

General RIEMONDY (reading) :

We also believe that our system of maintaining the necessary records on a computer at one central location and furnishing the necessary management products from this location to the using activity level is the most cost effective method. Among other advantages this centralized operation prevents the duplication of effort in the recordkeeping function, which would be required by manual operations at the using activity level.

So, you see, all we are really saying is we set up another set of records some place else, and then you are going to have to have another validation project going on between that manual set of records and the computer.

Mr. ROBACK. I think what the Comptroller General's recommendation added up to was that the base supply requisitioning process had to be improved, and if you don't improve that, no matter what kind of computer system you have, you still have trouble. So it looks to me like you are saying in effect in your answer that: "We don't want to get down to that level of regularizing the requisitioning process. We are willing to live with that. That is a trade-off. We would rather not have a duplicate system of recordkeeping."

So in effect you are willing to pay the cost. What the cost is is not too clear, although it indicates, from this sample that the GAO report is concerned with, that it would be considerable. The more back orders you have, unfilled orders, the more unnecessary procurement, stockage, and all the rest of it.

Mr. DAHLIN. You used the phrase "uniform system" which implies that now at the base level—I assume you had some sort of system for keeping track of these things manually, anyway, to a certain degree.

General RIEMONDY. It is in the computer.

Mr. ROBACK. You construe this to mean he was going to have a counterpart computer.

General RIEMONDY. No. I construe this to mean that the GAO indicates that in addition to having all the records in the computer, they want us to maintain a manual set of records. This is the very thing we got away from.

Mr. HOLIFIELD. In other words, at your bases you do not have computers. You have manual.

General RIEMONDY. No, we have computers. We have computers at our bases. We have a standard computer system at 145 of them.

Mr. HOLIFIELD. Where do you get the manual in then?

General RIEMONDY. This is a recommendation made by the GAO, that in addition to the records which are maintained in the computer, they want us to maintain a manual set of records.

Mr. HOLIFIELD. Is that right?

Mr. ROBACK. I don't know what it means offhand.

General RIEMONDY. That was our interpretation.

Mr. ROBACK. That was a misunderstanding?

General RIEMONDY. It could be.

Mr. ROBACK. Maybe there ought to be one more attempt to see if there is a little give on this thing.

Mr. HOLIFIELD. The word "common" system.

Mr. LUMAN. Uniform.

Mr. HOLIFIELD. Uniform, indicates there were different systems at different bases. Whether that would be true or not I do not know.