

Air Act, and Executive Orders, provide for a wide degree of involvement of the Department of Defense in minimizing the effects of its operations that may produce pollution of the environment.

The concern of the military departments and activities for pollution control, however, is not a new development. As has been pointed out by Departmental representatives in appearances before such committees of the Congress as the Senate Special Subcommittee on Air and Water Pollution and the House Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce, there is a long history of military leadership in the fields of environmental sanitation and military preventive medicine. As this Committee is well aware, military leaders have had to take into account the effects of disease on their combat capability. It does seem appropriate to point out that as there developed an increasing awareness of the relationship between environment and disease in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, military medical and engineering departments were in the forefront of application to practical problems. During and since World War II the increasingly complex technology involved in military systems has resulted in a vastly expanded activity in relation to both protection of our own personnel and the avoidance of harm to neighboring civilian communities.

There are a number of serious problems affecting the Department of Defense arising from the need for continuing these activities, accelerating their pace to provide for Federal leadership, and at the same time ensure that our budgetary programs remain within manageable limits. All of the issues raised for the consideration of the Congress in the excellent report of the Research Management Advisory Panel are germane to the overriding consideration of the development of improved national planning for long term solutions to the environmental quality problem. This is no easy task. It involves a definite need for the establishment of better communications and more formalized areas in the Federal establishment for the coordination of energy and effort. In Section II of "The Adequacy of Technology for Pollution Abatement" there are comments regarding the comprehensive and complex nature of environmental pollution. The interrelationship of the problem of domestic food waste to air pollution, soil pollution and water pollution is one which the Department of Defense well recognizes. The existence of this interrelationship highlights the importance of a coordinated planning effort. It is essential that the various separate interests somehow be brought to bear upon fundamental problems. In this manner we should achieve the result of better technical and economical programs.

The following comments relate to some of the issues raised in the Report of the Research Management Advisory Panel, "The Adequacy of Technology for Pollution Abatement." These items are not necessarily discussed under the same heading as included in the Report, and have instead been included in a joint discussion with other subjects where this has been more appropriate to Department of Defense activities.

GOAL SETTING AND RESEARCH STRATEGY

Probably the most important problem insofar as the Department of Defense is concerned is the need for better understanding of just what we are trying to accomplish in relation to environmental pollution abatement. There are a wide variety of different requirements and interests which influence local, State, and Federal program definitions. It is not our desire to undertake an extensive discussion of the problems of definition of environmental pollution. Our experiences indicate that there is a growing need for greater attention to the questions of environmental quality requirements. The definition of environmental pollution established by the President's Science Advisory Committee is a useful statement of a general problem. Standing alone, however, this does not constitute a national goal. It defines the problem. Perhaps more realistically, it states what the problem is about. From the practical viewpoint of those concerned with both near and long term program planning, it is evident that there will be greater attention given to better definition of environmental quality and a greater recognition as to just what level of environmental status is appropriate for the various situations and conditions affecting the problem.

The task of goal setting involves the issue of human health effects as being the measure of environmental quality. While there may be many differing interests which must be taken into account, the response of humans still must be the principal measure in ecological management. The situation is not really