1980 PRODUCT ENGINEERING ORGANIZATION

Introduction: In 1980, I joined the staff of Dick Seaberg, General Manager, Sperry Defense Systems Division, as Vice President of Product Engineering. I recall that Jim Rapinac, John Vold, Ken Meinelt, Emmett Johnson, Ken Oswald, Jerry Squires, among others, were members of Dick's staff at that time.

I was challenged; coming out of the software world to lead an engineering organization, but also honored to be chosen. The organization was staffed with very capable engineers who gave their all to the company. Our Sperry Organization was a great asset to the U.S. Navy. The UYK 7 and UYK 20 were among the many projects we were developing at the time. Some of our customers were Don Ream, Paul Hoskins, Jim O'Donovan, and Joe Mallone of the U.S. Navy. To relieve our stressful times, we managed to have fun and develop friendships through golf events, dinners, and many other after work activities. *Clyde Allen*

In 1980, the VIP CLUB had its official clubroom opening in plant 1; notes from our web pages:

1. Millie Gignac was promoted to Director of the Human Services Department, the first female director at Sperry.
2. The VIP Club was organized under her guidance. Millie's recollections of that year are: "By June 1st we had received responses from 150 retirees who expressed an interest in forming a club. We sent a follow-up letter advising them that due to summer vacations, the first meeting would be held in September. Meanwhile, the construction and furnishing of the clubroom was completed. We planned a ribbon cutting ceremony for July 24, 1980 and I invited Bob McDonald, who had just retired as President and Chief Operating Officer of Sperry Corporation, to take part in the ceremony and cut the ribbon. He was delighted to be included." {Editor's note: This photo shows Millie with our first Club President, Al Mueller, and Bob McDonald.}

3. The first general meeting was held on September 3, 1980 with about 75 in attendance. Officers were elected, plans were made for future monthly meetings, then a well-written constitution and by-laws were drawn up which protected the Club and the Company.

Epilogue: Larry Bolton (BEE U of MN, 1965) found, scanned, and compiled these organization charts into an electronic file. About three dozen of the people in these charts are current VIP Club members. After 35 years, the Club membership has over 1,600 members including spouses. **Thanks to** Jim Andrews, Keith Behnke, Larry Bolton, Dennis Paulinski, Phil Schwarz, and Paul Wood who helped with first names. **See page 21** for alphabetic index of people herein. Lowell Benson (BEE U of MN, 1966) formatted the article

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At the bottom of each page, I first listed first names of the people I knew. Then got help from others as noted with bold letters. We are yet seeking the first names of 3 people w/initials in red on pages 6, 14 and 15. Please send a note to webmaster@vipclubmn.org, thanks. *LABenson*

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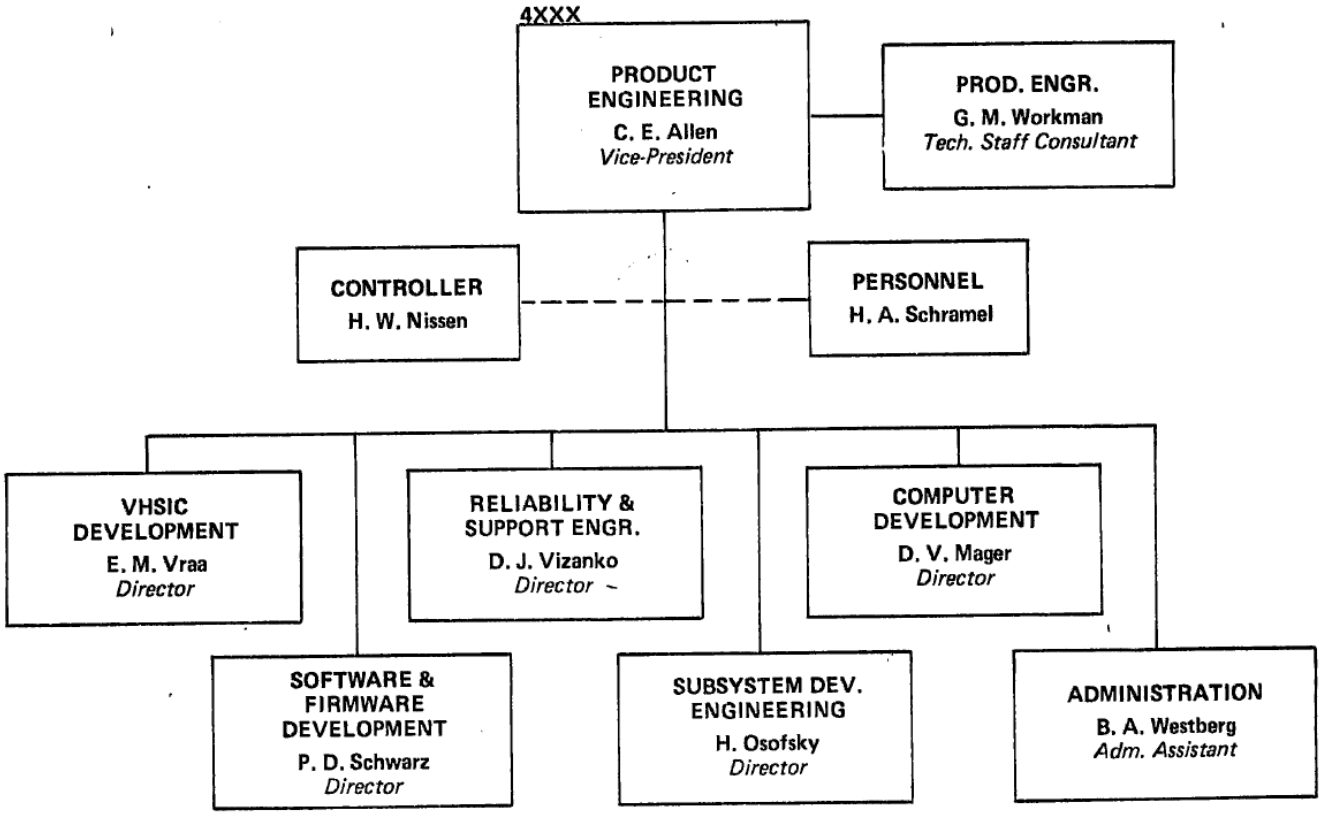
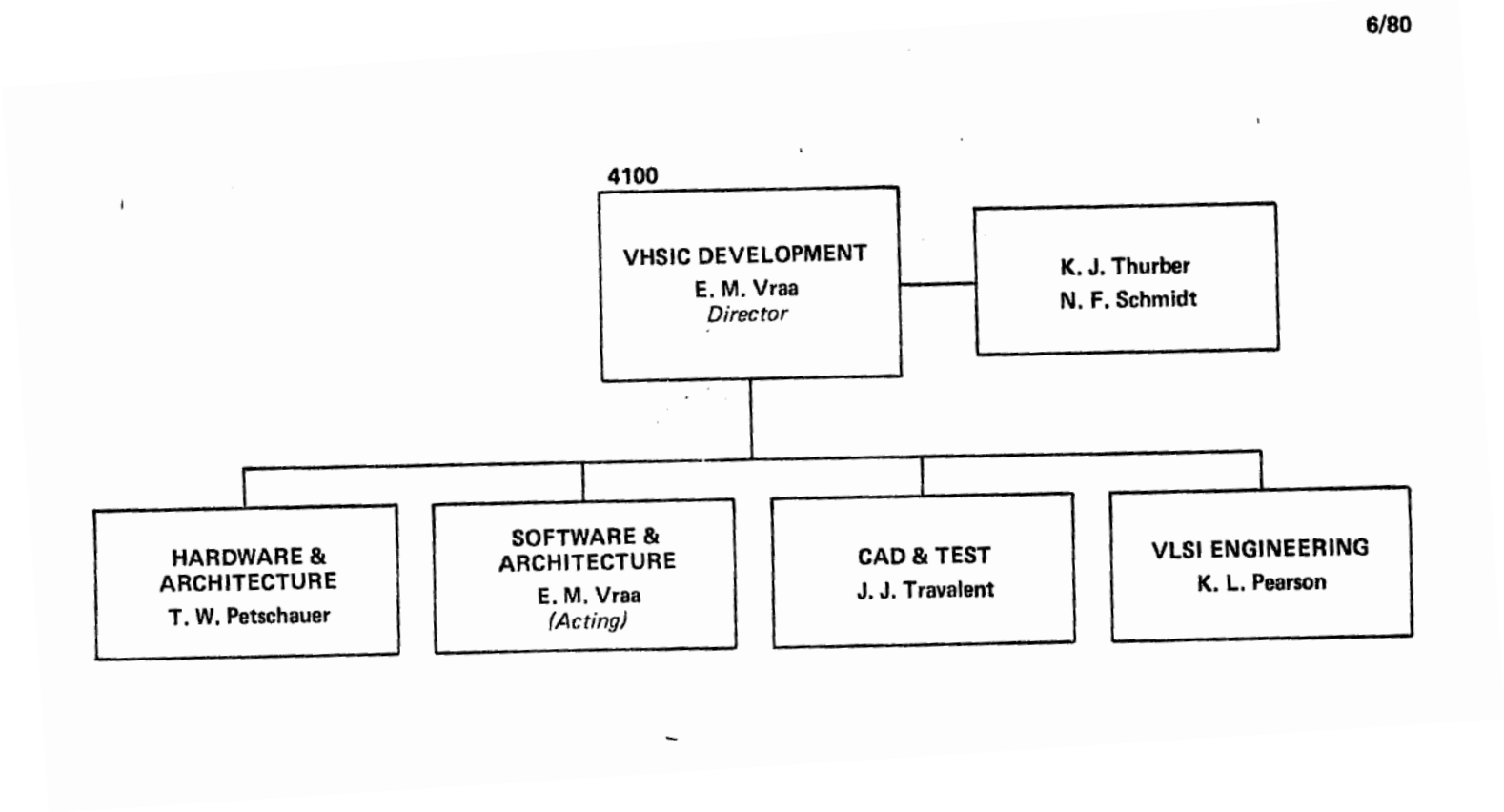
DEFENSE SYSTEMS DIVISION - PRODUCT ENGINEERING



First names are:, Earl Vraa, Don Vizanko, Don Mager, Phil Schwarz, Hy Osofsky, and Boni Westerg.



