

The theater support level provides the overseas logistics base, and stocks offshore inventory in support of theater operations including significant quantities of war reserve materiel. This support may be centralized as in Europe or decentralized as in the Pacific area.

The wholesale support level is the CONUS supply base which consists of the Army, DSA and GSA supply managers and their supporting depots.

The general and theater support levels are intermediate levels which are not always required for the processing of supply transactions and in providing supply support. Various tactical and geographic conditions dictate when one or both of these supply levels may be omitted. For example, in Vietnam there is no general support supply level. The direct support elements in this case, because of the relatively short supply lines, are supported by the Vietnam depots at the theater support level. Another example is in CONUS where the CONARC installations, which provide direct support to consuming units, receive supplies direct from the wholesale support area.

Still another example was the action in the Dominican Republic, where we supported our troops directly from the continental U.S. bases in Florida.

Mr. ROBACK. General, this is the Air Force concept today, is it not, direct support from the United States to the unit, to the base?

General MILLER. Well, there is a difference, if I can point this out, the Air Force normally, in this type of supply, operates from a base or a given AMA area directly to an overseas base. We are talking here of supporting units in the field, which are mobile. An Air Force unit, such as a tactical fighter squadron, would operate from a base and receive its supplies from the base. There is a little difference.

Mr. ROBACK. You have that extra burden of supply?

General MILLER. The Army has to put out its supplies mobile behind the troops which are maneuvering. Where we do not have to maneuver far, we can eliminate some of the intermediate steps. If we are in a large land mass such as Europe, then we have to have the direct support, the general support, depending upon how far forward the troops push. We cannot, for example, in a mobile situation build fixed depots. As you have seen in Vietnam, the time it has taken us to build adequate depots and storage areas is usually too great to permit operation from a fixed base.

So when we initially go into an area, our supplies and equipment that support those troops are mobile and go right behind them.

Mr. ROBACK. I do not want to digress too much, but does NATO have a parallel base support structure to the United States?

General MILLER. The NATO infrastructure, yes, is patterned similarly in that design. I am not an expert on the NATO infrastructure, but it in general provides the same support.

GENERAL SUPPORT SUPPLY ECHELON

Mr. LUMAN. General Miller, do you have these GSU's anywhere but in Korea?

General MILLER. We do not have them in Korea.

Mr. LUMAN. The GSU is listed on your chart as one of the layers, but actually it has been eliminated in most cases, has it not?