

Joint Task Force SEVEN  
Task Group 7.3  
ENIWETOK, M. I.  
15 February 1954, 1200M

Operation Order  
CTG 7.3 No. 4-54

Task Organization

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- |                |  |   |       |
|----------------|--|---|-------|
| a. TU 7.3.9    | Transport Unit   | CDR G. W. ALBIN                                       | 79862 |
| (1) TE 7.3.9.1 | Special Devices Transport Element<br>USS LST 762                 | LT J. O. BACHERT                                      |       |
| (2) TE 7.3.9.2 | Escort Element<br>USS PHILIP (DDE-498)<br>USS NICHOLAS (DDE-499) | CDR G. W. ALBIN<br>CDR G. W. ALBIN<br>CDR J. C. ELIOT |       |

1. General. This order is based on CJTF SEVEN Movement Directive Number TWO dated 10 February 1954, which will be forwarded to ships of this Task Unit, and CTG 7.3 OpPlan 1-53. The [redacted] will be loaded on board LST 762 on 18 February 1954, transported from PARRY Island, ENIWETOK Atoll, to ENINMAN Island, BIKINI Atoll in the USS LST 762 on 18 - 19 February 1954, and off-loaded on ENINMAN Island on 20 February 1954.

Enemy Forces. As described in Annex D, CTG 7.3 OpPlan 1-53.

Friendly Forces. Air cover will be provided by CTU 7.3.3 while this Task Unit is at sea between ENIWETOK and BIKINI Atolls. Friendly ships are indicated in CTG 7.3 Operating Schedule 12 Feb - 28 Feb 1954.

2. Mission. This unit will transport and safeguard [redacted] and equipment from PARRY Island, ENIWETOK Atoll, to ENINMAN Island, BIKINI Atoll.

3. a. Tasks of Commander Task Unit 7.3.9. CTU 7.3.9 shall:

- (1) Conduct ship movements and other tasks scheduled in Annex A to this OpOrder to effect safe transportation of [redacted] as indicated therein.
- (2) Provide protection for LST 762 while [redacted] is on board.
- (3) Control aircraft provided by CTU 7.3.3 for air cover of TU 7.3.9.
- (4) In the event of emergency disposal of the LST special cargo or any portion thereof, notify CTG 7.3 immediately by "operational immediate" message.
- (5) Inform CTG 7.3 and CJTF SEVEN by message or letter as appropriate of any significant developments which occur incident to the transportation of the device.

THIS DOCUMENT CONTAINS 5 PAGES,  
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DECLASSIFIED BY: [redacted]

W/DELETIONS

CHIEF, ISCM

9 Nov 90

[REDACTED]

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(6) Inform CTG 7.3 by "operation immediate" message when the Task Unit departs ENIWETOK Atoll, and also when it arrives at BIKINI Atoll.

(7) Take special precautions and measures to reduce the possibility of collision between TE 7.3.9.1 and any other vessel.

b. Tasks of Commander Task Element 7.3.9.1. CTE 7.3.9.1 shall:

(1) Assume responsibility for the security of classified RD material while it is in USS LST 762.

(2) Employ the U.S. Marine Detachment ordered to report to CO, USS LST 762 to safeguard the security of [REDACTED] associated RD equipment.

(3) Load and off-load the special material safely and expeditiously in accordance with schedule given in Annex A of this Operation Order.

(4) Assume custody of the classified RD materials as they are placed on board. Accountability of all AEC accountable materials will remain with a representative of the Sante Fe Operations Office, AEC (TG 7.5) who will be on board as a passenger.

(5) Make emergency disposal of any or all component material and equipment, regardless of classification or sensitivity, under emergency conditions where the health and safety of ships and personnel are concerned or where the national interest must be protected by such disposal.

(6) Inform CTU 7.3.9 of any such disposal made or contemplated.

(7) Inform CTU 7.3.9 of any significant developments which arise incident to transportation [REDACTED] and its associated equipment,

(8) Transfer responsibility for security and custody of classified RD material to CTG 7.5 or his authorized representative when this material is off-loaded from the ship. Obtain necessary receipts.

c. Tasks of Commander Task Element 7.3.9.2. CTE 7.3.9.2 shall:

(1) Screen TE 7.3.9.1 during loading and off-loading operations, during sortie and entry, and when at sea.

x. (1) This OpOrder is effective upon receipt and for movements at times required in Annex A.

(2) Ships shall be darkened when outside of the lagoons during darkness.

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*below 270 mcs*

(3) Radio silence/shall be maintained by all ships when outside of the lagoons, except to report contact with hostile forces, emergency disposal of [redacted] or associated equipment, or other emergency.

