

Of course, we experienced a number of critical supply situations in the early stages of the Vietnam operation; but we have not had any serious breakdown in supply support, and we feel that the current operation organization has been fairly successful. This concludes the brief summary I have, and I will be glad to attempt to answer any questions you may have, sir.

Mr. HOLIFIELD. Mr. Roback.

Mr. ROBACK. Admiral Cosgrove, in your statement, if I may refer to it—

Admiral COSGROVE. Yes, sir.

WEAPON SYSTEM SUPPLY MANAGEMENT

Mr. ROBACK. You say that you have a unique capability to manage inventories on a weapons system basis as well as on a commodity basis. Is this unique to the Navy?

Admiral COSGROVE. I don't know. It is unique to us, I mean within the Navy. We haven't had this capability in the past, except to a very limited degree. We had it in aircraft engine repair parts for some time now, but we have gone more, as you know, Mr. Roback, to project manager support, such as the Polaris program, the surface missile program, and various programs; and while we can, as I mentioned in my brief, manually extract parts that are peculiar to a given weapons system, or missile system such as Poseidon, it is not an economic approach or a very responsive approach.

When we get this weapons system file loaded and operable, we will, on a real time basis, be able to extract any information in regard to these weapons, the usage rate on these parts for example, and therefore be able to orient our management more towards this than to the past commodity item management basis as we do it today.

Mr. ROBACK. The inventory control points—are they broken down into commodity areas?

Admiral COSGROVE. Yes, sir; the Aviation Supply Office has responsibility for all aircraft repair parts, the Electronic Supply Office, for all electronic items peculiar to the Navy, and the Ships Parts Control Center for ships and ordnance parts.

Mr. ROBACK. Are the stock points segregated by commodity item?

Admiral COSGROVE. No, sir. The stock points—

Mr. ROBACK. They are general?

Admiral COSGROVE. Have general items.

Mr. ROBACK. Across the board?

Admiral COSGROVE. Across the board.

Mr. ROBACK. What will this dual capability give you?

Admiral COSGROVE. Well, it will give us the capability to tell each project manager, each Navy hardware systems command which has the overall program support responsibility. By that, I mean the Naval Air Systems Command is responsible for the overall support of aircraft operations, maintenance, and so forth, we will be able to give him a picture of how he stands supplywise, items supported, in any of his maintenance programs, his deployment schedules, and so forth.

Mr. ROBACK. Do you have that feature now, or is that in prospect?

Admiral COSGROVE. It has been designed, and this is what is being tested out at the Electronics Supply Office right now.