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DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

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

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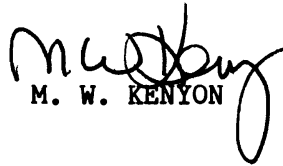
From: Commanding Officer, USS MOUNT WHITNEY (LCC 20)
To: Director of Naval History (OP-09BH), Washington Navy Yard
Washington, DC 20374-0571

Subj: COMMAND HISTORY 1989 (OPNAV REPORT 5720-1)

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12E

Encl: (1) Ship's History 1989
(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
(7) Letter of Congratulations from CINCLANTFLT
(8) Welcome Aboard Pamphlets
(9) Ship's color photograph

1. In accordance with reference (a), enclosures (1) through (9) are submitted.


M. W. KENYON

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

CHRONOLOGY

USS MOUNT WHITNEY COMMAND HISTORY 1989

JANUARY
9 - 10 Material, Maintenance and Management (3M) Certification
Combined Inport Naval Training Exercise (CINTEX) 7-89
9 - 27 Battle Force Inport Training (BFIT) CPX 1-89
16 Helo Certification
25 TACAN Certification
27 COMNAVSURFLANT Engineering Mobile Assessment Team

FEBRUARY
1 - 2 Sea Trials
6 - 8 BFIT Battle Problem
7 Calibration Lab Certification
9 - 20 FLEETEX/Mobile Sea Range (MSR) 2-89
15 Change of Command between CAPT Turner and CAPT Kenyon
21 - 24 Port visit St. Marten, Netherlands Antilles
25 - 3 April Exercise NORTH STAR 89

MARCH
19 - 22 Port visit Antwerp, Belgium
31 - 2 April Operational Propulsion Plant Examination (OPPE)

APRIL
3 Inport Norfolk
24 - 25 CINTEX 14-89

MAY
5 - 25 Exercise SOLID SHIELD 89
21 - 25 Port visit New York
22 CO called on New York City Mayor Edward Koch
25 - 26 Tiger cruise NYC - Norfolk
26 Inport Norfolk
30 - 9 July Intermediate Maintenance Availability

JUNE
5 - 6 CINTEX 17-89
16 Supply Management Inspection (SMI) assist

JULY
7 FMPMIS FY98 Restricted Availability
11 20 Senior Reserve Admirals and Captains visit
11 - 23 Sea Trials
17 - 21 Radar Video Recorder (RAVIR) Van
21 Soviet Ambassador, Dubinin and First Deputy Commander-in-Chief
Soviet Northern Fleet visit
24 50 Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA) personnel visit

AUGUST 1 Fred Wilson, Director Navy Science Advisor Program, visit
Finalist Best Ship's Store Afloat

2 Defense Mapping Agency FULCRUM Representatives visit

8 - 9 Combat Systems Assessment (CSA) underway

24 Fourth Marine Expeditionary Brigade Change of Command

24 - 12 September FLEETEX 4-89

SEPTEMBER 6 - 10 Port visit St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands

12 COMNAVSURFLANT EMAT Inport Norfolk

20 Stephen F. Barnett, Chairman INFOSEC Career Panel and 15 interns visit

OCTOBER Nominated by CPR-12 for NEY award as Best Enlisted Dining Facility for Large Afloat Unit

6 - 11 Fleet Appreciation Week, port visit Fort Lauderdale

17 - 27 Naval Modular Automated Communications System (NAVMACS) upgrade

23 - 27 RAVIR Van

26 Dr. Depoy, President, Center for Naval Analysis visit

30 Commodore Jeffries, Royal Staff College with 105 senior students and 23 members of Tactical Air Command (TAC) Langley Joint Doctrine Group visit

NOVEMBER 6 - 14 KY-58 Vinson Secure Voice upgrade

9 23 European media sponsored by Supreme Allied Command Europe visit

13 - 14 CINTEX 3-90

13 - 22 NATO Secure Voice (ELCROVOX) upgrade

15 Ship hosts Allied Commanders Atlantic (ACLANT) Conference, ADM Kelso, GEN Palmer, ADM Bathurst, and 30 other flag officers from NATO attend

17 Restricted Availability (RAV)

20 - 24 Supply Management Inspection (SMI), Supply garners second consecutive Blue "E"

DECEMBER 4 - 15 Installation and implementation of Automated Teller Machines (ATM)

11 - 12 Command/C2F Christmas Party

11 - 15 Amphib Boat Control

USS MOUNT WHITNEY (LCC 20)

NARRATIVE OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS 1989

February 9 - 24

USS MOUNT WHITNEY with Commander Second Fleet (COMSECONDFLT) embarked got underway for FLEETEX 2-89. The exercise was planned and executed to examine carrier battle group engagement in support of the maritime strategy in the Norwegian Sea area of operations. The task was to train Battle Group Commanders, staffs, Warfare Commanders/Coordinators, and units in employment of defensive and offensive battle group operations.

During a tropical rain storm on February 15 with COMSECONDFLT, VADM Jerome L. Johnson presiding, Captain Morton W. Kenyon relieved Captain L. H. Turner, Jr. as Commanding Officer.

Upon successful completion of the FLEETEX 2-89, MOUNT WHITNEY anchored off St. Martin in the Dutch Antilles for a short port visit.

February 25 - April 3

After three days in St. Martin, the ship weighed anchor and began the long transit north to commence NATO exercise NORTH STAR 89, an operation which involved a series of encounters incorporating forces from the United States, Canada, Federal Republic of Germany, Norway, Netherlands, and the United Kingdom. The exercise's primary purpose was to provide presence, conduct maritime operations, and apply the strategy of forward defense in the Norwegian Sea. Even in bitter temperatures, heavy seas, and high winds, men of the MOUNT WHITNEY executed the special evolutions of flight quarters and underway replenishments flawlessly and professionally.

