

The General Accounting Office opinion that the Army supply system has been responsive to combat needs is a reflection of success in today's highly complex environment. In the next hour or so that Department of Army logistics management structure will be presented along with a short résumé of the history and development of operational management controls used Armywide and an outline of logistic commands in Southeast Asia, including some information on the complexities to the Army weapons system, equipment, and materiel.

Prior General Accounting Office reports and Department of Army efforts to eliminate deficiencies will be addressed briefly as they apply to efforts in process or planned for logistic operations, including the Quick Reaction Inventory Control Center, and planning underway for use of future technological advances in transportation, communications, and automation capabilities.

It should be noted that the more complex problems existing in the logistic system are principally identified to the more difficult area of repair parts management.

In consideration of complex problems in the logistic system, it is essential that such systems be designed both in continental United States and overseas so that they will be effective in a combat environment.

GENERAL HISTORY AND DEVELOPMENT OF SUPPLY SYSTEMS IN USE, DEPARTMENT OF ARMY-WIDE AND LOGISTIC COMMAND ORGANIZATIONS IN SOUTH VIETNAM

The Army supply system, like that of the other military departments and the Defense Supply Agency, is governed by broad policies established by the Secretary of Defense. The Secretary of the Army is aided in supply and logistics matters by the Assistant Secretary of the Army, Installations and Logistics. Within the Army staff, the Deputy Chief of Staff for Logistics is the principal adviser to the Chief of Staff and to other staff and major command elements on logistics matters.

The Army was reorganized in 1962 and major realignments were made in the supply system. The Army within the continental United States was formed into three major commands: The Continental Army Command, the Combat Developments Command, and the Army Materiel Command.

The traditional technical services were reduced or eliminated, and except for medical supplies, all of their former materiel functions were centralized within the new Army Materiel Command. The Deputy Chief of Staff for Logistics staff supervision was strengthened.

Under this revised concept, the Army Materiel Command is the wholesale supplier for the Army as well as principal participant in supervision of Army logistics worldwide. Upon its activation in 1962, it assumed the missions formerly assigned to the Chiefs of Technical Services of the Army concerning the development, test, cataloging direction, quantitative requirements determination, procurement, production, distribution, supply control, inventory control, maintenance direction, and surplus disposal of supplies and equipment.

The Army Materiel Command has eight major subordinate commands. Seven are commodity commands which are responsible for materiel management in a specific commodity area: tank-automotive,