



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

USS MOUNT WHITNEY (LCC 20)
FLEET POST OFFICE
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From: Commanding Officer, USS MOUNT WHITNEY (LCC 20)
To: Director of Naval History (OP-09B9), Washington, D.C. 20390

Subj: Command History (RCS OPNAV 5750-1)

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12

Encl: (1) USS MOUNT WHITNEY (LCC 20) 1976 Command History

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

R. M. Burris
R. M. BURRIS

Copy:
COMPHIBGRU TWO
COMNAVSURFLANT

USS MOUNT WHITNEY (LCC 20)

1976 COMMAND HISTORY

Chronology of Significant Events

Jan 1 In-port upkeep, NORVA.

Jan 12 Conducted CINCLANTFLT Propulsion Examination Board, received satisfactory grade.

Jan 20 Underway for Pier 12 to load missiles.

Jan 22 Underway for CARIBEX 2-76.

Jan 29 Anchor Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

Jan 30 Conduct underway exercises, anchor Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. Commander D.U. McCULLOUGH relieved as Executive Officer by Commander A.S. MILLER.

Jan 31 Underway for Opposed Sortie.

Feb 3 Rear Admiral PALMER, COMPHIBGRU TWO, and Brigadier General SHULTER, Commanding General, 4th MAB, embarked.

Feb 5 Conducted highly successful missile firing.

Feb 6 Major General SHULTER, Commanding General, 4th MAB, promoted to present rank on board. Anchor St. Thomas, Virgin Islands, for port visit.

Feb 9 Admiral, Royal Netherlands Navy, arrives and departs.

Feb 10 Major General SPANJER, Commanding General, 2nd Marine Air Wing, arrives and departs.

Feb 11 The Honorable Gary M. PENISTEN, Asst. SECNAV (Financial Management) arrives and departs.

Feb 12 Lieutenant General JASKILKA, Asst. Commandant of the Marine Corps, the Honorable Donald RUMSFELD, SECDEF, Vice Admiral SHANAHAN, COMSECONDFLT, Rear Admiral HOLCOMB, Military Asst. to SECDEF, Rear Admiral REPLOGLE, Atlantic Fleet Inspector General, arrive and depart.

Feb 17 Burial-at-sea of Chief Petty Officer Elmer WOODRUFF, USN, Ret.

Feb 18: Vice Admiral SHANAHAN, COMSECONDFLT, arrives.

Feb 20 Vice Admiral SHANAHAN, COMSECONDFLT, departs.
Moor Pier 7, NORVA.

March 18 Underway for Pier 12, NORVA, moor.

March 19 Underway for Pier 7, NORVA, moor.

March 30 Vice Admiral SHANAHAN, COMSECONDFLT, breaks flag
in MOUNT WHITNEY. Staff, COMSECONDFLT, embarks
in MOUNT WHITNEY.

April 1 Vice Admiral ADAMSON, Commander Naval Surface
Forces Atlantic Fleet, arrives and departs.

April 2 Dr. James BABCOCK, and Captain RUNYON, USN,
members of the staff of the Director, Telecom-
munications and Command and Control Systems,
Office of the SECDEF, arrive and depart.

April 5 Admiral HOLLOWAY, Chief of Naval Operations,
arrives and departs.

April 7 Visit by 155 members of the Canadian Forces
Command and Staff College.

April 15 Dependent's Fast Cruise.

May 6 Underway for Exercise SOLID SHIELD 76 as a unit
of JTF 122.

May 8 Complete Communications Exercise ALOUD CHARLIE.

May 19 Brigadier General ATKINSON, USAF, Asst. Deputy
Director for Operations, Office of the Joint
Chiefs of Staff, arrives and departs.

May 21 Arrive NORVA, moor Pier 7.

June 7 Underway for sea as a unit of Task Force 200.

June 12 Anchor Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. Captain L.H. BIBBY,
USN, relieved as Commanding Officer by Captain
R.M. BURRET, USN.

June 13 Underway for OPAREA.

June 16 Arrive San Juan, Puerto Rico, for port visit.

June 18 Underway for sea.

June 21 Vice Admiral SHANAHAN, COMSECONDFLT, hauls down his flag in USS MOUNT WHITNEY.

June 25 Arrive Port Everglades, Florida, for port visit. Rear Admiral PALMER, COMPHIBGRU TWO, hauls down his flag.

June 29 Underway for sea.

