January 26 Procurement plans; by Lt Col Otis K Sadtler, SC, Planning Branch, OASW

Not available

DISCUSSION FOLLOWING LECTURE BY COLONEL SADTLER

ON "PROCUREMENT PLANS"

January 28, 1936

Q - Is that curve for machine guns based on the assumption that the guns are furnished as required, and it is a mobilization curve or a production curve?

A - It is both.

Q - Are you trying to put in replacements for guns that never existed?

A - I am trying to show you that if you want to get your airplanes completely equipped you have got to have a tremendous war reserve.

Q - Is it an A or a B curve?

A - It is a deficit. These other requirements A & B curves.

Q - In arriving at the machine gun curve you have figured the maintenance factor as requirements when you did not have the guns.

A - That is a straight production curve - the number to meet initial equipment. In the engines the maintenance of airplanes has been eliminated because ~~there is no problem there~~ factory cannot be maintained.

Q - Does that curve on the airplanes contain computed replacements?

A - No, it is worse than that if you put replacements in.

Q - Is that 50% output of the factory running at maximum capacity with all machines working or 50% of the normal output?

A - One shift, normal output, using the factory at full load. 50% of the factory is reserved for civilian use. We get 200%.

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Q - Very few factories run at their full production. This is based on what they could produce if they had all machines working one shift?

Instructor. In the Medical Corps they want one particular type of aspirin; the output of one of the biggest companies happened to be one bottle per year but they had a similar item in which they were producing millions of bottles Under the instructions as they first came out they said the normal production was one bottle a year, which, of course, was not logical.

Q - On this airplane shortage do you make any effort to compute a substitute item, caliber 30, for instance?

A - No, that has not been done. You can keep on going down the line to find out what you can do - what I have given you is just a sample.

Q - You referred to the theoretical war reserve as being the maximum deficit as shown by the curve. Does that mean it is the actual figure used in computing the war reserve? Is the war reserve based on the Troop Basis 1933 Mobilization Plan?

A - I can't tell you how the General Staff figures the War Reserve. The law says one million men or three field armies. We say that by this curve ~~you could~~ one can be fairly exact. ~~If the General Staff will get out that statement about the reserve necessary [illegible] field armies [illegible]~~

Q - Does your machine gun production curve take into consideration that machine guns are required for the Coast Artillery, antiaircraft, etc. or is that total production? Are all machine guns going to the Air Corps?

A - These are all your 50 caliber machine guns. You have enough 30 caliber so you could get all of that or change it around. It is easy enough to change it.

Q - To get a true picture should not that curve show a priority?

A - That is a General Staff function.

Q - On your first chart it seems to me that the factors of safety are accumulating in shifting two months ahead. It looks like the old Army game of starting a march - the captain says we will start at seven o'clock, the first sergeant says six, and on down the line and pretty soon the army is standing around waiting to march.

A - These figures are very, very modest compared with what they were before Colonel Harris took a crack at them. The Signal Corps had a maintenance factor on theodolites of 50%. It is a known fact that a theodolite will last thirty or forty years in the Z of I. It is foolish to figure on a replacement figure on that basis.

Q - Is anybody controlling the factor of safety?

A - The branches and the General Staff. The branches have had difficulty in maintaining their positions because after it was brought to their attention, the Staff cut them to the bone.

Q - Have you applied any Chinese philosophy to those curves? In those exhibits the one that impressed me was the yellow one. The red one calls for a plant which has been mentioned in the construction program and which cost about two million dollars and in the first year it is going to expand to a fourteen million dollar set-up Its space is going to expand from 300,000 square feet to 4,000,000. In expanding the plant you are going to add to the present flying field and according to the civil engineers

the ground is going to take a year to settle before you can fly heavy ships. The normal production is about nine planes a month with a shift and a half of 200 men, and you are going to have 20,000 men and produce 2400 planes in the first year. I think that the superman has a place in that set-up and will almost have to be a magician

A - When you read the plan did you notice who approved it? Your own chief approved it You will have to fight with him. Our office can't go behind what a branch says. They have a signed statement from each one of these firms; the firm says they can do it and the branch seems to think it can.

Q - In those firms you will find that the management is anxious to get improvements made in the flying field and whatever improvements they can. Certain improvements are purchased 10 cents on the dollar, and there is a great deal of optimism and enthusiam$ on the part of some of the contractors.

A - I grant this is highly optimistic but it is what the branches say.

Q - I would like to ask about the engine, you show quite a stock on hand of these engines. It is my understanding that a number of these would be already installed in the planes. Is it fair to assume that all of these engines would be available for installation in new equipment?

A -There is no problem of engines based on production of planes.

Q - I notice you assume that the stock on hand could be utilized. Is that a fair assumption? Would it be available for use in new equipment?

A - You could use it in old equipment

Q - You are applying the stock on hand against new equipment?

A - No, there is no problem there Airplane production is too slow.

Q - Has anyone ever computed what the deficiency in the war reserve could cost if you could buy it now for the Four Army plan?

A - There is a board of seven officers whose duty is that, there are two members of the Planning Branch on that board. It is headed by the Budget and Legislative Planning Branch of the General Staff. So far as I know it has never met.

Q - It looks to me as if it would be a very interesting figure

A - That ~~is what was thought~~ was the idea when the board was formed. Nothing has been done so far as I know.

Colonel Harris I would like to make one remark supplementing what Colonel Sadtler has said. We don't make procurement plans in the Planning Branch. We feel that the chiefs of the supply arms are not charged by law but are only/qualified to do it and we don't attempt to prove he is wrong in his estimate. We do not have the qualifications nor the experience and we don't think it would be good policy. We assume that the Chief of Air Corps knows what he is doing. These charts were not put up to verify his accuracy but to show that in assembling an item one element may be the bottle neck while everything else is easy to secure. Probably the figure on machine guns could be reduced but you have other requirements of machine guns too, so we show the average figure on the whole requirement

Instructor How many essential items are there?

A - About 1300.

Instructor Are organs on that list? One of the committees

happened to get the item of organs.

Major Kraft I looked that up yesterday and the bibles for Army equipments lists are not in the essential items. We could not find organs.