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UNITED STATES GENERAL ACCOUNTING OFFICE  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20548

~~4/16/78~~

74-0231

LOGISTICS AND COMMUNICATIONS  
DIVISION

B-148167

JUL 24 1973

The Honorable  
The Secretary of Defense



Dear Mr. Secretary:

We have reviewed the materiel readiness of certain Marine <sup>382</sup>  
Corps Reserve Force units under our assignment code 73207.  
The results of the review were disclosed in our draft report  
entitled "Materiel Readiness of the Marine Corps Reserves Needs  
Substantial Improvement" dated September 7, 1972.

We made our review at the Naval Air Station at Glenview,  
Illinois; Selfridge Air Force Base, Michigan; and six Marine  
Corps Training Centers in California, New York, and New Jersey.

Available records were tested and examined to determine  
if (1) the units had the required equipment and supplies on  
hand for training and (2) the additional equipment required  
for mobilization was available. We examined records related  
to maintenance activities, supply centers, and internal control  
activities and reviewed the policies, procedures, and criteria  
for maintaining the readiness of units.

Our draft report expressed concern that the principal  
Reserve organization--the IV Marine Amphibious Force--would not  
be capable of rapid deployment or would not be ready for immedi-  
ate use as a fully trained and equipped force in the event of  
national emergency because:

- Shortages existed of (1) combat-essential equipment in  
prepositioned war reserve stocks for both ground and  
air units and (2) equipment and repair parts in reserve  
units.
- Aircraft modifications, needed to permit performance of  
required missions, had not been installed.
- Older aircraft on hand did not have the carrying capac-  
ity, speed, and maneuverability of newer aircraft of  
the active forces.

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--The Marine Reserve was unable to provide effective specific materiel-readiness reporting.

In addition, our draft report suggested the need for improved management and administrative procedures to establish (1) a centralized records system on equipment needed for deployment into combat and (2) lines of communication between the Marine Corps and Navy command to report changes in prepositioned war readiness requirements and assets. We also suggested that readiness-reporting criteria be revised to include a requirement that comparisons be made of total quantities of equipment authorized in Tables of Equipment with available Marine Corps- and Navy-furnished equipment, including both quantities on hand in units for training and in prepositioned war reserve stocks.

By letter dated November 29, 1972, the Navy provided us with information concerning the materiel condition of the Reserve Force; for example, substitute items of equipment were available to the Reserves. The Navy stated that the few existing shortages would not prevent the rapid mobilization of ground forces. The Navy stated also that it was acceptable to the Marine Corps, although not optimum, to deploy into combat with combat-serviceable/mission-capable substitute items of equipment.

Also the Navy advised us that, for improved administrative procedures, a central management procedure had been developed and that lines of communication had been established between the Marine Corps and the appropriate Navy commands as we suggested.

The Navy agreed that there should be a capability to compare total Table of Equipment requirements with quantities in prepositioned war reserve stocks and with quantities on hand in units. According to the Navy, the Marine Corps had developed special procedures to identify total quantities of materiel in the stores system available to the IV Marine Amphibious Force and the asset information to be provided under these procedures would comply with our suggestion and the Marine Corps' need for improved prepositioned war reserve management.

Because of the recent corrective action taken on management and administrative matters, we plan no further work on

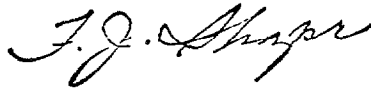
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this assignment. Later, we will perform a followup study of the Marine Corps Reserve's materiel readiness and will examine into the effectiveness of the corrective actions taken. Accordingly, we do not plan any further reporting now.

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We are sending copies of this report today to the Chairmen, House and Senate Committees on Appropriations, Armed Services, and Government Operations.

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Sincerely yours,



Director