

Serial: N 1396

11 MAY 1961

MEMORANDUM FOR ADM FRANK VIRDEN, USN

SUBJECT: Military Communications (U)

1. Reference is made to your Memorandum, Serial 005134P94, dated 6 April 1961.

2. It still remains true that high-frequency radio, with all its limitations, offers the best hope for rapidly establishing communications under difficult and rapidly changing conditions, with a minimum of equipment and personnel.

3. Mobile communication stations certainly offer more security than fixed installations. However, if command is exercised from a land base it must inevitably result in fixed communication installations at that base. It has been amply demonstrated that commanders will not accept the limitations imposed by mobile communications installations. Therefore, unless there is a change in concepts of how command is exercised, there is probably no escape from the immobility of fixed installations. The Navy commands offer the most likely area in which a new concept, if there were one, could be tested.

4. We share your views on human performance. I believe that this is the most important single factor in the whole complex inter-relationship within command structures. With or without communications, strong leaders will perform well; with good communications they will be most effective. Without strong leaders, the most nearly perfect communication system is of small value to the end results.

L. H. FROST

L. H. FROST
Vice Admiral, USN
Director

cc: DIR
AG
Reading File
TCOM (2)

M/R: This constitutes reply to ADM Virden's personal letter to VADM Frost, as directed by DIRNSA.

Captain Arthur Enderlin, USN, DIR/TCOM, 3736S, 3 May 61, vad