

This completes my statement, Mr. Chairman. We will be glad to attempt to answer any and all questions you might care to raise.

Mr. HOLIFIELD. Thank you, Mr. Secretary.

SINGLE SERVICE ASSIGNMENT

Mr. MOORHEAD. One thing occurs to me right out of the statement itself. On page 1 you say the Navy has been, and still is, the procuring agency for launchers. On page 5, you say the triservice management of launcher procurement by the Army has been concurred in.

Mr. SHILLITO. It has been concurred in, Mr. Congressman, and it will not become effective until fiscal year 1970. That is our plan, to move in this direction.

Mr. MOORHEAD. I see.

Mr. SHILLITO. The Army, by the way, has responsibility for the rockets themselves. And now we are tying the launchers into this triservice responsibility, also under the Army.

Mr. RANDALL. Just for further clarification, the ammunition, you say, has always been under the Army?

Mr. SHILLITO. Yes, sir.

Mr. RANDALL. And the launchers are now in the Navy, but will be in the triservice?

Mr. SHILLITO. The launchers are in both the Army and the Navy; the Navy buying for the Marine Corps, Air Force, and Navy; the Army buying their own. And this will now be moved under the Army for fiscal year 1970.

Mr. RANDALL. Thank you.

Mr. HOLIFIELD. Mr. Roback?

DESIGN CHANGES

Mr. ROBACK. The statement is made that this was a relatively stable design until 1966-67. Was it by making it an air-to-ground weapon that made the difference?

Mr. SHILLITO. I am sure that that was one of the major reasons that brought about the difference. Design improvements caused by other needs in Vietnam undoubtedly had an impact, too, Mr. Roback. But that was the primary difference, yes, sir.

Mr. ROBACK. Well, aside from this shift from air-to-air to air-to-surface, you referred to "minor variations." If these were minor variations, what is the problem in acquiring a data package?

Commander KATCHER. I would like to answer that for Mr. Shillito.

The design differences for quite some time, until the rockets themselves changed radically, the design differences were basically minor improvements in the rocket launcher structure, the rocket contact points; just minor improvements that you get in any product that is in use for a while.

However, with the advent of the changes to the rocket, the need to change the launcher to a different size caused the Navy to have a new family of launchers. And it is these launchers that are now in production of a different size, with many changes to them, that have generated a data problem.

Mr. SHILLITO. Plus air-to-ground.

Commander KATCHER. Yes, sir.