

**HEADQUARTERS
TASK GROUP 7.4
JOINT TASK FORCE SEVEN
P. O. BOX 1653
LOS ALAMOS, NEW MEXICO**

REDMAN
16 May 1957

J3-H-133

SUBJECT: In-Place Dates for Operation HARDTACK Inter-Island Support Aircraft

**TO: Commander
Task Group 7.4, Provisional
Kirtland AFB, New Mexico
ATTN: Col P. R. Wignall**

THIS DOCUMENT CONSISTS OF 2 PAGE(S)
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1. In response to the verbal request from Lt Col W. B. Walker, Jr., we have attempted to estimate when additional inter-island airlift to support the scientific and construction effort for Operation HARDTACK would be required in the EPG. The estimates are very tentative at this time for two reasons. One, the experimental programs are not yet firm and as a result, the construction requirements to support them can not be determined. Two, the use of TAONGI Atoll as a third firing site has not been either approved or disapproved. The acquisition of TAONGI would modify the HARDTACK operational concept and support requirements would have to be revised accordingly.

2. It is understood that six L-20 aircraft and four helicopters are presently at ENIWETOK to support interim operations airlift requirements at both ENIWETOK and BIKINI Atolls. Also, that on or about 15 February 1958, it is planned that the first half of the Marine helicopter unit will be in-place at BIKINI Atoll with the balance arriving on or about 15 March 1958. It is believed that the two additional L-20 aircraft should be in-place at ENIWETOK not later than 15 March 1958. Further, it is estimated that construction requirements will be such that a total of ten Air Force helicopters will be required in the EPG not later than 1 February 1958. Some of the ten helicopters would be required at BIKINI to provide airlift support until the Marine unit arrives and becomes operational.

3. It is emphasized that the above in-place dates are tentative; however, as additional information becomes available which would modify the dates, you will be advised.

4. The above information has been coordinated with the DCTG 7.5 (Joe B. Sanders).

FOR THE COMMANDER:

E. A. Lucke

E. A. LUCKE
J-3
Plans & Operations

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EST REVIEW PERIOD 6/1/94
AUTHORITY: 48 CFR 1.101-11.4
FACIL
AND REVIEW PERIOD 6/17/94
AUTHORITY: 48 CFR 1.101-11.4
DATE

Calhoun

**Ltr fm Locke to Wignall, J3-11-133, Subject: "In-Place Dates for Operation
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