



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
USS MOUNT WHITNEY (LCC 20)
FLEET POST OFFICE
AE 09517-3310

*Rec'd 5/4/98
w/o disk*

5750
Ser LCC20:04/ 266
21 Apr 98

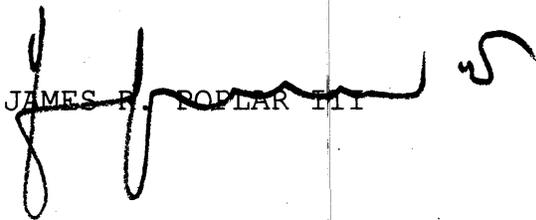
From: Commanding Officer, USS MOUNT WHITNEY (LCC 20)
To: Director of Naval History (N-09BH)

Subj: 1997 COMMAND HISTORY REPORT

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12F

Encl: (1) Command Composition and Organization
(2) Chronology
(3) Narrative/Upgrades
(4) Commanding Officer's photo
(5) Commanding Officer's biography
(6) Copies of various press releases
(7) USS MOUNT WHITNEY photo

1. Per reference (a), enclosures (1) through (7) are forwarded.


JAMES P. POPLAR III

COMMAND COMPOSITION AND ORGANIZATION

- a. Mission: USS MOUNT WHITNEY serves as the command ship for Commander, United States Second Fleet (COMSECONDFLT). With advanced command, control, communications, computers, and intelligence systems, USS MOUNT WHITNEY serves as an exceptional command platform in support of COMSECONDFLT coordinated joint and NATO exercises and real world operations.
- b. Organization Structure: Refer to attached organizational chart.
- c. Commanding Officer: Captain James R. Poplar III, U.S. Navy
- d. Permanent Duty Station/Home Port: Norfolk, Virginia
- e. Type and Number of Aircraft Assigned: None. USS MOUNT WHITNEY has a flight deck capable of launching and recovering a single helicopter.

CHRONOLOGY

| <u>Date of Event</u> | <u>Event</u> |
|----------------------|---|
| 21-24 Jan | Light Off Assessment. |
| Jan/Feb | Planned Maintenance Availability, Norfolk Naval Shipyard |
| 10 Feb | Aviation Readiness Evaluation and Aviation Facility Certification |
| 14 Mar | Navigation Checkride evaluation |
| 10-22 Mar | Combined Joint Task Force Exercise 97-2 |
| 9 Apr | Magazine Sprinkler System Inspection conducted by Fleet Technical Support Center, Norfolk |
| 12-18 Apr | Port Visit Port Canaveral, Florida |
| 28 Apr | Visit by National Public Radio and interview of Sailors and their families |
| 12-14 May | CART II |
| 19 May | Disbursing Audit conducted by Commander in Chief, Atlantic Fleet. Received a grade of Satisfactory. |
| 20 May | Visit by French Naval Attache, RADM Borgis |
| 2-5 Jun | Midshipmen embarked for indoctrination |
| 9 Jun | Visit by British Army ACOS for Intelligence, Brig Hutchinson |
| 9-27 Jun | Tailored Shipboard Training Availability Phase I |
| 30 Jun-11 Jul | CSRR Phase I |
| 20 Jun-15 Aug | Main condenser repairs |
| 23 Jun | Visit by Assistant Department Under the Secretary of the Navy for Space, Mr. Marc Berkowitz |
| 2 Jul | Combat Systems Readiness Review Phase II conducted by Fleet Technical Support Center, Norfolk |
| 14-18 Jul | Logistics Management Assessment assist visit |

Enclosure (2)

15 Jul Visit by CHOD Australia, GEN Baker escorted by CINCUSACOM/SACLANT, GEN Sheehan

25 Jul Postal Audit conducted by CINCLANTFLT. Received a grade of Outstanding.

28 Jul Visit by the Minister of Defense for South Africa

30 Jul Change of Command

4-8 Aug Surface Warfare Training Week

5 Aug NATO Secret Control Point Inspection

18 Aug-05 Sep Combined Joint Task Force Exercise 97-3

25 Aug Explosive Safety Inspection conducted by Naval Safety Center, Norfolk.

25 Aug Shipboard Explosives Safety Inspection

10 Sep Visit by GEN Stockmann, CINC Allied Forces Central Europe; Air Marshal Bagnell, CINC Deputy Allied Forces Central Europe; MGEN Sylvester, Director of Operations, Allied Forces Central Europe; and GEN Sheehan, CINCUSACOM/SACLANT

15-19 Sep Tailored Shipboard Training Availability Phase I (Engineering Training Group)

6 Oct Visit by German Navy Chief of Staff, Partnership Coordination Cell, RADM Reiner Feist

20-31 Oct Tailored Shipboard Training Availability Phase II (Engineering Training Group)

