

could be achieved by strict adherence to the Army's stated policy of inspecting and repairing only as necessary would be very substantial.

We brought these matters to the attention of the Department of Defense and the Department of the Army on December 29, 1965. The Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army (Installations and Logistics), in commenting on our draft report, stated that the Army, in general, agreed with our findings and that it had revised the applicable bulletin, Technical Bulletin ORD 245, on December 23, 1965. He informed us that the revised Bulletin stated, in part, that "Unnecessary disassembly of assemblies and sub-assemblies in or out of vehicles will not be accomplished." He advised also that the Bulletin provided that "To the fullest extent possible, test equipment will be used to determine assembly and sub-assembly reliability, quality and performance." Our review of the Bulletin showed that it specified that engines in combat vehicles having 1,500 miles or more be overhauled (rebuilt) and that engines, transmissions, transfer cases, and axles in tactical vehicles having 5,000 miles or more be overhauled. This language indicated to us that test equipment would not be used on vehicles meeting the above mileage criteria.

Consequently, during April and July 1966, we performed a limited followup review at three of the Army's five maintenance depots; namely, Tooele, Red River, and Letterkenny. At Tooele, we found that the Bulletin had been fully implemented, with the exception of the mileage criteria not being applied literally. Instead, the depot was using diagnostic test equipment whenever possible, the mileage criteria being considered only as a guide. At Red River and Letterkenny, we found that the Bulletin had not been fully implemented; therefore we were unable to determine how these depots would have applied the mileage criteria. We learned, however, that the Army Tank-Automotive Center, Warren, Michigan, had requested all depots to submit specific comments and/or recommendations on the Bulletin by June 6, 1966. The Center stated that the comments and recommendations being requested were "for the purpose of final updating of TB ORD 245." We were advised by an Army official that revisions to Technical Bulletin ORD 245 were continually under consideration.

We believe that the actions which the Army has already taken in revising Technical Bulletin ORD 245 will result in substantial savings, regardless of how the mileage criteria are applied by depots other than Tooele.

[Index No. 66—B-114878, Sept. 20, 1966]

REVIEW OF PROCUREMENT AND UTILIZATION OF SECURITY COVERS FOR NUCLEAR WEAPONS, ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION AND DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Our review indicates that savings could be achieved through reduced procurement of specially designed security covers. In 1960 the external dimensions of many types of nuclear weapons were declassified by a change in the Atomic Energy Commission-Department of Defense Classification Guide, thus, eliminating the need for security covers under certain conditions. However, in evaluating the con-