

FILE



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS, U. S. ARMY MATERIEL COMMAND
5001 EISENHOWER AVENUE, ALEXANDRIA, VA 22333-0001

AMSAC-MP/R

25 November 1985

SUBJECT: Staffing of Security Assistance Offices (SAO's)

General John A. Wickham, Jr.
The Chief of Staff
United States Army
Washington, DC 20310-0200

Dear General Wickham:

1. In the past few months I have visited several countries to determine, among other things, how well AMC is doing in our dual missions of international cooperative development and security assistance. As a result of these visits, I have undertaken several new initiatives in the AMC community. One of these initiatives now under way is to put AMC's international programs and security assistance people into one organization so that AMC provides a single face to foreign countries for agreements, exchange of information, cooperative programs, and military sales. I will inform you further about this and other initiatives as our plans and programs become firm.
2. The purpose of this letter is to seek your help in one area not within my authority to resolve. In several countries there was inadequate staffing of military logisticians in both number and grade within the security assistance organization. I observed several major equipment programs that run a severe risk of failure because the country is not adequately advised on the proper supply or maintenance programs to ensure equipment readiness. In other programs they were being advised correctly but the grade of the officer did not lend enough credibility to the advice to ensure that it was being heard and used. We need more Army colonels with both wholesale and retail logistics experience.
3. In the situations I observed the credibility of our weapons systems and of the U.S. Government is on the line. I am aware of Congressional limitations on the size of SAOs and your objective to fully man our deployable forces. However, I believe this major deficiency in our international program merits your attention as well.
4. If you agree, the AMC staff can assist by identifying countries where more or higher grade military logisticians are needed.

Respectfully,

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. H. Thompson".

RICHARD H. THOMPSON
General, U.S. Army
Commanding