

Operation Order  
CTG 7.3 No. 9-54

Joint Task Force SEVEN  
Task Group 7.3  
BIKINI, M.I.  
3 April 1954, 1200M

Task Organization

a. TE 7.3.9	Transport Unit	(Easy) <del>CDR ALBIN</del>
(1) TE 7.3.9.0	Special Devices Transport Element USS BELLE GROVE (LSD 2)	CDR C. O. LOWE
(2) TE 7.3.9.2	Escort Element USS PHILIP (DDE 498) USS (Jig)	(George) CDR ALBIN CDR G. W. ALBIN (King)

1. General. This order is based on CJTF SEVEN Movement Directive Number TWO dated 10 February 1954, which has been forwarded to ships of this Task Unit, and CTG 7.3 OpPlan 1-53. The [REDACTED] Barge (Station 30) will be loaded into the BELLE GROVE (LSD 2) on (Love) 9 April 1954, be transported from ENIWETOK Atoll, M.I. to BIKINI Lagoon and to the lee of BIKINI Island on (Obce and Obce plus ONE) 9 & 10 April 1954, and unloaded at BIKINI Island on (Peter) 10 April 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 which may be encountered will be included in the message which completes this OpOrder.

2. Mission. This unit will transport and safeguard [REDACTED] mounted on a barge 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 30 as indicated therein.

(2) Provide protection for BELLE GROVE while RD Material is on board.

(3) Control aircraft provided by CTU 7.3.3 for air cover of TU 7.3.

(4) In the event of emergency disposal of the BELLE GROVE special c 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 device.

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

374-69-18

1

THIS DOCUMENT CONSISTS  
OF 6 PAGES, COPY NO  
OF 63 COPIES, SERIES 7

Hq JTF 7th SRJ-251-54E

BY CHIEF, ISCM, DNA

DECLASSIFIED WITH DELETIONS

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
Operation Order  
CTG 7.3 No. 9-54

(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, BELLE GROVE to safeguard the security of Station 30 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 OpOrder will be made effective by amplifying message.

(2) Ships shall be darkened when outside of the lagoons during darkness. BELLE GROVE is authorized to use such shaded lights in the vicinity of the device barge as necessary to insure personal safety of those working in or on the barge.

(3) Radio silence below 270 mcs shall be maintained by all ships when outside of the lagoons, except to receipt, and acknowledge if directed, for messages addressed specifically to CTU 7.3.9 or to TG 7.3, to report contact with hostile forces, to report emergency disposal of [REDACTED] parts or associated equipment, or other emergency.

**SECRET**  
Order  
CTG 7.3 No. 9-54

(4) 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 in USS CURTISS (AV 4).

b. Commanding Officer, (Queen) BELLE GROVE, is second in command of TU 7.3.9.

c. Changes in composition of this task unit will be promulgated by message.

d. Use zone time minus TWELVE (MIKE).

e. The dates and times required to complete this order will be announced by message, each lettered blank being filled with the corresponding information in the message. The letters, ABLE, BAKER, CHARLIE, DOG, HOW, ITEM, MIKE and NAN have been omitted from the sequence.

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

g. USS PHILIP and (Jig) \_\_\_\_\_ released from TU 7.3.9 when CTG 7.5 or his authorized representative accepts responsibility for \_\_\_\_\_ parts and associated equipment after the barge has been off-loaded from BELLE GROVE. Commanding Officer, USS BELLE GROVE (LSD 2) assume duties of CTU 7.3.9 and ships resume operations in accordance with current directives.

