



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 Naval Yard,
Washington, DC 20390

Subj: Command History, forwarding of (OPNAV Report 5750-1)

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12B

Encl: (1) Ship's History-1978

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

M. W. Bronson
M. W. BRONSON
By direction

Copy to:
CINCLANTFLT
COMSECONDFLT
COMNAVSURFLANT
COMPHIBGRU TWO

1978 COMMAND HISTORY

Chronology of significant events

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

Jan 6 COMNAVSURFLANT, Vice Admiral Read visits.

Jan 16 PACE counselors from Old Dominion University onboard for group briefing and individual counseling of PACE students.

Jan 23 Underway for the overnight Material Condition Analysis of the Preoverhaul Test and Inspection.

Jan 24 Moored portside to Pier 7, Naval Station, NORVA.

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

Feb 6 Underway for Fort Lauderdale, Fla., Mobile Sea Range exercise, READEX 1-78.

Feb 11 In-port Fort Lauderdale, Fla.

Feb 14 Underway for Roosevelt Roads Naval Station, Puerto Rico.

Feb 17 In-port Roosevelt Roads Naval Station, Puerto Rico.

Feb 20 Underway, continuing MSR exercise READEX 1-78.

Feb 23 Mobile Sea Range rehearsal.

Feb 27 In-port Roosevelt Roads Naval Station, Puerto Rico.

Feb 28 Underway for Curacao, Netherlands Antilles.

March 1 In-port Willemstad, Curacao.

March 4 Underway for Norfolk, Va., Operational Propulsion Examination and Propulsion Examination Board inspect the ship's PMS.

March 8 Moored to Pier 7, Naval Station, Norva.

March 10 Commanding Officer's personnel inspection.

March 20 Underway for MOBILE TRAINING TEAM (MIT) in the VACAPES OPAREAS.

March 24 Moored D & S Piers, Berth 212, NORVA.

April 1 In-port upkeep, D & S Piers, Berth 212, NORVA.

April 6 Underway for OPPE/PEB.

April 7 Moored, D & S Piers, Pier 21, Berth 212, NORVA.

April 21 Army War College tours MOUNT WHITNEY.

April 22 Northern Virginia Patriots tour MOUNT WHITNEY.

May 1 In-port upkeep, D & S Piers, Pier 21, Berth 212, NORVA.

May 5 Commanding Officer's personnel inspection.

May 11 Christian Musical Group, "The Great Commission Co." performs onboard MOUNT WHITNEY

May 15 Underway for Exercise SOLID SHIELD 78.

May 26 Moored Pier 7, Naval Station, NORVA.

June 1 In-port upkeep, Pier 7, Naval Station, NORVA

June 29 MOUNT WHITNEY boat crews participated in COMNAVSURFLANT Small Boat Regatta and won three first places.

July 1 In-port upkeep, Pier 7, Naval Station, NORVA.

July 6 Ship shifted berths for onloading of missiles.

July 10 Underway for Type Training.

July 13 Underway for one-day dependents cruise, and returned to Berth 71, Naval Station, NORVA.

August 1 Underway for COMPTUEX/MSR Exercise.

August 4 Helo's from USS MILWAUKEE transfer MSR personnel Commander Cruiser Destroyer Group Two from Roosevelt Roads to MOUNT WHITNEY. Helo test of Uplink/Downlink Drone Control Equipment. RDVU with TU 21.1.5, Saratoga. HARPOONEX with MOUNT WHITNEY target ship. OCE Commander Destroyer Squadron-26 Z-3-ASCM ASMD Exercise (Selex for MOUNT WHITNEY) CECIL simulates launch platform OCE CV. COMSECONDFLT arrives by helo from Roosevelt Roads.

August 6 MOBILE SEA RANGE graded manned raids.

August 8 MOBILE SEA RANGE live firing.

August 11 Missile shoot, Moor Berth 72, Port side to Naval Station, Norva.

August 19-20 Ship holds two-day dinner/dance on flight deck for crew.

August 23 Underway for NATO Operation Northern Wedding '78.

Sept. 1 At sea.

Sept. 9 At sea, MOUNT WHITNEY is visited by the Secretary General of NATO, VADM Godo, Royal Norwegian Navy, RADM Hubbard, Deputy Advisor, and other distinguished guests.

Sept 19 Moored Portside to Berth 5, Rosyth, Scotland.

