

DOCUMENT RESUME

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[Need for Greater Program Overview of the Inservice Training Review Organization]. P2CD-78-7; B-175773. November 8, 1977. 2 pp.

Report to Secretary, Department of Defense; by H. L. Krieger, Director, Federal Personnel and Compensation Div.

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Organization Concerned: Department of the Army; Department of
the Navy; Department of the Air Force; Marine Corps;
Interservice Training Review Organization.

The Interservice Training Review Organization was established in 1972 by mutual agreement among the services to identify opportunities to make their training more effective and efficient by eliminating duplication and standardizing instruction programs. The Army, Navy, and Air Force are concurrently developing computer-managed or computer-assisted instruction systems. The Army's computer-assisted system provides each student direct instruction normally provided by an instructor. The Navy's computer-managed system aids instructors in managing student interactions with course materials. The Air Force's instruction system combines the capabilities of both the Army and Navy systems. Findings/Conclusions: The Training Technology Committee did not evaluate these independently developed systems to determine whether a combined development effort would have been more efficient or economical. A second area where duplication of effort exists concerns simulation technology developments. Several laser rifle devices were listed as under development and of mutual Army/Marine Corps benefit because of the commonality of weapons and tactics. The Army contracted independently for its own marksmanship trainer although it is similar to the Marine Corps' laser marksmanship trainer. Evaluations are indicated to determine whether separate systems are needed in applying training technology for both computer instruction systems and laser rifle systems. (SW)



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UNITED STATES GENERAL ACCOUNTING OFFICE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20548

FEDERAL PERSONNEL AND
COMPENSATION DIVISION

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B-175773

The Honorable
The Secretary of Defense

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Our findings during a recent survey of instructional technology demonstrate once again the need for your office to provide program overview to the Interservice Training Review Organization. The Organization was established in 1972 by mutual agreement among the services to identify opportunities to make their training more effective and efficient by eliminating duplication and standardizing instruction programs. We found that the Organization's Training Technology Committee was not executing its responsibility to avoid duplication through interservice exchange of training technology in the areas of computer instruction systems and laser rifle systems.

In our October 1976 report entitled "Need for Better Assessment of Interservice Training Opportunities" (FPCD-76-92), we showed that there was a need for an expanded Department of Defense role to better assess and organize training consolidations. We reported that service preferences were impeding efforts to consolidate training in many courses. We recommended that your office establish a focal point to provide program overview. You responded in February 1977 by stating that you agreed there was a need to improve the Department's ability to exercise staff supervision over the Organization's activities and would take actions to accomplish that.

COMPUTER INSTRUCTION SYSTEMS

The Army, Navy, and Air Force are concurrently developing computer managed or computer assisted instruction systems. The Army's computer assisted system is to provide each student with direct instruction normally provided by an instructor. The Navy's computer managed system is to aid instructors in managing student interactions with course materials. The Air Force's instruction system combines the capabilities of both the Army and Navy systems.

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The Training Technology Committee did not evaluate these independently developed systems to determine whether a combined development effort would have been more efficient or economical.

LASER RIFLE SYSTEMS

In December 1976, the Committee's Simulation Subcommittee reported on simulation technology developments within the services. Several laser rifle devices were listed as under development and of mutual Army/Marine Corps benefit because of the commonality of weapons and tactics. One device listed was the Marine Corps' laser marksmanship trainer. Although this trainer is supposed to be mutually beneficial to the Army and Marine Corps, we found that the Army had contracted independently for its own marksmanship trainer. The main difference in the two trainers is the target; the lasers are essentially the same.

The Subcommittee chairman told us that the systems had not been reviewed to determine the need for separate development efforts. He could offer no explanation as to why an evaluation had not been conducted.

CONCLUSIONS

Concurrent development by the services of computer instruction systems and laser rifle systems suggests duplication of effort in applying training technology. Although aware of these concurrent developments the Interservice Training Review Organization had not evaluated either system to determine whether separate systems were needed.

We are bringing this matter to your attention so that you may include the activities of the Organization's Training Technology Committee as part of your program overview.

Sincerely yours,



H. L. Krieger
Director