

General REIMONDY. No. I agree with you. Let me say this: We didn't really have to change any of our system significantly to cope with the emergency that arose in Vietnam. The logistics systems which we have had in being, which we have evolved to, are in fact responsive both in peacetime and in war.

Mr. ROBACK. Of course, you had your Red Ball like the rest of them.

General REIMONDY. Pardon?

Mr. ROBACK. You have had your Red Ball, like the rest of them.

General REIMONDY. Yes, there are systems in being which deal with taking care of the exceptionals. For example, priority systems, every priority system we have is designed to discriminate against some part of the forces which we have in being.

Not every activity has the same mission importance. Therefore you create a priority system to distribute the shortages, when shortages arise, and shortages will inevitably arise when you are doing business with 4 million different kinds of items with varying demand patterns.

So our system is responsive to these varying needs, and we try to create in peacetime a system which we can use to successfully pursue a war, or an emergency, as it may arise.

For example, we started to computerize our bases and adopted a standard supply system worldwide. We moved into Vietnam and implemented our system just like we moved into England and implemented it there, in Europe, in the Z.I., without any hesitation, because we felt the system was sound, and it works; 145 bases now are on this standard supply system.

STANDARD AIR FORCE SYSTEM

Mr. ROBACK. The discussion involving the services proceeds from two different directions. Looking at it in one way, if you have so many exceptions that you have to generate to respond to crisis, the system is no good, because all the exceptions in a sense mean that there isn't any system; or on the other hand, if the system is good and efficient and flexible, variations can be easily permitted and accommodated, so you have a good system.

Mr. HOLIFIELD. That is what you claim, the latter.

General REIMONDY. Yes.

Mr. ROBACK. You are on that side.

General REIMONDY. In the adoption of the standard supply system, which we have within the Air Force worldwide, we have eliminated a lot of problems which would otherwise have developed. For example, the training aspect.

We can move an individual from Andrews Air Force Base, who is in the supply system, to Danang and he is right at home, because the system is the same. It is a standard system, controlled right within my directorate.

These procedures are standard throughout. The equipment we use is standard. The methods of inventorying are standard, methods of issuing, redistributing, getting rid of excesses, all these are standard.

Mr. DAHLIN. You are still having some problems of getting standard equipment, as we have noticed in the procurement of ADP equipment in the recent past.