

highly specialized jobs within the military, and it is my personal opinion, on the basis of my experience, sir, that this will include considerable in the combat zone.

Now this is not unusual. World War II, as you will recall, I am sure, had many civilians in the various theaters of operations, both contractor and Department of Army. I do not think we recognized quite as much, because we did not examine into the various theaters of operations to the extent we are going today. But this is not really new except that perhaps, sir, because of the sophistication involved, we may have to carry it further, Mr. Roback.

Mr. ROBACK. The environment may be conducive to emphasizing military personnel, but the rotation and the discontinuity involved, let us say, in the short tour militates against that, so you are interested in getting more civilians into overseas theater operations as far as logistics and supply are concerned; is that right?

General JONES. We are talking two different types of civilians here, sir. We are talking—my remark and my answer to your question was on the 7,100. These are being replaced by Vietnamese nationals.

The other side of the question is the Department of the Army civilian or a contractor who may hire some U.S. nationals, in order to do that.

General HEISER. Yes, sir. Now—

Mr. ROBACK. Your civilianization program is to hire the so-called indigenous personnel?

General JONES. Right, sir; with respect to these 7,100.

Mr. ROBACK. The other question we are talking about is the appropriateness of having U.S. civilian personnel in theaters.

General JONES. Right.

General HEISER. Yes, sir.

Mr. ROBACK. In operational theaters?

General JONES. Right.

General HEISER. Your summation of this is right, Mr. Roback, in that we do have to compare the advantages of civilians against the disadvantages of civilians that occur in times of close combat; for example, Tet. Tet disrupted considerably our ability, and if you want to call it that, lines of communication, down to the point of a worker, whether he be a U.S. worker or whether he be a South Vietnamese worker, getting into his place of employment, and General Jones could elaborate on this considerably, but we are only now getting back to somewhere around 80 percent of the number of civilian employees employed at the depot in Saigon that we had prior to Tet, and this gives you some indication of the fact of what you have said.

We have to be careful that we do not overdo this, because otherwise, in a tough combat situation, we can find ourselves in a difficult situation.

Mr. HOLIFIELD. These people just faded away; is that right?

General HEISER. Well, sir, they faded away; and to some extent it was because they wanted security, to get out of the fighting area, and to another extent a lot of these people just could not get back and forth, Mr. Chairman, including some of the military had a difficult time getting back and forth to their place of business where they were not completely within a secure area.

Mr. ROBACK. Do the civilians get hazard pay?