First names are Earl Vraa, Ken Thurber, Noel Schmidt, Tom Petschauer, John Travalent, and Ken Pearson.

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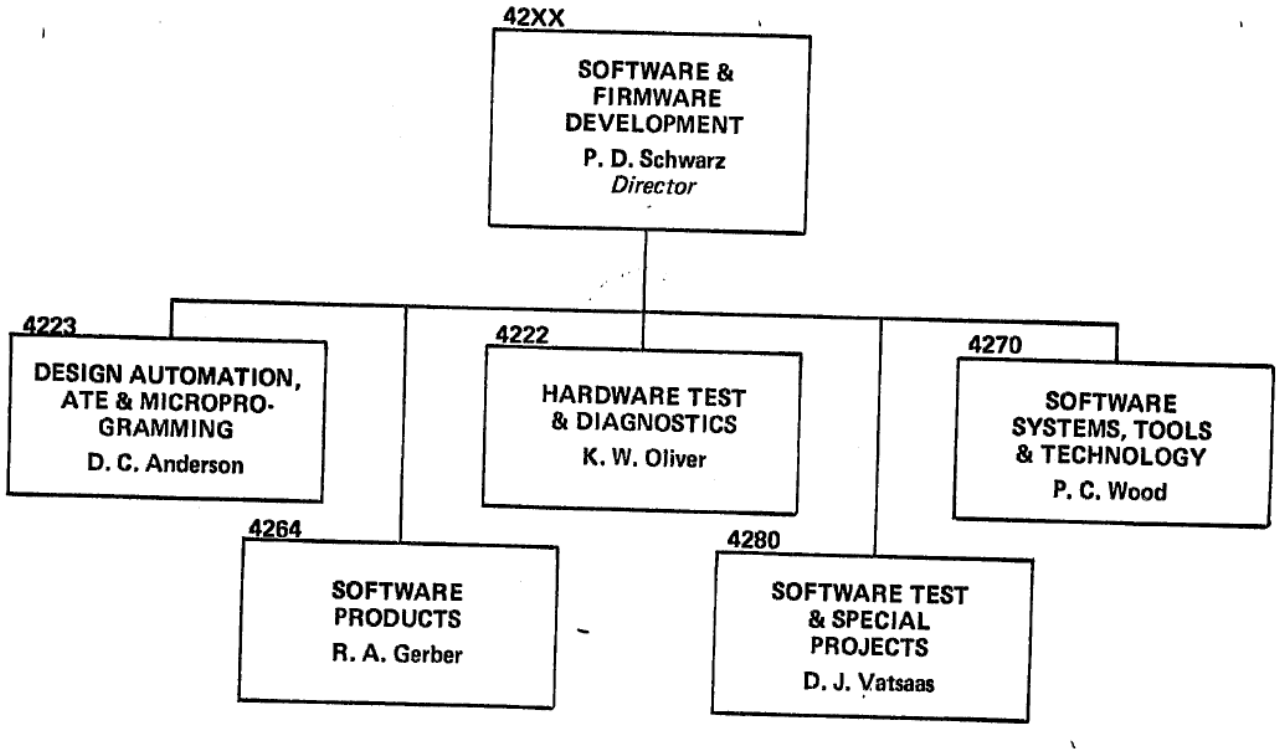

First names are: **Keith Behnke** identified Ray Gerber. **Dennis Paulinski** identified Dennis C. Anderson.

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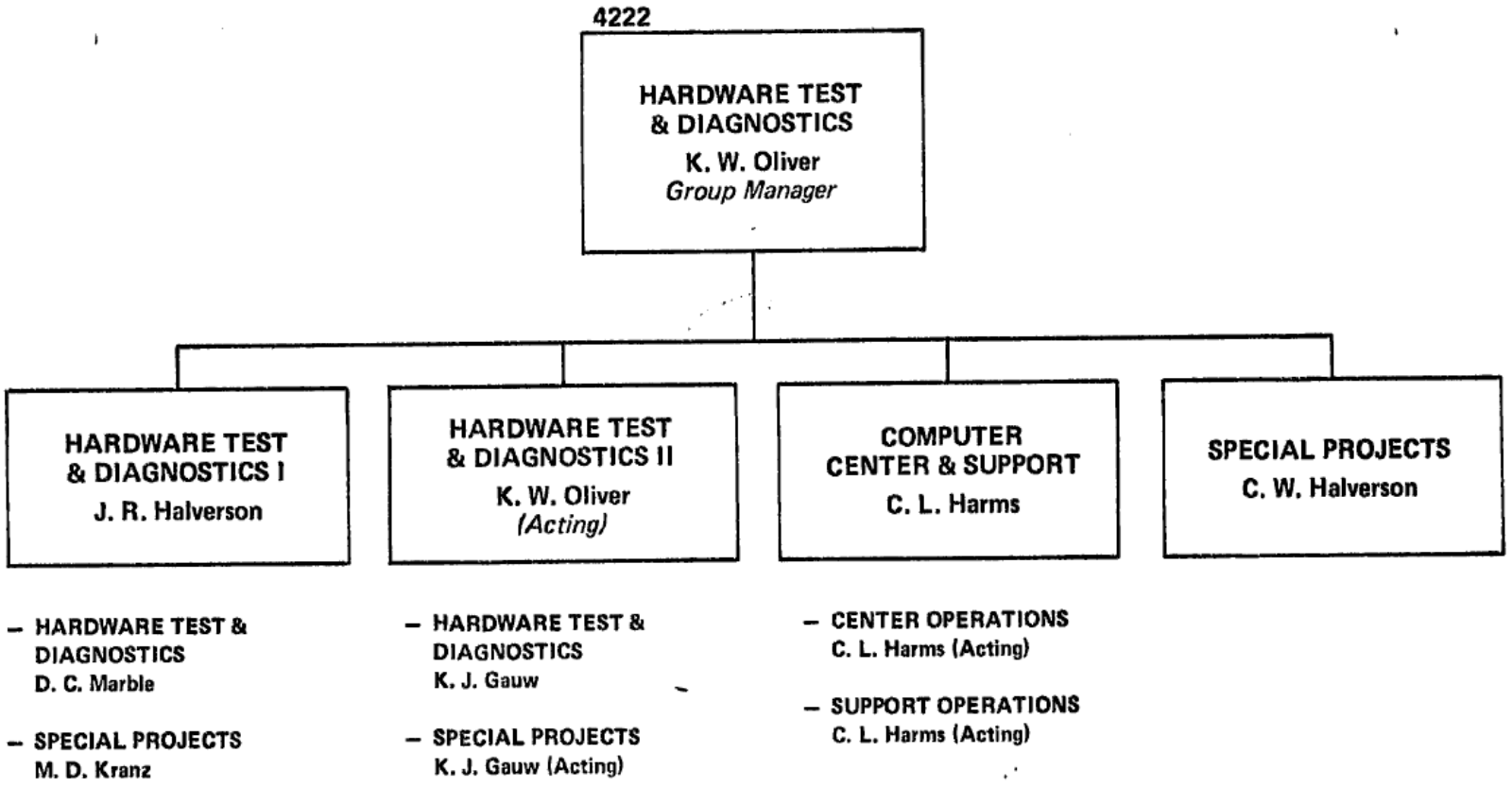

First names are: Keith Oliver, Jim Halverson, Craig Halverson, Denny Marble, Myron Kranz, and Ken Gauw.
Keith Behnke identified Cal Harms.

