

order of data automation now in being at the theater level in Europe and the Pacific, and the more urgent need for standardized systems at the general and direct support levels.

Within the CONUS direct support or retail structure, the Army has underway a project called COSMOS (centralization of supply management operations). The prototype COSMOS at Headquarters 6th Army is being developed as a regional control center for CONUS Army Headquarters to provide centralized stock control and supply management of stocks at installations within the Army area. COSMOS will be a standard system with centralized design, programming and maintenance. The COSMOS prototype commenced requisition processing in September 1967. Common program packages are being used where feasible between COSMOS and CS₃ in order to increase commonality and reduce development costs. In addition, the interfaces between troop units and the direct support supply activities of COSMOS and CS₃ are being standardized so that the units can plug-out in one area and plug-in in another area without the necessity of learning new supply procedures.

VISIBILITY FOR CONTROL

Mr. ROBACK. How deep down do you get visibility then, to use that expression, which means information on the inventories and supplies in place?

General MILLER. The two systems COSMOS and CS₃, will give you complete visibility of the reportable items, recognizing that certain items—

Mr. ROBACK. Even in the hands of troops?

General MILLER. Even in the hands of troops.

Mr. ROBACK. For the reportable items only?

General MILLER. For reportable items only, that is correct. This is one of the things that we were testing in the division logistic system test. The test includes automation of the unit property books, which should give us complete visibility, with the exception of expendable supplies.

Mr. ROBACK. What does the unit property book exclude? Does it exclude consumables?

General MILLER. Yes. The property book picks up those items which are, as we call them, accountable items. In other words, the unit commander must account for these being in his possession, and if they are disposed of, he must go through a disposal proceeding in order to—

Mr. ROBACK. Rifles would not be in the property book?

General MILLER. No, sir, rifles are in the property book.

Mr. ROBACK. They are?

General MILLER. They are not expendable.

Mr. ROBACK. Who maintains the property book?

General MILLER. The supply sergeant and he has the supply—

Mr. ROBACK. At the company level.

General MILLER. Our test is examining where we should maintain it. We think as a result of the test to date, we probably should maintain the automated property book at division level, at least within the divisions, and then by means of printouts give back to the commanders their on-hand balances.