

Add ✓ Glaser

DoD Plans New System To Contact ^{Submerged} Submarines

caps → [Seafarer]

WASHINGTON — By 1979 the Navy may have a sophisticated system for communicating with submarines far below the ocean's surface.

Defense has announced plans to begin prototype testing of a renamed and somewhat modified version of the controversial Sanguine communications system.

The system, dubbed Seafarer, involves constructing a grid of

2000 to 2500 miles of cables just below the earth's surface and about a dozen surface transmitters.

Submarines deep under the ocean would be able to receive radio signals transmitted through the earth's crust and seawater. Now they must either surface at an appointed time or come close enough to the surface to send an antenna up through the water to receive radio signals.

Seafarer, which would use extremely low frequency signals, would cost between \$520 million and \$550 million and take two to three years to build, according to Thomas Reed, director of telecommunications for the Pentagon. He added that Defense hopes to have the system operational by 1979 to counter Soviet antisubmarine warfare capability.

The decision to proceed with Seafarer was made by the DoD World Wide Military Command and Control System Council, which selected Nellis Air Force Base in Nevada and the White Sands/Fort Bliss complex in New Mexico as candidate sites for the system. Final choice of the site and a decision on whether to proceed with Seafarer or another ELF system will be made by the Defense Systems Acquisition Review Council in about a year.

Reed said the main difference between Seafarer and Sanguine is that Sanguine would use hundreds of concrete-encased transmitters buried below ground and would cost an estimated \$1.1 billion to \$1.2 billion.

Another alternative ELF system, Shelf, would use transmitters in deeper underground locations.

Research and development will proceed on both Sanguine and Shelf, Defense said.

The Sanguine system stirred controversy in the late 1960s when plans to undergrid an area in Wisconsin with antenna cables were disclosed. Objections were raised that the ELF radio "waves would harm plant and animal life. Installation of the system also was blocked in Michigan and Texas.

But, according to DoD, studies have indicated that there would be no adverse environmental effects from any of the three systems.

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RETIREES: No Easy Inversion Answer

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potential retired pay loss that is risked by remaining on active duty?

- Will an additional year of service, providing another 2.5 percent in the multiplier of the retired pay formula, make up for any potential retired pay loss due to the inversion?

- Will the achievement of a higher-longevity pay level in a future year make up for any potential loss due to the inversion?

Some of these questions obviously can't be answered with certainty at present — but people nevertheless have to make decisions.

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percent. A large increase in active duty pay would trim the differential by the amount it exceeds that level.

An active duty raise of 9 percent, for example, would mean a probable inversion differential of 6.5 to 7.0 percent.

Moving into a higher longevity level can, by itself, overcome the problem. Pay for an O-6 goes up about 8 percent when he crosses the 26-year mark. With an extra 2.5 percent tossed in for the additional year of service, the wait from his 25th to his 26th year is financially rewarding, despite the looming inversion.

A couple of rules-of-thumb

sacrificed quality."

JASKILKA ALSO discloses that there'll soon be an automated data system that will link an enlistee's boot camp performance to individual recruiters. "Thus, if a trend develops indicating that a greater than normal number of recruits, obtained by one recruiter or one district, are not successfully completing recruit training, we can take prompt corrective action," he is saying.

Retention — "FY 1974 was our best year for reenlistments in 15 years and this success is continuing into the current year."

Bonuses and the economy contributed, Jaskilka agrees, but "much of the success can be attributed to our management efforts." He cites as an example the computer print-outs Marines now get a year before discharge, outlining reenlistment options and qualifications.

Training — By the end of this FY, there'll be 10 percent fewer Marine instructors and support personnel than there were two years ago. That has caused more OJT and less formal schooling for Marines and "further substantive reductions in this area cannot be made without adversely affecting the overall level and quality of training."

Headquarters forces — Another pet peeve of Congress the past few years, so Jaskilka is pointing out that the two FMF headquarters have been reduced by 20 percent.

He discloses, too, that nearly 300 Marines now at Quantico will be heading for the FMF. A study of that command has uncovered "294 positions that can be eliminated."

All support forces have been "reduced to the bare minimum," Jaskilka summarizes.

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