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[REDACTED]
Operation Order
CTG 7.3 No. 5-54

Joint Task Force SEVEN
Task Group 7.3
Eniwetok, M.I.
17 FEB 1954 1200M

Task Organization

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- | | | | |
|----------------|---|---|-------|
| a. TU 7.3.9 | Transport Unit | CAPT J. E. SMITH | |
| (1) TE 7.3.9.0 | Special Devices
Transport Element
USS BELLE GROVE (LSD-2) | LCDR L. T. JOHNSON | 79863 |
| (2) TE 7.3.9.2 | Escort Element
CORDESDIV 12
USS EPPERSON (DDE 719)
USS RENSHAW (DDE 499) | CAPT J. E. SMITH
CDR N. B. DAVIS
CDR L. H. ALFORD | |

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] barge (station 40) will be loaded on board the BELLE GROVE (LSD-2) on 20 February 1954 and be given a trial shake-down run at sea off ENIWETOK Atoll on 21 February 1954. Upon completion of the sea trials on 21 February the BELLE GROVE will return to ENIWETOK and unload the [REDACTED] barge.

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. Friendly ships are indicated in CTG 7.3 Operating Schedule 12 Feb - 28 Feb 1954.

2. Mission. This unit will transport and safeguard the [REDACTED] during sea trials off ENIWETOK.

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 storage and transportation of the barge loaded [REDACTED] which will be aboard BELLE GROVE for the sea trials.
- (2) Provide protection for BELLE GROVE while classified RD materials are 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 special device barge or any portion thereof notify CTG 7.3 immediately by "operational immediate" message.

DECLASSIFIED BY: [Signature]
CHIEF, ISCM
W/DELETIONS 9 Nov 90

THIS DOCUMENT CONSISTS
OF 6 PAGE(S) NO 1
OF 78 COPIES, SERIES A

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(5) Inform CTG 7.3 and CJTF SEVEN of any significant developments which occur incident to the presence of the special device barge in the LSD well by message or letter as appropriate.

(6) Inform CTG 7.3 by "operational immediate" messages when the Task Unit departs from and arrives at ENIWETOK Atoll.

(7) Maneuver formation to change sea motion of BELLE GROVE. Use speeds from ten to fourteen knots and courses from 030°T to 150°T. Advance toward BIKINI for three hours and then return to ENIWETOK. Reduce speeds prescribed as necessary for safety.

(8) Take special precautions and measures to reduce the possibility of collision between TE 7.3.9.0 and any other vessel.

(9) Conduct inspection to insure maximum practicable degree of darken ship consistent with continued operation of equipment within barge and safety of personnel aboard barge and in the well. No bare lights shall be visible horizontally from BELLE GROVE.

b. Tasks of Commander Task Element 7.3.9.0. CTE 7.3.9.0 shall:

(1) Assume responsibility for the security of classified RD material while it is in BELLE GROVE.

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(2) Employ the U. S. Army Military Police Detachment ordered to report to Commanding Officer, BELLE GROVE to safeguard the security of [REDACTED] and associated RD equipment.

(3) Load and off-load the special material safely and expeditiously in accordance with schedule given in Annex A of this 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 of [REDACTED] and its associated equipment.

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(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.

(9) Inform CTU 7.3.9 of course and speed changes necessary for safety or recommended by Special Device Engineer.

(10) Install additional shaded lighting as necessary in the well area to give ample illumination for safety of personnel in the well at night.

(11) Permit no smoking, burning, welding or other naked lights on top-side aft of the bridge and comply as practicable with other safety precaution regulations requested by the Commander of TU 4 or the Special Device Engineer.

c. Tasks of CTE 7.3.9.2. CTE 7.3.9.2 shall:

(1) Screen TE 7.3.9.0 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) Radio silence shall be maintained by all ships when outside of the lagoon, except to report contact with hostile forces, to report emergency disposal of associated equipment, or other emergency.

