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United States Pacific Fleet  
Commander Task Group 7.3  
USS CURTISS, Flagship  
Oakland, California  
9 January 1954, 1000T

Operation Order  
ComTaskGroup 7.3 No. 2-54

Task Organization

79647

- |              |                      |                       |
|--------------|----------------------|-----------------------|
| (a) TT 7.3.0 | USS CURTISS (AV-4)   | CAPT R. E. C. JONES   |
| (b) TU 7.3.1 | DesDiv 172           | CDR R. E. FREEMAN     |
|              | USS TWINING (DD-540) | CDR G. W. MILLER      |
|              | USS SHIELDS (DD-596) | CDR W. S. KIRKPATRICK |
|              | USS ERBEN (DD-631)   | CDR W. A. KEEFE       |
|              | USS COLOHAN (DD-658) | CDR W. K. BROOKS      |

1. General Situation

The USS CURTISS is scheduled to depart San Francisco 10 January in company with DesDiv 172 for ENIWEKOK under NCSCRG control in accordance with NCSO, San Francisco, California sailing orders No. 184 of 8 January 1954. A fueling group and relief escorts consisting of USS MISPILLION and CortDesDiv 12 will rendezvous with TG 7.3 in the vicinity of the Hawaiian Islands at 171700Z.

Enemy Force. CinCPacFlt INST 003360.2B is effective for TG 7.3 which is considered "other forces as directed" under Situation One, circumstance b.

Friendly Forces. Continuous air cover will be provided within 500 miles of San Francisco, Pearl Harbor and ENIWEKOK. Operational control authorities (ComNesSeaFron and ComHawSeaFron) will make daily estimated position summaries (DEPSUMS) on friendly shipping in the area within 200 miles of CURTISS position.

2. Mission

This group will transport and safeguard certain special devices and equipment from San Francisco to the Pacific Proving Grounds.

3. Tasks of Subordinate Units

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a. CTU 7.3.0 shall;

- (1) Assume custody of and transport certain special devices and equipment.
- (2) In event of submarine contact, take immediate evasive action. Maneuver to present minimum target.
- (3) In event of hostile attack by surface ship or aircraft, take immediate evasive and defensive action.

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(4) In event of an emergency, including fire, explosion, collision, grounding or unusually heavy weather, take maximum steps to prevent loss of special cargo.

(5) Be prepared to refuel DD's one at a time, either side.

(6) Act as flagship for CTG 7.3.

b. CTU 7.3.1 shall:

(1) Protect TG 7.3 from air, surface and subsurface attack by:

(a) Maintaining the most effective anti-submarine screen during passage, unless otherwise directed.

(b) Developing submarine contacts while continuing to provide maximum ASW protection to TU 7.3.0 with remaining ships.

(c) In event of actual or threatened air attack, take air defense formation as directed.

(d) In event of actual or threatened attack by surface ship, form two-ship attack group and maintain two-ship ASW screen for TU 7.3.0, as directed.

(2) Be prepared to refuel DD's one at a time, either side from the CURTISS.

x. (1) Task units sortie in accordance with Annex A - Sortie Plan.

(2) Task units enter ENIWETOK Lagoon in accordance with Annex B - Entry Plan.

(3) Darken ship as directed.

(4) The formation will be maneuvered to clear all surface contacts by a minimum of five miles.

(5) ComDesDiv 12, Capt J. E. Smith, consisting of EPPERSON (DDA-4759) (F), CDR N. B. Davis; PHILIP (DDE-498), CDR G. W. Albin; NICHOLAS (DDE-449), CDR J. C. Eliot; and RENSHAW (DDE-499), CDR L. H. Alford, will relieve DesDiv 172 after rendezvous with refueling group.

4. TG 7.3 refuel as directed by ComHawSeaFron. CURTISS be prepared to transfer mail during refueling operations.

5. a. Use zone Zebra (GCT) time.

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b. Communications in accordance with Enclosure (2) to NC20, San Francisco sailing orders No. 184. Tactical and maneuvering circuits will be C4.1(e) primary and C4.1(b) secondary. In addition, a combat information net, circuit T66, will be manned continuously by all ships. All ships commence copying Task Group 7.3 Common (circuit C3.7(h) day and C3.3(d) night) upon entering Danger Area. All circuit designations are from JANAP 195(C).

c. Upon arrival ENIETOK dissolve Task Group. CTG 7.3 will disembark from the flagship off Parry Island upon arrival.

d. Commander Task Group 7.3 in CURTISS.

