



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

USS MOUNT WHITNEY (LCC-20) ✓
FLEET POST OFFICE
NEW YORK 09517-3310

5720
Ser LCC20-04/103
16 FEB 86

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

Subj: COMMAND HISTORY (OPNAV REPORT 5720-1)

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5720.12C

Encl: (1) Ship's History 1985
(2) Narrative of Significant Events
(3) Ship's 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.

L. L. Lubbs
L. L. LUBBS

Copy to: (w/encl)
COMNAVSURFLANT
COMSECONDFLT
COMPHIBGRU TWO
COMPHIBRON TWELVE

USS MOUNT WHITNEY COMMAND HISTORY 1985

January	04	Conducted fast cruise
	08	Underway for Open Road-85
	12	Inport Newport, Rhode Island
	16	USS MOUNT WHITNEY'S Birthday (14 years)
	17	COMM School Students visit
	18	Underway for Norfolk, VA
	19	Inport Norfolk, VA
	23	Commander, Amphibious Squadron Twelve Visits
	29	Commander, Amphibious Group Two Embarks
February	05	Commence Amphibious Warfare Training Week
	20	CINTEX 21-85
	22	CAPT. L. L. LUBBS (PCO) Arrived
	25	Commander, Amphibious Group Two Debarks
March	01	MOUNT WHITNEY Change of Command
	04	Underway for READEX 1-85
	07	Port visit - Fort Lauderdale, Fl
	08	Underway from Fort Lauderdale, Fl
	09	Port visit - Nassau, Bahamas
	11	Underway from Nassau, Bahamas
	13	Port visit - St. Thomas, V. I.
	18	Underway from St. Thomas, V. I.
30	Inport Norfolk, VA	
April	01	Commanding General, 4TH MAB Embarks
	02	Commander, Amphibious Group Two Embarks
	15	Commence BFIT 2-85
	16	Commence Surface Warfare Training Week
	26	Underway for Engineering Training
	28	Inport Norfolk, VA
May	01	Commanding General, 2nd MAF Embarks
	03	Underway, Solid Shield-85
	11	Commander, Amphibious Group Two Debarks
	12	Inport Norfolk, VA
	16	USMC Comm Officer School Visit
	19	Underway, OPPE and Ammo Offload
	20	OPPE Team embarks
	21	Ammo anchorage/OPPE Team Debarks
	22	Inport Norfolk, VA pier 7
	28	Commander, SECOND Fleet shifts flag to USS NASSAU
	31	Underway/Inport Norfolk Naval Ship Yard - pier 42/43
June	13	Shift to Drydock #8, Norfolk Naval Ship Yard
	20	EPMAC LANIFLT Readiness Visit

Enclosure (1)

USS MOUNT WHITNEY COMMAND HISTORY 1985

July	16	Awards/Frocking Ceremonies
August	01	MOUNT WHITNEY Command Picnic
September	04	NAVMACS Tech Visit
	09	Leave Drydock #8
October	02	Commence Dock Trials
	06	Commence Fast Cruise
	08	Underway Post Repair Sea Trials
	11	Inport Norfolk, Pier 7
	22	3M Assist Visit
	26	MOUNT WHITNEY Conducts Open House - 173 Guests
	27	MOUNT WHITNEY Conducts Open House - 196 Guests
November	04	Underway for "W" Anchorage
	05	Underway Independent Steaming Exercise
	07	Anchored "W" Anchorage
	08	Inport Norfolk, Pier 7
	16	Underway for Refresher Training, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba
	19	Rescue two members of yacht "PASSION" who were stranded by Hurricane KATE
	20	Anchor GIMO Bay, Cuba, Anchorage "E"
December	03	Embark CO USS SPIEGEL GROVE
	05	Embark CO USS SPIEGEL GROVE
	10	Underway (Conducted Engineering ORE)
	13	Underway (Final Battle Problem)
	15	Underway for Mayport, Florida
	16	Awards/Frocking Ceremonies
	18	Arrive Vicinity of Mayport, Florida Commence OPPE
	19	Enroute Norfolk, VA
	20	Inport Norfolk, VA, Pier 7

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

- 01 MAR USS MOUNT WHITNEY CHANGE OF COMMAND. Captain R. C. JOHNSON JR., was relieved by CAPTAIN L. L. LUBBS. Principal speaker was VADM H. C. Mustin, Commander, Second Fleet. Also attending the ceremonies were Commander Amphibious Group Two and Commanding General Fourth Marine Amphibious Brigade.
- 04 MAR - 28 MAR READEX 1-85 was a large scale exercise conducted in the western Atlantic and Caribbean. It included a Mobile Sea Range (MSR), missile exercise and a hostilities phase. Upon departing a port visit in St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands on 18 March, USS MOUNT WHITNEY became an active participant of the exercise, acting as the Missile Range Operating Center ship during the MSR phase. During the hostilities phase, 24-27 March, MOUNT WHITNEY was assigned to Task Group 21.3, the principle Blue Force battlegroup led by COMCARGRU SIX embarked on USS Nimitz (CVN 68). The hostilities phase exercised reconnaissance and targeting missions leading to conventional strikes and finally to chemical and tactical nuclear war at sea before terminating on 27 March.
- 03 APR - 12 APR SOLID SHIELD-85 tested the armed forces coordination in a wartime situation. The Navy, Army, Air Force, and Marine Corps all played key roles culminating in an amphibious assault landing. MOUNT WHITNEY conducted the Operational Effectiveness Demonstration (OED) of JINTACCS, a Joint Message Formatting System.
- 31 MAY - 08 OCT USS MOUNT WHITNEY entered Norfolk Naval Ship Yard (NNSY) for a four month ship yard period. During this time the largest communication equipment upgrade ever accomplished by NNSY was installed on board. A chaff firing system and major hull work was accomplished during the dry dock period.
- 16 NOV - 17 DEC REFRESHER TRAINING was conducted in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, by MOUNT WHITNEY for approximately four weeks. Damage Control and Engineering Casualty Control were the primary emphasis of this intense training period.
- 18 DEC - 19 DEC Operational Propulsion Plant Examination was conducted by the CINCLANTFLT Propulsion Examining Board was successfully completed with above average results.

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 compliment 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, Virginia.

Since commissioning, the ship has participated in fleet operations in the Mediterranean, Caribbean, and North Atlantic. The ship underwent two six month overhauls in the Philadelphia Naval Shipyard, in 1974 and 1979, and a four month overhaul in Portsmouth Naval Shipyard in 1985. MOUNT WHITNEY's long list of accomplishments and awards includes nine Battle Efficiency "E" awards, receipt of the Meritorious Unit Commendation and numerous department efficiency awards.

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 ships communications center can handle 100,000 messages a month, and its intelligence center is the most sophisticated of its kind afloat in any Navy.

Although the main fighting equipment is the 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 MOUNT WHITNEY is also armed with chaff launchers.

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. Its evaporators produce over 100,000 gallons of fresh water daily, enough to meet the needs of a large ocean liner.

Enclosure (3)

The ship travels at a maximum speed of 23 knots with a fuel capacity of 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 are attached to 180 fathoms (1,080 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 electricity 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, relieved April 22, 1983
8. Captain R.C. Johnson Jr., USN, relieved March 1, 1985
9. Captain L.L. Lubbs, USN, Commanding through 1985

Enclosure (6)