

UNCLASSIFIED

HEADQUARTERS JOINT TASK FORCE 132 INCOMING MESSAGE

EMERGENCY

FROM: CTG 132.2 ENIWETOK

TO : CJTF 132 WASH DC
CINCPAC
USARPAC

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

INFO: NAVSTA KWAJALEIN
TG 132.4 KIRTLAND AFB
COMHAWSEAFRON AEC

DTG: 290750Z

TG2AG 0422. USARPAC pass to Gen Clarkson report of conditions existing at 290700Z December 52. Major portion of present damage to Island occurred between 290200Z and 290400Z coinciding with high tide at 290330Z. Virtually all damage has been caused by wave action and inundation of portions of Island with maximum water and maximum winds of 70 knots recorded at 290300Z. Latest available weather information indicates center of storm was passing south of Eniwetok Atoll at aprx 290300Z with next danger period estimated as occurring at 291536Z. Storm conditions expected to rapidly diminish after that hour. No serious personnel casualties. 18 treated for minor injuries with 1 possible fractured knee being severest. Morale of Comma remains high. Power shut off prior to inundation of living area. Supply situation satisfactory. Will have urgent requirement for tentage to house personnel as soon as possible. Partial report of major damage existing at this time follows. More detailed report and emergency requisition will be submitted later. Road on ocean side non existent. Lagoon drive reduced to one way traffic by several washouts. Ammunition magazine inundated. Pits on rifle range broken up. Buildings 90G, 90C and 3 100 KW Generators partially destroyed. Supply buildings of AWS inundated and partially destroyed with principal damage to buildings 133, 150 and 151. Skeet Range control building turned over. Roof of bldg 83 beginning to go. Main cargo pier suffered heavy damage and is inoperative. Approximately 52 tents destroyed and several frames demolished. Consolidated Mess Bldg inundated and suffered wall damage inside and out. Officers club bldg nr 27, Atoll Commanders Bldg 26 and VIP Quarters number 500 virtually destroyed. USCG Loran Transmitter station inundated and rendered inoperative at 290215Z. Underground power cables damaged in several places. AVR number 79 has been beached and engines and radionequipment salvaged. 1 14 foot lifeboat destroyed. Engine Maintenance Bldg inundated and approx 50 percent of tools lost. Provided present weather information accurate next report will follow after new peak danger period which is expected to occur at 291536Z.

Last contact with Parry Island at 290400Z indicates Island is weathering the storm in a satisfactory manner. For Gen Clarkson urmsg Cite MP34109. No immediate assistance required.

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Storm continuing unabated except with recession of tide no inundations occurring. Will keep you informed. This Task Group joins me in wishing you and yours a Happy New Year. Cushing sends.

NOTE: Above referenced msg MP 34109 is Incoming Msg 5899.

ACTION: Command

INFO : Dep/Air, Dep/Navy, J-1, J-2, J-3, J-4, J-5, Compt,
AG, AG Pers

LOG NO: 5903

TIME RECD IN MSG CENTER: 0715 29 Dec 52 DTG: 290750Z