



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: Commander Naval Surface Force, U. S. Atlantic Fleet

Subj: Command History

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12

Encl: (1) USS MOUNT WHITNEY (LCC 20) 1975 Command History

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

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

1975 COMMAND HISTORY

<u>Date</u>	<u>Chronology of Significant Events</u>
Jan 1	Undergoing regular yard period at the Philadelphia Naval Shipyard since 13 Aug 74.
Jan 14	RADM ELLIS, COMPHIBGRU TWO, arrives and departs.
Jan 15	RADM WENTWORTH, Deputy COMNAVSURFLANT, arrives and departs.
Jan 24-26	Underway for post-repair sea trials.
Feb 5	Underway for NORVA.
Feb 7	Moored Pier 5, Naval Station, NORVA.
Feb 14	RADM ELLIS, COMPHIBGRU TWO, and staff embarked.
Feb 20	CINCLANTFLT Propulsion Examining Board inspection for cleanliness and preservation of engineering spaces.
Feb 21	RADM William H. ELLIS relieved by RADM Frederick F. PALMER as Commander Amphibious Group TWO on board MOUNT WHITNEY.
Feb 26	Underway for REFTRA in GTMO.
Mar 2	Begin REFTRA in GTMO.
Mar 14	Underway for port visit in Montego Bay, Jamaica.
Mar 17	Return GTMO, resume REFTRA.
Mar 23	VADM TURNER, COMSECONDFLT, arrives and departs.
Mar 28	End REFTRA in GTMO. Received overall grade of good. Depart for Roosevelt Roads, P. R.
Apr 2	Depart Roosevelt Roads, performed successful Emission Control Exercise during transit to Onslow Beach, North Carolina.
Apr 7	Moored Pier 5, NORVA.
Apr 11	LGEN NICHOLS, USMC, FMFLANT, arrives and departs.
Apr 14	Underway for Exercise AGATE PUNCH.
Apr 16	VADM ADAMSON, COMNAVSURFLANT, arrives.
Apr 17	VADM ADAMSON, COMNAVSURFLANT, departs.

1975 COMMAND HISTORY (cont'd)

Apr 19 Defense Secretary James E. Schlesinger arrives and departs.
Apr 29 Moored Pier 5, NORVA.
May 6 VADM ADAMSON, COMNAVSURFLANT, arrives and departs.
May 22 Underway for Exercises ALOUD YANKEE and SOLID SHIELD.
May 26 LGEN NICHOLS, CG, II MAF, arrives and departs.
May 29 RADM GORMLEY, CINCLANT IG, arrives and departs.
Jun 3 Moored Pier 7, NORVA.
Jun 9 Underway to off-load ammunition, return Pier 7, NORVA.
Jun 10 MGEN SADLER, USAF, DIRCOMMELECTRONIC Directorate, arrives and departs.
Jun 12 Underway for Portsmouth Naval Shipyard, Portsmouth, Virginia, for overhaul.
Jun 13 Honorable H. Tyler Moore, Asst. SECNAV (R&D), arrives and departs.
Aug 18 Underway, Craney Island.
Aug 20 Moored NORVA. Mr. DeWitt Griffen, National President of the Navy League, arrives and departs.
Aug 25 Underway for the VACAPES OPAREAS.
Aug 29 Moored Pier 7, NORVA.
Oct 6 Underway for Fort Lauderdale, Florida.
Oct 11 Arrive Fort Lauderdale to celebrate Navy's 200th birthday.
Oct 16 RADM PALMER, COMPHIBGRU TWO, arrives.
Oct 17 Moored NORVA.
Oct 23 Human Resources Management Center Survey held on board.
Nov 14 Underway for PEB in VACAPES OPAREA.
Nov 25 PEB test.

1975 COMMAND HISTORY (cont'd)

Nov 26 Moored Pier 7, NORVA.
Dec 5 Underway for SIXGUN Operations.
Dec 10 Moored Pier 7, NORVA.
Dec 31 Moored Pier 7, NORVA.

USS MOUNT WHITNEY (LCC 20)

1975 COMMAND HISTORY

1. Significant Events

Enclosure (1)

USS MOUNT WHITNEY (LCC 20)
1975 COMMAND HISTORY

2. Historical Annexes

- a. A brief narrative of the history of the command.
- b. A biography of the Commanding Officer.

