



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), Washington, D. C.

Subj: Unit History; forwarding of (OPNAV Report 5750-1)

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12A

Encl: (1) Ship's History
(2) Commanding Officer's Biography and Photograph

1. In accordance with Reference (a), which requires an annual submission of unit histories, Enclosures (1) and (2) are forwarded.

2. USS MOUNT WHITNEY (LCC-20) was commissioned 16 January 1971 at the Norfolk Naval Shipyard, Portsmouth, Virginia.

O. A. Baird

SHIP'S HISTORY

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 new command ships.

The first ship, USS BLUE RIDGE (LCC-19), was commissioned 14 November 1970 at the Philadelphia Naval Shipyard.

The 620-foot MOUNT WHITNEY will serve as a command ship for the Amphibious Task Force Commander, Landing Force Commander and Air Control Group Commander during amphibious operations.

Construction for MOUNT WHITNEY began 8 January 1969 with the traditional keel laying ceremony; launching took place one year later.

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 use. A modular amphibious control center gives the Amphibious Task Force Commander control of all tactical phases of the landing operation. This complex is served by a tactical intelligence center and a communications unit larger than that on any existing ship other than on board BLUE RIDGE.

USS MOUNT WHITNEY is named for the 14,495-foot peak in the Sierra Nevada mountain range in California and will carry a crew of about 650 officers and men. She is the first Navy ship to bear this name.

A unit of Commander Amphibious Forces, U. S. Atlantic Fleet, USS MOUNT WHITNEY will be homeported in Norfolk, Va.

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