Mr. HOLIFIELD. In the software field, yourself?

General HEISER. Yes, sir; we were exploring software and hardware, Mr. Chairman. We were trying at that time and we still are.

Mr. HOLIFIELD. Put this in a bracket of years.

General HEISER. Sir, we are talking in terms of the beginnings of this—first of all, may I give just a little quick history?

Mr. HOLIFIELD. Yes.

General HEISER. We began the use of the data card as opposed to the manual requisition toward the end of our experience in Korea. This progressed, using a card and just electronic accounting machines to try and avoid having as many people and doing a job more effectively than the manual processing of supply paper. This began at the end of Korea.

Then as I say, sir, in the computer area we got into the computer area both at the National Inventory Control level and at the depot level, and also at the Field Inventory Control Center level during the mid and late fifties.

For example, in the 7th Army in Europe, we had what was popularly known as a MOBIDIC (mobile digital computer) piece of equipment, which was supposed to be a piece of equipment that could be put in a van. It was ruggedized and you could move it around as it was. Along with this was a program, and it was really a test package, sir, but we never really got to carry out the test before things moved so fast on us.

And by the way, one of the problems in this area is the state of the art moves so fast.

We had MOBIDIC's that had problems, and we could not go from the MOBIDIC to something else through an evaluation process and so forth. We already had the MOBIDIC, an antique piece of equipment before we ever finished the test. This is one of the problems.

Now, involved in this also is the fact that while we have MOBIDIC, we also get involved in Vietnam, and you might say well, why did you not put MOBIDIC in Vietnam, but we knew that MOBIDIC was not the equipment to go in Vietnam.

Now also, we are attempting to start to get a standardized system. We did have problems in terms of the fact that we had equipments at that time that would not communicate one with the other. We are getting along better in this now, as I am sure, sir, there are people better able to talk to this than I who are in the room, but the fact is that some of these difficulties are being overcome.

But for a while, you had to write programs that were specifically pointed at a specific piece of equipment, and you did not have the ability to communicate.

We got many different pieces of equipment in an effort to try to be fair in terms of commercial practice and competition, and as a result we had different computers in our depots.

What I am saying, sir, is that use of computers has grown and it began in a logical approach to testing, but the state of the art and the dynamics of the situation occurred in such a way that in the beginning of the early sixties we did not have a standard system, and yet we had jobs to do, sir.

Mr. HORTON. General, could I interrupt you there?

General HEISER. Yes, sir.