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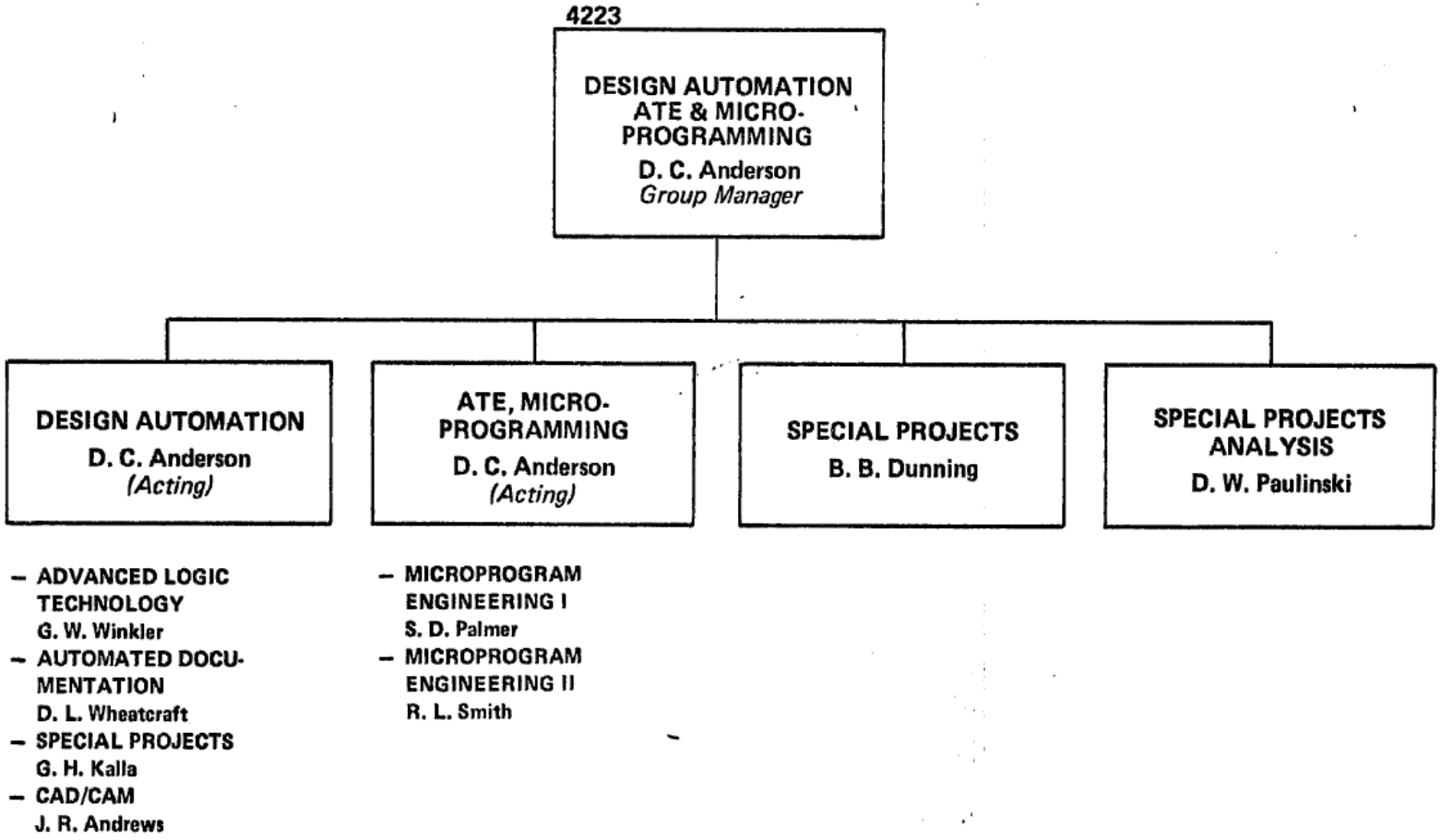

First names are: Dennis Paulinski, Gordy Winkler, Don Wheatcraft, Jim Andrews, Steve Palmer, and R. L. Smith.
Keith Behnke identified Gerald Kalla. **Jim Andrews** identified Dr. Bart Dunning and confirmed Gerry Kalla.
Phil Schwarz identified Dennis C. Anderson and confirmed Gerry Kalla

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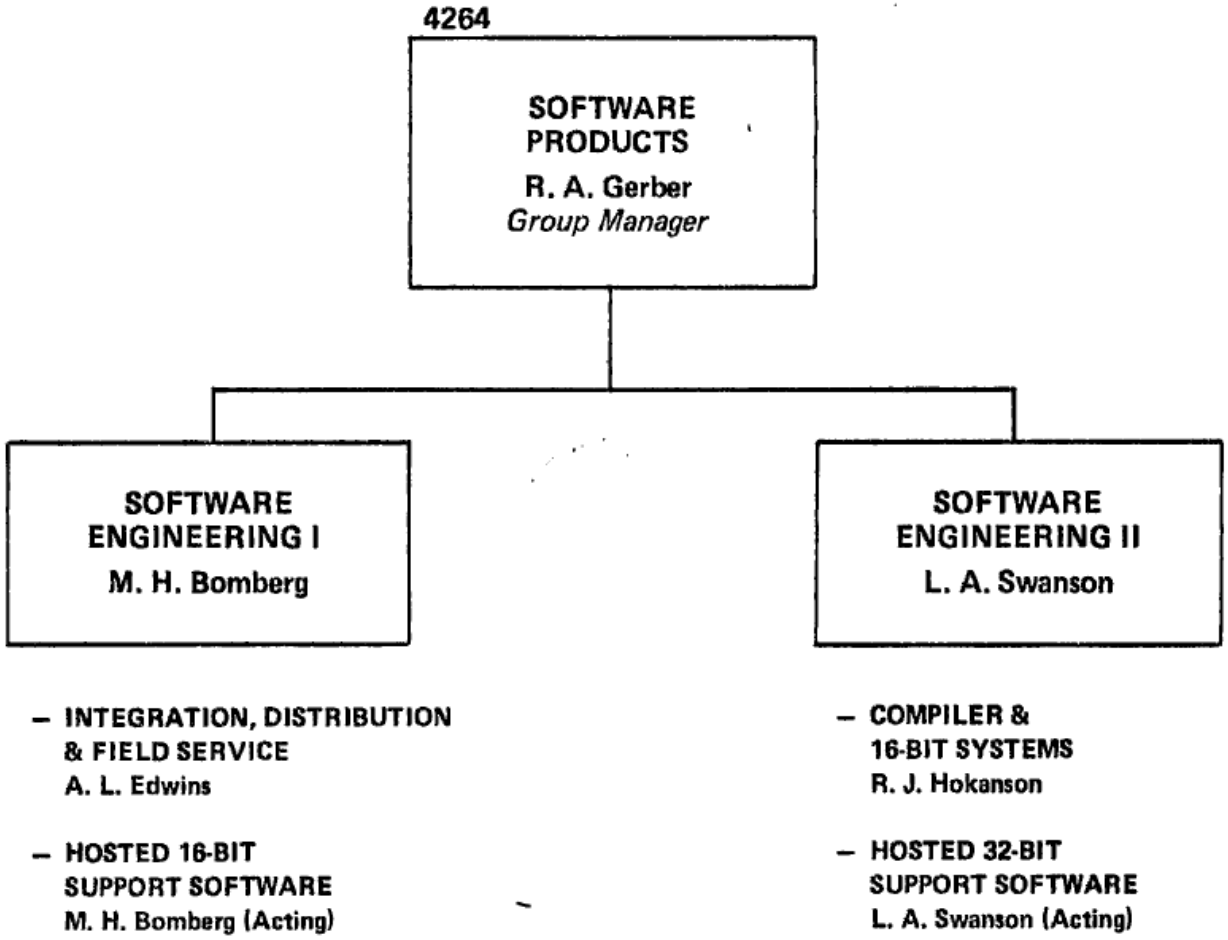

First names are: Marv Bomberg, Larry Swanson, Al Edwins, and Bob Hokanson. **Keith Behnke** identified Ray Gerber.

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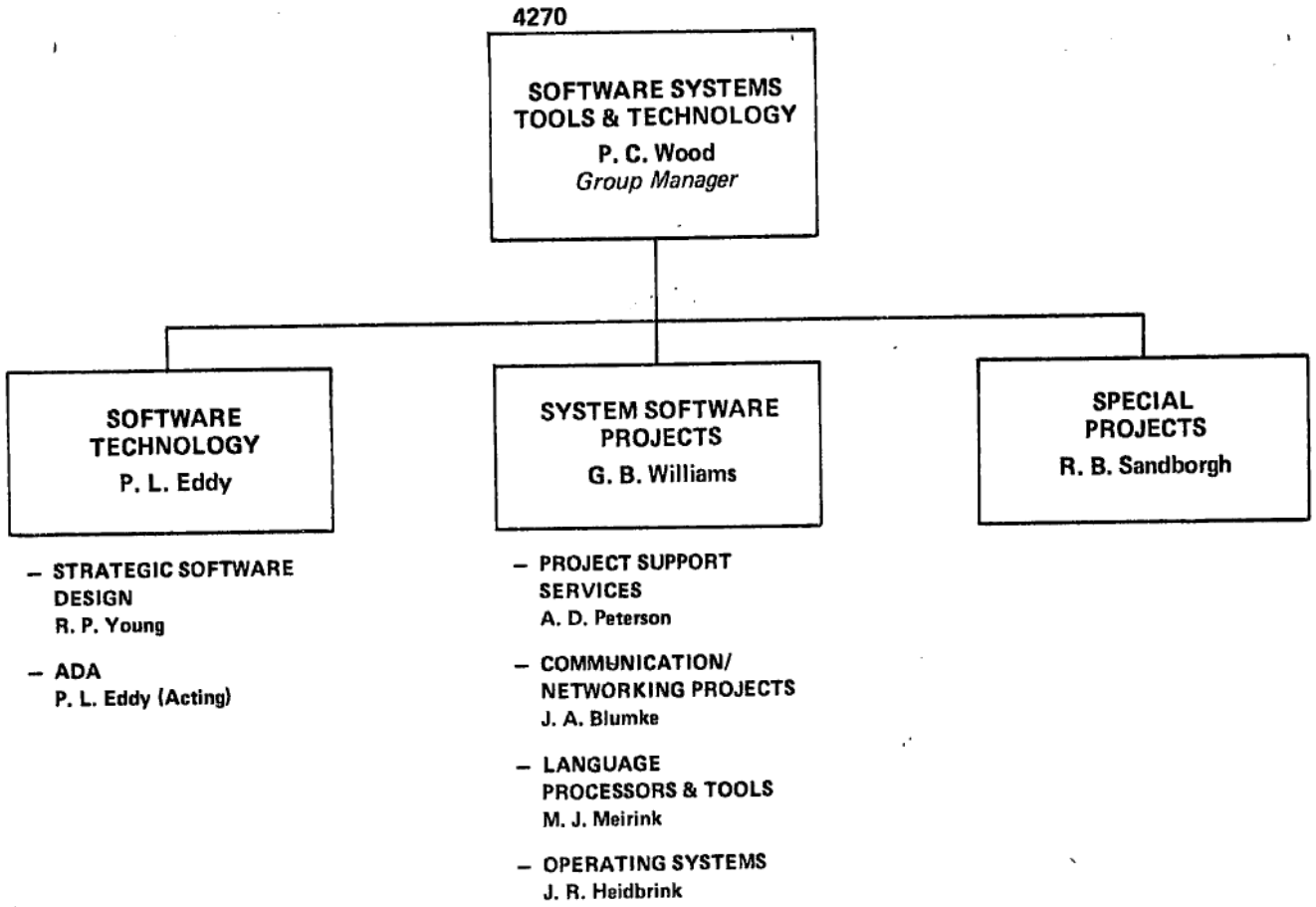

