

The advantages of creating a weapon center by combining the capabilities of certain laboratories already engaged in component or subsystem developments are the following:

- (1) It would enable concentration on the identification and solution of critical military problems.
- (2) It would provide opportunities for Government engineers to work more effectively on important military problems, and would help to better orient specialists responsible for areas of technical disciplines.
- (3) Clear responsibility would be delegated to the weapon center.
- (4) The combined mission—discipline approach would enable the center to serve as a quick-reaction facility and to be particularly responsive to war needs.
- (5) There would be opportunity to arrive at optimum solutions to problems independently of technical-specialty biases. (The systems approach could be more readily applied.)
- (6) It would be much easier to evaluate the center's performance, because end products that are clearly the responsibility of the center could be tested and evaluated.

There are also some disadvantages:

- (1) Penalties in the form of cost, political effects, time delays, personnel attrition, etc., may be excessive because of a fundamental change in organizational concept.
- (2) There could be difficulties in arriving at acceptable mission statements.
- (3) There could be a tendency toward monopoly and overprotection.
- (4) In the event that one or more weapon centers were created, there would still be a requirement for a management system to handle technical specialties.

A logical approach to the practical planning of a weapon center would be for each Military Department to examine its laboratories with