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UNITED STATES GENERAL ACCOUNTING OFFICE
REGIONAL OFFICE
 ROOM 204, 161 PEACHTREE STREET, N.E.
 ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30303

NOV 6 1970

Major General A.M. Burdett, Jr.
 Commanding General
 Fort Rucker, Alabama 36360

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Dear General Burdett:

On July 20, 1970, we visited Fort Rucker to follow up on our report to the Congress on "Opportunity for the Army to Save on the Cost of Temporary Lodging for Student Officers at Fort Rucker, Alabama", B-146912, dated March 3, 1970.

During this visit, we learned that the 120-unit bachelor officer's quarters (BOQ) newly constructed in February 1969 was being used to house officers on temporary duty rather than officers permanently assigned to Fort Rucker. As stated in our report, this assignment policy should result in savings to the Government. However, we noted that still greater savings could be achieved if the assignment practice were further modified so that all 120 units in the BOQ would be occupied by transient officers or student officers attending transition courses for periods of less than 60 days.

The practice in effect at the time of our follow-up visit was to utilize the 120-unit BOQ approximately as follows:

- 60 units for student officers attending transition courses
- 30 units for officers in a transient status
- 30 units for student officers attending initial entry courses

The initial entry students reside in the BOQ for only 2 to 4 weeks at which time they are given certificates of nonavailability of adequate quarters and allowed to move off-base. The BOQ spaces so vacated are filled by other initial entry students beginning new classes.

Since the per diem rate for transition students is about \$7 a day more than for initial entry students, it would appear to be more economical to assign all 120 units of the BOQ to transition students and allow the initial entry students, who receive the lower per diem rate, to reside off-base. The continuing load of approximately 300 transition students at Fort Rucker should be adequate to utilize all 120 units of the BOQ. We estimate that per diem costs at Fort Rucker

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could be reduced by about \$73,000 annually if the 120-unit BQQ were occupied solely by transition students in lieu of utilizing 25 percent of the spaces for initial entry students.

We are bringing this matter to your attention because of the potential savings which can result from action taken at the local level. We would appreciate being advised of the action you plan to take regarding this matter.

Very truly yours,

R. J. MADISON

Regional Manager