Sept. 23 Underway for Hamburg, Germany.

Sept. 24 Moor, Starboard side to Oversee Brucke, Hamburg, Germany.

Sept. 25 German Armed Forces Staff College Faculty Group tour ship.

Sept. 27 Underway for Copenhagen, Denmark.

Sept. 29 Moor, Starboard side to Langelinie Pier.

Oct 1 Inport Copenhagen, Denmark.

Oct. 3 Underway for Portsmouth, England.

Oct. 5 Moor, port side to, South Railway Jetty, Portsmouth, England.

Oct. 9 Underway for Cherbourg, France. Moor at Quai De France, Transatlantic Section, Cherbourg, France.

Oct. 10 VADM Wacrenier visits ship.

Oct. 11 200 French Navy personnel visit ship.

Oct. 12 Underway for Dublin, Ireland.

Oct. 13 Moor Starboard side to, Alexander Quay, Berth 31, Dublin, Ireland.

Oct. 17 Underway for Norfolk, Virginia.

Oct. 30 At sea, COMSECONDFLT arrives, Moor Pier 7, Port side to, Naval Station, NORVA.

Nov. 1

In-port, upkeep, Naval Station, NORVA.

Dec. 1

In-port, upkeep, Naval Station, NORVA.

Dec. 16

MOUNT WHITNEY holds Children's Christmas party on board ship.

USS MOUNT WHITNEY (LCC 20)

The 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 14,946 foot peak in the Sierra Nevada mountain range in California, the first ship in the Navy to bear this name.

The 620 foot MOUNT WHITNEY, with a complement of 850 men and officers, serves as flagship for the Commander, U.S. Second Fleet. MOUNT WHITNEY also serves as a command platform for the Commander, Amphibious Group Two; the Commanding General, Fourth Marine Amphibious Brigade and the Air Control Group Commander during amphibious operations. The ship is homeported in Norfolk, Virginia.

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 a complex overhaul. MOUNT WHITNEY's accomplishments include earning three consecutive Battle Efficiency Awards for 1972, 1973 and 1974, the Meritorious Unit Commendation and several departmental efficiency awards. On July 4, 1976 the ship took part in the International Naval Review in New York. In fiscal year 1978, MOUNT WHITNEY again won the Battle Efficiency Award and departmental awards in Communications, Engineering, Supply, the Surface to Air missile system award, the Amphibious Assault award, the Combat Information Center "E" and the Electronics Warfare "EW". MOUNT WHITNEY recently took part in Display Determination 77 and Northern Wedding/Bold Guard 78.

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 operations. This control is greatly enhanced by MOUNT WHITNEY's NIDS (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 21 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.

There are many interesting facts about MOUNT WHITNEY.

The ship's communications center can handle over 75,000 messages a month, and its intelligence center is the most sophisticated of its kind afloat in any navy.

Although her main fighting equipment is her electronics and communications suit, MOUNT WHITNEY is also armed with two radar controlled rapid fire 3"/50 gun mounts and the basic point defense missile system consisting of two launchers, capable of firing eight Sparrow III missiles each.

The ship carries enough food to feed the crew for ninety days. It can also transport supplies to support an emergency evacuation of 3,000 people, should this be necessary. Its evaporators produce over 100,000 gallons of fresh water daily, enough to meet the needs of a large ocean liner.

The ship travels at a maximum of 23 knots and her fuel capacity is over 1,000,000 gallons of Navy distillate and JP-5 fuel. This would permit the ship to steam at 16 knots for 35 days - from Norfolk, Virginia to Mozambique in the Indian Ocean and back.

The ship's two anchors weigh 11 tons each and are attached to 180 fathoms (1080 feet) of anchor chain. Each chain weighs about 25 tons. The rudder is over 22 feet tall and enables the ship to turn in a circle 500 yards in diameter. Total electrical capacity is 7,500 kilowatts, a sufficient amount to power a small city.

List of Commanding Officers
of USS MOUNT WHITNEY

1. Captain O. G. Baird, USN, relieved January 5, 1973
2. Captain R. F. Dunn, USN, relieved June 21, 1974
3. Captain L. H. Bibby, USN, relieved June 12, 1976
4. Captain R. M. Burris, USN, relieved September 2, 1977
5. Captain J. J. Kingston, USN, present Commanding Officer
