



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

USS MOUNT WHITNEY (LCC-20) ✓
FLEET POST OFFICE
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From: Commanding Officer, USS MOUNT WHITNEY (LCC-20)
To: Director of Naval History (OP-09BH), Washington Navy Yard,
Washington, DC 20374-0571

Subj: COMMAND HISTORY 1987 (OPNAV REPORT 5720-1)

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12D

Encl: (1) Ship's History 1987
(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.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "L. H. Turner, Jr.", written in dark ink.

L. H. TURNER, JR.

Copy to:
COMNAVSURFLANT
COMSECONDFLT
COMPHIBGRU TWO
COMMANDING GENERAL FOURTH MEB
COMPHIBRON TWELVE

USS MOUNT WHITNEY COMMAND HISTORY 1987

January	10	Commence Exercise OPEN ROAD 87
	12	Underway, ISE, VACAPES
	15	E-7 Navy-Wide Advancement examination
		Inport, NORVA
		COMSECONDFLT Staff re-embarks
	16	COMPHIBGRU Two Staff re-embarks
	17	USS MOUNT WHITNEY Change of Command. CAPT L. H. Turner relieves CAPT L. L. Lubbs.
	26	Commence JCS Communications exercise
		Commence bi-annual PRT
29	USCINCLANT ABNCP ship tour	
February	12	BGEN Keyes, Asst Div Commander 2nd MARDIV embarks
	13	Underway, Exercise FLEETEX 1-87
	16	Anchor off Vieques
	18	Depart Vicinity Vieques
		Anchor Charlotte Amalie, St. Thomas, VI
	20	C2F Reception on Flight Deck
	21	Navy League Reception
	23	Underway from Charlotte Amalie, St. Thomas, VI
		CPG2 Hauls down pennant
24	Underway FLEETEX 1-87 Advanced Phase	
26	Rendezvous/UNREP with USS MERRIMACK	
March	01	Moor Pier 25 NAVSTA NORVA
	11	Underway for ISE Vacapes (INSURV preps)
	12	Moor Pier 25 NAVSTA NORVA
	16	INSURV Board arrives
		Begin INSURV Inspection
	17	Underway for UMI
		Moor Pier 25 NAVSTA NORVA
	18	Commence Exercise Hurricane Mickey
		RADM Holland visit to command spaces (C2F)
20	End INSURV Inspection	
23	CPG2 Re-Embarkation	
25	End Exercise Hurricane Mickey	
26	RADM Landes, CHC, USN(R), visit	
April	06	Commence SMI
	07	End SMI
	13	Commence Surface Warfare Training Week (SWIW)
	27	4th MAB Staff Embarks
	30	CG II MAF Embarkation

May	01	Underway for Exercise SOLID SHIELD-87
	09	FLEETEX 2-87 (Advanced Phase) Commences
	10	Inport, NORVA
	11	Underway for Ammo Offload (Hampton Roads Anchorage)
	12	Inport, NORVA
	26	CPG2 Embarks
	28	SSO admin assist visit
	29	C2F Disembarks (shifts Flag to USS SAIPAN) CPG2 Debarks
June	01	Dead stick move to NNSY
	04	Begin Phased Maintenance Availability/IMAVC
	24	CO'S Personnel Inspection/Awards & Frocking ceremony
	25	MARCOMDET Change of Command
July	16	Advancement/Awards & Frocking Ceremony
	22	CPR 12 LOE Commences
	25	CPR 12 LOE Completed
	31	Fast cruise
August	02	End Phased Maintenance Availability/IMAVC
	03	Underway for Sea Trials
	04	Anchor in "X" Anchorage Underway for VACAPES OPAREAS
	05	UNREP with USNS HENRY J. KAISER
	08	Anchor in Hampton Roads "W" Anchorage
	09	Underway for/Anchor at "X" Anchorage
	10	Underway for/Moor at Pier 7, NAVSTA NORVA
	17	Reembarkation of C2F
	18	Berth shift to Pier 25, NAVSTA NORVA
	24	TACRON 21/NAVAIR News visit
	26	Predeployment Personnel Inspection & Awards Ceremony
	31	Representative Owen Pickett visits MIW/C2F Underway for Exercise OCEAN SAFARI 87 Media Press Conference with VADM LARSON
	September	02
04		Transit ASW AREA 1/2
11		UNREP with USS MILWAUKEE
16		CPO initiation
17		Refuel from USS MILWAUKEE Breakout for VESTFJORD
18		National POW/MIA day
19		Bluenose Ceremony
22		Moor Wharf 5/6, Devenport, Plymouth, UK
23		Flag Officer Plymouth visits
24		Underway for Lisbon, Portugal
27		Moor Alcantara Quay, Lisbon, Portugal
28		Commander Continental Naval Command Visits C2F reception
30		Underway for NORVA

