

In April 1967 a report on our survey of the management of technical manuals within the Department of Defense was made to the Joint Committee on Printing and to the Subcommittee on Department of Defense, House Committee on Appropriations.

Our survey indicated that savings might be realized by single-service management of identical manuals that are used by two or more services. For designated items of equipment used by more than one military service, procurement responsibility has been assigned to one service. However, each service is responsible for the printing and distribution of its own technical manuals. For example, where an identical manual is required by both the Navy and the Air Force, the service responsible for procurement of the equipment purchases two sets of negatives—one set for each service. Then each service independent of the other incurs costs for the printing of its own technical manual requirements. As a result duplicate costs are incurred for negatives and for preparation of presses for two separate printing runs. We concluded that, in those situations where identical manuals are used by more than one service, the assignment of management responsibility to one service should be considered.

Our survey also indicated that savings might be realized by: considering the effect that reductions in requirements for technical manuals have on the prices established under negotiated contracts; eliminating duplicate numbering systems; increasing the use of less expensive certified mail in lieu of registered mail to transmit technical manuals classified as "confidential" within the continental United States; and increasing interservice liaison so that all the services will be currently informed of joint-usage manuals that are considered obsolete by any one service before disposal action is authorized.

We are working very closely with the Joint Committee on Printing in its efforts to achieve broader coordination and economy in the total printing effort of the Federal Government.

MILITARY FACILITIES AND CONSTRUCTION

Last year we established within our Defense Division a Facilities and Construction staff which is responsible for the accounting, auditing, and investigative work of the General Accounting Office involving real property in the Department of Defense, including the Departments of the Army, Navy and Air Force. These responsibilities include, but are not necessarily limited to, operation, management, maintenance and construction of facilities, barracks, quarters and family housing. In addition, the staff is responsible for reviews of award and administration of contracts for construction, management or maintenance of facilities; acquisition and utilization of real property; research into improvement of construction and facilities management practices; disposal of facilities and real property; and other matters involving facilities for training, communication, medical, reserve and active duty forces; and financial accountability for such real property.

Among the areas to which the efforts of this functional staff are being directed is the area of possible savings from joint utilization of common-type facilities by the military services or consolidation of activities relating to maintenance and construction of facilities.

Military contracts for construction are executed under the jurisdiction and supervision of the Corps of Engineers, Department of the Army, or the Naval Facilities Engineering Command, Department of the Navy, unless the Secretary of Defense or his designee determines that, because such jurisdiction and supervision is wholly impracticable, such contracts should be executed under the jurisdiction and supervision of another department or Government agency. These two agencies generally act as the construction agents for the Department of Defense except for construction of Department of the Air Force family housing in which case the Air Force acts as its own construction agency.

With regard to interservice use of facilities, none of our work has reached a stage of firm conclusions. Some of the specific matters that we are looking into or planning to look into in the near future are:

1. The management and operation of motion picture and photographic activities. The study among other things will cover the feasibility of improved efficiency by more joint utilization of facilities, and consolidation and interservice coordination of the activities.