

stated also that the Geological Survey had agreed to issue revised instructions to require field personnel to purchase digital recorder batteries through the Federal Supply Schedule as proposed. The instructions were issued effective November 22, 1965.

As a part of our continuing review of the activities of the Department, we are planning to evaluate the effectiveness of the corrective actions taken or promised.

[Index No. 48—B-159072, July 15, 1966]

POTENTIAL SAVINGS THROUGH GREATER USE OF AVAILABLE GOVERNMENT GASOLINE OUTLETS, DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

The General Accounting Office examined into the credit-card purchases of automotive gasoline for vehicles of the Departments of the Army, Navy, and Air Force. We found that maximum use of Government gasoline outlets was not being made primarily because responsible military officials had not taken action to effectively control credit-card purchases of gasoline.

The military departments annually spend an estimated \$5 million for the credit-card purchase of gasoline from commercial service stations. The cost of gasoline purchased with credit cards is from about 10 cents to 16 cents a gallon more than the cost of gasoline obtained from Government outlets. Although we were not able to arrive at a firm estimate of the annual savings available to the military departments, our review indicated that the departments could realize substantial savings in their annual operating costs if drivers of vehicles of the Army, Navy, and Air Force made greater use of available Government outlets.

We apprised the Secretary of Defense of our findings and suggested that certain actions be taken to attain maximum use of Government gasoline outlets for military vehicles. The Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense (Logistics Services) indicated to us in a letter dated April 20, 1966, that the Department of Defense was in general agreement with our suggestions.

[Index No. 49—B-159451, July 18, 1966]

SURVEY OF INTERNAL AUDITS AND INSPECTIONS RELATING TO UNITED STATES ACTIVITIES IN VIETNAM, DEPARTMENT OF STATE, AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT, DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Our work was undertaken in consideration of (1) the importance of internal audit and management inspection functions as an essential but sometimes neglected element of management control, and (2) the continuing concern of the Congress with effective management control of these programs. We believe that, by this broadened approach, our report should have more impact on promoting improvements in agency management control practices than would a report concerned with the correction of individual instances of waste and inefficiency which in some cases have already been recognized by the agencies concerned.