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Vice Admiral Laurence H. Frost, USN

1960 - 1962

Vice Admiral Laurence H. Frost was born in Fayetteville, Arkansas, in 1902. He attended the University of Arkansas before entering the U.S. Naval Academy, from which he graduated in 1926. He served as a line officer aboard USS *Mississippi* and USS *Elliot*, and in 1933 began his career in communications when he undertook postgraduate studies at Annapolis.

In 1935 he was assigned as radio officer on the staff of the commander, Destroyer Squadron One, and then served as communications officer on USS *Dallas*. He was serving on USS *Indianapolis* when President Roosevelt sailed on that cruiser on a goodwill tour to South America in 1936. After a tour as aide to the commander, Cruiser Division Four, Scouting Force, he was assigned to the Communications Division of the Office of the Chief of Naval Operations in Washington. In August 1941 he assumed command of USS *Greer* and the next year was placed in command of the destroyer USS *Waller* in the Southwest Pacific.

Vice Admiral Frost returned to communications activities in October 1943, when he became communications officer on the staff of the commander, Central Pacific Force. In 1945 he returned to Washington to serve in the Naval Communications Division of the Office of the Chief of Naval Operations and then spent several years with Naval Intelligence. In 1949 he was appointed head of the Intelligence Estimates Division and in 1950-1951 was a student at the National War College.

He returned to sea in 1951 as captain of USS *Manchester*. He served as task element commander of several operations in Korea and was cited by the Navy for his "exceptionally meritorious service." He then served for a year as chief of staff to the Commander, First Fleet, before he was assigned from 1953 to 1955 to NSA as chief of staff under Lieutenant General Ralph Canine, USA, NSA's first director.

He was commander of Destroyer Flotilla Four for a year before he was appointed, in May 1956,

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to serve as director of Naval Intelligence, the post he held when he was appointed the first naval officer to become Director of NSA less than three months after Bernon Mitchell and William Martin announced their defection to Russia.

During Vice Admiral Frost's tenure as Director, the push for technological advance started by Lieutenant General Canine continued to bear fruit. During the eighteen months he was Director, thirteen mainframe computers, including HARVEST, were installed; three intelligence gathering ships - USS *Oxford*, USNS *Valdez*, and USS *Robinson* - began service; and the OPSCOMM worldwide communications nets were established. Additional overseas facilities were established in Vietnam, Japan, and Cuba and, in July 1962, NSA's Pacific Office (NSAPAC) Headquarters was moved to Hawaii. And, as a reaction to the Martin-Mitchell defection, the permanent office of Inspector General was established.

Following Vice Admiral Frost's appointment as Director, NSA, he was appointed commandant of the Potomac River Naval Command where he served until his retirement in 1964.

After his retirement, Vice Admiral Frost lived in Norfolk, Virginia, until his death on 22 May 1977 at the age of 74.

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