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

LOGISTICS AND COMMUNICATIONS DIVISION

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B-178560

OCT 8 1976

The Honorable Mark Andrews
House of Representatives

Dear Mr. Andrews:

As agreed with your office on July 20, 1976, we have followed up on our recommendation that the Air Force make cost comparisons for its airfield pavement-marking program, as contained in our report to you entitled "Inquiry Into Air Force In-House Rather Than Contract Airfield-Marking Operations" (B-173560, Dec. 13, 1974).

The Air Force made a cost comparison for one of its striping teams located at Tinker Air Force Base, Oklahoma, which resulted in the award of a contract for performing the striping operation previously carried out in-house by the Tinker team.

Air Force representatives told us that a cost comparison was made for only one of its striping teams because the range of bids in response to the invitation (only one bidder was lower than the in-house cost estimate) caused them to be skeptical that the low bidder could perform satisfactorily. The Air Force representatives intended to monitor the contract awarded to the low bidder before deciding whether to make cost comparisons for the remaining striping teams. In our view this rationale seemed inadequate because the experience with the Tinker Air Force Base cost comparison would not necessarily be repeated in comparisons for the other Air Force striping teams.

Because we recommended that the Air Force make a cost comparison of its entire airfield pavement-marking program (all striping teams), we asked in our followup request what specific action would be taken on our recommendation. The Air Force said that it intended to comply with our recommendation and that it will cost compare nine striping teams for calendar year 1977 and the remaining three striping teams in calendar year 1978. This will complete the cost analyis for the entire airfield-marking program. (A copy of the Air Force reply is enclosed.)

LCD-76-354

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In view of the Air Force planned action on this program, we plan no further work on the matter at this time.

Sincerely yours,

F. J. Shafer
Director

Enclosure

ENCLOSURE

ENCLOSURE

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
WASHINGTON 20330

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY

17 SEP 1976

Mr. Fred J. Shafer
Director, Logistics and Communications Division
United States General Accounting Office
441 G Street, Northwest
Washington, D.C. 20548

Dear Mr. Shafer:

This is in reply to your letter to Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld, dated August 10, 1976, regarding the "Air Force In-House Rather than Contract Airfield-Marking Operations".

We concur with your recommendation to make cost analyses for the remaining Airfield Marking teams. We will cost compare nine of the teams for calendar 1977 and the remaining three for calendar 1978. Since the Tinker AFB workload has already been cost compared, this will complete the analysis for the entire Airfield Marking Program.

Thank you for your interest in this matter.

Sincerely,

JAMES F. BOATRIGHT
Deputy for Installations
Management
Deputy Assistant Secretary
(Installations)