



UNITED STATES GENERAL ACCOUNTING OFFICE  
REGIONAL OFFICE  
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DETROIT, MICHIGAN 48226

GAO 00335

NOV 27 1974

Commanding Officer  
Naval Air Station, Barbers Point  
Oahu, Hawaii

DLG 05801

Dear Sir:

During a survey of basic allowance for quarters (BAQ) payments, we noted many members without dependents assigned to Barbers Point live off base. They receive BAQ and allowances for housing and cost of living even though adequate quarters are available. We believe you could substantially reduce these payments by making better use of available quarters.

Members of the uniformed services are entitled to BAQ unless public quarters are furnished. Furthermore, in Hawaii, members living off base are authorized allowances for housing and cost of living to defray excess costs. Department of Defense Instruction 4165.47 requires members in pay grades E-1 through O-3 to live on base if adequate quarters are available. Further, Chief of Naval Operations Instruction 11012.2C requires full use of bachelor quarters which meet adequacy standards. Exceptions are allowed on an individual basis if significant hardship or expense result from involuntary assignments.

In our initial work we examined the pay records of Patrol Squadron-1. We found 66 single members of the squadron were receiving BAQ -- an unusually high number compared with squadrons based at other air stations. Consequently, we examined all pay records closed on June 30, 1974 for Barbers Point base and tenant personnel to determine whether this situation was peculiar to that squadron.

We determined that 542 members without dependents received BAQ, housing and cost of living allowances totaling \$552,700 during the 6-months ended June 30 because they

[Basic Allowance for Quarters Payments at Naval Air Station,  
Barbers Point, Oahu, Hawaii]  
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were authorized to live off base. The 542 includes 125 members who were away from Barbers Point in June serving with their units on extended deployments. These members continued to receive allowances even after they were deployed because quarters had not been assigned at Barbers Point. Allowances paid to the 542 members are summarized below.

ALLOWANCES PAID MEMBERS LIVING OFF BASE

<u>Unit</u>	<u>Members</u>	<u>BAQ</u>	<u>Housing</u>	<u>COLA</u>	<u>Totals</u>
Naval Air Station	83	\$ 35,200.	\$ 30,400.	\$ 6,600.	\$ 72,200.
Fleet Tactical Support Squadron-21	106	50,200	43,100	9,300	102,600
Fleet Composite Squadron-1	32	16,600	14,100	2,800	33,500
Fleet Air Wing-2	9	4,200	3,700	700	8,600
Fleet Aviation Specialized Operations Training Group	4	1,700	1,500	300	3,500
Naval Facility	5	2,700	2,300	400	5,400
Patrol Squadron-1 (At Okinawa on 6/30/74)	66	34,400	29,500	5,900	69,800
Patrol Squadron-4	54	26,900	23,100	4,600	54,600
Patrol Squadron-6 (At Cubi Point on 6/30/74)	59	34,600	29,400	5,700	69,700
Patrol Squadron-17	60	31,400	25,800	5,100	62,300
Patrol Squadron-22	64	35,000	29,800	5,700	70,500
<b>Totals</b>	<b>542</b>	<b>\$272,900</b>	<b>\$232,700</b>	<b>\$47,100</b>	<b>\$552,700</b>

Appendix I shows a breakdown by pay grade and unit of the 542 members.

Your housing reports for the 1-year period beginning October 1, 1973 indicate adequate bachelor quarters have been available for permanent party personnel. According to these reports, BAQ was paid because personnel were authorized to live off base in the past when adequate quarters were not available. However, pay records at the Navy Finance Center in Cleveland show 51 of the 542 members were authorized BAQ after October 1, 1973, 38 of whom had never received BAQ at a prior permanent station. The 38 members are identified on appendix IA by pay grade and unit.

Based on the above, it appears that single members are being allowed to live off base although adequate quarters are available. We believe you should inquire into this matter and take steps to insure that quarters are used to the maximum extent possible. This should result in substantial savings.

We are sending copies of this letter to the Commander In Chief, U. S. Pacific Fleet; the Commander Naval Air Force, U. S. Pacific Fleet; the Comptroller of the Navy (NCF-4); the Commanding Officer, Navy Regional Finance Center, Pearl Harbor; and the Director, Naval Audit Service, Southwest Region.

We would appreciate your advice concerning any corrective actions taken in this matter. If you need additional details please let us know.

Sincerely yours,

*C. H. Moore*

C. H. Moore  
Regional Manager

Enclosures - 2  
Appendix I and II

## APPENDIX I

MEMBERS WITHOUT DEPENDENTS BASED AT BARBERS POINT  
PAID BAQ ON JUNE 30, 1974 PAY RECORDS

Unit	Members By Pay Grade									Totals
	E-2	E-3	E-4	E-5	E-6	E-7	O-1	O-2	O-3	
Naval Air Station	9	22	27	14	6	2	1	1	1	83
Fleet Tactical Support Squadron-21	10	30	32	13	2	-	6	9	4	106
Fleet Composite Squadron-1	2	3	8	9	4	-	1	4	1	32
Fleet Air Wing-2	1	1	4	2	-	-	-	-	1	9
Fleet Aviation Specialized Operations Training Group	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	4
Naval Facility	1	-	1	-	-	-	2	-	1	5
Patrol Squadron-1	2	11	17	20	3	-	-	11	2	66
Patrol Squadron-4	1	2	17	18	2	-	3	8	3	54
Patrol Squadron-6	-	1	22	18	-	-	3	10	5	59
Patrol Squadron-17	-	6	18	16	1	-	5	10	4	60
Patrol Squadron-22	-	6	14	23	1	-	3	14	3	64
Totals	<u>26</u>	<u>82</u>	<u>160</u>	<u>137</u>	<u>19</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>24</u>	<u>67</u>	<u>25</u>	<u>542</u>

## APPENDIX II

MEMBERS AUTHORIZED BAQ SINCE  
OCTOBER 1, 1973

Unit	Members By Pay Grade							Totals
	E-2	E-3	E-4	E-5	O-1	O-2	O-3	
Naval Air Station	4	2	1	-	-	-	-	7
Fleet Tactical Support Squadron-21	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	2
Fleet Air Wing-2	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	2
Patrol Squadron-1	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	2
Patrol Squadron-4	-	-	-	-	2	3	1	6
Patrol Squadron-6	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	2
Patrol Squadron-17	-	1	1	1	2	4	-	9
Patrol Squadron-22	-	-	-	-	2	6	-	8
Totals	<u>6</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>38</u>