



**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

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12C

Encl: (1) Chronology of significant events: 1982  
(2) Narrative of significant events  
(3) Fact Sheet  
(4) Biography of Commanding Officer  
(5) Photograph 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  
File

**USS MOUNT WHITNEY (LCC-20)  
SHIP'S HISTORY: 1982**

**CHRONOLOGY OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS**

Jan 01      Inport Norfolk, Va., COMSECONDFLT embarked.  
Jan 21      Underway for Newport, R.I.  
Jan 22      Inport Newport, R.I. for Naval War College war game exercise. (Establish Contact)  
Jan 29      Underway for Norfolk, Va.  
Jan 30      Inport, Norfolk, Va.  
Feb 05      Underway for Nassau  
Feb 08      Arrive Nassau, Bahamas  
Feb 11      Underway for Fort Lauderdale, Fla.  
Feb 12      Inport, Fort Lauderdale, Fla.  
Feb 16      Underway for New Orleans, La.  
Feb 18      Inport, New Orleans, La.  
Feb 24      Underway for Norfolk, Va.  
Mar 01      Inport, Norfolk, Va.  
Apr 10      Underway for San Juan, Puerto Rico  
Apr 14      Inport, San Juan, Puerto Rico  
Apr 18      Underway for Mobile Sea Range  
Apr 23      Inport Roosevelt Roads (equipment load-off), underway Barbados  
Apr 25      Anchored, Bridgetown, Barbados.  
Apr 30      Underway for St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands  
May 01      Anchored, St. Thomas  
May 04      Underway for Naval Station Roosevelt Roads/moored Roosevelt Roads  
May 05      Underway for Curacao, Netherland Antilles  
May 10      Inport Curacao, Netherland Antilles  
May 14      Underway for Norfolk, Va.  
May 18      Inport, Norfolk, Va.  
Jun 01      Fourth Marine Amphibious Brigade re-embarks flagship  
Jun 16      Underway for New York City  
Jun 17      Inport, New York City. Mayor New York City, Edward I. Koch, visits COMSECONDFLT  
Jun 21      Underway for Norfolk, Va.  
Jun 22      Inport, Norfolk, Va.  
Jun 28      COMTRALANT calls on COMSECONDFLT, Deputy SACLANT calls on COMSECONDFLT, Commanding Officer, Japanese Naval Ship Katoni makes call on COMSECONDFLT  
Aug 03      Deputy Chief of Staff SACLANT makes call on COMSECONDFLT  
Aug 04      Commander British Navy Staff Washington, D.C., makes call on COMSECONDFLT  
Aug 09      COMPHIBGRU TWO re-embarks flagship  
Aug 23      Underway for NATO exercise United Effort and Northern Wedding. Vice Admiral James A. Lyons Jr., is embarked as Commander Striking Fleet Atlantic. Rear Admiral William Kearns is embarked as Commander Amphibious Group Two. Brig. Gen. Hudson is embarked as Commanding General Fourth Marine Amphibious Brigade  
Sep 05      Exercise "Short Engagement" held off Land's End, England.  
Sep 06      Commenced exercise Northern Wedding  
Sep 10-11      Assistant Secretary of the Navy visits COMSTRIKFLTANT

