UNITED STATES GENERAL ACCOUNTING OFFICE
REGIONAL OFFICE
2006 WASHINGTON BOULEVARD BUILDING
234 STATE STREET
DETROIT, MICHIGAN 48226

DEC 15 1972

Commanding Officer
U.S.S. RAMSEY (DEG-2)
FPO San Francisco

Dear Sir:

We reviewed selected financial transactions in the accounts of the U.S.S. RAMSEY for the 6 months ended June 30, 1972, and found numerous errors on pay records and vouchers. These errors, summarized in the appendix, resulted in over and underpayments to crew members and inaccurate leave balances.

The most significant problem area involves military travel. Some common errors identified in our sample were:

-- use of wrong per diem rates,

-- incorrect deductions for meals and quarters,

-- failure to pay per diem while en route between stations,

-- per diem allowed while in a mileage status, and

-- incorrect distances used in computing mileage allowances.

In addition, we found many small over and underpayments caused by misapplication of group travel regulations. Contrary to regulations, per diem was paid in some cases for days en route under group travel orders and was not paid for travel under individual orders. Also contrary to regulations, some group travel orders authorized a monetary allowance in lieu of transportation. See vouchers 893, 933, 1003, and 1011 for examples. Instructions on group travel are in the Joint Travel Regulations, paragraphs M4100 through M4105.

Military pay was also a problem. We found several clerical errors involving incorrect computations of pay and allowances, leave balances, and travel time to and from training duty stations. In addition, many pay records were not properly maintained: (1) total debits were not entered in item 36; (2) leave balances carried forward were not shown in item 37; and (3) items 9 and 19 were entered in pencil rather than ink.

We were unable to pinpoint the causes of the errors since our review was limited to records available at the Navy Finance Center, Cleveland. However, there is a need for more proficiency in preparing travel orders and paying travel claims, more care in maintaining pay records, and better supervisory reviews.

We are bringing this information to your attention so you can take action to preclude future errors. To assist you, we are enclosing information copies of our informal inquiries. We would appreciate your comments on the causes and actions taken. Please let us know if you need additional information.

Sincerely yours,

C. H. MOORE

C. H. Moore
Regional Manager

Enclosures -- 2
  Appendix
  Copies of informal inquiries (16)

cc: Comptroller of the Navy
      Commander, Cruiser Destroyer Force, Pacific Fleet
      Director, Navy Military Pay System
      Commanding Officer, Navy Finance Center, Cleveland
      Commanding Officer, Navy Regional Finance Center,
       San Diego
      Director, Naval Area Audit Service, San Diego

U. S. GENERAL ACCOUNTING OFFICE
DETROIT REGIONAL OFFICE

U.S.S. HAROLD E. HOLT (DE-1074)
JANUARY 1 THROUGH JUNE 30, 1972

EXTENT OF ERRORS

TYPE OF RECORD	TOTAL	REVIEWED	ERRORS	RECORDS WITH ERRORS Number	RECORDS WITH ERRORS Percent
Military travel vouchers	201	100	30	25	25
Miscellaneous vouchers	13	13	3	3	23
Military pay records	255	128	17	15	12
Totals	469	241	50	43	18

SUMMARY OF ERRORS

TYPE OF ERROR	NUMBER	OVERPAYMENT	UNDERPAYMENT
MILITARY TRAVEL VOUCHERS			
Per Diem			
Meals/quarters - deductions	7	$ 3.36	$ 26.30
Constructive travel	3	5.00	20.70
Not paid while en route between stations	4		64.31
Not entitled - on leave, at permanent duty station, or prior to required reporting date	3	321.20	
Wrong rate	1		12.00
Other			
Mileage - incorrect distance or not paid	3	5.96	8.45
Unauthorized mileage or taxi fares between temporary lodging and school	4	102.90[a]	
Not entitled to mileage between temporary lodging and school on weekends or while on leave	5	89.15	
Subtotal	30	$525.57	$131.76

[a]One Pay Adjustment Authorization for $34.20 was previously issued
by the Navy Finance Center