

Mr. Chairman:

It is a pleasure to appear again before this subcommittee to discuss with you selected aspects of drug procurement and supply within the Department of Defense. With me this morning is Lieutenant Colonel Theodore D. Wood, MSC USA, Director of Materiel, Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Health and Environment). In addition, and as you requested, Mr. Max Feinberg, Defense Personnel Support Center is also present in the room and will be available for your questions subsequent to my testimony.

Before addressing your specific questions and particularly in view of the recent interest in the Departments drug procurement effort, I believe it would be helpful to provide an overview of the medical materiel system within the Department.

At the Department level the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Installations and Logistics) has the responsibility for developing overall logistics, to include procurement and supply, policy. Within the framework of these policies the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Health and Environment) is responsible for establishing policies which are unique or peculiar to the management of the medical commodity. Operation of the medical materiel system is accomplished by the Defense Supply Agency, Defense Medical Materiel Board, and the military departments.