



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20350

TOP SECRET

IN REPLY REFER TO

Op-333D/cd
Ser 0007P33
25 MAR 1968

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From: Chief of Naval Operations
To: Judge Advocate General

Subj: Record of Proceedings, Court of Inquiry to inquire into the
circumstances surrounding the armed attack on USS LIBERTY (AGTR-5)
on 8 June 1967 (U)

Encl: (1) RADM I. C. KIDD, USN ltr of 18 June 1967 with Endorsements
one through six, forwarding subject record of proceedings

1. The remarks and conclusions of the first endorsement as modified by the second endorsement have been noted. Those relating to command and control and to communication actions and procedures are considered to be within the purview of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, since LIBERTY was carrying out a JCS-directed mission. As noted in enclosure (1) to the third endorsement, these aspects of the LIBERTY incident have been examined by a JCS-appointed fact-finding team. As a related matter, the Chief of Naval Operations has directed that a comprehensive study be undertaken to inquire into all aspects of the operations of all ships of the same general category as U.S.S. LIBERTY for the purpose of improving command and control procedures. This study is currently going on.

2. With reference to the remaining recommendations of the second endorsement:

a. Recommendation 4.b: the shortage of radiomen second class and above is a well-recognized problem of long standing. The Chief of Naval Personnel has advised that at the end of FY 1968 the projected strength of RM2 and above will be approximately 85% of stated requirements. Every effort is being made to fill the shortage. In regard to training and upgrading of RM2 and above, the Communications Systems Technical Control School provides graduates of the Radioman Class B School with twelve weeks of instruction in the communications systems used in the technical control centers of the Naval and Defense Communications Systems, leading to designation as Communications System Technical Operator (RM-2318) or Communications System Technical Supervisor (RM-2319). The output of this school has been four classes per year, 30 RM2 class. In 1969 it is planned to double the output of the school.

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Classification (cancelled) (changed to
31/T31 of 21 JUN 76
on 29 JUN 76 David R. Sparr
JAG Security Manager
(Data) (Signature) (Rack)

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b. Recommendation 4.c: the Commander, Naval Communications Command has stated in paragraph 4 of the sixth endorsement that he, together with the Director, Defense Communications Agency and other interested commands and agencies, is taking action in respect to operational communications deficiencies.

c. Recommendation 4.d: appropriate notification of Defense Attache officers is being implemented on a case-by-case basis.

d. Recommendation 4.e: the Chief of Naval Operations agrees that damage control procedures used by LIBERTY personnel should be documented for Navy-wide information and use. By copy of this endorsement, the Commander Navy Ships Systems Command is requested to take appropriate action. He is also requested to study and make recommendations to the Chief of Naval Operations with respect to (1) improved visual identification measures as proposed in paragraph 14 of the first endorsement and (2) the provision of emergency reserve signalling devices referred to in paragraph 3.d of the second endorsement.

3. Retain the report for historical purposes.



J B COLWELL
Deputy Chief of Naval Operations
(Fleet Operations and Readiness)

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