

Mr. CURTIS. How many people are in that particular corps. I understand you have 25,000 in the procurement area?

DCAS HAS A STAFF OF 23,000

Mr. MORRIS. In the DCAS, Defense Contract Administration Service, I believe another 21,000, approximately, at this time. General Hedlund can correct me.

General HEDLUND. About 23,000.

Mr. CURTIS. About 23,000. Has anything been done to develop the procurement officers, the procurement personnel, into a comparable concept of a corps?

Mr. MORRIS. Yes, sir. We have during the past 3 years been developing a career promotional program for what you have described as the original buyers. For example, we now have at Ogden, Utah, a central data center where we have the complete personnel history record on all personnel in grades 13 and above, including their periodic performance evaluations. As a vacancy occurs in any military department or DCAS, that central data bank must be interrogated by the organization having the vacancy. The data bank furnishes a list of the 20 top people located anywhere in the Department of Defense who are eligible for consideration for that opening.

Mr. CURTIS. But, you do not have the procurement group formalized to the extent that you have the contracting service people.

Mr. MORRIS. It is not a centralized organization, no sir. It is decentralized among the three military departments and DCAS.

Mr. CURTIS. Why, if you found it valuable in the contract servicing area, wouldn't it be valuable in the procurement area?

Mr. MORRIS. We have centralized procurement of common-use items in the Defense Supply Agency. That is a movement in the direction that you speak to, sir.

Procurement people, however, in terms of these complex and large contracts, must be closely associated with the systems design people, the engineers and the program managers, such as in the purchase of the C-5-A, for example. They must work hand in hand, day to day with those people who know how to make the most prudent buys. You could not centralize those people physically without denying the Department of the best kind of procurement planning correlated with development and design planning.

Mr. CURTIS. You are advancing me a theory. You are giving me an argument of why you are not—which certainly is to be borne in mind.

On the other hand, inasmuch as we are talking essentially about techniques, rather than specific knowledge—although you certainly do have to have knowledge—but the techniques, I think, probably at this stage are much more important. The techniques of procuring ought to be similar. In fact, that is the very reason, as I understand in your report here, you are calling them in and giving them these lectures and the training films and so on—because you do recognize that the techniques—

Mr. MORRIS. This is quite true, sir. Our training program of 43 courses is a centrally administered program available to all of these people. We bring them in for these purposes.