July 2 Rendezvous with International Naval Review Task Force 200, station #2 of column #1.

July 3 Commence ceremonial entry into New York City,

July 4 200th Birthday of United States. Vice Admiral SHANAHAN, COMSECONDFLT, Vice President Nelson ROCKEFELLER, Donald RUMSFELD, SECDEF, Secretary of State Henry KISSINGER, arrive and depart. Render 21 gun salute to United States of America. Render 19 gun salute to the Senior Reviewing Official, Vice President Nelson ROCKEFELLER.

July 5 Vice Admiral SHANAHAN, COMSECONDFLT, breaks his flag in MOUNT WHITNEY. CNO hosts luncheon aboard for 50 Chiefs of Naval services.

July 7 Underway for NORVA.

July 8 Arrive NORVA, moor Pier 7.

Aug 6 Vice Admiral SHANAHAN, COMSECONDFLT, hauls down his flag, Rear Admiral PALMER, COMPHIBGRU TWO, breaks flag in MOUNT WHITNEY.

Aug 21 Vice Admiral SHANAHAN, COMSECONDFLT, breaks his flag in MOUNT WHITNEY.

Sept 3 Underway for extended operations in the North Atlantic and Exercises TEAMWORK 76 and BONDED ITEM.

Sept 17 Major General HERMANSEN, Norwegian Air Force, Commander Southern Norway Air Forces, and Major General HODNETTE, USAF, Air Deputy, Allied Forces Northern Europe, arrive and depart.

Sept 18 Major General SCHWENK, USMC, Director for Operations, U.S. European Command, and Dr. LABERGE, Asst. Secretary General for Defense Support of NATO, arrive and depart.

Sept 19 His Excellency the Secretary General of NATO, Joseph LUNS, and the Ambassadors of Norway, Denmark, Ireland, United Kingdom, and Netherlands, and General WILSON, Commandant of the Marine Corps, arrive and depart.

Sept 20 Rear Admiral REPLOGLE, Inspector General Atlantic Command, arrives and departs.

Sept 21 His Majesty King OLAV V, King of Norway, arrives and departs.

Sept 22 His Excellency J.J. HOLST, Deputy Minister of Defense of Norway, and LGEN TUFTE-JOHNSEN, Commander of Norwegian Forces, arrive and depart.

Sept 23 General Sir John SHARPE, Commander-in-Chief Allied Forces Northern Europe, arrives and departs.

Sept 28 Arrive Amsterdam, Netherlands, for port visit.

Oct 1 Underway for Portsmouth, England.

Oct 2 Arrive Portsmouth for port visit. Render 21 gun salute.

Oct 9 Underway for Exercise BONDED ITEM.

Oct 13 Navy Birthday. The Honorable Robert ELLSWORTH, Deputy SECDEF, arrives and cuts cake in birthday ceremonies on mess decks.

Oct 14 The Honorable Robert ELLSWORTH, Deputy SECDEF, departs.

Oct 15 General Sir John SHARPE, Commander Allied Forces Northern Europe, arrives and departs.

Oct 18 Arrive Hamburg, Germany, for port visit.

Oct 22 Rear Admiral PALMER, COMPHIBGRU TWO, hauls down his flag.

Oct 27 Vice Admiral SHANAHAN, COMSECONDFLT, breaks his flag in MOUNT WHITNEY. Arrive Dublin, Ireland, for port visit. First U.S. ship in six years to visit Dublin.

Oct 28 Underway for NORVA.

Nov 6 Conduct Operational Plant Propulsion Examination (OPPE) enroute CONUS. Weather prevents completion.

Nov 9 Arrive NORVA, moor Pier 7.

Nov 16 Underway to complete OPPE. Receive satisfactory grade. Return NORVA.

Dec 18 Christmas party held on board for dependent children.

Dec 28 Vice Admiral SHANAHAN, COMSECONDFLT, hauls down flag. Commanding Officer, MOUNT WHITNEY, breaks Commissioning Pennant.

Dec 31 Moored. port side, Pier 7 NORVA.

USS MOUNT WHITNEY (LCC 20)

1976 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 ship. MOUNT WHITNEY's commissioning ceremonies were held at the Norfolk Naval Shipyard in Portsmouth, Virginia, on 16 January, 1971.

Following outfitting, MOUNT WHITNEY conducted shakedown training in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, followed by participation in Exercises EXOTIC DANCER and DEEP FURROW 71.