First names are: Paul Wood, Pat Eddy, and Jim Blumke. **Keith Behnke** identified George Williams, Al Peterson and Mike Meirink. **Jim Andrews** identified Ray Sandborgh and Jim Heidbrink. **Paul Wood** identified Ray Young and confirmed a couple of others.

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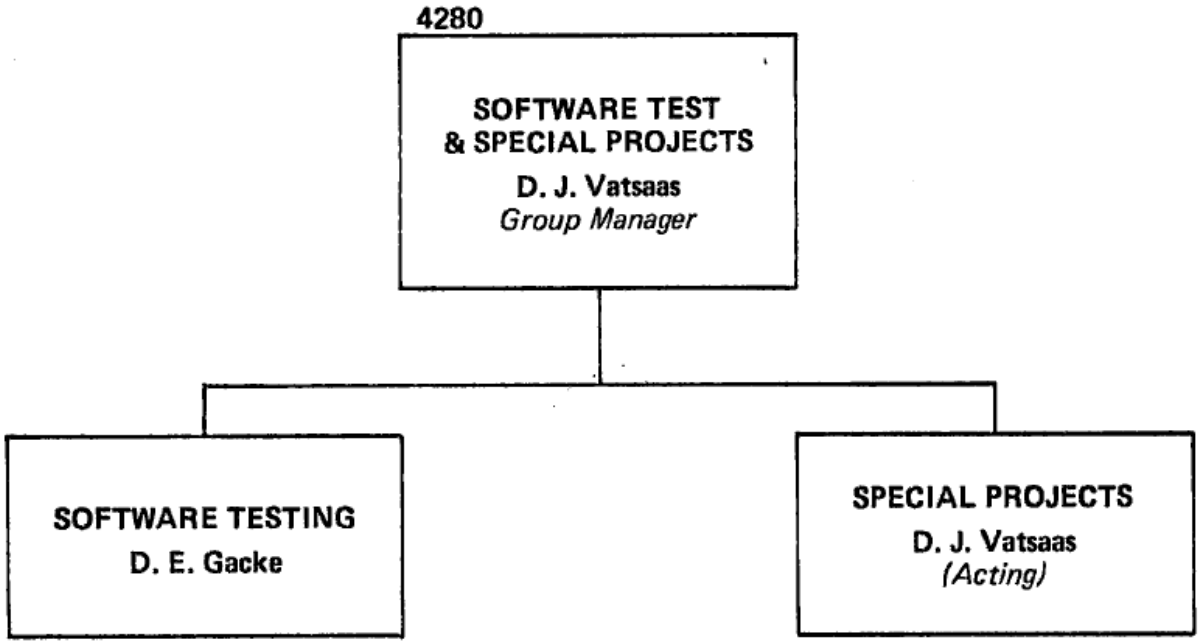

First Names are Dave Vatsaas and Dennis Gacke.

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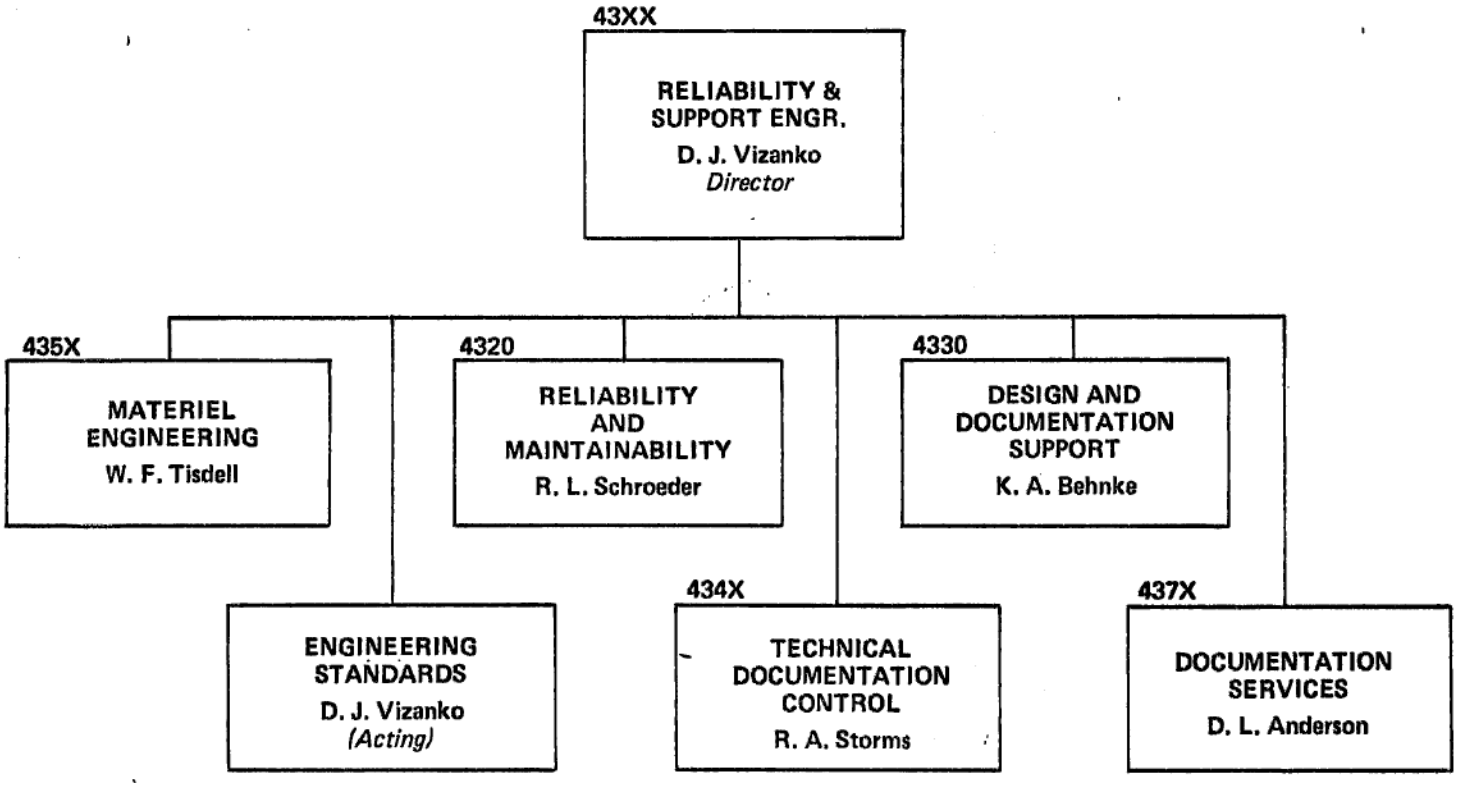

First names are: Don Vizanko, Bill Tisdell, Dick Schroeder, Keith Behnke, Roger Storms, and Don Anderson.

