

books for some time a requirement that the unit commander or his designated representative in writing review the appropriateness or propriety of every issue 1 and 2 requisition.

This is in Army Regulation 735-35. There is a challenge at that point. The question is, How good is the challenge?

Mr. ROBACK. Whether the company commander is in cahoots with the supply sergeant.

General HEISER. Yes, sir; or maybe the other way around, and of course it really depends on the commander's point of view at that level.

Also, at the inventory control center, sir, as we have said and, by the way, as is being done in the 14th Inventory Control Center, there is a challenge to some extent.

Now there is not, as I said, a challenge of, for example, a Red Ball requisition, which as I would say, I would liken it to issue group priority group 1, there is no challenge of a Red Ball requisition at the 14th ICC, once it arrives, if it is for a combat piece of equipment.

The reference of the GAO yesterday to some items that are not combat essential, these slip through, sir, and I must admit this was an error, and these things will occur, in a number of items we are talking about, sir, because we are talking about 400,000 items that are Army managed.

And in addition to that, there are some 800,000 items we use that are managed by other people, meaning 1.2 million items, and within this 1.2, and within the tonnages that we have already talked about, yes, sir, there are some errors.

Now further, back in the United States we have a certain challenge based upon the amount that is in a particular requisition, and the NICP will go back and ask questions about this and, even further, we have a challenge of what we call the Logistic Control Office, Pacific, which is in San Francisco, where any air shipment over 1,000 pounds is challenged directly with the 1st Logistical Command in Vietnam.

Therefore, sir, it is entirely probable that we can improve this without any question, but I think, sir, that we have a challenge system, beginning at the highest levels, the Chief of Staff, the Secretary of Army, and right down to the lowest level of command, we have command maintenance management inspections that are made of every unit in the U.S. Army, including Vietnam periodically, and one of the specific requirements for these inspectors from the higher headquarters is to examine to determine are they missing the priority system.

And further, the Inspector General, throughout the chain of command from the Inspector General, U.S. Army, down, also has this as a requirement.

The Army Audit Agency has this as a requirement, and each commander in the field at every level has the requirement for the command below him.

It is not perfect, but sir, it is working, and working much better than I would say ever before.

For example, at one time we had high priority requisitions emanating out of Vietnam over 80 percent. The Army Audit Agency, who looked into this in December and January of this year, found—I beg your pardon, we found as a result of the Army Audit Agency report,