

aviation, missiles, weapons, electronics, mobility, and munitions. One is a service command responsible for providing test and evaluation services to the Army.

National inventory control points are responsible for the worldwide management of inventories of assigned commodities. The individual commodity manager at the national inventory control point is responsible for the management of specific items assigned to him. This responsibility includes accounting for assets, requirements computations and direction of procurement, distribution, overhaul and disposal. As a result, all of the wholesale functions and technical assistance and supervision of retail functions of inventory management for an item are centralized at one place.

The Army's field logistic concept is one of rapid repair and return of weapons systems and equipment to combat with minimum investment in resources and highest availability to the combat commander. When materiel cannot be quickly repaired in the forward or corps and Army combat areas, it is evacuated to the relatively more secure area of the communications zone where more comprehensive fixed maintenance facilities can be used.

The Army uses the standard Defense requisitioning system, as do all services. Order and shipping time criteria are centered around combat missions, commodities, transportation costs, and related capabilities needed in combat. For the most part petroleum, oil and lubricants, ammunition, and general-purpose vehicle maintenance support is provided by the Army to other services in a combat area and overseas in peacetime.

There are approximately 2,500 mobile field Army units which must be supported by the Army supply system in Vietnam. These units submit requisitions to the supply system for materiel, including the repair parts needed for about 200 major maintenance significant items in each unit. Initially, it was considered possible to support combat units from static or fixed base camps; however, the large number of units and their high degree of mobility and extended combat missions away from the base camp prohibit application of this support method.

Mr. ROBACK. General, at that point, what is the method?

You cannot supply from fixed base camps, so how are you supplying?

General HEISER. What we are doing, sir, is supplying from a base of three major depots in Vietnam, in Saigon, Qui Nhon, and Cam Ranh Bay areas, and those are the only fixed installations we have.

The other installations are direct-support and general-support units that accompany the combat units in their operations, so that they move.

Mr. ROBACK. You are still operating from fixed base?

General HEISER. We are operating from three depots, sir.

The fixed bases I am talking about, Mr. Roback, are the bases that were initially established to support a combat division, for example. An example would be the fixed base that was established outside of Bien Hoa for the 101st Airborne Division.

The 101st Airborne Division has not been within 200 to 300 miles of that base in the last 6 months. In fact, they are north now, Qui Nhon.