

Recollections of a 5" Mk 37 gun director on USS South Dakota (BB 57)... by FC3 Richard Silvers

“The entrance to the director was at it's tube base. Two ladders were in the base, each with a trap door. Three men who stood behind the rangefinder climbed the rear ladder. The three men who sat at their stations, climbed the front ladder. All six men wore sound powered phones...

The purpose of the Mk 37 is to track targets either visually or by radar. Each director controlled two (2) 5" twin gun mounts:

- Sky 1 – First two mounts on Starboard side
- Sky 2 – First two mounts on Port side
- Sky 3 – Second two mounts on Starboard side
- Sky 4 – Second two mounts on Port side

Each of the six men in the director had a button to click every couple of seconds as targets moved. This information went directly into a computer in PLOT to automatically track the target...
it changed with each subsequent click.”