Second Fleet and MOUNT WHITNEY hosted several dignitaries including ADM Frank Kelso, SACLANT/USCINCLANT, General Sir Geoffrey Howlett, Commander-in-Chief Allied Forces Northern Europe, the honorable Robert Stuart, U.S. Ambassador to Norway, Admiral James Hogg, U.S. Military representative to NATO; Lieutenant General Alf Granviken, Norway military representative to NATO; and Vice Admiral Torolf Rein, Commander, Allied Forces Northern Europe.

Time was also found to induct new members into the "Blue Nose" society.

March 19 through the 23 were spent in port in Antwerp, Belgium where MOUNT WHITNEY sailors used its convenient geographical location to visit many other major European cities, like Paris and Amsterdam.

During the return to homeport, an Operational Propulsion Plant Examination was conducted, resulting in the ship receiving a satisfactory "above average," the highest score possible on this type exam.

MAY 5 - 26

The MOUNT WHITNEY served as Joint Task Force command ship for exercise Solid Shield 89. Coordinating personnel and logistics for the 26th annual multi-service exercise was a test of the ship's command and control capabilities. The operations were designed to measure the effectiveness of all the military services functioning as a joint as a joint combat force. Members of the Army's Eighth Airborne, 4th Marine Expeditionary Brigade, and Commander Carrier Group Four, staffs embarked on the ship. LTGEN Peter J. Kempf, Commander 12th Air Force was one of many visitors to observe portions of Solid Shield 89.

A five-day liberty call to New York City followed the exercise and the transit to homeport was enhanced by the inclusion of the ship's "Tigers" and female family members as guests.

July 7

Captain John L. Williams Jr. relieved Captain Robert G. Baker, as the tenth Commanding Officer of the ship's Marine Communications Detachment.

July 21

Vice Admiral Kasatonov, Deputy Commander Soviet Northern Fleet accompanied by the Soviet Ambassador Dubinin begins historic five day port call in Norfolk with a call on Commander, Second Fleet and visit aboard MOUNT WHITNEY.

August 22

Ship hosted Change of Command for Fourth Marine Expeditionary Brigade. Under Secretary of the Navy J. Daniel Howard gave keynote address for Brigadier General Harry W. Jenkins, Jr. assumption of command.

A four day port visit to St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands, completed the Caribbean portion of the underway period.

An Engineering Mobile Assessment Team inspection on the way back to Norfolk found the Engineering Department fit for sea in all respects.

October 4 - 13

The MOUNT WHITNEY was one of six ships to take part in Fort Lauderdale's Fleet Appreciation Week. Crewmembers enjoyed the hospitality of southern Florida and returned it with several community involvement projects as well as participating in parades and ceremonies. More than 650 VIP guests and 2000 general visitors toured the ship.

November 20- 24

Shipwide Supply Material Inspection garnered a second consecutive Blue "E" for MOUNT WHITNEY.

During the year, the Battle Efficiency competition resulted in awards for Main Propulsion, Damage Control, Navigation/Deck Seamanship, and Amphibious and Anti-Air Warfare.

MOUNT WHITNEY won the Captain's Cup athletic competition in the large afloat category in 1989. Additionally, ETCS [REDACTED] was feted as the Afloat Senior Athlete and Naval Amphibious Base, Little Creek Athlete of the Year of 1989. LTJG [REDACTED] won the 1988-89 Junior Officer Shiphandling Award for Amphibious Group Two and DM2 [REDACTED]'s color photograph entry was selected as the best in the 1989 Naval Institute National Competition. DM1 [REDACTED] and his family were selected as regional finalists in the American Family of the Year award for 1989. The ship's Sailor of the Year was JOL (SW) [REDACTED].

SHIP'S FACT SHEET

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 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 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 July 3-5 1986. MOUNT WHITNEY won consecutive Battle "E" 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 in 1986. MOUNT WHITNEY has earned departmental efficiency awards in Main Propulsion, Damage Control, Navigation/Deck Seamanship, and Communications. Other awards include recognition for Anti-air, Amphibious and Electronic Warfare.

One of the largest and most sophisticated command ships ever commissioned, MOUNT WHITNEY embodies elements of some of the largest military command, control, communications, and intelligence systems currently in operation, afloat or ashore. A modular amphibious control center gives the Amphibious Task Force Commander control of all tactical phases of at-sea and ship-to-shore operations. The control is greatly enhanced by MOUNT WHITNEY's Naval Tactical Data Systems (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 Automated Data Processing Module. Display of tactical information and real-time tactical situations is available from any one of the 28 consoles located in various command and control modules. The 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, Close-In Weapons Support (CIWS) and the Basic Point Defense Missile System (BPDMS) 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. 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 diesel fuel, marine (DFM) 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 return.

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.

USS MOUNT WHITNEY COMMANDING OFFICERS

CAPT O. G. BAIRD	16 JAN 71 - 05 JAN 73
CAPT R. F. DUNN	05 JAN 73 - 22 JUN 74
CAPT L. H. BIBBY	22 JUN 74 - 12 JUN 76
CAPT R. M. BURRIS	12 JUN 76 - 02 SEP 77
CAPT J. J. KINGSTON	02 SEP 77 - 26 JAN 80
CAPT V. C. SMITH	26 JAN 80 - 10 OCT 81
CAPT D. M. BENNETT	10 OCT 81 - 22 APR 83
CAPT R. C. JOHNSON JR.	22 APR 83 - 01 MAR 85
CAPT L. L. LUBBS	01 MAR 85 - 20 JAN 87
CAPT L. H. TURNER JR.	20 JAN 87 - 15 FEB 89
CAPT M. W. KENYON	15 FEB 89 -