

sistence items for the purpose of identifying those areas in which there exists the potential for increased commonality. Following this review, GSA and DSA can again assess the feasibility of DSA assuming overall support responsibility in these areas. In the interim, we plan to continue providing support to civil agencies on a case-by-case basis in those instances where there are definite economic advantages to the Government and where no adverse impact on our military support capability will result.

Meanwhile, through individual interagency agreements, we are providing substantial supply support to Federal agencies of the Government. We are supporting the Coast Guard and NASA with a full range of DSA managed materiel; the Veterans Administration and Public Health Service with selected medical items; the Federal Aviation Agency with a broad range of electronics materiel and with combat type packaged subsistence items; the Maritime Administration with selected items, including fuel and substantial numbers of electronics and clothing and textile items; the Office of Economic Opportunity with clothing and textile and subsistence items; the General Services Administration Transportation and Communications Service with electronics supplies; and, in conjunction with the Army, the Agency for International Development with selected medical items for AID programs in Southeast Asia. An agreement has recently been reached with the Post Office Department to provide selected electronics, general and industrial item support. In addition to these arrangements we currently have under study perishable subsistence support of the Bureau of Indian Affairs school program.

As I stated last year, there are certain benefits from our furnishing Veterans Administration and Public Health Service hospitals with support in perishable subsistence items, with the scope of this support based on local agreements between individual hospitals and our subsistence regions. Since April, 1966 such agreements have been made with 45 hospitals and through mid-April, 1967, we have supplied perishable subsistence worth \$1,139,000 to the hospitals. During the course of developing cross-servicing perishable subsistence arrangements with the Veterans Administration and the Public Health Service, it was agreed that a joint DOD-VA review of item specifications used in hospital feeding programs should be undertaken. This review has been completed and the results are being evaluated by the affected agencies with the goal of optimum standardization of perishable subsistence used under military and civil hospital feeding programs.

CATALOGING

Our efforts to reduce the number of items used in the supply system of the Department of Defense have continued. But in spite of the progress which we have made in several concerted efforts in this direction, the overall number of items listed in the Department of Defense portion of the Federal catalog has increased in the past year.

During fiscal year 1966, we reviewed over 283,000 items. As a result of identification of duplicate or similar items already in the catalog and of actions to standardize such items, we obtained military service concurrence in the elimination of more than 116,000 items. We have