

Mr. ROBACK. Excuse me for interrupting again, General, but these are important descriptive terms, and we want to be sure we understand them.

What is the Pacific standard supply system? Is it unique, is it the first such system, or is it the extension of other systems?

General HEISER. Sir, what it really is, the U.S. Army, Pacific, as with the rest of the Army, has been attempting since the early 1960's, and even prior to that time, with the beginning of the Army's use of card data, using cards instead of manual requisitions as a basis for supply, we have been striving from the early days to determine the appropriateness of computers in our supply system, and getting the best use out of computers, depending upon the state of the art, and also upon our ability to manage these computers and their processes.

What you see in the U.S. Army, Pacific, system is, I would say, an advance stage of this process that has been going on for some time.

The Pacific, unlike Europe, has subordinate commands based upon geographical separation, meaning Hawaii, Okinawa, Korea, and Japan; they had to have inventory control centers at each of these places, and what they wanted to do was to establish a standard system so that they could communicate one with another as well as with the headquarters in U.S. Army, Pacific, Hawaii.

As a result, they devised a system, based upon directives that were out and based upon the military standard system, including MILSTRIP and other military standard systems, in order that they would not have a hodge-podge of computer programs in each of their commands, but that they would have a standard system.

Mr. ROBACK. This is theater standard, so to speak?

General HEISER. Yes, sir; that is correct.

Mr. ROBACK. When you talk about a Pacific military standard system, you are talking about a standardization for the Pacific?

General HEISER. Yes, sir.

Mr. ROBACK. All right.

General HEISER. From October 1966 up to this time, information on depot inventories is recorded by the 14th Inventory Control Center and item demand histories maintained.

We are now talking about Vietnam proper, sir. Based on this data and other factors, requisitions are prepared to replenish depot stocks. Requisitions from using units for materiel are edited to determine availability of stock from the closest depot and then from other depots in South Vietnam.

Should one of the three depots be unable to supply the required material, the requisition is sent to continental United States for supply through the 2d Logistics Command on Okinawa where assets there that belong to the 14th Inventory Control Center, or are excess to the requirements of other Army elements assigned to Okinawa, are utilized to meet the requirement.

Mr. ROBACK. Let me anticipate some discussion later on and ask this question about the routing. This question was raised by the General Accounting Office witness yesterday about different layers of management.