

THE DEFENSE SUPPLY AGENCY

The Defense Supply Agency has been in operation since January 1962 and is performing effectively all assigned missions and functions. As a major element of the Defense logistics establishment, the Agency provides responsive and efficient supply support and logistics services to its customers at less cost and thereby has fully justified its establishment.

HISTORY, MISSION, AND ORGANIZATION

PRE-DSA ORGANIZATION

Prior to the establishment of the Defense Supply Agency, the Secretaries of the military departments were designated single managers of selected supply and service activities for all components of the Department of Defense (fig. 1). Their responsibilities were carried out by separately organized operating agencies within their respective military departments. These agencies achieved an enviable record of effective support to the military services with significant reductions in operating costs and inventories. Their experience demonstrated the merits of a single agency furnishing common supplies and services to all military departments.

Prior to the time DSA was organized, three commodity managers were assigned to the Navy, of which one, industrial, was still in the process of assuming management of assigned commodity classes. Five commodity managers and one service manager were assigned to the Army. Two of these commodity managers, automotive and construction, were still in the early phases of activation. Electronics management is shown in dashed lines under the Secretary of the Air Force because this commodity had already been studied and recommended for integrated management; and the present DSA electronics center, developed from the Air Force control center for electronics materiel, was turned over to DSA at the time of DSA's establishment. The Armed Forces Supply Support Center (AFSSC) administered the Defense-wide cataloging, standardization, and materiel utilization programs and conducted integrated management studies. Also transferred to the Defense Supply Agency, but not shown in figure 1, are the surplus property sales activities of the military departments. The Military Air and Military Sea Transport Services, shown in figure 1 as single-manager agencies, have remained in the Departments of the Air Force and Navy.

MISSION

The DSA mission consists basically of three major elements:

Providing wholesale supply support to the military services and other Defense activities with assigned supply commodities.

Administering logistics services and programs.