

Joint Task Force SEVEN
Task Group 7.3
USS BAIROKO (CVE 115)
BIKINI Atoll; M. I.
6 March 1954, 1200M

79977

Operation Order
CTG 7.3 No. 7-54

Task Organization

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
(2) TE 7.3.9.2	Escort Element USS EPPERSON (DDE 719)	CAPT J. E. SMITH CDR N. B. DAVIS

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. Station 90 [REDACTED] will be loaded on board BELLE GROVE on 7 March 1954, transported from ENIWETOK Atoll to BIKINI Atoll in the USS BELLE GROVE on 7 - 8 March 1954, and off-loaded in BIKINI Lagoon on 8 March 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 message 041150Z.

2. Mission. This unit will transport and safeguard Station 90 and equipment from ENIWETOK Atoll to 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 Station 90 as indicated therein.

(2) Provide protection for BELLE GROVE while Station 90 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 BELLE GROVE 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 CONSISTS OF
6 PAGES, COPY NO. 1
OF 80 COPIES, SERIES A

1

DECLASSIFIED WITH DELETIONS

BY CHIEF, ISCM, DNA

[Signature]

374-69-17

572

[REDACTED]

Operation Order

CTG 7.3 No. 7-54

(6) Inform CTG 7.3 by "operational 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 7.3.9.0 and any other vessel.

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.

(2) Employ the U.S. Marine Detachment ordered to report to CO, USS BELLE GROVE to safeguard the security of Station 90 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 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 of [REDACTED] 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 7.3.9.0 during loading and off-loading operations, during sortie and entry, and when at sea.

x. (1) This Operation Order 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 except for lights in LSD well for personnel safety.

[REDACTED]

Operation Order
CTG 7.3 No. 7-54

(3) Radio silence below 270 mcs shall be maintained by all ships when outside of the lagoons, except to report contact with hostile forces, emergency disposal of Station 90 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 is Rear Admiral H. C. BRUTON in USS CURTISS after 1400 MIKE, 6 March 1954.

b. Commander N. B. DAVIS, Commanding Officer, USS WPPERSON, 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 associated equipment after it has been off-loaded from BELLE GROVE. When Task Unit 7.3.9 is dissolved, ships resume operations listed in CTG 7.3 messages and shot directives.

H. C. BRUTON
Rear Admiral
Commander

Annexes

A Schedule of Events and Movements

DISTRIBUTION LIST

	<u>No. of Copies</u>	<u>Copy Nos.</u>
CJTF SEVEN	15	1-15
CTG 7.1	5	16-20
CTG 7.2	5	21-25
CTG 7.4	5	26-30
CTG 7.5	2	31-32
CNO	3	33-35
CinCPac	2	36-37
CinCPacFlt	5	38-42
CcmPhibPac	2	43-44
USS BAIROKO (CVE 115)	2	45-46
USS CURTISS (AV-4)	2	47-48
Batrol Squadron 29 (VP-29)	2	49-50

Operation Order
CTG 7.3 No. 7-54

USS ESTES (AGC-12)	1	51
USS BELLE GROVE (LSD-2)	2	52-53
COMCORTDES DIV TWELVE	1	54
USS EPPERSON (DDE-719)	1	55
USS NICHOLAS (DDE-449)	1	56
USS PHILIP (DDE-498)	1	57
USS PC 1546	1	58
USS TAWAKONI (ATF-114)	1	59
USS COCOPA (ATF-101)	1	60
OinC Task Group 7.3 Boat Pool	1	61
OinC Task Group 7.3 Underwater Detection Unit	1	62
Staff, CTG 7.3		
N-1	3	63-65
N-2	1	66
N-3	2	67-68
N-4	1	69
N-5	1	70

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

AUTHENTICATED:

A. C. Dragge

A. C. DRAGGE
LCDR
Flag Secretary

Operation Order
CTG 7.3 No. 7-54

Joint Task Force SEVEN
Task Group 7.3
USS BAIROKO (CVE 115)
BIKINI Atoll; M. I.
6 March 1954, 1200H

Annex A

Schedule of Events and Movements

All movements and events are designed to insure off-loading the [redacted] and barge from USS BELLE GROVE at a time to permit subsequent delivery of the device and barge to Site CHARLIE position during daylight 8 March 1954.

<u>MIKE Date and Time of Commencement</u>	<u>Event</u>
070830	BELLE GROVE arrives ENIWETOK anchors Berth Charlie ONE.
071300	Commence flooding down.
071300	U.S. Marine Corps Guard Detachment report as barge security detail.
071400	EPPERSON anchors Berth Charlie TWO to give all possible military assistance to BELLE GROVE.
071430 Approx	TG 7.5 forces begin to move special barge from ship at PARRY Island.
071500	TU 7.3.9 consisting of USS EPPERSON and USS BELLE GROVE is formed.
071515	BELLE GROVE flooded down to maximum draft ready to receive Station 90 mounted therein.
071530	Barge arrives at stern of BELLE GROVE.
071600	Barge in place commence pumping up.
071630	EPPERSON underway and patrolling at seaward end of Deep Entrance by 1730.
071700	Barge completely secured in BELLE GROVE well. BELLE GROVE pumped up to normal draft.
071730	BELLE GROVE underway and stand out Deep Entrance. TE 7.3.9.2 form screen as TE 7.3.9.0 leaves Deep Entrance. TU 7.3.9 proceed to BIKINI Atoll SOA 14 kts.
080730	TAWAKONI standing by in Enyu Channel berth to follow BELLE GROVE.

Operation Order
CTG 7.3 No. 7-54

- 080830 TE 7.3.9.0 enter BIKINI Lagoon via ENYU Channel and anchor in berth Nan ONE or in lee of HOW Island. TE 7.3.9.2 screen entry of BELLE GROVE. TAWAKONI standby in vicinity to give assistance as necessary when requested by TG 7.5 representatives.
- 080900 EPPERSON on patrol, PC 1546 enter BIKINI Lagoon and anchor one mile from BELLE GROVE to give military assistance.
- 081000 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.
- 081030 (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 dispatches and shot directive.

H. C. BRUTON
Rear Admiral
Commander

AUTHENTICATED:

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