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Research Memorandum 77-14

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**PREPARATION OF THE ASVAB
INFORMATION PAMPHLET**

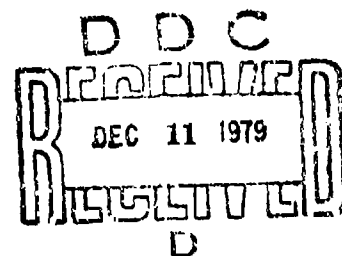
Leonard C. Seeley

PERSONNEL ACCESSION AND UTILIZATION TECHNICAL AREA

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PREPARATION OF THE ASVAB INFORMATION PAMPHLET

BACKGROUND

When the AFQT was the principal mental screen for applicants to any of the Armed Services, and classification decisions were deferred until after applicants qualified on AFQT, the Enlistment Screening Test (EST) was used by recruiters to predict performance on the AFQT. The EST also served to familiarize the applicants with the type of items used and to provide practice in test taking. With the advent of the volunteer force, increased emphasis being placed on classification testing and less emphasis on the AFQT alone, the EST was less appropriate; it covered only the few types of items which comprised AFQT.

In response to requests from the field for a means of providing authorized and controlled practice in taking the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB), DA ODCSPER asked ARI to develop a product which would serve this purpose. The ASVAB Information Pamphlet was ARI's answer.

CONTENT AND PURPOSE

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The ASVAB Information Pamphlet contains an explanation of the purpose of the ASVAB, its nature and makeup, the names of its 13 tests along with their time limits and number of questions in each test. General information is presented on how to take the ASVAB, and this is followed by sample sets of seven questions of each of the 13 tests in the battery. A sample answer sheet is provided, comparable to that used for the ASVAB, with a scoring key which shows the correct answers for each sample item.

The ASVAB Information Pamphlet is expected to provide the prospective enlistee with sufficient information about the battery to enable him or her to do his/her best in taking the ASVAB. The pamphlet should be especially helpful to marginal ability candidates, slow readers, slow learners, those who have been out of school a considerable time, and those not experienced in taking machine scoreable tests.

^
This Information Pamphlet is intended to serve as the only officially authorized source of information about the battery. Use of commercial and other unofficial coaching documents may actually hinder applicant performance through inadvertently misleading information, while the ASVAB Information Pamphlet was designed to provide maximum guidance, shy of teaching actual operational questions.

METHOD

The ASVAB Information Pamphlet was prepared after consulting the following material:

1. The AFQT Information Pamphlet, PT 4502R, produced by ARI in 1965 and reprinted in ARI Research Report 1179, Effectiveness of Selection and Classification Testing, September 1973.
2. ASVAB Counselors Manual, DOD 1304, 12X USMEPCOM, July 1976.
3. ASVAB 5 Specimen Set, DOD Armed Forces Vocational Testing Group, 1976.
4. Sample Enlistment Test, ARI Unpublished Manuscript, 1975.

The test questions used in the ASVAB Information Pamphlet were drawn primarily from these four sources. In addition, some were drawn from the practice items which are provided with various forms of the AFQT, the ASVAB, and the ACB-73. No item was used which occurs in any of the currently operational ASVAB tests.

All types of ASVAB items were included. Within a test items were provided which are representative of the types of items which appear operationally. Specifically, pictorial content was used in the four sample items where the corresponding operational test contains pictorial content, prose material where ASVAB uses prose, and mixed pictures and prose where such occur operationally.

Items were selected in the range of very easy to moderately difficult, and were arranged in that order in the sample tests. No items in the very difficult range are presented.

CONCLUSION

If the ASVAB Information Pamphlet is accepted for operational use there may be expected: (a) a public relations gain for military recruiting, (b) improved performance on ASVAB by some individuals, with, perhaps, an increase in qualification rates at the AFKES, and (c) a decrease in the rate of requests for retests. It is also probable that widespread use of this Information Pamphlet will necessitate modification of the norms for this Battery.