H. C. BRUTON  
Rear Admiral  
Commander

Annexes

A Schedule of Events and Movements

~~SECRET~~  
~~SECRET~~

Operation Order  
CTG 7.3 No. 9-54

DISTRIBUTION LIST

	Copies	1	through	5
CJTF SEVEN (5)		6	"	12
CTG 7.1 (7)		13	"	14
CTG 7.2 (2)		15	"	16
CTG 7.4 (2)		17	"	23
CTG 7.5 (7)		24	"	26
CNO (3)		27	"	28
CinCPac (2)		29	"	33
CinCPacFlt (5)		34		
ComAirPac (1)		35		
ComPhibPac (1)		36		
ComCruDesPac (1)		37	"	38
USS B. IROKO (2)		39	"	40
PATROL SQUADRON 29 (VP 29) (2)		41		
ComCortDesDiv 12 (1)		42		
USS EPPERSON (DDE 719) (1)		43		
USS RENSHAW (DDE 499) (1)		44		
USS NICHOLAS (DDE 449) (1)		45		
USS PHILIP (DDE 498) (1)		46		
USS PC 1546 (1)		47	"	49
USS BELLE GROVE (LSD 2) (3)		50	"	51
USS ESTES (LGC 12) (2)		52		
OinC UDU ENIWETOK (1)		53		
USS CURTISS (AV-4)(1)		54		
USS COCOPA (ATF-101)(1)		55		
USS APACHE (ATF-67)(1)		56		
USS SIOUX (ATF-75)(1)		57		
USS TAWAKONI (ATF-114)(1)		58	"	59
LNO TG 7.3 ENI (2)				

~~SECRET~~  
~~SECRET~~

Joint Task Force SEVEN  
Task Group 7.3  
BIKINI, M.I.  
3 April 1954, 1200M

Operation Order  
CTG 7.3 No. 9-54

Annex A

Schedule of Events and Movements

All movements and events are designed to insure off-loading the [REDACTED] device and barge from USS BELLE GROVE at a time to permit subsequent delivery of the device and barge to Site FOX position during daylight (Peter) April 1954.

<u>MIKE Date and Time of Commencement</u>	<u>Event</u>
<u>(Roger) 090730</u>	BELLE GROVE arrives ENIWETOK anchors Berth Charlie ONE.
<u>(Sugar) 090715</u>	Commence flooding down.
<u>(Roger + 1) 090830</u>	U.S. Marine Corps Guard Detachment report as Station 30 Security Detail.
<u>(Tare - 1 hr) 091130</u>	PHILIP anchors Berth Charlie TWO or within one mile berth Charlie ONE to give all possible military assistance to BELLE GROVE.
<u>(Tare) 091230</u>	TG 7.5 forces begin to move Station 30 from slip at PARRY Island.
<u>(Tare - 1 hr) 091130</u>	TU 7.3.9 consisting of USS PHILIP and USS BELLE GROVE is formed.
<u>(Tare - 1/2 hr) 091200</u>	BELLE GROVE flooded down to maximum draft ready to receive Station 30 in well. TG 7.3 ICUs to be in place forward of barge position prior to this time.
<u>(Tare + 1/2 hr) 091300</u>	Barge arrives at stern of BELLE GROVE.
<u>(Tare + 1 hr) 091330</u>	Barge in place commence pumping up.
<u>(Tare + 2 hr) 091430</u>	Barge completely secured in BELLE GROVE well. BELLE GROVE pumped up to normal draft.
<u>(Uncle) 100830</u>	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 knots.
<u>(Victor + 1/2 hr)</u>	(William) TAKAKONI standing by in Enyu Channel berth to follow BELLE GROVE.

**[REDACTED]**  
**[REDACTED]**  
Operation Order  
CTG 7.3 No. 9-54

(Victor) 100900

**[REDACTED]**  
**[REDACTED]**  
TE 7.3.9.0 enter BIKINI Lagoon via Eryu Channel and anchor in lee of HOW Island. TE 7.3.9.2 screen entry of BELLE GROVE. (William) TAWAKONI standby in vicinity to give assistance as necessary when requested by TG 7.5 representative.

(Victor + 1/2 hr) 100930

PHILIP on patrol, PC 1546 enter BIKINI Lagoon and anchor one mile from BELLE GROVE to give military assistance.

(Victor + 1 hr) 101000

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.

(Xray) To be announced

When barge is clear of BELLE GROVE well USS PHILIP and (Jig) are released from TU 7.3.9, CO, USS BELLE GROVE assumes duties of CTU 7.3.9. Ships move and operate in accordance with CTG 7.3 dispatches and shot directives.

H. C. BRUTON  
Rear Admiral  
Commander

AUTHENTICATED:

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

**[REDACTED]**  
**SECRET**  
**[REDACTED]**