



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

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

116:RDD
5720
Ser 965
9 AUG 1973

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) 1972 Command History

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

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "R. F. Dunn".

R. F. DUNN

USS MOUNT WHITNEY (LCC 20)

1972 COMMAND HISTORY

Chronology of Significant Events

Jan 17-21 Independent Ship's Exercise in the Virginia Capes Operation Area.

Jan 31-Feb 4 Command Post Exercise at Onslow Beach, North Carolina, in company with USS CHILTON (LPA 38).

Feb 22 COMPHIBLANT embarked to participate in Exercise FIREX 72 and training Exercise SPRINGBOARD at Vieques Island.

Feb 23 Underway to Caribbean for Exercise FIREX 72 and training Exercise SPRINGBOARD.

Feb 25-26 Port visit Port Everglades, Florida.

Feb 28-29 GTMO

Mar 1 Port visit Port au Prince, Haiti.

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

Mar 6-8 Exercise FIREX 72 at Vieques Island.

Mar 8-11 Port visit Charlotte Amalie, Saint Thomas, Virgin Islands. COMPHIBLANT hauls down flag and departs ship.

Mar 14 Anchored off Onslow Beach, North Carolina.

Mar 15 Return Naval Station, Norfolk.

Apr 10-13 Independent Ship's Exercise in the Virginia Capes Operation Area.

Apr 13 Commander Second Fleet breaks his flag in MOUNT WHITNEY.

May 10-24 COMPHIBLANT and COMPHIBGRU TWO embarked to participate in Joint Service Exercise EXOTIC DANCER V.

May 11 Commander Second Fleet hauls down flag. Underway for Onslow Beach, North Carolina, to participate in Joint Service Exercise EXOTIC DANCER V.

May 25	Return to Craney Island, Norfolk, for Offload/flush of tanks in preparation for conversion to Naval Distillate Fuel.
May 31	RADM M. U. MOORE, USN, is relieved as Commander Amphibious Group TWO by RADM P. S. McMANUS, USN, in ceremonies conducted on board.
June-July	Powerplant conversion from Navy Standard Fuel Oil to Navy Distillate Fuel.
Jul 17-19	Independent Ship's Exercise in the Virginia Capes Operation Area.
Jul 25-Aug 1	Independent Ship's Exercise and Command Post Exercise in the Virginia Capes Operation Area.
Aug 4	MOUNT WHITNEY received FY72 Battle Efficiency Award "E", Operations Department Green "E", Communication Green "E", Engineering Red "E", and Amphibious Assault Award "A".
Aug 7	Dependents and Guests Cruise.
Aug 29	Underway for NOREUR, to participate in major NATO Exercise STRONG EXPRESS.
Sep 7-10	Port visit Plymouth, England.
Sep 14-18	COMPHIBGRU TWO embarked to participate in the major NATO Exercise STRONG EXPRESS.
Sep 14-26	Exercise STRONG EXPRESS in Vags Fjord, Norway.
Sep 19	Visit of Secretary of the Navy, the Hon. J.W. WARNER and Commandant of the Marine Corps, General CUSHMAN.
Sep 27-28	Port visit Bergen, Norway.
Sep 29-Oct 5	Port visit Rosyth, Scotland.
Oct 6-10	Port visit Amsterdam, Holland.
Oct 11-14	Port visit Bremerhaven, Germany.
Oct 24	Return to Naval Station, Norfolk.

- Oct 31 Secretary of Defense, the Hon. M. P. LAIRD
and Secretary of the Navy, the Hon. J. W.
WARNER visit and conduct press conference
on board.
- Dec 5-8 Underway for Command Post Exercise in the
Virginia Capes Operation Area.
- Dec 8 Return Naval Station, Norfolk.

USS MOUNT WHITNEY (LCC 20)

1972 COMMAND HISTORY

Basic Narrative

a. Captain Orlie G. Baird, USN, served as the first Commanding Officer of MOUNT WHITNEY from 16 January 1971, the ship's Commissioning Day, through 1972.

b. The LCC class ship provides advanced integrated command and control facilities for the Commander, Amphibious Task Force (CATF), the Commander, Landing Force (CLF) and the Air Control Group Commander during amphibious operations.

The Amphibious Flagship Data System (AFDS) integrates the functions of the Tactical Data System with Intelligence, Targeting Administration and Logistics in a single computer configuration. AFDS includes the Amphibious Support Information System (ASIS), an automated package incorporating the CP/642B computer mainframe and QUEST (Query, Update, Enter, Search, Time-sharing) software package. ASIS provides the capability of maintaining 7 data bases totalling up to 20,000 records of a maximum of 2560 characters each. ASIS may contain such diverse information as Target Lists, Ammunition Status, Air Files, Landing Craft Availability, and Personnel Files.

Additionally, the Naval Intelligence Processing System (NIPS) provides the capability to rapidly process large volumes of intelligence data in support of amphibious operations. The Joint Intelligence Center (JIC), manned by Marine and Navy personnel, maintains a data base containing current intelligence concerning the entire theater of operations.

The USS MOUNT WHITNEY provides a flexible, mobile command and control system to support sea, air, and land assets in an amphibious environment anywhere in the Atlantic area.

c. USS MOUNT WHITNEY is a unit of Commander Amphibious Force, U. S. Atlantic Fleet and serves as his flagship when it is required he embark. In addition, MOUNT WHITNEY regularly serves as flagship for Commander Amphibious Group TWO and the Commanding General, FOURTH Marine Amphibious Brigade who has been embarked since November 1972.

d. MOUNT WHITNEY is homeported in Norfolk, Virginia.

USS MOUNT WHITNEY (LCC 20)

1972 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 VI. 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, 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.

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.