



096699

~~2.49.14~~  
720463



LM096699

36

Secretary Of The Navy  
Guest Cruise Program B-169242

Department of the Navy

BY THE COMPTROLLER GENERAL  
OF THE UNITED STATES

~~700927~~

096699

JAN. 18, 1972



COMPTROLLER GENERAL OF THE UNITED STATES  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20548

B-169242

R Dear Mr. Reuss:

The General Accounting Office, at your request, examined into certain aspects of selected Department of Defense public affairs programs; namely, the Joint Civilian Orientation Conference, the Department of the Air Force Civilian Distinguished Visitor Program, and the Secretary of the Navy Guest Cruise Program.

Our reports on the Joint Civilian Orientation Conference and the Air Force Civilian Distinguished Visitor Program were sent to you on June 29 and October 6, 1971, respectively. This is our report on the Navy Guest Cruise Program.

As you know, the Guest Cruise Program is a public affairs program in which civilian guests are invited to cruise aboard Navy ships and visit Navy shore activities. The program includes three types of cruises, known as Pearl Harbor, fleet, and district cruises. There were 55 such cruises in calendar year 1970 with 226 participants.

	Number of	
	<u>Cruises</u>	<u>Guests</u>
Pearl Harbor	2	27
Fleet	2	23
District	<u>51</u>	<u>176</u>
Total	<u>55</u>	<u>226</u>

Pearl Harbor and fleet cruises are administered by the Navy's Chief of Information, Washington, D.C., and district cruises are administered by commanders of the various naval districts.

Civilian guests participating in the Navy Guest Cruises must arrange their own transportation from and to their residences and pay for their own meals. We estimate that the special activities planned and organized for the Pearl Harbor and fleet cruises cost the Navy \$27,600. Generally, such planning and organization is not applied to the district cruises where the guests are invited to board ships on

B-169242

regularly scheduled sailings. Special activities, if any, are handled by regularly assigned personnel of the ship. Thus additional costs to the Navy would be nominal. Therefore we did not develop costs for the district cruises.

The primary purposes of the Navy Guest Cruise Program according to Navy officials are to (1) provide the guests with information about the Navy's mission and capabilities, (2) acquaint community leaders with the competence and skill of Navy personnel, and (3) explain the Navy's relationship with the other military services.

#### PEARL HARBOR CRUISES

The Navy conducted two cruises during 1970--May 14 through 22 and November 6 through 15--with similar itineraries. The Secretary of the Navy invited community leaders to sail aboard an aircraft carrier from California to Pearl Harbor, and while on board they attended briefings and viewed ship exercises.

In Hawaii they attended briefings and toured Navy and Marine Corps installations, where they fired about 1,400 rounds of ammunition using M-14 and M-16 rifles and an M-60 machine gun. The guests were returned to California by a special Navy flight.

These cruises, according to the Navy, coincide with regular ship or base operations. During the May cruise guests sailed on a nuclear submarine which the Navy used for public affairs purposes while the submarine was in Pearl Harbor awaiting a change of duty station.

#### FLEET CRUISES

The Navy's 1st Fleet conducted two cruises in 1970--February 15 through 20 and August 30 through September 4--with similar itineraries. We reviewed the August-September cruise.

Each guest furnished his own transportation to the Naval Air Station, North Island, California, where the cruise began.

B-169242

On the first day the guests attended briefings on the military installations in the North Island area and cruised aboard an aircraft carrier. The next day they were flown back to North Island for a bus tour sponsored by the City of San Diego. During the next 2 days, the guests cruised aboard Navy ships, toured the Coronado Amphibious Base, and observed a Marine Corps firepower demonstration at Camp Pendleton. On the final day they cruised aboard a nuclear submarine.

### DISTRICT CRUISES

District commanders invite guests to cruise aboard ships scheduled to travel between U.S. mainland ports and occasionally to overseas ports. The number of guests varied between one and seven in 1970. During 1970, nine of the 51 district cruises, lasting from 1 to 5 days, sailed overseas--three to Pearl Harbor, three to San Juan, two to Bermuda, and one to Naples. Four others were scheduled but eligible nominees were not available. During the cruises guests tour the ship and attend briefings given by regular ship personnel on its operations. When the ship arrives in port, the guests disembark and provide for their own transportation beyond that point.

### SELECTION OF PARTICIPANTS

Navy policy states that (1) guests should be leaders in their occupation or community and should represent a broad geographic area, (2) guests should not previously have participated in a Navy cruise program, (3) guests should not have a physical condition that requires special treatment, and (4) women will not be permitted on any overnight cruises unless specifically authorized by the Chief of Naval Operations. Nominations are received from members of Congress, top-level Navy officials, other Government officials, and past cruise guests.

### ESTIMATED COSTS

Shown below are estimated costs incurred by the Department of the Navy as a result of conducting the Pearl Harbor and fleet guest cruises.

B-169242

	<u>Cruises</u>	
	<u>Pearl Harbor</u>	<u>Fleet</u>
Military and civilian personnel services	\$ 4,000	\$6,700
Per diem travel allowances	600	-
Transportation costs (aircraft and ground vehicles)	3,775	2,800
Cruise aboard submarine (May Pearl Harbor cruise)	9,025	-
Ammunition (1,400 rounds)	100	-
Guest lodging	<u>400<sup>a</sup></u>	<u>200</u>
Total cost	<u>\$17,900</u>	<u>\$9,700</u>

<sup>a</sup>This includes some meals paid for by the Navy.

The costs shown for military and civilian personnel services pertain to the personnel--other than regularly assigned ship personnel--engaged in such activities as planning, briefing, and escorting guests. We computed the costs on the basis of their pay and allowances prorated to the time spent on these activities. We used Navy's 1970 estimates to compute the costs of the military aircraft and ground and water vehicles. These estimates provide for the standard direct and indirect annual operating costs of various classes of vehicles and include personnel pay and allowances, fuel, supplies, and overhaul. We prorated on the basis of the number of additional miles driven or hours flown or cruised as a result of the guest cruise program.

We are not aware of any existing statute which would preclude the Navy from incurring the above costs or require the recovery of full cost from the guests.

- - - -

Navy officials with whom we discussed these matters offered no comments. We did not request written comments from the Secretary of the Navy. We plan to make no further

B-169242

distribution of this report unless copies are specifically requested, and then we shall make distribution only after your agreement has been obtained or public announcement has been made by you concerning the contents of the report.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "James B. Stewart".

Comptroller General  
of the United States

d  
r The Honorable Henry S. Reuss  
House of Representatives