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HEADQUARTERS
TASK GROUP 7.1
Joint Task Force SEVEN
P. O. Box 1663
Los Alamos, New Mexico

3-126
MEX

J-22041

4 December 1953

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11 Dec 53

SUBJECT: Major Military Support Phasing

TO: Commander
Joint Task Force SEVEN
Washington 25, D.C.

RG 326 US ATOMIC ENERGY
COMMISSION

Location LANL

Collection Records Center B-9 D-1-58

Folder 635 CASTLE

9-1-53 - 12-30-53

1. References:

- a. Letter, CTG 7.1, J-19657, Subject: Major Military Support Phasing, dated 26 August 1953.
- b. Letter, Hq JTF SEVEN, J-3/555.1, Subject: CASTLE Ship Movements, dated 2 October 1953.
- c. Message, CTG 7.1, J-21609, dated 25 November 1953.

2. Reference 1 a above, is hereby cancelled and superseded since it was based on an outdated shot schedule. Reference 1 b above, submitted a schedule of CASTLE Ship Movements for comments. This schedule, indicated below, is satisfactory to the Commander Task Group 7.1, except as noted.

Unit	DEPARTURE		ARRIVAL	
	Date	Location	Date	Location
USS ESTES (AGC-12)	25 Jan	San Diego	10 Feb	Eniwetok
USS CURTISS (AV-4)	4 Jan	San Diego	6 Jan	Oakland
	10 Jan	Oakland	24 Jan	Eniwetok
USS BELLE GROVE (LSD-2)	2 Jan	San Diego	20 Jan	Bikini
USS BAIROKO (CVE-115)	2 Jan	San Diego	18 Jan	Bikini

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- 27 Feb Load ACF Shop-Trailer from Namu to USS CURTISS.
- 28 Feb Evacuation [REDACTED] (Maximum utilization of billeting space for TG 7.1 personnel).
- 1 Mar [REDACTED] DELETED
- 2 - 3 Mar Reentry - Anchor in Aomoen Area.
- 10 Mar Evacuation [REDACTED] Utilization same as for [REDACTED] DELETED Evacuation.
- 11 Mar [REDACTED] DELETED
- 12 -
- 13 Mar Reentry - Anchor in Aomoen Area.
- 21 Mar Evacuation [REDACTED] - Utilization same as for [REDACTED] DELETED Evacuation.
- 22 Mar [REDACTED] DELETED
- 23 -
- 24 Mar Reentry - Anchor in Aomoen Area.
- 29 Mar [REDACTED] DELETED at Eniwetok.
- 4 Apr Evacuation for [REDACTED] DELETED - Utilization same as for [REDACTED] DELETED Evacuation.
- 5 Apr [REDACTED] DELETED
- 6 -
- 7 Apr Reentry - Anchor in Aomoen Area.
- 14 Apr Evacuation for [REDACTED] DELETED - Depart for Eniwetok.
- 15 Apr Arrive off Parry early morning - Load [REDACTED] DELETED parts (air shipped from the ZI arriving Eniwetok on 6 April) Off load ACF Shop-trailer to Parry - (See note 2)
- 15 Apr Depart Eniwetok for Bikini prior to dark.
- 15 Apr [REDACTED] DELETED
- 16 Apr Arrive Bikini - Moor off Eninman by 0700 - Storage for [REDACTED] DELETED parts and billeting for about five UCRL personnel.
- 21 Apr Evacuation for [REDACTED] DELETED - Utilization same as for [REDACTED] DELETED Evacuation.

