

Army today is very mobile in Vietnam, whereas the Air Force is fixed.

Mr. HOLIFIELD. Tell me the technical answer to this question. What is the problem involved in terms of time involved in reprogramming a computer program, let us say from a 90-day stock program to a 120-stock program?

Mr. RILEY. Just that simple example is not a job of any real consequence.

Mr. HOLIFIELD. In other words, you could do it in a couple of hours or a day?

Mr. RILEY. A few days; yes, sir.

Mr. HOLIFIELD. In a few days.

Mr. ROBACK. Is it true that the large problem in compatibility has to do with the training of personnel if you have different types of equipment. Even though the equipment can communicate, personnel are not necessarily interchangeable because of the special training requirements for that type of equipment? Is that the main problem here?

Mr. RILEY. That is one of the problems. If you have different equipment and a different system then you run into a sizable training problem.

Mr. ROBACK. Whose concern is this? Now, in industry there are quite a few highly developed sources of research development and production in this field, and to some extent they may be interested in developing their own unique systems. The Defense Department may be interested in standardizing the training requirements so that there is interchangeability. How do you mesh? Who has the R. & D. responsibilities in the Defense Department on the Government's side, and how do you disseminate or how do you convey these findings, if you get any?

Mr. RILEY. Let me try to answer that this way, Mr. Roback. As you know, I am sure, over the past 10 years both Government and industry have had a sizable effort going on to develop a common business-type language. It is referred to as COBOL. That has now substantially been completed. The Defense Department is now requiring that all future computer acquisitions for business applications will be programmed to use the COBOL language. This will substantially reduce the training problem because the computers will all have the same programmed language. This will greatly minimize the problem.

Mr. ROBACK. Is this a specification?

Mr. RILEY. Yes.

Mr. ROBACK. And is this Government-developed or is this industry-developed and Government-approved?

Mr. RILEY. It is jointly developed with the industry—both users and manufacturers of computers—and with the Government. The Defense Department further defined the levels of COBOL to be available with different sizes of equipment and required COBOL on all machines used for logistics and other administrative purposes.

Mr. ROBACK. Is this a Navy development or OSD?

Mr. RILEY. No; it was jointly developed by OSD, the military departments and industry.

Mr. ROBACK. And how does the specification read in your procurement? Does it actually refer to COBOL?