

1977




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 Navy Yard,  
Washington, DC 20390

Subj: Annual Command History of USS MOUNT WHITNEY (LCC 20)

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12B

- Encl: (1) Summary of Operations
- (2) Commanding Officer Biography
- (3) List of Commanding Officers
- (4) Letters of Commendation and Congratulatory Messages
- (5) Command Background

*Removed and destroyed  
classified burn*

1. Enclosures (1) through (5) are forwarded in accordance with reference (a).

*J. J. Kingston*  
J. J. KINGSTON

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*Reg 548 (4-6)*



USS MOUNT WHITNEY (LCC 20)

1977 COMMAND HISTORY

Chronology of significant events

Jan 1 In-port upkeep, Naval Station, NORVA.

Jan 5 Conducted Fast Cruise

Jan 10 Commander Amphibious Group TWO, Rear Admiral PALMER, hauls down his flag in USS MOUNT WHITNEY

Jan 11 Underway for sea

Jan 12 Underwent testing by representatives of the Shipboard Electromagnetic Compatibility Improvement Program (SEM/CIP), established by Navy Avionics Equipment Appraisal (NAVSEA) to assist the operating fleet in solving mutual interference problems which involve such electromagnetic systems as communications, television and radar. Link test with Medium-altitude Communications Satellite System conducted. Full power trial (Z-110-E).

Jan 13 Conducted economy trial (Z-111-E) and underway replenishment from USNS MARIAS.

Jan 14 Arrived MAYPORT, FLORIDA. Commander Amphibious Group TWO, RADM PALMER, breaks his flag in USS MOUNT WHITNEY.

Jan 17 Underway for sea

Jan 17-21 Final Navy Tactical Data System (NIDS), model 4.0 delivered.

Jan 19 Conducted Link overhaul plan schedule (OPS) with Medium-altitude Communications Satellite System (MACSS), USS SARATOGA and USS MAHAN.

Jan 21 Moored starboard side to Pier 12, Naval Station, NORVA. Ammo loaded.

Jan 24 Underway for sea

Jan 25 Astern full power trial; quick reversal ahead. Combat systems demonstration. 1400 Underwater Long-range Missile (ULM), 4 range. Moored Pier 7, portside to, Naval Station, NORVA.

Feb 1 In-port upkeep, Naval Station, NORVA

Feb 10 Assistant Commandant of the Marine Corps,  
General JASKILKA, USMC, visits.

Mar 1 In-port upkeep, Naval Station, NORVA

Mar 9 Students of the Canadian Forces Command and  
Staff College tour ship.

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Mar 17 Senior Medical Inspector conducts annual med-  
ical inspection.

Mar 19 Boy Scout Troop visit

Mar 25 Underway for exercise ALOUD FOXTROT

Mar 29 Moor portside to Pier 7, Naval Station, NORVA

April 1 In-port upkeep, Naval Station, NORVA

April 8 Commander Second Fleet breaks his flag in  
USS MOUNT WHITNEY

April 13 USMC Communications Officers Course Students  
visit.

April 18 Personnel and Administration Assistant Team  
Atlantic (PAATLANT) visit

April 19 Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of the  
Air Force visit

April 20 Conducted Fast Cruise

April 22 Admiral's Personnel Inspection

May 1 In-port upkeep, Naval Station, NORVA. Special  
Assistants to the Assistant Secretary of the  
Navy visit.

May 3 Underway for exercise ALOUD GOLF

May 4 Arrive/anchor, Onslow Bay, North Carolina

May 6 Underway for Norfolk

May 6 Moor portside to Pier 7, Naval Station, NORVA  
 May 10 Underway for joint exercise SOLID SHIELD '77  
 May 24 In-port upkeep, Naval Station, NORVA  
 May 27 Junior High School students visit  
 May 31 Brigadier General W. K. WILLIAMS, USA, visits  
 June 1 In-port upkeep, Naval Station, NORVA  
 June 6 Visit by Inspector General for Defense Intelligence  
 June 8 French Naval War College students visit; Landing Force Training Command students visit; Director General NICSMA visits.  
 June 10 COMSECONDFLT breaks his flag in USS MOUNT WHITNEY. COMSECONDFLT arrives, COMNAVAIRLANT arrives, CINCLANTFLT arrives. COMSECONDFLT change of Command held on board.  
 June 27 Underway for independent ship exercises in VACAPES.  
 June 28 Moor Berth 76, Naval Station, NORVA  
 June 29 Conducted Fast Cruise for dependents.  
 July 1 Underway for New York City  
 July 2 Moored Pier 88, New York  
 July 3-4 General Visiting  
 July 5 Underway for Norfolk. Conducted burial at sea.  
 July 6 Moored Pier 7, Naval Station, NORVA  
 July 11 Underway as COMSECONDFLT Basic Point Defense Surface Missile (BPDSMS) school ship.  
 July 12 Moored Pier 7, Naval Station, NORVA  
 July 13 Visit by students from Landing Force Training Command.  
 July 14 COMSECONDFLT disembarks  
 July 15 Visit by Medical/Dental Officers; embark 12 Sea Cadets  
 July 27 Landing Force Training Command students visit

Aug 1 . In-port upkeep, Naval Station, NORVA. RADM BELL visits.

