They described the supply operation for munitions as a strict need-to-know system in which only some soldiers had direct access to the deliveries. Almost all made reference to captured arms, but none said these were their major source. Outlying bases received supplies from central bases in each province by head porterage. Bases in southern Mozambique received some supplies overland from South Africa, but elsewhere the pattern was of periodic landings of DC-3's, parachute drops, or sea landings.

A given area normally received supplies only once or twice a year in quantities sufficient to last that long. The last specific delivery cited in my interviews was a plane landing in Zambezia province in April 1988, mentioned by a combatant who escaped in June 1988. Another ex-Renamo member, speaking to journalists in Manica province in late November, said she had carried supplies from South African planes which landed in the Gorongosa area in October 1988.

South African involvement was also cited in an interview by a recent defector from Renamo's Lisbon office. He said that in October. when he left, they were still receiving Renamo military communiques from the same South African officers who had always handled the communications.

The interviewees also described a highly centralized system of command, control and communications, with its apex the communications link between the Renamo headquarters in central Mozambique and South African special forces. The military training they described ranged from basic training and special courses in bases in Mozambique to long-term instruction for selected soldiers in South Africa.

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(END TEXT)