

need to know what equipments this part fits on in order to be able to buy it intelligently. He needs a lot of technical information to catalog the item, to decide whether it is an item that is already in stock or is a unique new item.

We expend a lot of effort at our centers, in the technical operations groups directorates of these centers in seeking complete technical information on our items, hopefully during provisioning, and if we fail there, to get it later.

Admittedly, particularly since Vietnam, we have a lot of requests for items that we never saw before, and we do not have the technical information on the items. In those cases we were fortunate if we got the original manufacturer's name and the component that originally fitted on it. But we spend a lot of our time getting technical information primarily for cataloging purposes, and as well as for filling in our basic data file in Battle Creek, so that we will know all there is to know about the characteristics of all the items we manage.

Mr. DAHLIN. Who is supposed to keep it; the Logistics Service Center at Battle Creek is supposed to keep all the technical information that you have?

Admiral HADDOCK. All the item characteristic information that we have for use in cataloging, for use in the utilization program, for use in offering substitutes or interchangeable items to service provisioning requirements. And hopefully sometime in the future for use by designers of military hardware, so that we will use items we already have in the system, rather than inventing new ones.

Mr. DAHLIN. That was always the hope of the documentation system?

Admiral HADDOCK. Yes.

Mr. DAHLIN. But you still have no documents, and as you say, you could not even provide your people with a picture of what they are buying so that they could have some idea of its complexity.

Is that what got you into the problems in the small purchase area?

Admiral HADDOCK. This was a significant part of our problem. I happened to be at Columbus at the time. We were buying items that we did not recognize, have any visual recognition of. We had a part number and a manufacturer. We were under pressure to get these items quickly, and sometimes, as you know, we paid more than we should have for them.

SMALL PURCHASE PROCEDURES

Mr. ROBACK. You might at this point tell us what new controls have been directed toward the small purchase area.

Admiral HADDOCK. This problem is being addressed by OSD and DOD as a whole.

I will speak to DSA actions. We first sent our small purchase buyers to school; we trained as well some of our own instructors at school. We have required that any small purchase, contrary to recent past practice, must be approved by at least one review echelon before it finally becomes an award.

We have endeavored, spent a lot of time endeavoring to assure that our small-purchase people have all the documentation descriptive information on the items they are dealing with that is available, including contractors' catalogs, our own descriptions, and so forth.