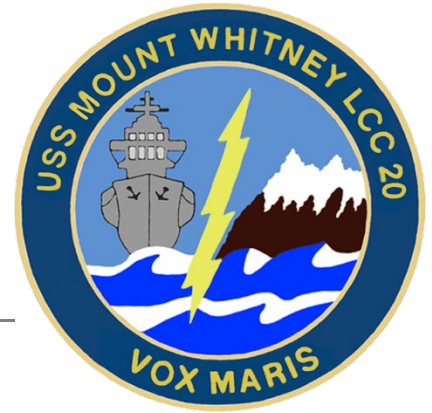




Another example of a mission ready ship because of a U.S. Navy Port Engineer

U.S. 2nd Fleet Staff Embarks USS Mount Whitney for BALTOPS 2019



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KIEL, Germany (NNS) -- Staff members attached to U.S. 2nd Fleet embarked aboard U.S. 6th Fleet command and control ship **USS Mount Whitney (LCC 20)**, June 6. U.S. 2nd Fleet, commanded by Vice Adm. Andrew Lewis, will join the Mount Whitney to lead Exercise Baltic Operations (BALTOPS), marking the first time the Fleet will operate in the European theater.



BALTOPS is an annual joint, multinational maritime-focused exercise scheduled for June 9-21, 2019 with 18 countries represented and over 8,000 participants. It is designed to strengthen partner relationships, enhance flexibility and interoperability, and demonstrate resolve among allied and partner forces in defending the Baltic Sea region. The exercise will involve maritime, ground, and air forces to strengthen combined response capabilities necessary to ensure regional stability.

Combined Task Force 162, commanded by Rear Admiral Andrew Burns, OBE, commander of the United Kingdom Maritime Forces and deputy commander of the exercise, also embarked Mount Whitney. Additional representatives from Carrier Strike Group 2, Expeditionary Strike Group 2, 2nd Marine Expeditionary Brigade, and Naval Surface and Mine Warfighting Development Center are also aboard in support of BALTOPS 2019.

U.S. 2nd Fleet commands ships, aircraft and landing forces assigned in Mount Whitney, forward deployed to Gaeta, Italy, operates with a combined crew of U.S. Sailors and Military Sealift Command civil service mariners in the U.S. 6th Fleet area of operations in support of U.S. national security interests in Europe and Africa.



Webmaster's Note: **USS *Mount Whitney* (LCC/JCC 20)** is the most sophisticated Command, Control, Communications, Computer, and Intelligence (C4I) ship ever commissioned. She incorporates various elements of the most advanced C4I equipment and gives the embarked Joint Task Force Commander the capability to effectively command all units under their command. *Mount Whitney* can transmit and receive large amounts of secure data to and from any point on earth.

The ship is named for Mount Whitney, a peak in the Sierra Nevada mountain range of California. Mount Whitney is the highest summit in the contiguous United States, with an elevation of 14,505 feet (4,421 m).