

General RIEMONDY. No.

Mr. HOLIFIELD. But they put it on the fact that it wasn't uniform.

Mr. ROBACK. I think we had better reexamine this problem, that is the GAO and the Air Force ought to try to get a clear and mutual understanding of what is involved here and inform us about it.

General RIEMONDY. We will be glad to.

INVENTORY CONTROL AT BASES

Mr. DAHLIN. There is one more GAO report, General, concerning a matter you raised on page 13 of your statement. You talk about centrally controlling and managing equipment items in the Air Force. You say you do not permit any significant stockage of equipment items at base level.

The GAO, in Report B-133361, of December 12, 1967, was following up on a report of 5 years earlier to see what kind of improvements you had made, and it found some improvements, but it said that approximately \$44 million out of \$281 million worth of equipment were unaccounted for under the system in being. It seems that there is still some problems in that sort of management also.

General RIEMONDY. Yes.

Mr. DAHLIN. At the base level, isn't there?

General RIEMONDY. Yes. You always have the problem of reconciling our assets. There is no doubt about it. However, I think we do have a good equipment management program in being within the Air Force.

There is about, for example, about a half-billion dollars' worth of equipment in Southeast Asia at the present time, the equipment items we are talking about. All of this is on our records, and here again we have got a mechanized program, our Air Force equipment management program.

Notwithstanding the fact that we have all this equipment, and have it on our records, periodically my office through the Air Force Logistics Command visits the bases worldwide and makes on-the-spot checks of the equipment which is authorized a specific activity, and incidentally there are tables of authorization which tell each base, depending upon what its mission is, what kind of equipment it can have.

We can check these tables of authorization against what they say is in use, and what they have and it isn't uncommon to find some equipment which is not accounted for. Again it becomes a question of magnitude.

In this particular area, we are not perfect. Again there are people involved. And regardless of how good the system is, mechanized or otherwise, people must make inputs. People must take care of this equipment. They must store it. They must issue it. They must account for it. And we find differences. There is no doubt about it.

Mr. DAHLIN. You testified that you had to send additional support groups out to Southeast Asia to fortify the effort at base level?

General RIEMONDY. Yes.

Mr. DAHLIN. Have you examined your system? You say generally your system is satisfactory, and that you haven't had to make any