

000046 101097

Released 12/17/76



76010



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

LOGISTICS AND COMMUNICATIONS
DIVISION

Released OCT 06 1976

B-146779

RESTRICTED — Not to be released outside the General Accounting Office except on the basis of specific approval by the Office of Congressional Relations.

The Honorable John G. Tower
United States Senate

Dear Senator Tower:

In your letters of April 19 and 29, 1976, you asked us to consider the comments of the San Antonio Movers' and Warehousemen's Association and A&W Transfer and Storage Co., on our report dealing with using Government versus commercial facilities for storing military personnel household goods. Before addressing the Association's comments, perhaps it would be helpful to update the situation.

Our report cited potential savings of \$576,956 annually by using Government-owned instead of commercial facilities at Kelly Air Force Base to store household goods. However, DOD, in responding to our report, indicated that one-time savings of over \$14 million and annual savings of over \$700,000 could be achieved by using the space for other purposes.

Our position is that if DOD can better use this space and if such use will result in savings more than that which would be realized by storing household goods, of course GAO has no objection. At the time of our review, however, the space was vacant and we had identified a possible use--household goods storage--that offered potential for savings.

Although DOD's proposed action to use the space at Kelly Air Force Base for other than storing household goods renders the commercial storage companies' comments moot, we still want to clarify certain aspects of our report.

The basic difference between the present commercial household goods operation and the proposed Government operation would be at the storage warehouse where civil service staffing would be used in Government facilities for warehousing operation and for administrative services. Approximately the same number of employees would be required to perform the necessary service as commercial contractors now

B-146779

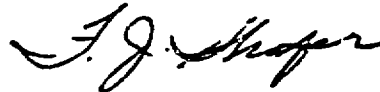
use. Also, the Government would buy and use the same type storage containers commercial contractors now use. Commercial contractors would be used for packing and unpacking household goods at residences and for drayage to storage facilities. The result would be that available Government space would be used rather than renting commercial space.

With respect to the acceptability of Government space for storing household goods, we recognized some improvements would be needed. The cost of such improvements was included in our cost comparison.

In our opinion, the concept of using available space in Government warehouses rather than renting commercial space is sound where savings in Government operations can be realized. We believe this concept should be considered at other locations with available unused space. Where unused space can be used to better advantage for other than household goods storage--such as in the San Antonio area--we concur in such use. We plan to followup on DOD's proposed use of the space in the San Antonio area.

We will be glad to brief you on the details of our review if you desire.

Sincerely yours,



F. J. Shafer
Director

729
461 720731134



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

LOGISTICS AND OPERATIONS DIVISION

007 06 2076

B-146779

RESTRICTED - Not to be disseminated outside the General Accounting Office without the express written approval of the Office of Management and Enterprise Services.
RELEASED

Representative Henry B. Gonzalez
House of Representatives

Dear Mr. Gonzalez:

In your letter of April 22, 1976, you asked us to consider the comments of the San Antonio Movers and Warehousemen's Association on our report dealing with using Government versus commercial facilities for storing military personnel household goods. Before addressing the Association's comments, perhaps it would be helpful to update the situation.

Our report cited potential savings of \$576,956 annually by using Government-owned instead of commercial facilities at Kelly Air Force Base to store household goods. However, DOD, in responding to our report, indicated that one-time savings of over \$14 million and annual savings of over \$700,000 could be achieved by using the space for other purposes.

Our position is that if DOD can better use this space and if such use will result in savings more than that which would be realized by storing household goods, of course GAO has no objection. At the time of our review, however, the space was vacant and we had identified a possible use--household goods storage--that offered potential for savings.

Although DOD's proposed action to use the space at Kelly Air Force Base for other than storing household goods renders the Association's comments moot, we still want to clarify certain aspects of our report.

The basic difference between the present commercial household goods operation and the proposed Government operation would be at the storage warehouse where civil service staffing would be used in Government facilities for warehousing operation and for administrative services. Approximately the same number of employees would be required to perform the necessary service as commercial contractors now use. Also, the Government would buy and use

B-146779

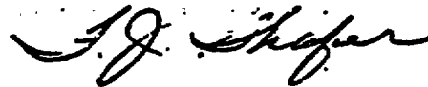
the same type storage containers commercial contractors now use. Commercial contractors would be used for packing and unpacking household goods at residences and for drayage to storage facilities. The result would be that available Government space would be used rather than renting commercial space.

With respect to the acceptability of Government space for storing household goods, we recognized some improvements would be needed. The cost of such improvements was included in our cost comparison.