On January 5, 1973, MOUNT WHITNEY held its first Change of Command when Captain O.G. BAIRD was relieved by Captain R.F. DUNN. The first part of 1973 saw MOUNT WHITNEY participate in Exercises AGILE JOUSTER, ALOUD PAPA, and EXOCTIC DANCER. Later in the year, MOUNT WHITNEY took part in Exercises DAWN PATROL and DEEP FURROW.

MOUNT WHITNEY's Basic Point Defense Missile System was installed in early 1974. This was followed by Operation AGILE JOUSTER and Exercises SMART SALUTE, ALOUD UNIFORM and SOLID SHIELD. MOUNT WHITNEY's second Change of Command took place 21 June 1974, when Captain R.F. DUNN was relieved by Captain L.H. BIBBY. MOUNT WHITNEY departed 13 July 1974 for a complex overhaul in the Philadelphia Naval Shipyard.

During this yard period, MOUNT WHITNEY was awarded the Meritorious Unit Commendation for its service in support of the Navy's Human Goals Plan. The ship also recieved a satisfactory grade on the 600 PSI Initial Light Examination conducted by CINCLANTFLT in December.

During 1975, MOUNT WHITNEY participated in Exercises AGATE PUNCH and SOLID SHIELD and celebrated the Navy's 200th Birthday in Fort Lauderdale, Florida.

As 1976 began, MOUNT WHITNEY received a satisfactory grade from the CINCLANTFLT Propulsion Examination Board team. Immediately following this, MOUNT WHITNEY got underway for the Caribbean. With the embarked staffs of COMPHIBGRU TWO, and 4th MAB, MOUNT WHITNEY became a central figure in Exercises CARIBEX and RUM PUNCH.

In March 1976, COMSECONDFLT embarked with his staff. May found MOUNT WHITNEY off the coast of North Carolina participating in Exercises ALOUD CHARLIE and SOLID SHIELD 76. The latter is the annual combined service exercise that this year involved nearly 80,000 personnel from all services.

On June 7, MOUNT WHITNEY left Norfolk to conduct Mobile Sea Range evaluations, and to take part in the International Naval Review that was to be held in New York City July 4. During a stop in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, MOUNT WHITNEY experienced its third Change of Command as Captain R.M. BURRIS relieved Captain L.H. BIBBY on 12 June 1976.

During the Mobile Sea Range evaluation, MOUNT WHITNEY coordinated not only the firing of the various ships missiles but also controlled the drones that were used as targets. This test was highly successful.

July 2 found MOUNT WHITNEY in company with a 50-ship task force for the ceremonial entry into New York Harbor on July 3 to begin the International Naval Review. The task force, with representative naval units from many nations of the world, was under the tactical command of Vice Admiral J.J. SHANAHAN, COMSECONDFLT, embarked in MOUNT WHITNEY.

During the ceremonies commemorating the 200th Birthday of the United States, MOUNT WHITNEY fired a 21 gun salute to the United States and a 19 gun salute to the Senior Reviewing Official, Vice President Nelson ROCKEFELLER.

During the several days of open visiting that followed, MOUNT WHITNEY entertained many thousands of people. The Chief of Naval Operations hosted a luncheon on board MOUNT WHITNEY for 50 Chiefs of Naval Services on July 5.

After a month long stay in Norfolk, MOUNT WHITNEY got underway again, this time for the North Atlantic and Exercises TEAMWORK 76 and BONDED ITEM. TEAMWORK 76, under the command of Vice Admiral SHANAHAN, acting now as Commander Striking Fleet Atlantic, was a major NATO exercise that included nine countries and tens of thousands of personnel. MOUNT WHITNEY spent the major portion of this exercise off the coast of Norway.

Port visits during this cruise were varied and interesting. Amsterdam, Holland, was the first stop, followed by Hamburg, Germany, and Portsmouth, England. Again, it was time for MOUNT WHITNEY to operate with a task force for Exercise BONDED ITEM off the coast of Germany.

The final port visit for MOUNT WHITNEY proved to be a first in nearly seven years for any U.S. Navy vessel, as the ship pulled into Dublin, Ireland.

During the crossing to Norfolk, MOUNT WHITNEY received the Operational Plant Propulsion Examination. Weather prevented completion of the exercise and, as a result, a week after returning to Norfolk, MOUNT WHITNEY was again underway to complete the OPPE. It was completed in fine fashion, with MOUNT WHITNEY receiving a satisfactory grade.

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