

PREPARED STATEMENT OF BRIG. GEN. AUGUSTUS RIEMONDY, DIRECTOR OF SUPPLY
AND SERVICES, U.S. AIR FORCE

Mr. Chairman and members of the subcommittee, I welcome the opportunity to present information on the operation of the Air Force supply system and its support to our forces worldwide. Due to the magnitude and complexity of the system, I intend to present only a broad overview but will expand upon any facet that you may desire.

As the Director of Supply and Services at Headquarters U.S. Air Force (under the Deputy Chief of Staff for Systems and Logistics) I am responsible for all matters pertaining to these functions in the Air Force. The planning and policy guidance developed by my Directorate is based on congressional legislation and on the decisions of the Secretaries of Defense and the Air Force. My basic responsibilities are: (1) the issuance of policy directives governing the supply and service functions within the Air Force, and insuring their implementation; and (2) review of materiel requirements for support of Air Force units within the framework of budgetary justification.

To better understand the operation of the Air Force supply system, a brief description of the Air Force organizational structure may be helpful. Below headquarters level, the Air Force is divided into a number of major commands. Some of these commands such as the Aerospace Defense Command and the Strategic Air Command carry direct responsibilities for the Air Force mission of defense and retaliation respectively. Air Training Command, Systems Command, and others carry out support functions for the operational commands. Logistics support of the operational and support commands is the function of the Air Force Logistics Command located at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Dayton, Ohio, commanded by Gen. Jack G. Merrell.

The Air Force Logistics Command's mission is to support the Air Force's aerospace weapon systems for constant readiness and it functions as the Central Spares Procurement, Support, and Maintenance Agency of the Air Force. It must perform this mission—which is constantly growing in size and complexity—at the lowest possible cost. It must make certain that the combat and other commands have the logistics support needed to maintain their aircraft, missiles, and support equipment constantly at top efficiency.

It provisions, computes requirements, stores, distributes, redistributes, and repairs almost all Air Force peculiar spares, repair parts, and equipment. Along with these basic responsibilities, AFLC prepares and defends budgets, lets procurement and maintenance contracts, and performs various maintenance functions.

The big industrial-type logistics centers which carry out most of the command's operational functions are known as air materiel areas (AMA's). There are five of them—wholesalers—all in the United States. They are located at Ogden, Utah; Sacramento, Calif.; San Antonio, Tex.; Oklahoma City, Okla.; and Warner Robins, Ga., near Macon.

Our current five AMA operations resulted from many years of experience. As improved communication, transportation, and electronic data processing came into being we closed our overseas and many of our CONUS wholesalers. We feel our current direct wholesaler to retailer system has served us well during the SEA buildup and will continue to do so in the future as further advances are made in computer, communication, and transportation technology.

Our AMA's now process approximately 17 million requisitions from field activities each year. In addition, more than one and a half million items are repaired every year by the maintenance and repair facilities within the command. Among these AMA's approximately 900,000 items, with a gross inventory value of \$11 billion, are managed by the Air Force. Another 800,000 items are secured from GSA, DSA, and the other services for the Air Force.

Each AMA is organized along identical lines and carries out its responsibilities based on standard policy and procedures established by Headquarters, AFLC. Each AMA is responsible for managing particular items of supply. No other AMA has the responsibility for managing the same item, thereby eliminating any overlap of item management. Central control is our basic management philosophy. Each base activity (retailer) is advised by supply catalog data which AMA (wholesaler) is responsible for managing a particular item and therefore where to obtain the item.