28 Oct Engineering Certification. Certified for unrestricted steaming.

28 Oct Engineering/Survivability Excellence Award

31 Oct Visit by North Atlantic Council Secretary General Javier Solana and several other NAC representatives

6 Nov Dental Readiness Evaluation

10-14 Nov Logistics Management Assessment

23-25 Nov Medical Readiness Examination
(Hearing Conservation Program evaluation, Heat
Stress Program evaluation, Environmental Health
Inspection)

8-12 Dec Surface Warfare Training Week

8-12 Dec Elevator Certification

10 Dec Visit by Director of Naval Intelligence, RADM
Jacoby

15 Dec Gauge Calibration Facilities Certification

Narrative/Upgrades

1. Planned Maintenance Availability: During January and February 1997, USS MOUNT WHITNEY completed her PMA at Norfolk Naval Shipyard, Portsmouth, Virginia. During this time several services areas on the ship were renovated including the officer dining facilities, Supply Department berthing, enlisted dining facilities, ship's laundry facility with the addition of several washers and dryers, and the dental facilities.

2. JTFEX 97-2: The scenario for JTFEX 97-2 was the Gulf of Sabani crisis and was conducted primarily along the southeastern coast of the United States. The exercise was sponsored by United States Atlantic Command and coordinated by Commander, Second Fleet as Commander, Combined Joint Task Force 950. Participants included active duty and reserve personnel from U.S. Navy, Air Force, Army, and Marine Corps. Additionally, members from the following nations participated:

- Argentina
- Brazil
- France
- Germany
- Portugal
- United Kingdom
- Spain

3. Tailored Shipboard Training Availability: Three TSTA evolutions were conducted during 1997, by Afloat Training Group, providing extensive training in areas of engineering, operations, intelligence, maintenance, and damage control.

4. Main Condenser Casualty and Associated Repairs: The first major casualty to the main condenser occurred in mid-June 1997, when a high salinity level was detected. The resulting maintenance involved retubing the main condenser by Norfolk Naval Shipyard personnel. The cost of repairs amounted to \$3 million.

5. JTFEX 97-3: The scenario for JTFEX 97-3 centered around the Gulf of Sabani crisis and was conducted primarily along the southeastern coast of the United States. This was the first USACOM/SECONDFLT JTFEX which included mine warfare operations coordinated by Commander, Mine Warfare Command, Corpus Christi. Participants included active duty and reserve personnel from US Navy, Air Force, Army, and Marine Corps. Additionally, members from the following nations participated:

- Canada
- Portugal

6. Surface Warfare Training Week: Surface Warfare Training evolutions were conducted twice during 1997 each involving over 20 ships located at Norfolk Naval Base and Little Creek Amphibious Base. Training evolutions included events such as damage control, administration, and athletics. Over 200 members of MOUNT WHITNEY's crew participated in the August SWTW leading MOUNT WHITNEY to a second Place standing.

7. Communications and Systems Upgrades: Several modifications and upgrades were implemented throughout the Communications Department and are provided below:

a. The Communication Officer's office was relocated to the Joint Message Center. The renovation was conducted by ship's crew, saving thousands of dollars which otherwise would have been expended on commercial contracts.

b. The Automated Security Incident Management System (ASIMS) terminal was installed in a new four terminal computer work station increasing its capability to detect possible intruders to the SIPRNET, NIPRNET, CTPS and JMCIS.

c. Two Navy Order Wire (NOW) stations were installed in December 1997. These NOW stations, replacing the older Navy Standard Teletypes (NST's), decreases the amount of paper used in Message Center operations, serves as a back-up for the Navy Modular Automated Communications Systems II, and aids in troubleshooting circuit outages.

d. The Battle Group Information Exchange System II (BGIXS) was installed in October 1997, enhancing receipt and transmission of message traffic, photographs, and other data.

e. Radiant Mercury, a JMCIS LAN based software used to sanitize genser information to NATO systems, was installed in December 1997.

f. A Multi-Circuit Patch Panel was installed in December 1997, to increase trouble-shooting efforts by Technical Control.

g. The DSS-1 telecommunications system was installed in May 1997, providing increased connectivity with multiple external/off-ship networks.

h. The NECC software-based system was installed in February 1997, providing MOUNT WHITNEY with communication services via the Navy EHF Satellite Program (NESP) terminal.

8. Augmentee Berthing. A portion of Supply Department's berthing was renovated and converted to 6-man and 9-man berthing spaces to support the large number of augmentees during exercises. The space was initially configured as an open-bay berthing with 168 racks. The renovation generated 18 6-man staterooms and 3 9-man staterooms.