

quick. Do you have reference to RASS teams? Is this what you are talking about?

Mr. DAHLIN. I was asking what is your planning for responding to crises, in the same way the Army is trying to respond in the form of its QRICC.

General RIEMONDY. Based upon rapid communications again, and visibility that we talk about, we are always alert to trying to spot a problem that may come up. For example, we recognized that during the buildup in Southeast Asia that the capability of our organic forces would be severely overtaxed. As we expanded and constructed new bases, we moved in literally mountains of supplies, the job got to be a little too much for the base-assigned people.

Within our depot system, the five air materiel areas, there is a responsibility to be responsive to the field commander's needs. This doesn't only mean to provide materiel. It means also to provide technical assistance, in the way of higher skilled personnel. If he runs into trouble he is free to call upon our air materiel areas to give him assistance.

The way we have been handling this for many, many, many years is that we have had area support teams comprised of the existing work force at the depot. In the case of Southeast Asia, we chose to call them RASS teams—rapid area supply support teams—and when the workload got to be too great for our field commanders, we dispatched these teams from our depots to go over there and assist them.

These teams varied from a few people up to 50, 60, or 70. We sent them over there to clean up a specific job. These were principally civil service employees with a smattering of airmen.

Mr. DAHLIN. That is really an emergency cleanup kind of measure, isn't it? What the Army is talking about is not getting into that sort of a crisis in supply, by providing preplanning of what procedures and means will be used.

If the Army goes ahead with its plan, is there any use the Air Force could make of it, or are the systems so incompatible they couldn't mesh at all?

General RIEMONDY. I am afraid I don't know exactly what you are talking about.

Mr. DAHLIN. The Army testified that they want to produce, and they are going to produce by January 1, 1969, a quick reaction inventory control center located on the west coast, so that it will be available, so that they won't have the problem in the future of starting from nothing and ending up with a problem that in your case a RASS team would have to go in and help clean up.

General RIEMONDY. I don't think they will ever get that good. Depending upon the emergency of the situation, there will always be a requirement to have a higher echelon of people, skills or what have you, to augment the forces in the field. There will always be logistic problems that are going to arise that will need additional top-level attention. I don't think we will ever be that good.

Mr. DAHLIN. In this case the Navy has just testified and the Army testified that they have had to change computer systems in midcourse in the middle of a war.

General RIEMONDY. OK, I am with you.

Mr. DAHLIN. The whole system had to be converted over while they are working with it. Certainly that isn't desirable.