In our opinion, the concept of using available space in Government warehouses rather than renting commercial space is sound where savings in Government operations can be realized. We believe this concept should be considered at other locations with available unused space. Where unused space can be used to better advantage for other than household goods storage--such as in the San Antonio area--we concur in such use. We plan to followup on DOD's proposed use of the space in the San Antonio area.

We will be glad to brief you on the details of our review if you desire.

Sincerely yours,



F. J. Shafer
Director

730
Serial 46721, 131, 132



UNITED STATES GENERAL ACCOUNTING OFFICE

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20548

LOGGING AND COMMUNICATIONS
DIVISION

RELEASED
11/27/76

OCT 06 1976

B-146779

RESTRICTED — Not to be disseminated outside the General Accounting Office except on the basis of specific approval by the Office of Congressional Relations.

Representative Robert Krueger
House of Representatives

Dear Mr. Krueger:

In your letter of May 24, 1976, you asked us to consider the comments of the San Antonio Movers' and Warehousemen's Association on our report dealing with using Government- versus commercial facilities for storing military personnel household goods. Before addressing the Association's comments, perhaps it would be helpful to update the situation.

Our report cited potential savings of \$576,956 annually by using Government-owned instead of commercial facilities at Kelly Air Force Base to store household goods. However, DOD, in responding to our report, indicated that one-time savings of over \$14 million and annual savings of over \$700,000 could be achieved by using the space for other purposes.

Our position is that if DOD can better use this space and if such use will result in savings more than that which would be realized by storing household goods, of course GAO has no objection. At the time of our review, however, the space was vacant and we had identified a possible use-- household goods storage--that offered potential for savings.

Although DOD's proposed action to use the space at Kelly Air Force Base for other than storing household goods renders the Association's comments moot, we still want to clarify certain aspects of our report.

The basic difference between the present commercial household goods operation and the proposed Government operation would be at the storage warehouse where civil service staffing would be used in Government facilities for warehousing operation and for administrative services. Approximately the same number of employees would be required to perform the necessary service as commercial contractors now use. Also, the Government would buy and use

LCD-76-247

B-146779

the same type storage containers commercial contractors now use. Commercial contractors would be used for packing and unpacking household goods at residences and for drayage to storage facilities. The result would be that available Government space would be used rather than renting commercial space.

With respect to the acceptability of Government space for storing household goods, we recognized some improvements would be needed. The cost of such improvements was included in our cost comparison.

In our opinion, the concept of using available space in Government warehouses rather than renting commercial space is sound where savings in Government operations can be realized. We believe this concept should be considered at other locations with available unused space. Where unused space can be used to better advantage for other than household goods storage--such as in the San Antonio area--we concur in such use. We plan to followup on DOD's proposed use of the space in the San Antonio area.

We will be glad to brief you on the details of our review if you desire.

Sincerely yours,



F. J. Shafer
Director

731
46324



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

LOGISTICS AND COMMUNICATIONS
DIVISION

RESTRICTED
Accounting Office
by the Office of Management
Operations

RELEASED

held outside the General
Accounting Office of specific approval
by the Office of Management Operations

D-146779

12/17/76

01/06 1976

The Honorable Abraham Kazen, Jr.
House of Representatives

Dear Mr. Kazen:

In your letter of April 29, 1976, you asked us to consider the comments of the San Antonio Movers' and Warehousemen's Association on our report dealing with using Government versus commercial facilities for storing military personnel household goods. Before addressing the Association's comments, perhaps it would be helpful to update the situation.

Our report cited potential savings of \$576,956 annually by using Government-owned instead of commercial facilities at Kelly Air Force Base to store household goods. However, DOD, in responding to our report, indicated that one-time savings of over \$14 million and annual savings of over \$700,000 could be achieved by using the space for other purposes.

Our position is that if DOD can better use this space and if such use will result in savings more than that which would be realized by storing household goods, of course GAO has no objection. At the time of our review, however, the space was vacant and we had identified a possible reuse--household goods storage--that offered potential for savings.

Although DOD's proposed action to use the space at Kelly Air Force Base for other than storing household goods renders the Association's comments moot, we still want to clarify certain aspects of our report.

The basic difference between the present commercial household goods operation and the proposed Government operation would be at the storage warehouse where civil service staffing would be used in Government facilities for warehousing operation and for administrative services. Approximately the same number of employees would be required to perform the necessary service as commercial contractors now use. Also, the Government would buy and use

LCD-76-248

B-146779

the same type storage containers commercial contractors now use. Commercial contractors would be used for packing and unpacking household goods at residences and for drayage to storage facilities. The result would be that available Government space would be used rather than renting commercial space.

With respect to the acceptability of Government space for storing household goods, we recognized some improvements would be needed. The cost of such improvements was included in our cost comparison.

