

Captain PFLAG. Yes, sir.

Admiral ETTER. And are chemists or other similar type trained personnel such as pharmacists.

Senator NELSON. Are these full-time personnel? Is this their full-time assignment?

Captain PFLAG. Yes, sir.

Senator NELSON. And how many are there?

Captain PFLAG. There are approximately 80 inspectors full time. This is the Defense Contract Administration Services inspectors who have a baccalaureate in one of the sciences, chemistry, pharmacy, and they are all civilians as the admiral has pointed out; yes, sir.

Senator NELSON. They are civilians whom you have hired?

Captain PFLAG. Yes, sir. And they have been trained by the Defense Personnel Support Center in a special course in drugs and chemicals.

Senator NELSON. Is there any coordination between the inspecting agencies or exchange of information with them, for example, the Veterans' Administration?

Captain PFLAG. Yes, sir.

Senator NELSON. Is there any coordination among these inspection teams?

Captain PFLAG. Yes, Senator. Through the Intragovernmental Professional Advisory Council on Drugs and Devices, we have an arrangement whereby information is transmitted from us to FDA to VA and back again. So that we are all kept aware of any deficiencies that we may encounter, any violations of the law, and so forth.

Senator NELSON. Where is that information filed or kept? In other words, is there some central place that one could go to see all the inspections made of whatever number of plants by DOD personnel, Veterans' Administration, Food and Drug Administration?

Captain PFLAG. Yes, sir. We have, of course, in the Defense Personnel Support Center that information available. In the FDA that is available, and in the VA it is available. And we incorporate the intelligence that relates to our contracts into the procurement history files of the other item history files that we have.

Senator NELSON. What is the basis of your inspections? That is, do you routinely inspect those who are regular suppliers, or do you just get a contract and then inspect before you accept the product, or what is the procedure?

Captain PFLAG. When an offeror of material bids, of course, he is inspected and he is given what we give a preaward survey. However, each time there is a contract in a plant, our inspectors are inspecting as they are accepting lots of material. Each lot must be inspected.

Senator NELSON. When the drug is supplied, is there any assay of the drug to determine whether it meets the standards?

Captain PFLAG. Yes, sir. Every lot is assayed either by the contractor with the inspector witnessing it, or the inspector himself will perform the assay. And in many instances we will require a verification assay that is done at the Defense, is performed at the Defense Personnel Support Center. So there is a check-and-balance system, sir.

Senator NELSON. Then, for procurement of drugs overseas, which I take it you occasionally do, you have inspectors there, too?