

Mr. McKENZIE. General Baker, could you respond to that question?

General BAKER. In respect to specification writing there are some preliminary landmarks that overhaul some of what we have been doing, sir; for example, the revised good manufacturing practices, the expiration dating. We believe, though, that we will have some continuing need for essential characteristics and specifications that are not presently covered by the compendial standards, and these relate in general to products that are not used outside of the military arena; for example, chemical warfare antidotes.

The CHAIRMAN. What item?

General BAKER. Chemical warfare antidotes, as an example of chemicals that are not used outside the DOD arena, sir.

There is another category related to the special rigors of military usage, worldwide storage and movement and dispensing by non-medical personnel—that sort of thing. Then there are elements of contractual function, other than the quality issue that relate to other Federal regulation and laws; those things that cover financial responsibility, equal opportunity—that family of things that are not related to quality, sir.

So, there will be continuing requirement for some specifications, DOD specific, sir.

The CHAIRMAN. Anyway they will be procured pursuant to those specifications, you say?

General BAKER. Yes, sir.

Mr. GORDON. These specifications will be written so they will not be tailored to any particular company, as there have been many such cases in the past. Is that right?

General BAKER. That is certainly our ambition, sir. In that regard we have reviewed some 1,250 previous specifications and essential characteristics, and purged ourselves of alleged and existent restrictive requirements.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you very much gentlemen for your taking the time to come here today.

[Whereupon, at 11:33 a.m., the subcommittee recessed, to reconvene upon the call of the Chair.]