In our opinion, the concept of using available space in Government warehouses rather than renting commercial space is sound where savings in Government operations can be realized. We believe this concept should be considered at other locations with available unused space. Where unused space can be used to better advantage for other than household goods storage—such as in the San Antonio area—we concur in such use. We plan to followup on DOD's proposed use of the space in the San Antonio area.

We will be glad to brief you on the details of our review if you desire.

Sincerely yours,



F. J. Shafer
Director

732
Spec 461
729, 730, 731



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

LEGISLATIVE COMMUNICATIONS
DIVISION

OCT 28 1976

B-146779

RESTRICTED - **RECEIVED**
Accounting Office reports may be referred outside the General
by the Office of Comptroller in the event of specific approval
147/76

The Honorable Lloyd Bentsen
United States Senate

Dear Senator Bentsen:

In your letters of April 14 and May 10, 1976, you asked us to consider the comments of the A&W Transfer and Storage Co., and Austin Van & Storage Co., on our report dealing with using Government versus commercial facilities for storing military personnel household goods. Before addressing the Association's comments, perhaps it would be helpful to update the situation.

Our report cited potential savings of \$576,956 annually by using Government-owned instead of commercial facilities at Kelly Air Force Base to store household goods. However, DOD, in responding to our report, indicated that one-time savings of over \$14 million and annual savings of over \$760,000 could be achieved by using the space for other purposes.

Our position is that if DOD can better use this space and if such use will result in savings more than that which would be realized by storing household goods, of course GAO has no objection. At the time of our review, however, the space was vacant and we had identified a possible use—household goods storage—that offered potential for savings.

Although DOD's proposed action to use the space at Kelly Air Force Base for other than storing household goods renders the commercial storage companies' comments moot, we still want to clarify certain aspects of our report.

The basic difference between the present commercial household goods operation and the proposed Government operation would be at the storage warehouse where civil service staffing would be used in Government facilities for warehousing operation and for administrative services. Approximately the same number of employees would be required to perform the necessary service as commercial contractors now

LCD-76-249

B-146779

use. Also, the Government would buy and use the same storage containers commercial contractors now use. Commercial contractors would be used for packing and unpacking household goods at residences and for drayage to storage facilities. The result would be that available Government space would be used rather than renting commercial

With respect to the acceptability of Government space for storing household goods, we recognized some improvements would be needed. The cost of such improvements was included in our cost comparison.

In our opinion, the concept of using available Government space in Government warehouses rather than renting commercial space is sound where savings in Government operating costs can be realized. We believe this concept should be considered at other locations with available unused space. Where unused space can be used to better advantage for other Government household goods storage--such as in the San Antonio area--we concur in such use. We plan to follow up on DOD's plans for use of the space in the San Antonio area.

We will be glad to brief you on the details of our review if you desire.

Sincerely yours,



F. J. Shafer
Director

DOCUMENT RESUME

00489 - [A0100047]

Better Communication, Cooperation and Coordination Needed in Department of Defense Development of Its Tri-Service Medical Information System Program. B-182666; LCD-76-117. October 6, 1976. Released October 6, 1976. 36 pp.

Report to Sen. William Proxmire; by Elmer B. Staats, Comptroller General.

Issue Area: Automatic Data Processing: Applying Technology (101); Health Programs: System for Providing Treatment (803); Military Preparedness Plans: Military Communications and Information Processing Needs (1205).

Contact: Logistics and Communications Div.

Budget Function: Health: Health Care Services (551);

Miscellaneous: Automatic Data Processing (1001).

Organization Concerned: Department of Defense; Department of Defense: Assistant Secretary of Defense (Health Affairs).

Congressional Relevance: House Committee on Armed Services; Senate Committee on Armed Services. Sen. William Proxmire.

Authority: (10 U.S.C. 2304; 10 U.S.C. 2306).

An analysis of the Department of Defense (DOD) Tri-Service Medical Information System (TRIMIS) revealed problems in design and development. The system was intended to improve DOD's health care delivery through a combined automated system for the three services. The system has been operating for more than two years at an expenditure of over \$14 million. Findings: The program was initiated without the necessary management and cooperation needed for success. In spite of some management improvement, the services are still working independently. The program will cost \$504 million through fiscal year 1982. Conclusions: Successful development and utilization on TRIMIS depends on the establishment of detailed user requirements, more uniformity, and improved management. Recommendations: If service differences can be resolved, the Assistant Secretaries of Defense should be directed to reorganize TRIMIS and designate a project manager with increased responsibility, establish evaluation criteria, standardize procedures, and conduct analyses. If a sound basis is established, requirements should include review, control, and reevaluation. (HTW)