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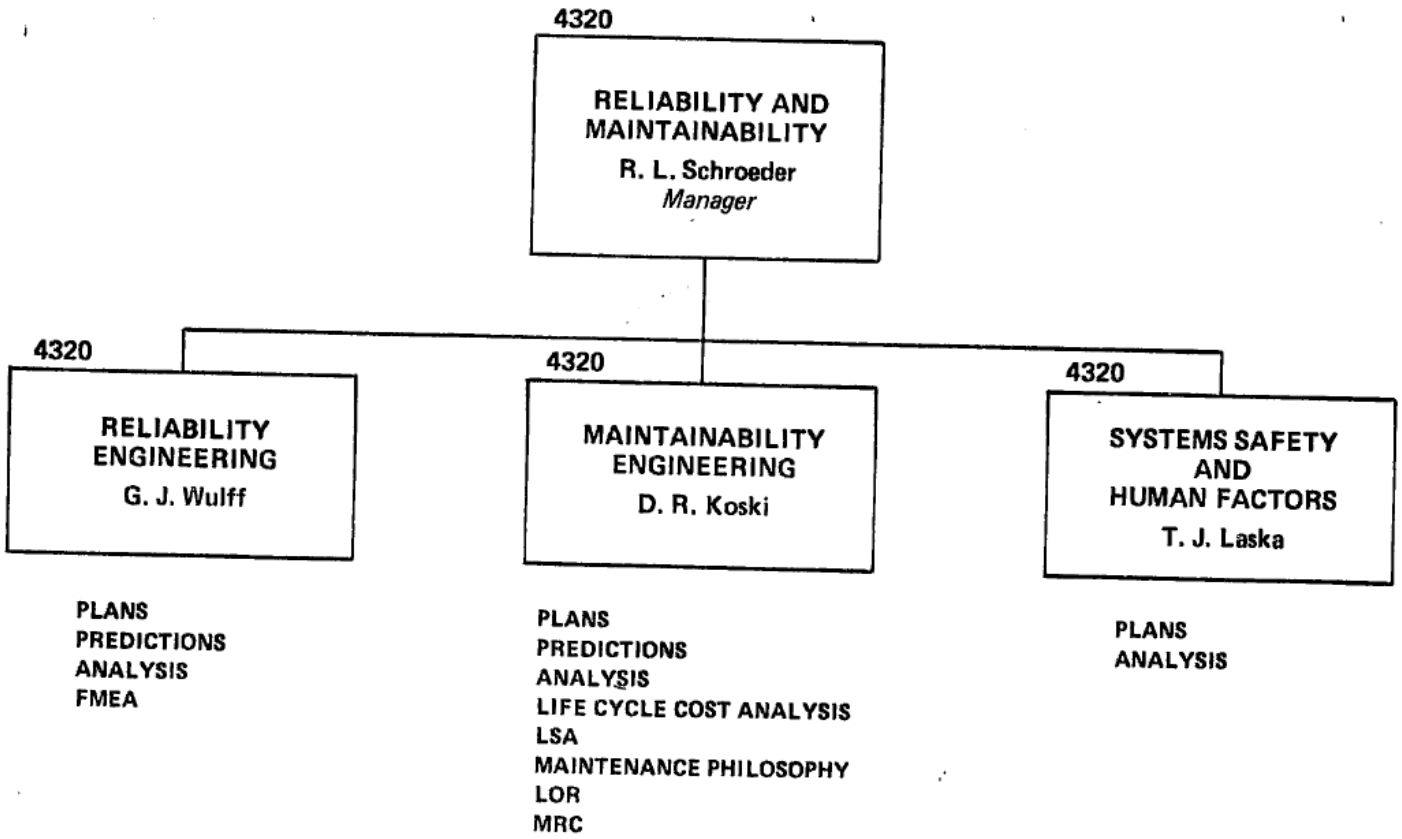
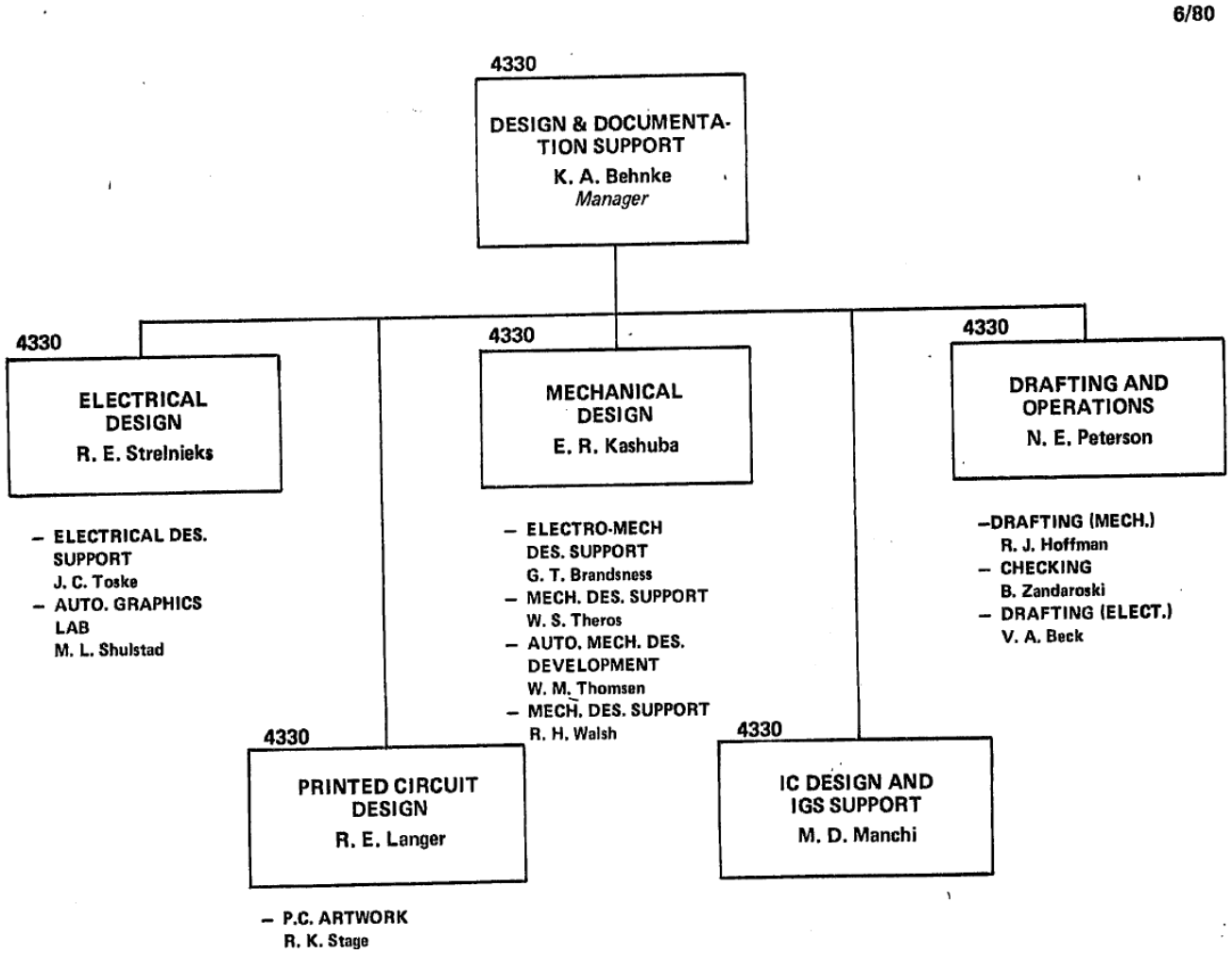


First names are: Dick Schroeder, Grover Wulff, Duane Koski, and Tom Laska.



First names are: Keith Behnke, Dick Strelnieks, Ed Kashuba, Norm Peterson, Bob Langer, Gordy Brandsness, Bill Theros, Walt Thomsen, Dick Walsh, Bernie Zanderoski, and Virgil Beck.

Keith Behnke identified Mike Manchi, John Toske, Merwin Shulstad, Rich Hoffman, and Bob Stage.

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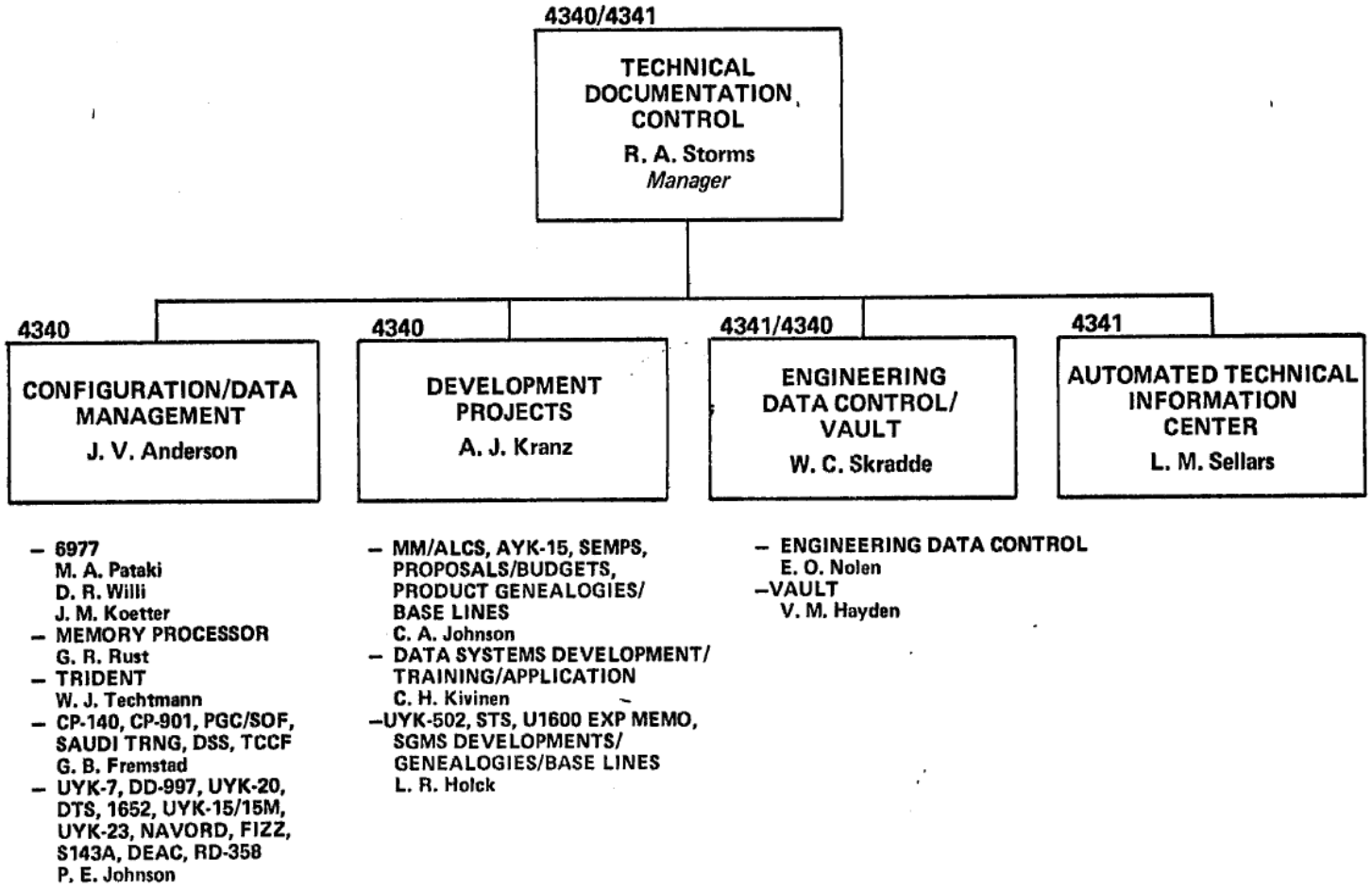

