

Provides an inducement for attracting and retaining highly qualified professional engineers and related skills for the Army, both military and civil service personnel, who would not be attracted by a less diversified organization;

Provides an opportunity for the experience and training of engineer and logistics officers in planning, constructing and managing large and complex projects that would not otherwise be available in the normal peacetime situation; 75 percent of the engineers commanding battalions and larger units today in Vietnam have had the benefit of experience gained in Engineer district assignments; 62 percent of the Regular Army field grade officers—that is, officers in the grade of major and above—are likewise so trained;

Provides close ties with the engineering profession and the engineering and construction industries, keeping the military up-to-date on civilian engineering, construction, and scientific techniques and developments;

Provides, conversely, for an easier flow of the results of military engineering research and development techniques and developments to the civilian engineering community; and

Provides tangible and visible evidence at the country's grass-roots must be available to the Army at all times and particularly during the critical mobilization planning phase required to cope with an actual state of emergency.

The time available to respond to emergency conditions is now more compressed than ever. The difficulties and delays inherent in the retransfer of a separate civilian agency would so increase the time required to put the necessary engineering and construction resources into an effective operation that its usefulness in the mobilization phase could be seriously impaired. And there is no assurance that the civil works elements lost to the Army would remain in an organizational form in the new department that would be suitable for military needs when retransferred.

LIABILITIES OF TRANSFER OF CIVIL WORKS ACTIVITIES

If civil works responsibilities were taken from the Army—

Our cost of construction would go up;

The technical quality of our personnel and the capability of our Army units would be reduced; and