

U.S. military communications system proves untrustworthy

by Jack Anderson

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The results of these and other Pentagon foul-ups in the \$6 billion a year communications budget are anything but theoretical. Among hundreds of everyday delays, lost messages, garbles and misdirected cables, here are a few of the most disastrous.

In 1967, when the U.S.S. Liberty was in the Mediterranean, five messages were sent to it telling it to move away from the coasts of Israel and Egypt. All were sent between 3½ and 13 hours before the ship was attacked. None reached her in time.

In 1968, two warning messages were sent from the U.S.S. Pueblo saying it was under threat by North Korea. Although they were sent for "immediate delivery," it took 1½ and 2½ hours, respectively, for them to reach Washington authorities. This was one reason U.S. forces failed to rush to the aid of the ship.

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