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

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FEB 4 1972

RELEASED

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Dear Senator Proxmire:

In response to your request of December 20, 1971, we inquired into certain expenditures at Seymour-Johnson Air Force Base, Goldsboro, North Carolina. It was alleged by Mr. Wiley Tindle, an employee of that base, that some \$40,000 had been expended for equipment to clean warehouse floors and that the purpose of the expenditures was to win an award for the neatest, cleanest warehouse. As you requested, we interviewed Mr. Tindle. We interviewed also Air Force officials and reviewed related records at the base.

The information we obtained shows that the funds in question were used principally to cope with adverse dust conditions. Improved appearance also may have aided the competitive position of the base for an annual supply effectiveness and efficiency award; however, we found that this was not a significant factor in the decision to expend these funds.

The expenditures in question were made principally to clean and seal with a long-lasting sealant about 94,000 square feet of cement floors in the base supply warehouse. The materials cost about \$16,600. No record was kept of the cost of labor which was performed principally by military personnel; however, base officials estimated labor costs at about \$4,800. The total cost to clean and seal the floors was about \$21,400. We were informed that an additional cost of about \$3,200 had been incurred to paint the warehouse.

The adverse dust condition was a major consideration in the expenditure of funds for treatment of the floors in the warehouse where aircraft parts were stored. This condition resulted from uncoated cement flooring, subjected in most areas to relatively heavy traffic. In his operations- and maintenance-funding justification for fiscal year 1971, the base chief of supply stated that troop morale and efficiency of operations usually were adversely affected by deferring many things they would like to do when funds were not available. He gave as an example the base supply warehouse floors,

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which he stated were in need of a long-lasting floor coating to prevent the present dusty condition and to improve their appearance.

Prior to the application of the floor sealant, the warehouse workers were required to spend the last hour of duty each day to clean the floors. They were required also to apply a water emulsion sealer each week. Base supply personnel estimated that the annual cost of floor maintenance prior to application of the long-lasting sealant was about \$20,700 and that after the application the annual cost would be about \$2,800. The brochure of the supplier of the sealant states that it completely stops "concrete dusting." All persons we interviewed, including Mr. Tindle, confirmed that conditions had improved after application of the long-lasting sealant.

The Air Force makes an annual award, called the Daedalian Supply Effectiveness Award, to the Air Force base supply unit which has the best performance record. The Order of Daedalian, from which the award's name is derived, is an organization of World War I aircraft pilots. We were told that neatness and appearance is only one factor considered in making this award. At the time of our inquiry, the Seymour-Johnson 4th Supply Squadron was one of several Air Force base supply units in final competition for this award.

We trust that this information satisfactorily responds to your request.

Sincerely yours,



Deputy Comptroller General
of the United States

The Honorable William Proxmire
United States Senate