVALANCHE EXPRESS and OPERATION CLOSE ENCOUNTER 84. These exercises involved a multi-national force of over 150 ships and 300 aircraft including the USS INDEPENDENCE Battle Group. UNITED EFFORT involved coordinated anti-air, air and anti-submarine warfare exercises and convoy protection. TEAM WORK 84/AVALANCHE EXPRESS utilized an amphibious assault by U.S., British and Netherlands Marines. OPERATION CLOSE ENCOUNTER 84 included visits to Norway, England and Portugal.

Aug 23 - Sep 07 READEX 2-84/MSR provided Commander Striking Fleet Atlantic with the opportunity to conduct free moving exercises consisting of 31 U.S. warships as well as units from the Netherlands and Venezuelan navies. There were 20 SAM firings and no equipment casualties throughout the MSR phase. USS EISENHOWER AND USS INDEPENDENCE participated in the hostilities phase. There were also three SSN's, eight surface units and aircraft from NAS Roosevelt Roads, Puerto Rico.

**USS MOUNT WHITNEY (LCC-20)  
FACT SHEET**

The USS MOUNT WHITNEY (LCC-20) was constructed by the Newport News Shipbuilding and Drydock Co., 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 range in California, the first ship in the Navy to bear this name.

The 620 foot MOUNT WHITNEY, with a compliment of 750 men and officers, serves as flagship for Commander U.S. Second Fleet; Commander Amphibious Group Two; and Commanding General, Fourth Marine Amphibious Brigade. The ship is homeported in Norfolk, Va.

Since commissioning, the ship has participated in fleet operations in the Mediterranean, Caribbean, and North Atlantic. The ship underwent two six month overhauls in the Philadelphia Naval Shipyard, in 1974 and 1979. MOUNT WHITNEY's long list of accomplishments and awards includes seven Battle Efficiency "E" awards, receipt of the Meritorious Unit Commendation and numerous department efficiency awards.

One of the largest and most sophisticated command ships ever commissioned, MOUNT WHITNEY embodies elements of some of the largest 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 the landing operation. The control is greatly enhanced by MOUNT WHITNEY's Naval Tactical Data System (NTDS) which presents an instantaneous 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.

The ships communications center can handle 100,000 messages a month, and its intelligence center is the most sophisticated of its kind afloat in any navy.

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

The ship carries enough food to feed the crew for ninety days. It also can transport supplies to support an emergency evacuation of 3000 people. 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 speed of 23 knots with a fuel capacity of over one million 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 weigh 11 tons each and are attached to 180 fathoms (1080 feet) of anchor chain. Each chain weighs about 25 tons. The rudder is over 25 feet tall and enables the ship to turn in a circle 500 yards in diameter. Total electricity capacity is 7500 kilowatts, a sufficient amount to power a small city.

**COMMANDING OFFICERS  
USS MOUNT WHITNEY (LCC-20)**

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, relieved October 10, 1981
7. Captain D.M. Bennett, USN, relieved April 22, 1983
8. Captain R.C. Johnson Jr., USN, Commanding through 1984