H. C. BRUTON  
Rear Admiral  
Commander, Task Group 7.3

## Annexes

- A Sortie Plan
- B Entry Plan

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CO, USS PC 1546	2 - copy number 35 and 36

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Annex A

Sortie Plan

1. a. General; One eighty (80) foot U. S. Coast Guard Cutter will provide harbor escort for CURTISS while at Port Chicago and in San Francisco Bay. DesDiv 172 will provide surface escort for CURTISS upon clearing channel. Speed for sortie of CURTISS will be 13 knots. Speed for destroyers will be as directed by Screen Commander. Guide in CURTISS. Formation course will be as directed by CTG 7.3. Anti-submarine screen will be formed when directed by CTG 7.3. On forming screen, screening units will take stations specified by Screen Commander. CURTISS will pass through Point OBOE at 110100Z January 1954 and at that time will change speed to seventeen knots.

b. Definitions

(1) Reference Points:

Point ABLE bearing three two seven degrees, distance one one zero zero yards from MILE ROCKS LIGHT.

Point XRAY bearing two five zero degrees, distance six miles from Point ABLE.

Point OBOE bearing two two three degrees distance four miles from Point XRAY.

Zero Hour will be 110015Z.

2. Mission. As in basic plan.

3. Tasks of Subordinate Units

a. CTU 7.3.0 (USS CURTISS)

(1) When RFS in all respects and when directed by CTG 7.3, get underway from Port Chicago on 10 January 1954 and sortie from San Francisco Bay.

(2) In the event of submarine attack during sortie CURTISS take evasive action as necessary and return to port.

b. CTU 7.3.1 (ComDesDiv 172)

(1) The primary mission of the screen in event of submarine attack is to protect CURTISS.

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(2) When RFS on or about 102100Z, sortie San Francisco Bay and conduct anti-submarine patrol off the seaward entrance of the main ship channel covering all large ship approaches.

(3) When CURTISS passes through Point XRAY, and on signal, form anti-submarine screen for CURTISS.

x. (1) Rendezvous Point OBOE at 110100Z.

H. C. BRUTON  
Rear Admiral  
Commander Task Group 7.3

AUTHENTICATED:

W. A. CLARK, CDR  
Acting Chief of Staff

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Annex B

Entry Plan

1. a. General. USS CURTISS in company with CortDesDiv 12 will arrive off ENIWETOK Atoll at about 231800Z. The PC 1546 will patrol off the entrances to ENIWETOK Lagoon for a period of about 12 hours prior to the arrival of the CURTISS.

b. Definitions

(1) Reference Points:

Point OBOE bearing zero nine zero degrees, distance six thousand yards from Deep Entrance channel Buoy No. 2.

Point XRAY bearing one one two degrees, distance two thousand yards from Deep Entrance channel Buoy No. 2.

Point ABLE bearing two six seven degrees, three thousand five hundred yards from Deep Entrance channel Buoy No. 2.

Point BAKER Safe anchorage selected by the Commanding Officer, USS CURTISS in vicinity of EBERIRU Island.

Point CHARLIE. Telephone buoy B-1 off PARRY Island.

2. Mission. As in basic plan

3. Tasks of Subordinate Units.

a. CTU 7.3.0 (USS CURTISS)

(1) After passing through Point ABLE proceed to vicinity of PARRY Island and disembark CTG 7.3. Then proceed via North Channel to Point BAKER and anchor for a period of about 12 hours prior to the arrival of the

(2) Off load special material, as directed.

(3) Upon completion of loading operations proceed to Point CHARLIE and moor.

(4) Off load additional special material.

b. CTU 7.3.1 (CortDesDiv 12)

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- (1) After passing Point OBOE discontinue screen of CURTISS and screen entrance until CURTISS is inside lagoon.
  - (2) Assume operational control of PC 1546 during entrance screening operations.
  - (3) After CURTISS enters lagoon, discontinue screen and enter lagoon.
- x. Upon completion of above tasks report to CTG 7.3 for operational control.

H. S. BRITTON  
Rear Admiral  
Commander Task Group 7.3

AUTHENTICATED:

W. A. CLARK, CDR  
Acting Chief of Staff

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