



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

USS MOUNT WHITNEY (LCC 20)
FLEET POST OFFICE
NEW YORK 09517

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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 5720-1)

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5720.12C

Encl: (1) Ship's History 1981
(2) Narrative of significant events
(3) Ship's Fact Sheet
(4) Biography of Commanding Officer
(5) Photography of Commanding Officer
(6) List of Commanding Officers

1. In accordance with reference (a), enclosures (1) through (6) are forwarded.


D. M. BENNETT

Copy to:
COMPHIBGRU TWO

USS MOUNT WHITNEY (LCC 20)
SHIP'S HISTORY: 1981

CHRONOLOGY OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

Jan. 1-16 Inport Norfolk, Virginia; COMSECONDFLT, COMPHIBGRU TWO and CG FOURTHMAB embarked

Jan. 16 Underway for Newport, Rhode Island

Jan. 17-23 Inport Newport, Rhode Island for Naval War College war games exercise

Jan. 23 Underway for Norfolk, Virginia

Jan. 24 - Inport Norfolk, Virginia

Feb. 18

Feb. 18- Underway for Mobile Sea Range (MSR) exercise READEX 1-81

Mar. 4

Feb. 22 Inport Roosevelt Roads, Puerto Rico to onload equipment for READEX 1-81

Mar. 4-9 Inport Norfolk, Virginia

Mar. 9-19 Underway for WINTEX and Port Everglades, Florida

Mar. 13-16 Inport Port Everglades, Florida

Mar. 19- Inport Norfolk, Virginia

May 1

May 1-14 Underway for exercise SOLID SHIELD 81

May 14- Inport Norfolk, Virginia

July 19

July 16 In ceremonies held aboard the USS MOUNT WHITNEY (LCC 20) VADM Thomas J. Bigley was relieved by VADM James A. Lyons as Commander Second Fleet. Guests of honor included the Secretary of the Navy John F. Lehman, Jr., ADM Harry Train, Commander in Chief Atlantic Fleet, and RADM Kearns, Commander Amphibious Group TWO.

July 19-29 Underway for Type Training and Boston, Massachusetts

July 24-27 Inport Boston, Massachusetts

July 29- Inport Norfolk, Virginia

Aug. 20

Aug. 20- Underway for OCEAN VENTURE/OCEAN SAFARI and MAGIC SWORD NORTH/MAGIC SWORD SOUTH. VADM James A. LYONS is embarked as Commander Striking Fleet Atlantic

Sep. 1 Secretary of the Navy, John F. LEHMAN, Jr., arrives by helicopter from USS EISENHOWER (CVN-69) to visit MOUNT WHITNEY.

Sep. 2 MOUNT WHITNEY crosses the Arctic Circle.

Sep. 3 Mr. A.R. BLAKER, Minister of State, Great Britain arrives by helicopter to visit MOUNT WHITNEY.

Sep. 18-25 Inport Lisbon, Portugal

Sep. 18 VADM DeCOSTA, Commander Maritime Continental Command Portugal visits MOUNT WHITNEY.

Sep. 25- Underway for Halifax, Nova Scotia

Oct. 2

Oct. 2-6 Inport Halifax, Nova Scotia

Oct. 6-7 Underway for Norfolk, Virginia

Oct. 7-19 Inport Norfolk, Virginia

Oct. 8 ADM Harry TRAIN, Commander-in-Chief Atlantic Fleet and ADM MAEDA, Chief of Staff Japanese Maritime Self Defense Force visit MOUNT WHITNEY

USS MOUNT WHITNEY (LCC 20)
SHIP'S HISTORY: 1981

CHRONOLOGY OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

Oct. 10 Change of Command: CAPT Vernon C. Smith is relieved by
CAPT David M. Bennett as Commanding Officer, USS MOUNT
WHITNEY (LCC 20)

