



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

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

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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 1988 (OPNAV REPORT 5750-1)

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12D

Encl: (1) Command Composition and Organization
(2) Chronology of Events
(3) Narrative of Significant Events
(4) Supporting Documents

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


M. W. KENYON

Copy to:
COMNAVSURFLANT
COMSECONDFLT
COMPHIBGRU TWO
CG 4TH MEB
COMPHIBRON TWELVE

USS MOUNT WHITNEY

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 over all phases of the tactical situation via the Automated Data Processing Module. Displays of tactical data and real time tactical situations are available from any one of the 28 consoles located in the various command and control modules. This complex is served by one of the largest tactical intelligence centers and communications units in the U.S. 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 MK 15 Phalanx CIWS mounts and the Basic Point Defense Missile System consisting of two launchers, each capable of firing eight Sea Sparrow III missiles.

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. MOUNT WHITNEY is capable of steaming at 16 knots for 35 days - from Norfolk, Va. to the Indian Ocean and back.

The Commanding Officer, Captain Laurence H. Turner, Jr. is a native of San Diego, California, and was commissioned as an ensign in June 1964 through the Naval Reserve Officer Training Corps Program at Tulane University, New Orleans, Louisiana. His first at sea assignment was as the Weapons Division Officer on USS NICHOLAS (DD 499). His next assignment was Weapons Department Head on USS J.C. OWENS (DD 776), and then served as Deputy Senior Advisor AN THOI-NUC in the Republic of Vietnam. He served as Combat Systems Officer aboard USS WILLIAM V. PRATT (DDG 13), and Officer-in-Charge of Naval Telecommunications Center, Newport, Rhode Island.

Captain Turner was assigned as Executive Officer of USS MERRILL (DD 976), and served with the operational Test and Evaluation Force, Pacific. He served as Commanding Officer of USS PAUL F. FOSTER (DD 964) prior to assuming command of Naval Communications Station Rota, Spain.

Captain Turner has attended Naval Destroyer School, received a Master of Science Degree in Communication Management from the Naval Post Graduate School in Monterey, California. He attended the U.S. Naval War College in Newport, Rhode Island.

Captain Turner is married to the former [REDACTED] of [REDACTED]. They have three children, [REDACTED] and [REDACTED].

During an at-sea Change of Command Ceremony on 15 February 1989, Captain Morton W. Kenyon assumed command of USS MOUNT WHITNEY.

USS MOUNT WHITNEY COMMAND HISTORY 1988

JANUARY

- 04 Engineering Plant Light-Off
- 05 Commander Amphibious Group TWO (CPG2) and Commanding General Fourth Marine Expeditionary Brigade (MEB) embark
- 07 Underway Phased Maintenance Availability (PMA) milestone-post repair trials
Return Norfolk, VA
- 11 Underway for FLEETEX 1-88
- 13 Sailor of the Year Board
- 16 MOUNT WHITNEY 17th Birthday Ceremony
- 17 Supporting Arms Coordination Exercise (SACEX) anchored off Vieques Is
CINCLANTFLT (CLF) and Commanding General Fleet Marine Force Atlantic (FMFLANT) visit
- 18 FLEETEX hostilities phase
- 22 Mobile Sea Range (NATO Sea Sparrow Live Fire) Deputy Under Secretary of the Navy (Policy) visit
- 24 Arrive Nassau, Bahamas
- 25 Persis Rogers Home for the Aged visit
- 26 Commander Second Fleet (C2F) reception on Flight Deck
- 27 Underway for Norfolk, VA
- 29 Command Advancement Board
- 30 Arrive Norfolk, VA

FEBRUARY

- 01 Naval Intelligence Processing System A (NIPS A)/ FULCRUM - SPS 48C Field Change 14
SPA 25G Installation Commences
- 02 Prospective Executive Officer CDR Newton reports
- 04 Aviation Readiness Evaluation

- 08 AN/FRT 39/93 Conversion and USQ-36 replacement commences
- 17 Shop qualification improvement program training visit AN/WSC-6 Upgrade
- 22 Personnel and Administration Assistance Team Atlantic (PAATLANT) visit
- 23 CINTEX 09-88
Tactical Data Information Exchange System (TADIXS) B System Site Survey
- 25 Safety survey

MARCH

- 01 AN/UMQ-12 System Installation
Watertight integrity training
- 07 PAATLANT Visit
ULQ-16 Installation
- 08 Communication Readiness Assist Team visit
- 09 SSQ-59 Patching System Mod/Tech assist
- 17 Supply Management Inspection
- 18 Marine Corps Basic Officers Communication School visit
- 21 NIPS A/FULCRUM hardware installation
BFIT 2-88
AN/URT-23 LRI installation
- 22 CINTEX 11-88
Naval Reserve CO/XO Leadership School Orientation Visit
- 24 Engineering Plant Light-Off
- 25 International Maritime Satellite (INMARSAT) Installation

