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So I would like to be sure that is understood.

Mr. ROBACK. Thank you.

General HEISER. With this brief history in mind, the tremendous buildup of logistic support in South Vietnam over the last 3 years can be appreciated. At the same time, it was the continuous mission of the Army to assure combat readiness through effective logistic support of forces in Korean, Europe, the United, and elsewhere.

#### SPECIAL EFFORTS IN PROCESS OR PLANNED TO IMPROVE LOGISTIC OPERATIONS

The Army is aware of the problems of supply responsiveness and the need for improved management for supplies. We agree that certain management improvement steps are necessary in the three areas enumerated by General Accounting Office; that is, worldwide control over inventories, supply discipline, and standardization, and simplification of supply systems.

With respect to General Accounting Office recommendations contained in the January draft report on improved management for Army supplies in Vietnam, the Army has recognized the need for logistic commands manned by trained military personnel and moved out to activate a quick reaction inventory control center in an operation status in continental United States by the end of the second quarter fiscal year 1969, emphasizing the return of reparable items and challenged high priority requisitions.

Mr. ROBACK. You are not saying that you have a challenge system now, are you?

General HEISER. Sir, we have a challenge system to this extent, sir, and we are looking further into this. In fact, I might add that a direct contribution of the committee was made, you might want to consider it that, yesterday, in that there was discussion here between the GAO and the committee concerning challenging, and it seemed to be the general consensus, which we certainly support, that a challenge of an item that is necessary to remove a piece of combat essential equipment from deadline does not allow challenge, that you have to try and get this as quickly as you can.

However, it was brought out that there are items that are not combat essential, and why can they not be challenged, and as a result of this, sir, we took action immediately after your meeting yesterday to get this out to the field and find out why this is not so, why we cannot do more of a challenge of nonessential combat-type equipment.

In line with this, sir, to a certain extent this has already been done, Mr. Roback. We have directives which we can produce for the committee as you may require, Mr. Chairman, that indicate that in certain particular Federal classes, we will not just forward the requisition. They will be challenged in terms, for example, of furniture and canteen type equipment, such as kitchen equipment for the bases, and this kind of thing.

In addition to this, sir, we really have a challenge at the unit level.

Now the question of challenge involves a question of discipline concerning the guy that does the challenging, and in an Army unit, the basic unit that starts the requisition, there is and has been on the