USS MOUNT WHITNEY (LCC 20)

1975 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 contiguous United 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 V. 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 earned the first of three consecutive Battle Efficiency "E" awards.

On 5 January 1973, the first Change of Command was held for a MOUNT WHITNEY Commanding Officer. Captain O. E. BAIRD, USN was relieved by Captain R. F. DUNN, USN, in ceremonies on the flight deck.

In early 1973, MOUNT WHITNEY cruised off to the Caribbean and off the coast of North Carolina, in Exercises AGILE JOUSTER, ALOUD PAPA and EXOTIC DANCER VI. Two trips across the Atlantic filled out the year as she participated in Exercises 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 Surface 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 on 21 June 1974, when Captain L. H. BIBBY, USN, relieved Captain R. F. DUNN, USN, in ceremonies held in Norfolk.

MOUNT WHITNEY departed Norfolk on 13 July 1974 for the Philadelphia Naval Shipyard for a complex overhaul. This yard period lasted until 5 February 1975.

February 1975 saw MOUNT WHITNEY begin eight weeks of refresher training in GTMO. After receiving a satisfactory grade there, Exercises ALOUD YANKEE and SOLID SHIELD followed off the coast of North Carolina.

The Navy's 200th birthday found MOUNT WHITNEY in Fort Lauderdale in company with other naval vessels participating in the city's bicentennial celebration. Subsequently MOUNT WHITNEY completed several weeks of training in the Virginia Capes Operating Area.

A unit of the U.S. Atlantic Fleet, MOUNT WHITNEY is homeported in Norfolk, Virginia.

During this period, MOUNT WHITNEY was awarded the Meritorious Unit Commendation by Rear Admiral William H. ELLIS, Commander Amphibious Group TWO, for their work in the advancement of Human Goals. In addition, MOUNT WHITNEY received her third consecutive Battle Efficiency "E" award along with a departmental "E" for the Supply Department. The ship received a satisfactory grade on the 600 PSI Initial Light Examination conducted by CINCLANTFLT in December.

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Annex A

USS MOUNT WHITNEY (LCC 20)

1975 Command History

A brief narrative of

"I am MOUNT WHITNEY"

The defense of my country is very important to me. The strength of Naval power to ensure freedom of choice throughout the world is important to me. I am the USS MOUNT WHITNEY (LCC 20).

For five years I have sailed the seas. It was January, 1971, that my bow was christened at the Norfolk Naval Shipyard, in Portsmouth, Virginia. You could call me an infant in comparison with the other ships of the Atlantic Fleet, but my mission is that of an older, more experienced ship. And I fill the bill.

As an Amphibious Command ship, it is my duty to support in all ways the commanders and staffs that coordinate the all important at sea portion of an amphibious operations. I have done my job well.

The Amphibious Task Force Commander of NATO exercise DEEP FURROW 71 stood my sturdy decks as well as the Commander, Amphibious Group TWO, who is embarked aboard now. I have taken part in operations that range from the North Atlantic (STRONG EXPRESS) to the Mediterranean (DAWN PATROL, DEEP FURROW 73) to the Caribbean (SPRINGBOARD 74, EXOTIC DANCER V and VI, FIREX 72) to North Carolina (SOLID SHIELD 74 and 75, and other preparatory exercises). I have learned my job well.

Commanding my movements is the responsibility of my skipper. Three men have called my shots. Captain R. F. DUNN, USN, relieved Captain O. G. BAIRD, USN, and was in turn relieved by Captain L. H. BIBBY, USN. I am proud of my captains.

I am ready to fight to protect my crew. While my electronic warfare is my first defense, I also have the Basic Point Defense Missile System which keeps the skies clear of attack.

The crew is my real pride. Together we have seen the hard work of refresher training in Guantanamo Bay, and successfully completed it. We were the first amphibious ship to pass the CINCLANTFLT Propulsion Examination Board unconditionally and we proudly wear a Meritorious Unit Commendation for our work in the advancement of Human Goals. Together we form a unified command.

I am many things; a home for my crew, a place to work, an intregal part of our national defense. I am the USS MOUNT WHITNEY (LCC 20).