

## ARMY TELEVISION RESEARCH ACTIVITIES

*Joseph H. Kanner\**

**S**INCE 1951, the U.S. Army Signal Corps has sponsored or conducted television studies aimed at developing the medium for military teaching and communications purposes. At present, 10 Army installations use television for teaching and five more are scheduled for TV instruction within the next year. Although many major questions have been answered—enough so that most training needs can be handled over television—study continues on how the newer aspects of TV can further contribute to its effectiveness for teaching.

For the past year, a major activity has been a comparative study of the teaching effectiveness of color and monochrome television. The Signal Corps operates an experimental mobile color unit which consists of three color cameras and associated equipment mounted in an air-conditioned van. The extensive use of transistors makes these cameras considerably lighter than their predecessors, although they remain bulkier than standard image orthicons. This unit has been used to conduct the study both at the Signal School, Fort Monmouth, and the Ordnance Guided Missile School, Huntsville, Alabama.

At both of these installations, a wide variety of subject matter was selected. It represented materials, which on a *a priori* basis, might not be expected to benefit from color, such as a lecture on Ohm's Law, aids in learning to read

resistors, and so on. Groups of trainees equated for aptitude were simultaneously taught by the same instructor. One group saw the instruction over color receivers, the other over monochrome receivers. This design eliminated possible variance attributable to time of day or different instructors.

It is expected that this study will be the most definitive carried out on the role of color in learning, and, whatever the results, they will be based upon rigid controls and an extensive sampling of subject matter. The study is nearing completion and will be reported to readers of this journal.

Video tape recorders are now being procured by Army television users. A study planned for the Signal Schools, Fort Monmouth, and Fort Gordon, will evaluate the application of video tape to the training of new instructors. It is believed that the immediate playback feature of video tape provides an opportunity for insight into errors and deficiencies by new instructors not possible with other existing methods.

Finally, there is a study in planning stage to further pursue the use of television for teaching problem-solving behavior as represented in the trouble shooting of electronics equipment.

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\* Joseph Kanner is chief of the audio-visual applications office, Army Pictorial Service Division.