Oct. 19-21 Underway for VACAPES

Oct. 21- Inport Norfolk, Virginia

Nov. 9

Oct. 26 CAPT Capelle, head of French Military Mission, SACLANT,
visits MOUNT WHITNEY

Nov. 9-25 Underway for Mobile Sea Range (MSR) exercise READEX 1-82
and San Juan, Puerto Rico

Nov. 12-16 Inport San Juan, Puerto Rico

Nov. 25- Inport Norfolk, Virginia

Dec. 31

Dec. 7 RADM Hervey, Chief British Naval Staff, visits
MOUNT WHITNEY

Dec. 31 Inport Norfolk Virginia

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USS MOUNT WHITNEY (LCC-20)
NARRATIVE OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

- Feb. 18-
Mar. 4 During Mobile Sea Range (MSR) READEX 1-81, MOUNT WHITNEY was the Mobile Sea Range Operations Center (MROC). The command ship controlled live missile firings for seven ships.

- May 1-14 During exercise SOLID SHIELD 81 MOUNT WHITNEY served as command ship for VADM Thomas J. Bigley, Commander Second Fleet, and RADM Warren C. Hamm, Commander Amphibious Group TWO. RADM Hamm directed operations of SOLID SHIELD 81 from MOUNT WHITNEY.

- July 16 In ceremonies held aboard MOUNT WHITNEY VADM Thomas J. Bigley was relieved by VADM James A. Lyons as Commander Second Fleet. Guests of honor included the Secretary of the Navy, John F. Lehman, Jr., ADM Harry Train, Commander-in-Chief Atlantic Fleet, and RADM Kearns, Commander Amphibious Group Two.

- Aug. 20-
Oct. 7 MOUNT WHITNEY participated in OCEAN VENTURE/OCEAN SAFARI and MAGIC SWORD NORTH/MAGIC SWORD SOUTH in one of the largest peacetime naval exercises in history. VADM James A. Lyons was embarked as Commander Striking Fleet Atlantic during these exercises. On September 1 the Secretary of the Navy, John F. Lehman, Jr., arrived by helicopter from the USS EISENHOWER (CVN-69) for a one day visit aboard MOUNT WHITNEY. On September 2 MOUNT WHITNEY crossed the Arctic Circle and her crewmen became members of the Order of the Bluenose. Upon completion of MOUNT WHITNEY's role in the exercises port calls were made in Lisbon, Portugal and Halifax, Nova Scotia.

- Oct. 10 In ceremonies held aboard MOUNT WHITNEY CAPT Vernon C. Smith was relieved by CAPT David M. Bennett as Commanding Officer, USS MOUNT WHITNEY (LCC-20). Guests of honor for the ceremony included VADM James A. Lyons, Commander Second Fleet, and CAPT J. J. Kingston, Commander Amphibious Squadron Four and former Commanding Officer of MOUNT WHITNEY.

- Nov. 9-
Nov. 25 During Mobile Sea Range (MSR) READEX 1-82, MOUNT WHITNEY was the Mobile Sea Range Operations Center (MROC). The command ship controlled live missile firings for six ships.

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 and the Commanding General, Fourth Marine Amphibious Brigade. 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 shipyards, in 1974 and again in 1979. MOUNT WHITNEY's long list of accomplishments and awards includes participation in the July 4, 1976 International Naval Review in New York City, six Battle Efficiency ("E") awards, receipt of the Meritorious Unit Commendation and numerous department efficiency awards. MOUNT WHITNEY won consecutive Battle "E" Awards in 1972, 1973, and 1974; and repeated this in 1978, 1979, and 1980. Additionally, in 1980 the ship won two departmental efficiency awards in Engineering, Amphibious Assault, and Electronic Warfare. MOUNT WHITNEY won her 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 (Naval 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 computer system, 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 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 suite, 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 speed 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 25 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, relieved January 26, 1980
6. Captain V. C. SMITH, USN, relieved October 10, 1981
7. Captain D. M. BENNETT, USN, Commanding through 1981