APRIL

- 04 Safety standdown
- 05 Ordnance Handling Safety Assist Team visit
Adopt-a-School Ceremony
- 06 Battle Force Inport Training (BFIT)
- 07 CINCLANTFLT visit

- 08 Underway OCEAN VENTURE 88
ULM 4 Range Close in Weapons System (CIWS) PACFIRE/
Gunnery Exercise
- 10 Rendezvous with USS FORRESTAL for staff transfer
- 12 Maintenance and Material Management (3M) self
inspection
Anchor off Vieques Is
- 13 Underway from anchorage
- 17 Secretary of Defense visit
- 19 Annual Hazardous Material Inventory
- 20 Underway Replenishment (UNREP) with USS PLATTE
- 22 CO's Personnel Inspection/Awards Ceremony
- 24 Moor FT Lauderdale, FL
- 25 C2F Reception on Flight Deck
- 28 Underway for Norfolk, VA
TIGER CRUISE
- 30 Moor Norfolk, VA

MAY

- 03 WSC-4 Field Change Installation
- 04 Physical Security Assist Team visit
- 09 3M System Assist Team visit
Radiation Hazard Survey
- 12 Battle Group Commanders' Conference
- 13 Center for Naval Analysis Tour
- 17 URT-23 LRI Installation
- 19 C2F/C3F Meeting
- 23 BFIT 2-88
Engineering Mobile Training Team visit
- 24 CINCLANTFLT visit with C2F
- 27 4th MEB Change of Command

ENCLOSURE (2)

30 Underwater screw polish

JUNE 02 3M Inspection

03 Underwater hull cleaning

08 Underway for FLEETEX 2-88

14 Venezuelan Naval Officer Visit
Mobile Sea Range Live Fire

15 Moor Roosevelt Roads, Puerto Rico

16 Refuel Roosevelt Roads

17 Underway C2F Embarks

18 FLEETEX 2-88 Hostility Phase

22 Moor Curacao, Netherland Antilles

26 Underway for Norfolk, VA

30 Moor Norfolk, VA

JULY 11 BFIT 3-88
CPX commences

12 CINTEX 18-88 commences

18 AN/FRT - 39/93 conversion

25 Intermediate Maintenance Availability (IMAV)
commences

27 Foreign Exchange Training Midshipmen from Chile

AUGUST 01 FLEET SATCOM duplex upgrade
KG-84A Installation

03 Ship's Annual Picnic

04 LMS-11 Installation

08 Super Rapid Blooming Off Board Chaff (SRBOC) ordnance
alteration installation

11 C2F Change of Command

12 Engineering Plant Light-Off

ENCLOSURE (2)

17 Basic Point Defense Missile System (BPDMS) Material
Condition Inspection
IMAV concludes

19 Underway Sea Trials/Dependents Cruise

26 Underway TEAMWORK 88

SEPTEMBER 02 UNREP with USS SAVANNAH

12 UNREP with USS DETROIT

15 SECNAV, SACLANT visit

20 UNREP with USS DETROIT

21 3M Self Inspection
Blue Nose Ceremony

24 Moor Kiel, Germany

26 Underway for Copenhagen, Denmark

27 Moor Copenhagen, Denmark

30 Underway for Portsmouth, England

OCTOBER 02 Moor Portsmouth, England
MOUNT WHITNEY Reception onboard

06 Underway for Norfolk, VA

15 Moor Norfolk, VA

17 NEY Evaluation of Messing

26 Physical Security Exercise

27 Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy visit

NOVEMBER 07 Underway for FLEETEX 1-89

09 Refuel/Arm with USS SAVANNAH

15 UNREP with USS SAVANNAH

18 Moor Norfolk, VA

21 Missile offload

ENCLOSURE (2)

28 IMAV commences
Director Defense Intelligence Agency visit

DECEMBER 06 Blood Drive
Command Inspection commences

08 Command Inspection debrief

**USS MOUNT WHITNEY (LCC-20)
NARRATIVE OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS 1988**

11 JAN - 30 JAN

As Second Fleet Flagship, USS MOUNT WHITNEY (LCC-20) participated in FLEETEX 1-88 in the Puerto Rico Operations Area. The Norfolk-based ship served as the command and control platform for Commander, Second Fleet; Commander, Amphibious Group Two; Commanding General, Fourth Marine Expeditionary Brigade; and Commanding Officer, Tactical Air Control Squadron TWENTY-TWO. Nearly 1500 officers and men were embarked for the three-week exercise. MOUNT WHITNEY participated in a weapons firing exercise off the coast of Puerto Rico, firing two Sea Sparrow missiles from her Basic Point Defense Missile System. While at sea, the ship hosted the Deputy Under Secretary of the Navy (Plans and Policy) and Admiral Frank Kelso, Commander-in-Chief Atlantic Fleet.

