

many personnel, what percentage of engineers, capacity, and so forth, that are within that group of personnel.

Is this a professional interview group, or do they do the engineering studies themselves?

General ELY. I don't know Atlantic Research Corp. But I would assume that they have a mixture of physicists and chemists and metallurgists inhouse, who can interpret what they can get from interviews and from analysis of papers and other information that they can get. In other words, they are not just interview people, no.

And it is a good research corporation.

Mr. KITCHIN. I am not doubting the reliability of the research organization. I just wanted to find out what their particular function was in this case.

General BIGELOW. Well, in one of these contracts—and I can't refer specifically to which one—they actually get out and do some laboratory type work. They do some firing. They instrument the range.

Mr. NORBLAD. Aren't you people doing that constantly in your Army Field Forces?

General BIGELOW. I didn't hear you.

Mr. NORBLAD. Aren't you people doing that constantly, in your Army Field Forces?

General BIGELOW. We are certainly doing it at Aberdeen. We are doing it to the extent that, as I understand it, we do not have room for this project up there.

Mr. KITCHIN. Where are they doing their firing in their experimentation?

General BIGELOW. I wasn't thinking of room in the sense of geography. I was thinking of room in terms of people to put on this particular job, because of other very high priority projects.

Mr. KITCHIN. But you do know where they are doing their actual firing or—

General BIGELOW. They did some of their firing at A. P. Hill. And they may have done it all there.

Mr. SANDWEG. Could I interrupt for a moment, please?

General Bigelow, this apparently is one of the types of contracts that had to be approved by the Chief of the R. & D. Section of the Army?

General BIGELOW. I will have to reserve answering that question, because I don't know.

It is my understanding that the project was approved, the overall project, for the development of these mortars.

But the individual contracts in support of them can be approved by the commanding officer of Watervliet Arsenal.

Mr. SANDWEG. The Secretary testified, though, that these are reviewed contract by contract.

Perhaps that can be explained.

General ELY. This depends on time.

The Secretary was referring to our current policy. And we have been progressively, over the last 2 years, endeavoring to tighten up on the administration and control of this.

At the present time, the laboratory chief at Watervliet could not do this without coming in through Ordnance, to the Chief of Research and Development.