First names are: Roger Storms, Jack Anderson, Al Kranz, Bill Skradde, Linda Sellars, Mike Pataki, Dale Willi, Gerry Fremstad, Paul Johnson, Charles Johnson, Lee Holck, and Virginia Hayden. **Keith Behnke** identified Joyce Koetter, Gary Rust, ~~Chuck Kivinen~~, and Elmer Nolen. **Larry Bolton** thinks it was Cliff Kivinen. **Phil Schwarz** identified Bill Techtmann and confirmed Cliff Kivinen.

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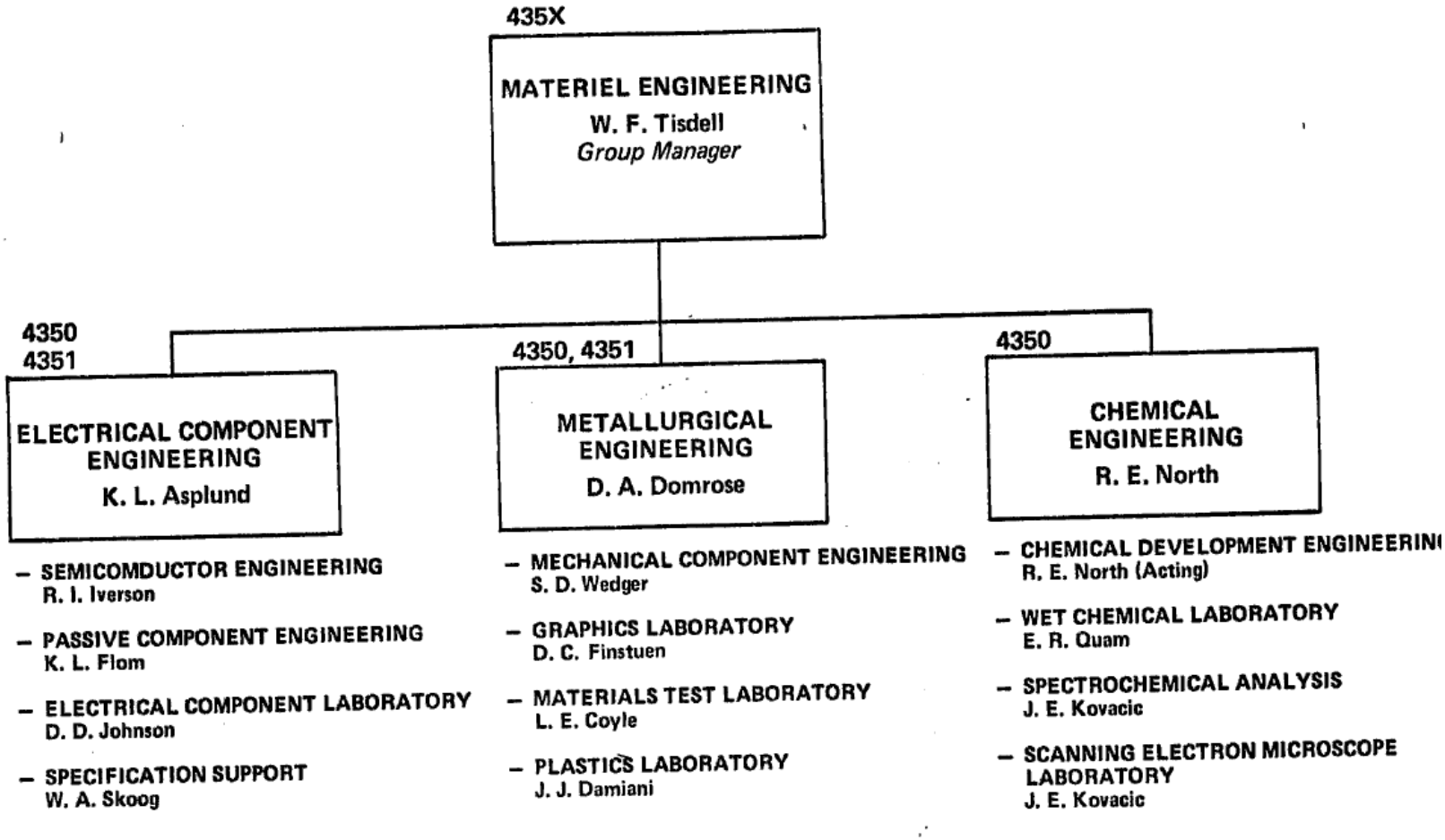
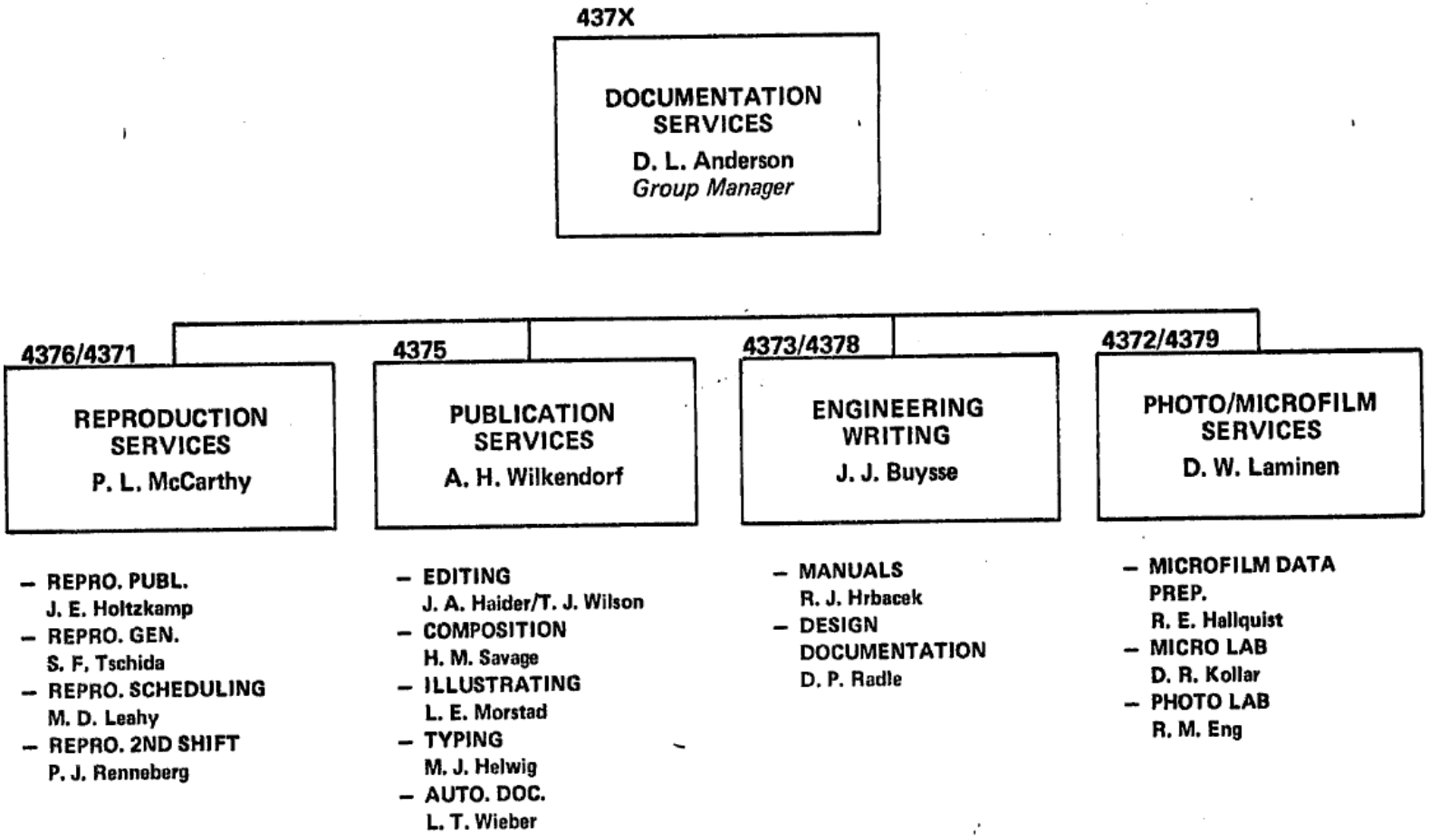


First names are: Bill Tisdell, Ken Asplund, Don Domrose, Bob North, Bob Iverson, Keith Flom, Wally Skoog, Steve Wedger, Del Finstuen, **J. J.** Damiani, and. **Keith Behnke** identified Joe Kovacic. **Larry Bolton** identified Don Johnson, Lee Coyle, and E.R. 'Bud' Quam

6/80



First names are: Don Anderson, Al Wilkendorf, Jim Buysse, Dale Laminen, Steve Tschida, Jack Haider/Tom Wilson, **M. J**. Helwig, Ray Hrbacek, D. Pete Radle, and Bob Hallquist. **Keith Behnke** identified Pat McCarthy, Jerry Holtzkamp, Mike Leahy, Pete Renneberg, Helen Savage, Larry Morstad, Larry Wieber, Dan Kollar, and Ralf Eng.