Inport Nassau, 38 officers and men from both the crew and embarked staffs volunteered to perform repair work, such as carpentry, painting and plumbing, at the Persis Rogers Home for the Aged. MOUNT WHITNEY's Inspirational Choir, under the direction of Chief Warrant Officer (W-2) [REDACTED], and the MOUNT WHITNEY Band entertained the residents and staff of the Home. This was the first public appearance for both the choir and the band, and the performance was videotaped by Nassau's channel 13. On Saturday 16 January, the crew gathered in the ship's enlisted dining facility to celebrate both the 17th anniversary of the commissioning of MOUNT WHITNEY and the 131st anniversary of the establishment of the Navy's flag officer rank. Cake-cutting duties were performed by Rear Admiral David M. Bennett, Commander Amphibious Group Two and former Commanding Officer of MOUNT WHITNEY, and Brigadier General M.P. Caulfield, Commanding General Fourth Marine Expeditionary Brigade. Commander Second Fleet hosted a reception for dignitaries from the Bahamas and the local community during the three day port visit to Nassau.

08 APR - 30 APR

As Second Fleet flagship, USS MOUNT WHITNEY (LCC-20) participated in Exercise OCEAN VENTURE 88 in the Caribbean Sea. During the exercise, the amphibious command ship twice launched a UTILITY BOAT (UB) to assist mariners in distress. Additionally a UB was launched to recover a Marine Corps pilot who was participating in a search-and-rescue (SAR) exercise. MOUNT WHITNEY crewmembers also repaired the engine of a disabled fishing boat at sea. During a four-day

ENCLOSURE (3)

port visit to Ft. Lauderdale Florida, MOUNT WHITNEY and Second Fleet personnel answered a call from the American Red Cross in South Florida and donated 41 pints of blood. On the return leg of the journey, MOUNT WHITNEY hosted 36 guests for a two day "Tiger Cruise." The Tigers observed damage control drills during General Quarters as well as live firings of the MK 15 PHALANX CIWS and Super RBOC systems.

08 JUN - 30 JUN

As Second Fleet flagship, USS MOUNT WHITNEY (LCC-20) participated in Fleet Exercise 2-88 in the Caribbean Sea. MOUNT WHITNEY also served as the command platform for the Mobile Sea Range (MSR) Team, which monitored battle exercises and missile firings among the 30 ships steaming with the USS John F. Kennedy (CV-67) battle group. On 14 June, MOUNT WHITNEY hosted Rear Admiral Jose Velasio Collazo, Officer-in-Charge of Plans and Operational Control, from the office of the Venezuelan Chief of Naval Operations. He observed a portion of the exercise and toured the ship. On 16 June, MOUNT WHITNEY stopped to refuel and offload the MSR vans in Roosevelt Roads, Puerto Rico. On 17 June, MOUNT WHITNEY returned to sea and participated in the hostilities phase of the exercise, serving as the command ship. Following the exercise, MOUNT WHITNEY conducted a four-day port visit to Willemstad, the capital of Curacao, Netherlands Antilles. Commander Second Fleet hosted various dignitaries, including Commander Caribbean Forces, at an inport reception onboard the flagship.

11 AUG

The Commander Second Fleet Change-of-Command ceremony was held on the flight deck. The Honorable William L. Ball III, Secretary of the Navy, and Admiral Lee Baggett Jr., Supreme Allied Commander Atlantic were present. Following the Secretary's remarks, Vice Admiral Charles Larson received his fourth Distinguished Service Medal. Vice Admiral Larson took a few moments to reflect on his two years as Commander Second Fleet/Striking Fleet Atlantic. He thanked Captain Laurence H. Turner Jr., the flagship's Commanding Officer, for the superb and vital support provided by MOUNT WHITNEY's officers and men. Vice Admiral Jerome Johnson assumed command of Second Fleet.

ENCLOSURE (3)

26 AUG - 15 OCT As Second Fleet/COMSTRIKFLTLANT flagship, MOUNT WHITNEY departed Norfolk, on 26 August for TEAMWORK 88, transiting northeast to rendezvous with other U.S. and NATO naval units. The exercise involved a force of over 150 ships and 250 aircraft from eight nations, including USS ROOSEVELT (CVN-71) and HMS ILLUSTRIOUS (R 06). Units operated in areas of the North Atlantic, Norwegian Sea and North Sea, and simulated reinforcement of Norway with naval and amphibious forces. After the exercise, MOUNT WHITNEY conducted port calls to Kiel, Germany; Copenhagen, Denmark; and Portsmouth, England.

07 NOV - 18 NOV As Second Fleet flagship, USS MOUNT WHITNEY participated in Fleet Exercise 1-89 in the Caribbean Sea among the 30 ships steaming with the USS THEODORE ROOSEVELT (CVN-71) battle group. After exercise completion, MOUNT WHITNEY conducted engineering drills in preparation for the upcoming Engineering Mobile Training Team (EMTT) inspection and Operational Propulsion Plant Exercise (OPPE).