

424 North George Mason Drive
Arlington 3, Virginia
2 April 1951

Pfc. James P. Thurber, Jr., Signal Corps
Company #6, Basic Training Group
Signal Corps Replacement Training Center
Camp Gordon, Georgia

Dear Mr. Thurber:

Receipt of your letter of 28 March is acknowledged.

Answering your first question, I would be inclined to think that your value to the Army would be increased if you were transferred to a unit in which your special aptitudes were more applicable than at present, if, as you indicate, the job you are now doing is of a routine nature, easily handled by anyone with clerical ability.

Answering your second question, the type of work you would do in the Army Security Agency would be in the field of communications research, with certain aspects of interest and value in the intelligence field. Although it would not make direct use of your civilian experience, which I take to be in the field of journalism, that experience might constitute excellent background for the specialized training you would be given to prepare you for the type of research mentioned above. For this reason, it might be advisable to state in your application for transfer that you wish to be assigned as a student in the Army Security Agency School with a view to obtaining special training in the field of communications research.

Very truly yours,

P.S. I think it best to keep this out of official channels, hence the use of my personal address.

Company #6
Basic Training Group
Signal Corps Replacement Training Center
Camp Gordon, Georgia

28 March 1951

Colonel William F. Friedman
Armed Forces Security Agency
Department of Defense
Washington 25, D.C.

Dear Sir:

Colonel Maulsby Forrest, my father-in-law, forwarded your letter of 19 March 1951, and I want to thank you very much for the courtesy you have shown me in regard to this matter.

I am taking undue liberty in writing directly to you prior to filing an application through channels, for I have several questions I would like to ask before any formal action is taken.

At the moment, I am classified as a general clerk (MOS 4055) and am working in the S-3 section of the Basic Training Group here at Camp Gordon. If I do not transfer, I will probably stay with this group for quite some time.

As far as my personal feelings are concerned, I am quite content at the moment, but not overly enthusiastic as to the future aspects of my job. In addition, there is not the slightest doubt in my mind that my routine job could be perfectly handled by anyone with clerical ability.

My main questions are: 1. Would my value to the United States Army be increased if I were to be transferred, and 2. What type of work would I do in the Army Security Agency? It sounds extremely interesting and might be much more in the line of my civilian experience.

Please do not go out of your way to answer this or take any action what-so-ever. My primary concern is that I do not make a complicated transfer merely for the sake of transferring, that the end result will be profitable for all concerned.

With sincere appreciation, I am

Very truly yours

James P. Thurber, Jr.
James P. Thurber, Jr.
Pfc Signal Corps

8-2