October	06	UNREP from USS MILWAUKEE	
	07	Aircraft Tracking exercises	
	13	FLEETEX 1-88 SAXEX initial planning conference Underway for EMIT	
	16	Awards Ceremony	
	20	First round Ney inspection CINCLANTFLT visit to C2F Ammunition Inventory accuracy validation visit	
	21	USS TRENTON Command Inspection	
	29	Quarterly LANTFLT Oceanography Conference	
	November	02	USS IWO JIMA Command Inspection
		04	C2F Staff Re-embarkation
05		Supply readiness training visit	
17		Annual Postal Assist visit	
18		USS NASHVILLE Command Inspection	
23		CSMP review with PERA C2F Battle Group Commanders conference	
24		Three Part Battle problem (MUTTS training)	
25		Aviation Assist visit by Commander Naval Surface Forces, Atlantic COMNAVSURFLANT Dental Assist visit	
30		FLEETEX 1-88 commuter week	
December	07	FY89 PMA shipalt 1011/1039 design advance planning shipcheck	
	08	COMNAVAIRLANT Comm orientation visit CINTEX 05-88	
	11	SPAWAR Field change installation program visit Supply Assist visit	
	14	AN/FRT 39/93 Conversion project survey	
	15	Onload CIWS ammunition	
	16	USS GUADALCANAL Tiger cruise sendoff CPG2 GATOR Comm seminar	
	17	USS GUADALCANAL Homecoming Awards/Frocking ceremony	
	21	CPRI2 Change of Command	
	30	Commander Naval Surface Forces, Atlantic Change of Command	

**USS MOUNT WHITNEY (LCC-20)
NARRATIVE OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS 1987**

- 13 FEB - 01 MAR MOUNT WHITNEY departed homeport, Norfolk, Virginia, on 13 February for participation in FLEETEX 1-87, and transited southeast to the Puerto Rico Operations Area (PROA). MOUNT WHITNEY, with Commander Second Fleet, Commander Amphibious Group Two, and Commanding General Second Marine Amphibious Force embarked, served as the command ship. MOUNT WHITNEY conducted a 5 day port visit in St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands from 18-23 February.
- 01 MAY - 10 MAY MOUNT WHITNEY departed homeport, Norfolk, Virginia, on 01 May for participation in exercise SOLID SHIELD/Advanced FLEETEX 2-87. MOUNT WHITNEY served as the Landing Force Command ship in support of Commander Joint Task Force (CJTF) 120 (Commander Second Fleet), and Commanding General Second Marine Amphibious Force.
- 01 JUN - 10 AUG MOUNT WHITNEY departed homeport, Norfolk, Virginia, on 01 June, and transited "dead stick" to Norfolk Naval Ship Yard, Portsmouth, Virginia, commencing Phased Maintenance Availability (Phase I), which included the installation of a forward deck house on the main deck and an aft sponson. On 03 August, MOUNT WHITNEY departed Norfolk Naval Ship Yard, Portsmouth, Virginia, for Post Repair Sea Trials.
- 31 AUG - 08 OCT MOUNT WHITNEY departed homeport, Norfolk, Virginia, on 31 August for participation in exercise OCEAN SAFARI 87, and transited northeast to rendezvous with other U.S. and NATO units. MOUNT WHITNEY, with Commander Second Fleet/Commander Striking Fleet Atlantic embarked, served as the command ship for the exercise which involved a multi-national force of over 250 aircraft and 150 ships from eleven nations, including USS FORRESTAL (CV-59) and HMS ILLUSTRIOUS (R 06). MOUNT WHITNEY conducted port calls to Plymouth, England (22-24 SEP), and Lisbon, Portugal (27-29 SEP).
- 07 NOV - 07 JAN 88 MOUNT WHITNEY commenced Phased Maintenance Availability (Phase II). This, the second and final Phase, which consisted of installation and cold checks of two Close-In Weapons System (CIWS) Systems, occurred inport Norfolk, Virginia. The system was installed on the Aft Sponson & forward deckhouse.

USS MOUNT WHITNEY

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 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 Comander U.S. Second Fleet, Commander Amphibious Group Two, and Commanding General Fourth Marine Expeditionary 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. Mount Whitney's long list of accomplishments and awards include nine Battle Efficiency ("E") awards, receipt of the Meritorious Unit Commendation, and numerous department efficiency awards. The ship participated in the July 4, 1976 International Naval Review in New York City, and again during the Rededication of the Statue of Liberty and International Naval Review July 3-5 1986. Mount Whitney won consecutive Battle "E" awards in 1972, 1973, and 1974; and repeated this in 1978, 1979 and 1980. The ship earned the Battle "E" again in 1983, 1985, and most recently it's third consecutive award in 1986. Mount Whitney has won departmental efficiency awards in Engineering, Amphibious Assault, Electronic Warfare, Anti-air Warfare, and Communications. The ship's latest departmental awards included Amphibious Assault, Electronic Warfare (third consecutive), Communications (third consecutive), Anti-air Warfare (third consecutive) and Damage Control (third consecutive).

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 tactical situation of Automated 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"/50 gun mounts, two CIWS launchers 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 3,000 people. It's 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 almost 25 tons. The rudder is 22 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 05 January 1973
2. Captain R. F. Dunn, USN, relieved 21 June 1974
3. Captain L. H. Bibby, USN, relieved 12 June 1976
4. Captain R. M. Burris, USN, relieved 02 September 1977
5. Captain J. J. Kingsston, USN, relieved 26 January 1980
6. Captain V. C. Smith, USN, relieved 10 October 1981
7. Captain D. M. Bennett, USN, relieved 22 April 1983
8. Captain R. C. Johnson, Jr., USN, relieved 01 March 1985
9. Captain L. L. Lubbs, USN, relieved 20 January 1987
10. Captain L. H. Turner, Jr., USN, Commanding through 1987