Aug 9 Commander Cruiser/Destroyer Group TWO Staff embarks.

Aug 12 Underway for exercise COMPUTEX 5-77

Aug 18 Moored Naval Station Roosevelt Roads, Puerto Rico.

Aug 19 COMSECONDFLT VADM W.L. McDONALD breaks his flag in USS MOUNT WHITNEY. Underway for sea.

Aug 24 COMSECONDFLT hauls down his flag and disembarks.

Aug 29 Moored Pier 7, Naval Station, NORVA

Aug 30 Embark staffs of COMPHIBGRU TWO and Commanding General Fourth Marine Amphibious Brigade.

Aug 31 RADM CHRISTOPH, COMPHIBGRU TWO, breaks his flag in and embarks in USS MOUNT WHITNEY

Sept 1 In-port upkeep, Naval Station, NORVA

Sept 2 Change of Command: Captain J. J. KINGSTON relieves Captain R. M. BURRIS

Sept 9 Underway for Mediterranean to take part in exercise DISPLAY DETERMINATION

Sept 16 Replenishment at sea with USS CHARLESTON

Sept 22 Replenishment at sea with USNS PAWCATUCK

Sept 30 Arrive Saros Bay; Amphibious Assault. Receive departmental awards in Combat Information Center/DPS, Communications, and Surface-to-air Missile Systems from Commander Naval Surface Forces, Atlantic.

Oct 1 At Saros Bay

Oct 10 In-port, Naples, Italy

Oct 14 Underway for Antwerp, Belgium

Oct 15 Conduct refueling from USS SEATTLE while simultaneously conducting a vertical replenishment from USS SAN DIEGO

Oct 20 In-port, Antwerp, Belgium

Oct 24 Underway for sea; Participation in NATO Air Defense  
Ground Environment/Naval Tactical Data System demon-  
stration

Oct 28 In-port, Rotterdam, Holland (Netherlands)

Nov 1 In-port, Rotterdam, Holland (Netherlands)

Nov 3 Underway for exercise STEADY PROGRESS

Nov 5 In-port, Copenhagen, Denmark

Nov 14 Underway for NATO Air Defense Ground Environment/  
Navy Tactical Data System demonstration and exercise  
STEADY PROGRESS

Nov 19 In-port, Rotterdam, Holland (Netherlands)

Nov 22 Underway for NORVA

Dec 2 Moored Pier 7, Naval Station, NORVA

Dec 5 COMPHIBGRU TWO embarks

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## COMMAND BACKGROUND

Amphibious Command Ship USS MOUNT WHITNEY (LCC 20), was constructed by the Newport News Shipbuilding and Dry Dock Company, and is the second in the BLUE RIDGE class of command ships.

The ship is named for the 14,496-foot peak in the Sierra Nevada mountain range in California, the first ship in the Navy to bear this name.

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 landing operation. This control is greatly enhanced by MOUNT WHITNEY's NTDS (Navy Tactical Data System) which presents an instantaneous visual 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 and control modules. This complex is served by one of the largest tactical intelligence centers and communications units in the Navy.

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

Since commissioning, the ship has participated in several fleet exercises in the Mediterranean, the Caribbean and the North Atlantic. The ship spent six months in the Philadelphia Naval Shipyard in 1974, undergoing overhaul. MOUNT WHITNEY's accomplishments include earning three consecutive Atlantic Fleet Battle Efficiency "E's", the Meritorious Unit Commendation and several departmental efficiency awards. MOUNT WHITNEY most recently took part in the International Naval Review in New York on July 4, 1976.

A unit of the U.S. Atlantic Fleet, MOUNT WHITNEY carries a crew of 773 men and officers and is homeported in Norfolk, Virginia. The ship normally serves as flagship for the Commander Amphibious Group TWO and the Commanding General, 4th Marine Amphibious Brigade. MOUNT WHITNEY has also served as flagship for Commander Second Fleet.

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Enclosure (5)