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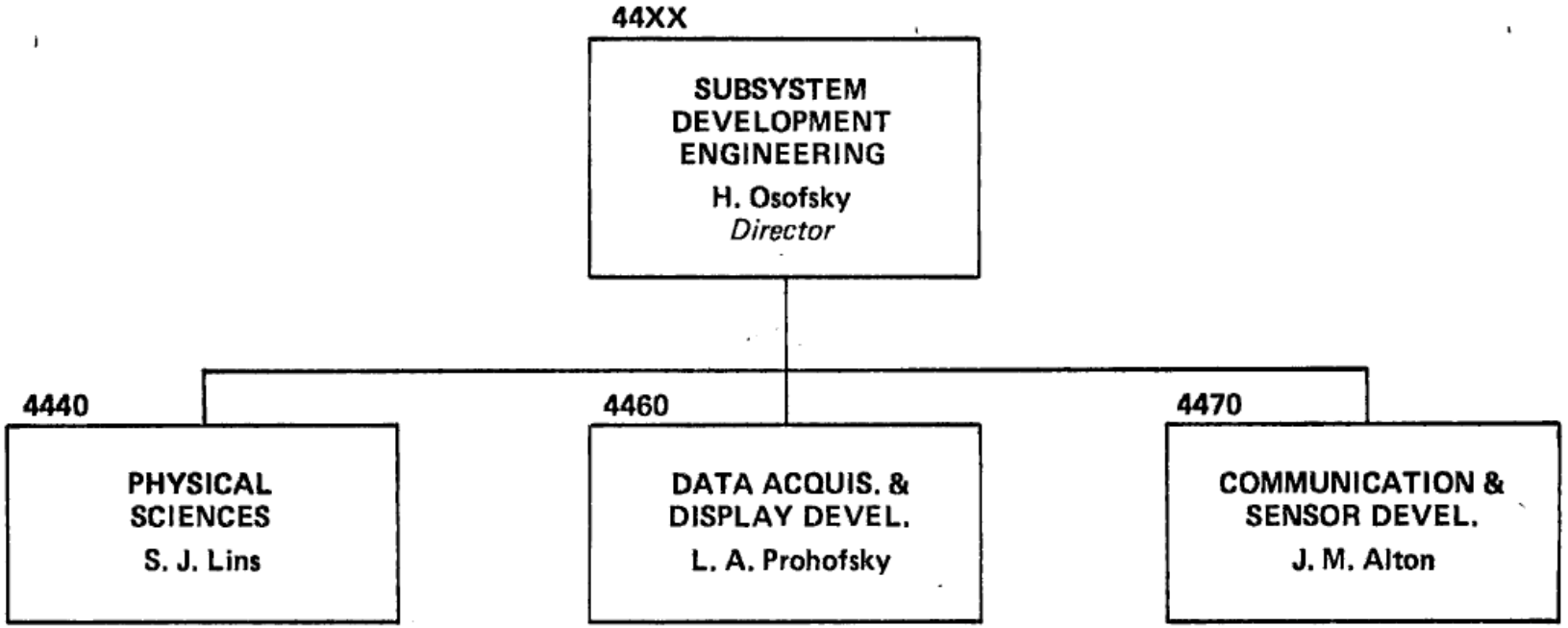

First names are: Hy Osofsky, Stan Lins, LeRoy Prohofsky, and John Alton.

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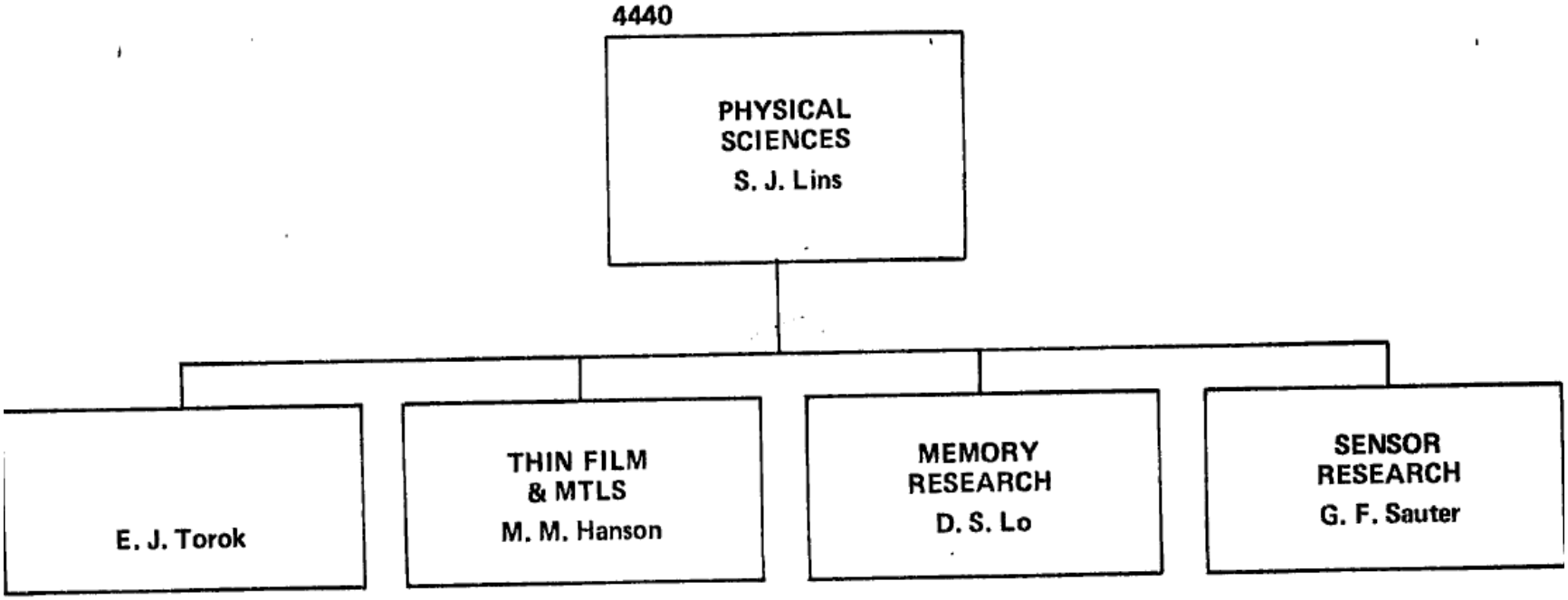

First names are: Stan Lins, , Dr. Dave Lo, and Dr. Gerry Sauter. **Larry Bolton** identified James 'Jim' Torok[1] and Marlin M. Hanson

[1] After work hours; Jim also played in the Pig's Eye Jazz Band with Roy Prohofsky, Bob Blixt, et al'.

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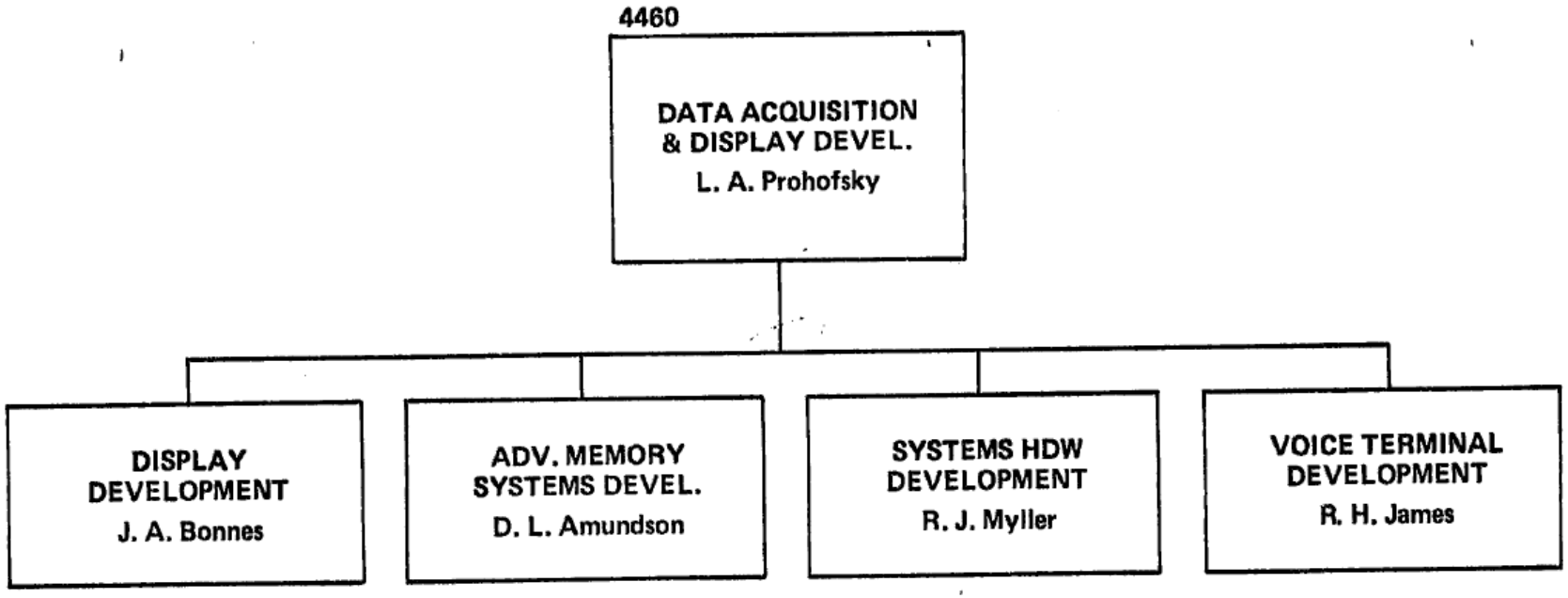

First names are: Roy Prohofsky, John Bonnes, Dennis Amundson, Bob Myller, and Ray James.

