

gating design criteria and management techniques to be used in systems design and development.

Gentlemen, you have three charts which I believe have been furnished to you. I will address, if you please, chart No. 1, which is the long chart.

(The chart referred to is on opposite page.)

General MILLER. In discussing the Army's program for supply system standardization, it is necessary to look at the worldwide Army supply support structure, as it is today. Before you is a chart which graphically portrays the doctrinal Army supply system as well as the interfaces with DSA and GSA. You will note that the system has four principal levels of support, if you start from the right of your chart, above the consumer. These are the direct support, general support, theater support, and wholesale support levels. I will briefly review the functions of each level.

The direct support level stocks limited quantities of supplies for issue to consuming units. This level serves as the retail outlet through which consuming units receive all supplies. Direct support units in the field are designed to be as mobile as the units they support.

The general support level maintains inventory for the replenishment of stocks at the direct support level. This level serves as the elastic link in the supply pipeline between the large and relatively fixed logistics base at the theater support level and the mobile direct support elements positioned with the combat forces. This level must also be sufficiently mobile to meet changing deployment patterns of the combat forces in the field.

Mr. ROBACK. General, can you give us a few examples?

General MILLER. Of this elasticity?

Mr. ROBACK. Of this general support level.

For example, in the European theater, what is the general support level?

General MILLER. In the European theater the general support level embraces general support units so-called. These are activities which carry about 15 days of supply normally, are mobile, and are behind the direct support units. We have both supply and maintenance in this general support area. We have recently, because of the reduction of the European LOC, eliminated the general support supply depots in Europe. We do not have any in Vietnam today because of the shortened line of communications.

Mr. ROBACK. A general support depot would be a smaller unit than the theater depot?

General MILLER. Much, much smaller.

Mr. ROBACK. And there would be more of them?

General MILLER. There would be quite a number more. Generally it depends on the size of the corps, but say for a two-division corps, perhaps we would have two of these, one backing up the direct support units, and one, the corps troops behind the division level.

On the other hand, if we had a four-division corps, we might have as many as three of these.

Mr. ROBACK. You say in your statement there is no general support level, no general support in Vietnam?

General MILLER. That is correct. They go right from the depot to the direct support units.