



**DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY**

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

5720

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From: Commanding Officer, USS MOUNT WHITNEY (LCC-20)  
To: Director of Naval History (OP-09BH), Washington Naval Yard,  
Washington, D.C. 20374

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

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12C

Encl: (1) Ship's History 1979  
(2) Ship's Fact Sheet  
(3) Biography of Commanding Officer  
(4) List of Commanding Officers

1. In accordance with reference (a), enclosures (1) through (4) are forwarded.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "L. L. Lubbs", is positioned above the typed name.

L. L. LUBBS  
By direction

USS MOUNT WHITNEY (LCC-20)  
Ship's History 1979  
CHRONOLOGY OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

JAN 1 - 15 Inport Norfolk, Va. COMSECONDFLT, COMPHIBGRU TWO and C. G. FOURTH MAB embarked.

JAN 15 - 20 Underway conducting type training in VACAPES operations area. Training included various electronic, casualty control, and missile/drone tracking exercises.

JAN 20 - 26 Inport Newport, R.I.

JAN 26 Underway for Norfolk, Va.

JAN 27 - FEB 16 Inport Norfolk, Va.

FEB 16 - 20 Underway for New Orleans, La.

FEB 20 - 28 Inport New Orleans, La.

FEB 28 - MAR 3 Underway for Norfolk, Va.

MAR 3 - 28 Inport Norfolk, Va. Canadian Command and Staff College tour on 22 MAR followed by Air Force 3095th Training Unit tour on 23 MAR.

MAR 28 - 31 Underway for Port Everglades, Fla.

MAR 31 - APR 2 Inport Port Everglades, Fla. Commander Cruiser-Destroyer Group 12, and commander Fleet Electronics Warfare Support Group embark on 1 APR in preparation for Mobile Sea Range (MSR) exercise "COMPUTEX 79".

APR 2 - 14 Underway. Participated in Mobile Sea Range exercise "COMPUTEX 79" in the Puerto Rican operations area. The MSR included various graded raids, aircraft vulnerability exercises, 3"/50 gunfire, electronics warfare, drone tracking and live missile firing evolutions. The ship served as a range safety platform for the first live operational warhead shot of the HARPOON missile from a submerged submarine.

APR 14 - MAY 30 Inport Norfolk, Va. Final preparations for ROH in progress. COMSECONDFLT shifts his flag to USS PIEDMONT (AD-17) on 7 MAY. Earlier, COMPHIBGRU TWO debarked on 4 MAY and C. G. FOURTH MAB on 1 MAY. The ship offloaded ammunition on 8 MAY.

MAY 30 Underway for Philadelphia Naval Shipyard with dependents embarked.

Enclosure (1)

MAY 31 - DEC 13

Inport Philadelphia Naval Shipyard for ROH. Dependents debark. The \$16.5-million ROH began on 1 JUNE and ended on 13 DEC. It took more than 63,000 "man-days" to complete and included major changes in pollution control, reconditioning of the engineering power plant, and a vast array of electronics and communications equipment. During the period MOUNT WHITNEY was visited by COMNAVSURFLANT, VADM J. D. JOHNSON, USN and by COMPHIBGRU TWO, RADM W. C. HAMM, USN.

DEC 13

Underway for Norfolk, Va.

DEC 14

Inport Norfolk, Va. MOUNT WHITNEY ended the year by winning its second consecutive Battle Efficiency Award "E", departmental "E's" in Engineering, Supply, Amphibious Assault, Combat Information and Electronics Warfare. Third consecutive awards were in Surface to Air Missile Systems and in Communications.

USS MOUNT WHITNEY (LCC-20)  
FACT SHEET

The USS MOUNT WHITNEY (LCC-20) was constructed by the Newport News Shipbuilding and Drydock 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 750 men and officers, serves as flagship for the Commander, U.S. Second Fleet; Commander, Amphibious Group Two; and the Commanding General, Fourth Marine Amphibious Brigade; and as a command platform for the Commander, Tactical Air Control Group Two 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 underwent two six-month overhauls in the Philadelphia Naval Shipyard: in 1974 and again in 1979. 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. MOUNT WHITNEY again won consecutive Battle Efficiency Awards in 1978 and 1979. As well, the ship won two consecutive departmental efficiency awards in Engineering, Supply, Amphibious Assault, Combat Information and Electronics Warfare. MOUNT WHITNEY won third consecutive efficiency awards in Surface to Air Missile Systems and in Communications.

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 operation, afloat or ashore. 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 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.

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Enclosure (2)

Although her main fighting equipment is her electronics and communications suit, MOUNT WHITNEY is also armed with two 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 also can 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.

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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, commanding through 1979