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- NOTES:
1. It is recommended that an escort be provided for the USS CURTISS during the periods 10 January to 27 January and 15 - 16 April.
 2. In connection with the USS CURTISS movements of devices and components, the vessel will be used for billeting certain Task Group personnel.
 3. The ACF Shop-trailer may be off loaded at Parry after [redacted] if there is insufficient time to off load it on 15 April.
 4. The USS CURTISS will be required for cargo shipment to the Zone of Interior after the operation.

b. USS BAIRCKO (CVE-115): The USS BAIRCKO will be required at Bikini by 18 January in order to provide maximum helicopter lift capability as discussed in paragraph 3 i below; and to conduct helicopter re-entry and recovery operations. One Photo-dosimetry Trailer and one Radio-chemical Laboratory Trailer will be loaded aboard the USS BAIRCKO at San Diego and will remain aboard during the operation for the use of TU-7 and Projects 2.1 and 6.5.

c. USS BELLE GROVE (LSD-2): In view of the requirement to transport a shot barge on 28 January, and the heavy support expected of the Boat Pool soon after arrival, it is strongly recommended that the LSD arrive not later than 20 January. The LSD will be required to transport shot barges as scheduled below:

- 28 Jan Load [redacted] barge with dummy device off Parry and make rehearsal run to Bikini.
- 29 Jan Unload [redacted] barge off Aomoen and test anchor barge in shot position. Twelve TG 7.1 and three to five security personnel will require berthing and messing on 28 - 29 Jan.
- 2 Feb Load [redacted] barge off Aomoen. Begin run to Eniwetok.
- 3 Feb Unload [redacted] barge off Parry. About six TG 7.1 and three to five security personnel will require berthing and messing on 2 - 3 Feb.
- 21 Feb Load [redacted] barge with assembled device off Parry. Make about a three hour shakedown run in the open sea East of Eniwetok Atoll. Return to anchorage off Parry.
- 22 Feb Unload [redacted] barge off Parry. About 20 TG 7.1 and three to five security personnel will require berthing and messing on 20 - 22 Feb.
- 1 Mar [redacted]

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- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- 5 Mar Load [REDACTED] barge with assembled device off Parry. Begin run to Bikini.
- 6 Mar Unload [REDACTED] barge off Aomoen. About 10 TG 7.1 and three to five security personnel will require berthing and messing on 5 - 6 March.
- 11 Mar [REDACTED]
- 16 Mar Load [REDACTED] barge with assembled device off Parry. Begin run to Bikini.
- 17 Mar Unload [REDACTED] barge off Aomoen. About 18 TG 7.1 and three to five security personnel will require berthing and messing on 16 - 17 March.
- 22 Mar [REDACTED]
- 29 Mar [REDACTED]
- 30 Mar Load [REDACTED] barge with assembled device off Parry. Begin run to Bikini.
- 31 Mar Unload [REDACTED] barge off Aomoen. About 12 TG 7.1 and three to five security personnel will require berthing and messing on 30 - 31 March.
- 5 Apr [REDACTED]
- 9 Apr Load [REDACTED] barge with assembled device off Parry. Begin run to Bikini.
- 10 Apr Unload [REDACTED] barge off Aomoen. About 12 TG 7.1 and three to five security personnel will require berthing and messing on 9 - 10 April.
- 15 Apr [REDACTED]

- NOTES:
1. It is recommended that an escort be provided for all of the above LSD movements.
 2. Berthing requirements aboard the LSD may be reduced since some personnel may berth in the barge bunk rooms. Passengers except for security personnel, will probably all be cabin class. The LSD will run from Bikini to Eniwetok on about 27 January, 20 February, 4 March, 15 March, 29 March and 8 April. The LSD may be utilized to the maximum extent practicable to evacuate material, oversize trailers, heavy moving equipment, etc., on these runs.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

d. LST 551 (Weather):

- (1) The schedule of LST 551 to the Weather Island has been established as follows:

LV Honolulu 12 Dec ETA Majuro 23 Dec
ETD Majuro 26 Dec ETA Kusaie 28 Dec
ETD Kusaie 31 Dec ETA Ponape 1 Jan
ETD Ponape 3 Jan ETA Eniwetok 5 Jan
ETD Eniwetok 9 Jan ETA Rongerik 10 Jan
ETD Rongerik 14 Jan ETA Bikini 15 Jan

- (2) Detail requirements on Project 6.6 ionosphere station at Rongerik Atoll have been submitted by CTG 7.1, J-20748, dated 12 October 1953. CTG 7.1 message, J-21529, stated that clearing of the jungle and establishing stations at Rongerik may require six days instead of four as indicated in the above schedule. Therefore, it was stated that, as the situation dictates at Rongerik, it may be necessary to delay the LST departure from Rongerik to permit completion of the work at Rongerik.

