

USS Mount Whitney (LCC 20)



Platform Information

Blue Ridge Class Command Ship/Joint Command Ship/Amphibious Force Command Ship:
Originally authorized as AGC-20

Reclassified LCC-20, 1 January 1969

Laid down, 8 January 1969, at Newport News Shipbuilding and Drydock, Newport News, VA.

Launched, 8 January 1970 in Newport News, VA.

USS MOUNT WHITNEY (LCC-20) commissioned 16 January 1971 in Norfolk, VA. CAPT. Orlie G. Baird, USN, was in command.

USS MOUNT WHITNEY serves as the flagship for the Commander, U.S. Sixth Fleet and is homeported in Gaeta, Italy.

USS MOUNT WHITNEY is jointly manned by approximately 170 U.S. Navy and 150 Military Sealift Command (MSC) personnel. The ship is under the command by a Navy officer with a Navy mission crew. MSC mariners make up the crew in the navigation, deck, engineering, laundry and food services departments.

Specifications:

Complement

Crew: 330 Navy and MSC personnel

With Staff: 850 personnel

Armament

Super RBOC chaff rockets

Two 25mm Bushmaster guns

Two 20mm Phalanx (CIWS)

Propulsion

Two boilers

One geared steam turbine main engine

One propeller shaft; 20k shaft horsepower

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Command History

From 1971 to 2005, Mount Whitney served as the flagship for Commander, U.S. SECOND Fleet/Commander, Striking Fleet Atlantic.

In 2004, Military Sealift Command Civilian Mariners were integrated into the MTW crew. MTW remained a commissioned warship in the United States Navy, but the crew size was reduced from 600 Sailors to 170 Navy personnel and 150 MSC Civilian Mariners (MSC makes up Navigation, Deck, Engineering, and Supply departments).

In February 2005, MTW departed Norfolk, VA for Gaeta, Italy where she assumed duties as the U.S. SIXTH Fleet flagship, officially relieving USS La Salle. MTW also assumed duties as the command ship for the Commander, Joint Command Lisbon and the Commander, Striking Force NATO.

In August 2008, MTW deployed to the Black Sea in support of Operation Assured Delivery to deliver humanitarian aid and supplies to those affected by the Russo-Georgian War, becoming the first NATO ship to deliver aid to the port of Poti, Georgia. Officers from coalition countries meet aboard MTW while off the coast of Libya during Operation Odyssey Dawn

From 19 March 2011, MTW served in the Mediterranean as the command vessel for the enforcement of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1973 against Libya. MTW was the flagship for Admiral Samuel J. Locklear, who had tactical command of Operation Odyssey Dawn joint task force. Additionally, MTW served as a command-and-control vessel for the United States' involvement in the coalition campaign aimed to enforce a Libya no-fly zone and prevent Muammar Gaddafi's forces from attacking the rebel stronghold of Benghazi. In February 2013, MTW transferred to the San Giorgio del Porto Shipyard in Genoa, Italy for a major 60-day overhaul and repair project. The ship returned to duty in April 2013 at the end of the maintenance window.

On 31 January 2014, MTW left her homeport of Gaeta, Italy to perform operations in the Black Sea. MTW, along with USS Taylor, were the first two U.S. Navy ships to operate in the Black Sea during the Sochi Olympics.

In 2015, Mount Whitney performed a scheduled maintenance overhaul in Viktor Lenac Shipyard in Rijeka, Croatia to extend the service life of the ship to 2039. On 30 June 2016, MTW visited Klaipeda, Lithuania, and in October 2016, she visited Souda Bay, Greece.

From early 2017 through to October 2017, MTW was again at the Viktor Lenac Shipyard in Rijeka, Croatia for further upgrades to its information technology infrastructure, and engineering systems.

In September 2018, MTW visited Thessaloniki, Greece, for the 83rd Thessaloniki International Fair, where the U.S. was the country of honor. From 25 October to 7 November 2018, MTW served as the command vessel for the NATO exercise Trident Juncture.

In 2020, MTW performed a scheduled maintenance overhaul at the San Giorgio del Porto Shipyard in Genoa, Italy to extend the service life of the ship to 2039.

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Commanding Officer History

01	CAPT. Baird, Orlie Gordon	16 January 1971 - 5 January 1973
02	CAPT. Dunn, Robert Francis	5 January 1973 - 22 June 1974
03	CAPT. Bibby III, Lowe Haydn	22 June 1974 - 12 June 1976
04	CAPT. Burris, Raymond Merle	12 June 1976 - 2 September 1977
05	CAPT. Kingston, John James	2 September 1977 - 26 January 1980
06	CAPT. Smith, Vernon Charles	26 January 1980 - 10 October 1981
07	CAPT. Bennett, David Michael	10 October 1981 - 22 April 1983
08	CAPT. Johnson Jr., Robert Cecil	22 April 1983 - 1 March 1985
09	CAPT. Lubbs, Larry Lee	1 March 1985 - 20 January 1987
10	CAPT. Turner Jr., Laurence H	20 January 1987 - 15 February 1989
11	CAPT. Kenyon, Morton William	15 February 1989 - 3 April 1991
12	CAPT. Brewer III, David Lawren	3 April 1991 - 5 December 1992
13	CAPT. Branch, Malcolm Parker	5 December 1992 - 26 May 1994
14	CAPT. Kendall, Gene Roger	26 May 1994 - 18 August 1995
15	CAPT. Enderly, Richard Harold	18 August 1995 - 30 July 1997
16	CAPT. Poplar III, James Roswell	30 July 1997 - 17 May 1999
17	CAPT. Jenkins II, Martin Edward	17 May 1999 - 17 July .2001
18	CAPT. Prothero, David William	17 July 2001 - 13 August 2003
19	CAPT. Wode, Christopher Mark	13 August 2003 - 25 February 2005
20	CAPT. Wheeler, Charles Ladd	5 February 2005 - 26 April 2006
21	CAPT. Kuzmick, Joseph William	26 April 2006 - 18 January 2008
22	CAPT. Honors Jr., Owen Paul	18 January 2008 - 17 April 2009
23	CAPT. Thomas, Karl Owen	17 April 2009 - 12 August 2010
24	CAPT. Ruth, Jeffery Scott	12 August 2010 - 7 September 2011
25	CAPT. Williams, Ted Raymond	7 September 2011 - 19 November 2012
26	CAPT. Clapperton, Craig A	19 November 2012 - 17 July 2014
27	CAPT. Colombo, Mark James	17 July 2014 - 6 October 2016
28	CAPT. Sardiello, Carlos Abel	6 October 2016 - 1 December 2016
29	CAPT. Hakimzadeh, Kavon	1 December 2016 - 25 January 2018
30	CAPT. Aguilar, George Robert	25 January 2018 - 25 April 2019
31	CAPT. Norman, Cassidy Clayton	25 April 2019 - 15 June 2020