



DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE  
ARMED FORCES SECURITY AGENCY  
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

IN REPLY REFER TO

19 March 1951

Lt. Col. Maulsby Forrest,  
Riverbank Laboratories,  
P. O. Box 189,  
Geneva, Illinois.

Dear Colonel Forrest:

Your letter of 8 February wandered around a bit and arrived during a period of absence from my desk.

We certainly could make good use of your son-in-law, in view of his special training and aptitude, but I hardly have to tell you that the Signal Corps, which also has need for specialists with his background, would probably be most reluctant to let him go elsewhere. However, it might be useful to try for a transfer.

Please tell the young man to put in his application for transfer to the Army Security Agency, addressing his correspondence to The Adjutant General (Thru channels). His letter, of course, must pass through his company, battalion, regimental headquarters, et cetera, before it reaches The Adjutant General. Its ultimate approval or disapproval cannot be forecast, but certainly he has nothing to lose by trying and something to gain in case his application meets with favorable consideration.

Your comment as to your primary interest in the matter is, of course, understood and I, too, would only have the good of the service as a whole in mind. This action on my part is the least I can do--and I am quite willing to do more should the occasion arise.

Reciprocating your kind regards, and with apologies for the delay in answering, although it was due to no fault on my part, I am,

Sincerely yours,

WILLIAM F. FRIEDMAN,  
Technical Consultant.

*Riverbank Laboratories*  
*Geneva, Ill.*

P. O. BOX 189

TELEPHONE  
GENEVA 1108

February 8, 1951

Col. William F. Friedman  
 Office of Adjutant General  
 Washington, D.C.

Dear Colonel Friedman:

I have a son-in-law of six months standing, Pvt. James Perry Thurber, Jr., U.S. 56052020, who just completed his basic at Ford Ord and is presently posted to Camp Gordon, Georgia, and assigned to 1st. Sig. Trg. g.p.

Pvt. Thurber, age 22, graduated from Stanford in 1950 where he was managing editor of the paper, as well as an above average student. Prior to his induction in November, he was a reporter for the Wall Street Journal.

I understand that in his Army I.Q. and classification tests, he received the highest grades ever recorded at Ford Ord.

It occurs to me that with an A.B. rather than E.E./M.E./B.S. background and with his other ostensible qualifications, he might be able to do a better job in an "intelligence" role than as a winder of switchboards or unroller of wire. I also thought it possible that you might have continued your relationship with those elements of the S.C. Unfortunately, all my top level associates on both sides of the water have passed out of the picture -- one way or another.

Two things I would like to make clear. First, I am not looking for a "privilege" for the young man; my primary interest is the good of the service. Secondly, under no circumstances, do I want you to go to any trouble on this account.

With kindest regards, I am

Very truly yours

*Maulsby Forrest*

Maulsby Forrest  
 Lt. Col., G. S. C. (Ret.)

MF:et