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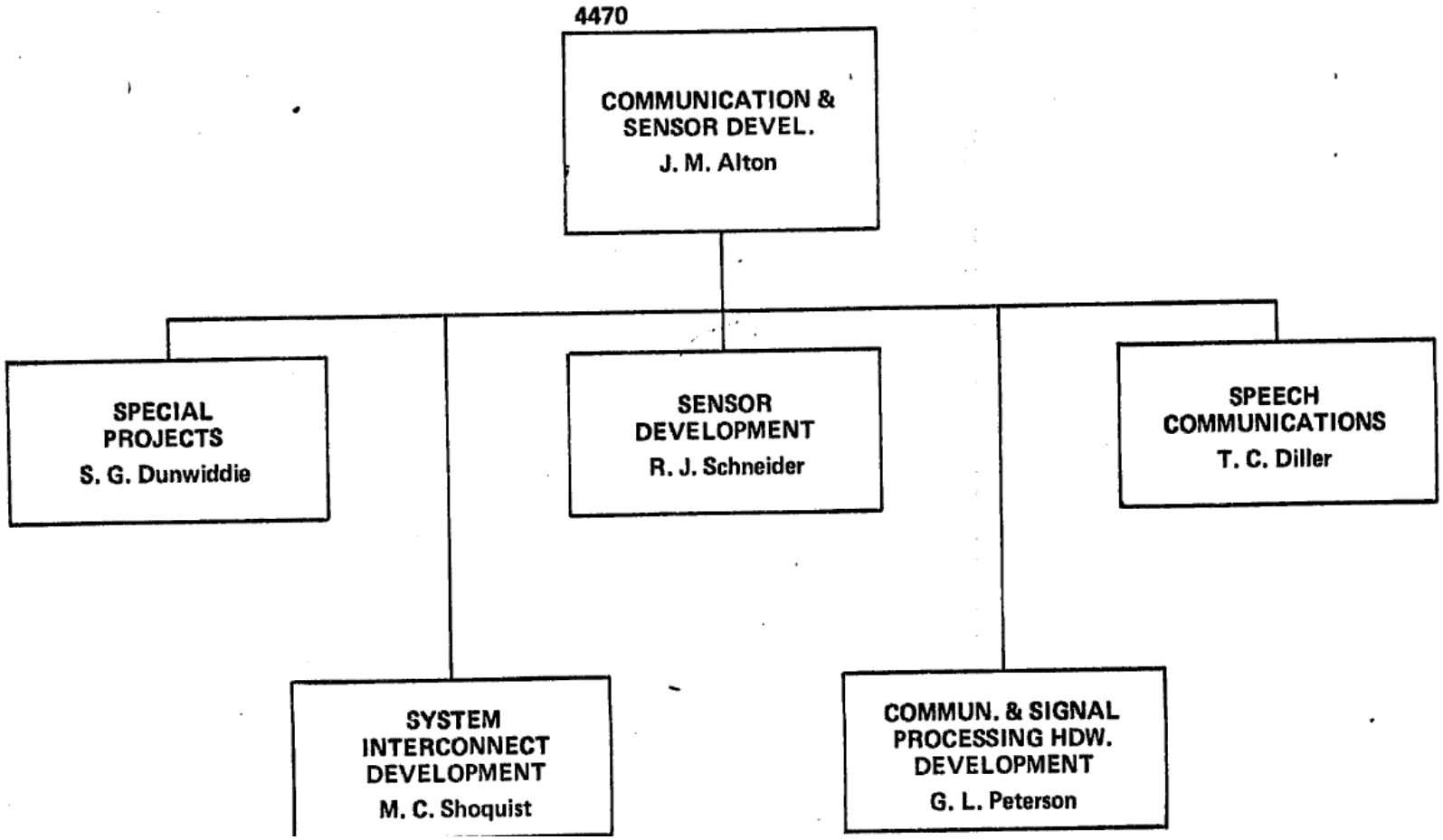

First names are John Alton, Stan Dunwiddie, Tim Diller, Marc Shoquist, and Gary Peterson. **Phil Schwarz** identified Ray Schneider.

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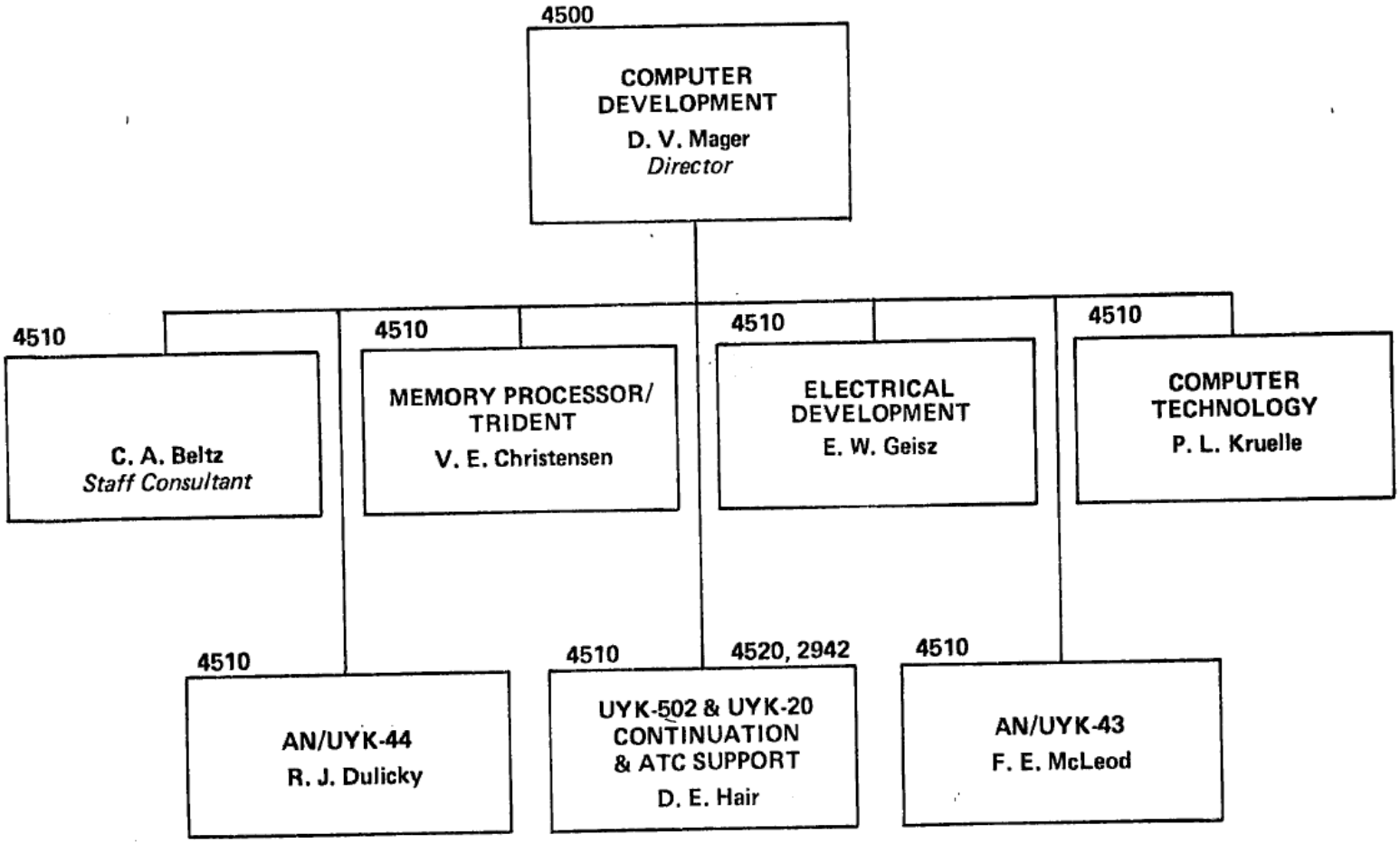

First names are: Don Mager, Chuck Beltz, Verl Christensen, Gene Geisz, Paul Kruelle, Bob Oulicky, Doug Hair, and Finley McLeod.

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Corredtions are always welcome. *LABenson*