

Mr. WITT. This is correct. We give them our requirements and so forth.

Mr. ROBACK. Does the rocket expert accord with that? Is that his understanding?

Colonel HICKMAN. Yes, sir.

Mr. ROBACK. So that the position of the Air Force is, even though the Navy has done a good job as far as they know, and understand, they would not object to the Army taking over the procurement responsibility provided the development responsibility stays with the user here.

Mr. WITT. This is correct, sir.

Mr. ROBACK. And can you at this stage throw any light on what the status of decision is with regard to change of procurement responsibility?

Mr. WITT. We have agreed, sir, and we have told the Office of the Secretary of Defense that we agree that the Army should pick up the identical responsibilities for the launcher that they now have for the rocket itself.

NAVY PROCUREMENT FOR AIR FORCE

Mr. ROBACK. Can you answer—or can the Navy witness answer—when did the Air Force transfer to the Navy, or have shifted over to the Navy the procurement responsibility for the launcher?

Mr. WITT. When was that done?

Mr. ROBACK. Yes.

Can Captain McMorries answer that?

Captain McMORRIES. I cannot answer that precisely as to date.

Mr. ROBACK. Will you provide for the record the transaction paper on that?

Captain McMORRIES. Yes, sir.

Mr. ROBACK. And describe the circumstances.

Mr. WITT. We will be glad to.

(The information requested follows:)

NAVY SUBMISSION

Records in the Naval Air Systems Command indicate that the first procurement of a 2.75-inch rocket launcher by the Navy for the Air Force was in the year 1963.

AIR FORCE SUBMISSION

The Air Force had no requirements for rocket launchers in 1961 or 1962. However, requirements for rocket launchers generated in early 1963. At this time it was determined that the most prudent procedure would be to obtain launchers through MIPR action from the Navy. A MIPR was initiated and forwarded to the Navy in early April 1963. Since that time all Air Force requirements for the 2.75-inch rocket launchers have been satisfied by MIPR to the Navy.

During the 1961-62 time period when the Air Force did not have any procurement requirements, and did not procure any rocket launchers, the Navy did have requirements and was actively working with industry on rocket launcher production programs. Consequently, when our requirements developed in early 1963, it seemed logical to have the Navy manage the procurement for both services, since the rocket launchers were basically the same; they had been developed by the Navy; and were essentially noncomplex equipment. In addition, the Navy had an established interface with industry for these programs which the Air Force did not.