Sep 13 Lt. General Miller (USMC), Commanding General Fleet Marine Force and  
 Lt. General Lind (USMC), Commander Baltic Approaches call on  
 COMSTRIKFLTANT. Eighty news media personnel arrived via helo for  
 press conference with COMSTRIKFLTANT  
 Sep 14 Fourth Marine Amphibious Brigade transfers ashore  
 Sep 15 COMPHIBGRU TWO shifts his flag to USS Nassau  
 Sep 17 Northern Wedding ends  
 Sep 18 Port visit Amsterdam, Netherlands. Naval Command IJmuiden makes call on  
 COMSTRIKFLTANT  
 Sep 20 U.S. Consul General, Amsterdam, makes call on COMSTRIKFLTANT, U.S.  
 Ambassador to Netherlands makes call on COMSTRIKFLTANT  
 Sep 22 Underway for Portsmouth, England  
 Sep 23 Lord Mayor of Portsmouth, and Flag Officer Portsmouth visit  
 COMSTRIKFLTANT  
 Sep 27 COMPHIBGRU TWO re-embarks flagship  
 Sep 30 Underway for Copenhagen, Denmark  
 Oct 02 Inport Copenhagen, Denmark. Commanding Officer, Naval Base Hølm,
 Lord Mayor of Copenhagen, and U.S. Ambassador make calls on  
 COMSTRIKFLTANT  
 Oct 05 COMSTRIKFLTANT receives calls from Inspector General of Danish  
 Navy, Commanding Officer Naval Base Hølm, Commander Military  
 Region, and Commanding Officer Frigate Squadron.  
 Oct 07 Underway for Oslo, Norway  
 Oct 08 Anchored Oslo, Norway. U.S. Ambassador arrives by helo to make call on  
 COMSTRIKFLTANT  
 Oct 12 Underway for Norfolk, Va. COMSTRIKFLTANT departs flagship  
 Oct 21 COMSTRIKFLTANT re-embarks flagship off Bermuda via helo  
 Oct 22 Arrive Norfolk, Va.  
 Nov 01 COMNAVSURFLANT calls on COMSECONDFLT  
 Nov 02 CINCLANTFLT calls on COMSECONDFLT  
 Dec 01 Fleet Dental Officer visits flagship  
 Dec 07 COMINWARCOM makes call on COMSECONDFLT  
 Dec 31 Inport, Norfolk, Va.

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

- Apr. 18**      **Mobile Sea Range (MSR) provides Commander Second Fleet with the capability to conduct free-moving exercises in a realistic open ocean environment. MSR controls and re-constructs these exercises designed to improve anti-air and anti-surface warfare readiness of the forces. Mount Whitney was assigned as the Mobile Range Operations Center (MROC). The MROC provides range safety and scenario control.**
- Aug. 23**      **United Effort '82 exercised NATO forces in various tactical situations to improve unit readiness in all warfare areas. Emphasis was placed on coordinated anti-air and anti-submarine warfare, and convoy protection. COMSTRIKFLTLANT, embarked on Mount Whitney, directed the exercise.**
- Sept. 06**      **NATO Exercise Northern Wedding '82 involved over 160 ships and 250 aircraft of NATO nations and included two amphibious landings. It was under the direction of Commander Amphibious Group Two, and Commanding General, Fourth Marine Amphibious Brigade. The staffs were embarked on Mount Whitney.**

**USS MOUNT WHITNEY (LCC 20)  
FACT SHEET**

The USS Mount Whitney (LCC-20) was constructed by the Newport News Shipbuilding and Drydock Co., 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 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 Commander U.S. Second Fleet; Commander Amphibious Group Two; and Commanding General, Fourth Marine Amphibious Brigade. The ship is homeported in Norfolk, Va.

Since commissioning, the ship has participated in fleet operations in the Mediterranean, Caribbean, and the North Atlantic. The ship underwent two six month overhauls in the Philadelphia Naval shipyards, in 1974 and 1979. Mount Whitney's long list of accomplishments and awards includes six Battle Efficiency ("E") awards, receipt of the Meritorious Unit Commendation, numerous department efficiency awards and participation in the July 4, 1976, International Naval Review in New York City. Mount Whitney won consecutive Battle "E" Awards in 1972, 1973, and 1974; and repeated this in 1978, 1979, and 1980. The ship also won departmental efficiency awards in Engineering, Amphibious Assault, and Electronic Warfare. Mount Whitney won her third consecutive efficiency award 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 largest 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 the landing operation. The control is greatly enhanced by Mount Whitney's Naval Tactical Data System (NTDS) which presents an instantaneous 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.

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"/50mm gun mounts and the Basic Point Defense Missile System consisting of two launchers, each capable of firing eight Sparrow III missiles.

The ship carries enough food to feed the crew for ninety days. It also can transport supplies to support an emergency evacuation of 3000 people. 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 one million gallons of Navy distillate and JP-5 fuel. This would permit the ship to steam at 16 knots for 35 days - from Norfolk, Va., 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 7500 kilowatts, a sufficient amount to power a small city.

**COMMANDING OFFICERS  
USS MOUNT WHITNEY (LCC-20)**

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 1982