- (3) LST 551, upon completion of the support at Rongerik, will be required to furnish the maximum service possible for regularly scheduled Bikini - Eniwetok lifts, and evacuation lift from Bikini.

e. LST 762: LST 762 now in the Forward Area, will be required to make a rehearsal run with the dummy [REDACTED] and a final run with the [REDACTED] LITED device between Eniwetok and Bikini. The following is the planned schedule:

19 -
20 Jan Loading and tiedown check of [REDACTED] lowboy aboard LST and LCU at Parry.
22 Jan Load lowboy with dummy [REDACTED] tractor, shop trailer and vehicles. Begin run to Bikini.
23 Jan Unload at Eninman. Transfer load to two LCU's and run to Namu.
About
25 Jan Return lowboy and tractor to Parry. This movement may be made at any time prior to 5 February by either LST.
19 Feb Load lowboy with [REDACTED] device, and associated equipment at Parry. Begin run to Bikini.

[REDACTED]

20 Feb Unload at Eninman. Transfer load to two LCU's and run to Namu.

After

23 Feb Return lowboy and tractor to Parry. This movement may be made at some later date by either LST.

After,

27 Feb Return shop trailer and vehicles to Parry. This movement may be made at some later date by either LST.

NOTES: 1. If escort is to be provided for LST movements, escort will be used on 22-23 January and 19-20 February.

2. Adequate tie-down gear is required. This Task Group is furnishing additional tie-down gear except for bulb hooks. It is requested that 48 bulb hooks be available to complete this back-up equipment.

e. USS GYPSY (ARSD-1): The USS GYPSY and a 500-ton YC type open steel barge will be required in the Forward Area by Project 1.4 from 8 February plus 10 days. The ATF support of this project will be required on 8 February for the same period. A 38-foot buoy boat furnished by the project and a modified LCM from the TG 7.3 Boat Pool will also be used.

f. Five (5) ATF: One (1) ATF will be required at Bikini on 29 January, and thereafter at time corresponding to the barge movement schedule, paragraph c, above, as backup for the movement and anchoring of the [REDACTED] barges. One (1) ATF will be required at Bikini for positioning and recovery of Project 1.4 buoys and instrument cans, operating with the ARSD and barge from 8 February to [REDACTED] plus 10 days. The other missions required of the ATF's are:

- (1) Two to tow and service YAG 39 and YAG 40 during their operating period in connection with [REDACTED] participation.
- (2) Two to place and recover Project 2.5a free-floating buoys on [REDACTED] and possibly on all shots. Buoys will be placed beginning about shot minus two days and recovered from Shot Day through about shot plus four days. If destroyers are assigned this task, the requirement for ATF's will be cancelled.

g. YCV: The YCV will be required at Bikini and anchored in the vicinity of the shot sites off Aomoen from 28 January until [REDACTED] plus one day, for personnel who will require helicopter lift to the shot barges. A surface transportation shuttle between the helicopter platform barge and USS CURTISS will be required. This shuttle could be provided by USS CURTISS boats.

NOTE: 1. YCV will be moved prior to each shot.

[REDACTED]

h. One APA: The troop transport assigned will be required not later than 25 February and preferably 24 February to support the phase-out of Northern Camps prior to the first evacuation. The transport will be used until several days after [REDACTED] to house personnel during the BIKINI operations and for redeployment of personnel to Eniwetok after the last shot.

i. Inter-Island Airlift: During the first and second weeks of January 1954 the bulk of the TG 7.1 activity will commence. Maximum helicopter lift capability at Bikini will be required by 20 January. To alleviate the situation prior to the arrival of Navy helicopter support, it is strongly recommended that three H-19A helicopters be retained, instead of being replaced by three H-19B helicopters, and that sufficient Navy pilots be provided to fly these aircraft prior to the arrival of the CVE.

4. Your comments and/or concurrence in the schedule proposed in paragraphs 2 and 3 are requested. Specific attention is invited to subparagraphs h and i, above.


P. L. HOOPER
J-3
Plans and Operations

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