(4) Weather reports to JTF SEVEN Weather Central will not be made.

4. Logistics. As in Annex C, CTG 7.3 OpPlan 1-53.

5. a. Commander Task Group 7.3 (Acting) is Captain J. W. WATERHOUSE in USS ESTES until return of Commander Task Group 7.3 about 1200M, 19 February 1954.

b. Commander J. C. ELIOT, Commanding Officer USS NICHOLAS, is second in command of TU 7.3.9.

c. Use zone time minus TWELVE (MIKE).

d. Communications in accordance with Annex F, CTG 7.3 OpPlan 1-53.

e. Task Unit 7.3.9 is dissolved when CTG 7.5 or his authorized representative accepts responsibility for [redacted] and associated equipment after it has been off-loaded from LST 762. When Task Unit 7.3.9 is dissolved, ships resume operations listed in CTG 7.3 Operating Schedule 12 Feb - 28 Feb 1954.

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*H. C. Bruton*  
H. C. BRUTON  
Rear Admiral  
Commander

Annexes:

A Schedule of Events and Movements

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Authenticated:

3 *A. C. Dragge*  
A. C. DRAGGE, LCDR  
Flag Secretary

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Annex A

Schedule of Events and Movements

All movements and events are designed to insure off-loading [redacted] from USS LST 762 at a time to permit subsequent transportation and delivery of the device to Site CHARLIE by LCU during daylight 20 February 1954.

| <u>MIKE Date and Time<br/>of Commencement</u> | <u>Event</u>  |
|---|---|
| 171530  | LST 762 underway from anchorage.  |
| 171600  | LST beach at PARRY Island LST Pier.   |
| 171620  | LST 762 commence loading general cargo.<br>High Tide - 4.7 feet.  |
| 181030  | U.S. Marine Corps Guard Detachment report on board<br>USS LST 762 for duty.   |
| 181130  | USS NICHOLAS anchor in berth C-1 and be prepared to<br>give assistance as required to maintain security of<br>RD material when it is loaded into LST 762.   |
| 181200  | LST 762 cease loading general cargo. Prepare to<br>receive one F-1 Auto-tractor and device on Low Boy<br>trailer. Have same securing gear available as for<br>rehearsal.                                      |
| 181200  | TU 7.3.9 consisting of USS PHILIP, NICHOLAS and LST<br>762 is formed.   |
| 181300  | F-1 Auto-tractor and Low Boy trailer with [redacted]<br>begins movement into LST 762. When tractor and<br>trailer are on board LST 762 secure device and<br>equipment for sea in same manner as dummy device. |
| 181530  | NICHOLAS get underway and proceed out Deep Entrance.  |
| 181540  | PHILIP depart from ENIWETOK patrol and proceed to<br>rendezvous with LST 762 and NICHOLAS off Deep<br>Entrance.   |

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181600 LST 762 retract from PARRY Island and proceed out Deep Entrance.

181630 NICHOLAS and PHILIP form ASW screen. TU 7.3.9 depart ENIWETOK Atoll SOA 8 Kts.

181648 High Tide - 4.7 feet.

181919 Sunset.

190722 Sunrise.

191600 TU 7.3.9 arrive Enirrikku Pass. TE 7.3.9.2 screen entrance.

191620 TE 7.3.9.1 enter BIKINI Atoll via Enirrikku Pass. Anchor in berth assigned by CTU 7.3.7.

191630 PHILIP enter BIKINI Lagoon and anchor vicinity ENINMAN Island in berth C-7 (11°30'47"N 165°21'25"E). Be prepared to give assistance as appropriate to maintain security of RD material until it has been off-loaded from the LST.

191630 NICHOLAS remain on underway patrol.

191645 LST 762 beach at LST Pier ENINMAN Island.

191659 High Tide - 5.7 feet.

200730 (Approx) LCU will beach alongside LST 762.

200800 Commence removing securing fittings when CTG 7.1 and CTG 7.5 representatives are present and unload [redacted] on Low Boy trailer and F-1 tractor.

200900 (Approx) Device and tractor off-loaded to beach.

201030 (Approx) Device and tractor in LCU and secured. LCU depart for Site CHARLIE.

\_\_\_\_\_ After LCU has departed with [redacted] Commence unloading general cargo. TU 7.3.9 dissolved. Ships resume operations under CTG 7.3 Operating Schedule 12 - 28 Feb 1954.

AUTHENTICATED:

*A.C. Dragge*  
A.C. DRAGGE, LCDR  
Flag Secretary

H. C. BRUTON  
Rear Admiral  
Commander