

We believe that the Air Force has initiated the necessary actions to increase utilization of its administrative aircraft and thereby reduce air travel costs.

[Index No. 64—B-133324, Sept. 19, 1966]

POTENTIAL SAVINGS THROUGH IMPROVEMENT IN THE MANAGEMENT OF MATERIALS HANDLING EQUIPMENT AND COMMERCIAL-DESIGN TRUCKS, U.S. MARINE CORPS, DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

The General Accounting Office found a need for increased attention to the established procedures and controls by management personnel at Marine Corps Headquarters and at the installations reviewed, to ensure that the quantities of equipment and trucks assigned for use were commensurate with the needs. Our review indicated that, as a result of the nonadherence to procedures and controls, unneeded vehicles valued at over \$1.6 million had accumulated at the three installations. If our findings are representative of the general situation throughout the Marine Corps, the accumulation of unneeded vehicles of these types could amount to as much as \$5 million.

The Department of the Navy's comments indicated that the Navy concurred, with reservations, in our findings on unneeded vehicles and advised us of the action that had been taken to revise the Marine Corps instructions which existed at the time of our review. The Marine Corps has improved and refined its procedures for identifying excess vehicles and, in addition, has emphasized the necessity for complying with existing instructions. We believe that the present procedures and controls, if effectively implemented, should help prevent recurrence of the type of deficiencies identified during our review.

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REVIEW OF THE MAINTENANCE OF COMBAT VEHICLES,
DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

The General Accounting Office made a review of the policies and practices of the Department of the Army with respect to the maintenance of combat vehicles, especially tanks of the M48 series.

We found that the Army was classifying combat vehicles as needing to be rebuilt, on the basis of visual inspections. As a consequence, virtually all major components of equipment classified as needing to be rebuilt were dismantled completely, repaired, and reassembled. We believed that substantial savings could be achieved if combat vehicles requiring maintenance were tested with available diagnostic equipment and other techniques as a means of determining the repair work actually necessary.

Our examination into the repair of certain major components of M48-series tanks showed that savings of more than \$1,760 could be achieved for each tank that did not actually require rebuilding. Since the Army has plans for expending \$147.6 million during fiscal years 1966 through 1969 for the depot repair of 10,848 combat vehicles, including 3,131 M48-series tanks, we believed that the savings that