(3) Weather reports to CJTF 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 on PARRY Island, ENISETOK until 1700, 20 February and in USS BIROKO thereafter.

b. Captain J. W. WATERHOUSE in USS ESTES (AGC-12) second in command.

c. Commander N. B. DAVIS, Commanding Officer, USS EPPERSON is second in command of CTU 7.3.9.

d. Use zone time minus TWELVE (MIKE).

e. Task Unit 7.3.9 as then constituted dissolved when CTG 7.5 or his authorized representative accepts responsibility for associated equipment after it has been unloaded from BELLE GROVE. Ships resume operations under CTG 7.3 Operating Schedule 12 Feb - 28 Feb 1954.

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

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

Annexes:

A Schedule of Events and Movements

Distribution List:

CJTF SEVEN (5)	Copies 1 through 5	USS BAIROKO (2)	Copies 37 and 38
CTG 7.1 (7)	6 " 12	PATROL SQUADRON 29 (VP-29)(2)	39 " 40
CTG 7.2 (2)	13 " 14	USS LST 762 (2)	41 " 42
CTG 7.4 (2)	15 " 16	ComCortDesDiv 12 (1)	43
CTG 7.5 (7)	17 " 23	USS EPPERSON (DDE-719)(1)	44
CNO (3)	24 " 26	USS RENSHAW (DDE-499)(1)	45
CinCPac (2)	27 and 28	USS NICHOLAS (DDE-449) (1)	46
CinCPacFlt (5)	29 through 33	USS PHILIP (DDE-498) (1)	47
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ComPhibPac (1)	copy 35	USS BELLE GROVE (AGC-12)(1)	49
ComCruDesPac (1)	36	USS ESTES (AGC-12)(2)	50 and 51

Authenticated:

A. C. Dragge

A. C. DRAGGE, LCDR
Flag Secretary

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Annex A

Schedule of Events and Movements

All movements and events in this schedule are designed to insure a thorough test of a special device barge while it is subjected to the motion it will undergo when being transported to a shot site and to prepare the USS BELLE GROVE to safely provide that transportation expeditiously in the future.

MIKE Date and Time
of Commencement

Event

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200830	BELLE GROVE anchored in Berth C-1; ENIWETOK; commence building special cribbing in well.
201430	TU 7.3.9 is formed.
201500	One ship of TE 7.3.9.2 anchor in berth C-2 to give all possible military assistance to USS BELLE GROVE.
201530	BELLE GROVE anchored in berth C-1, flooded down to maximum draft and ready to receive special barge with [REDACTED] therein.
201530	TG 7.5 forces begin to move special barge from slip to PARRY Island.
201615 (Approx)	Barge arrives at stern of BELLE GROVE.
201645 (Approx)	Barge in place over special cribbing. Commence pumping up. Insert shoring and wedges. TG 7.2 military police arrive on barge for safeguarding device.
201740	High tide - 4.5 feet.
201800	BELLE GROVE well dry. Complete securing barge in place with chains and wires as in earlier dummy run.
201800	Barge completely secured in BELLE GROVE well. BELLE GROVE pumped up to normal draft. Rig lights in well to give illumination on barge and in vicinity without light shining directly up or horizontally outside of ship.
201920	Sunset.

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202100 Check for darken ship conditions.

210630 EPPERSON and RENSHAW underway and at seaward end of Deep Entrance by 0700.

210700 BELLE GROVE underway and stand out Deep Entrance. TE 7.3.9.2 form screen as TE 7.3.9.0 leaves Deep Entrance. TI 7.3.9 proceed on various courses at various speeds toward BIKINI SOA 10 Kts for three hours.

211030 Reverse base course and return to ENIWETOK Atoll SOA 14 Kts.

211240 TE 7.3.9.0 enter ENIWETOK Lagoon via Deep Entrance and anchor in Berth C-1. TE 7.3.9.2 screen entry of BELLE GROVE.

211300 TE 7.3.9.2 one ship remain on patrol, one ship enter ENIWETOK Lagoon and anchor in Berth C-2 to give military assistance.

211400 BELLE GROVE pumped down with well flooded ready to off-load special barge. Commence moving barge from well when TG 7.5 forces are ready to receive barge.

211440 (Approx) When barge is clear of BELLE GROVE well TU 7.3.9 as constituted is dissolved. Ships move and operate in accordance with CTG 7.3 Operating Schedule 12 Feb - 28 Feb 1954.

H. C. BRUTON
Rear Admiral
Commander

AUTHENTICATED:

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