



UNITED STATES GENERAL ACCOUNTING OFFICE  
INTERNATIONAL DIVISION

FAR EAST BRANCH  
PRINCE JONAH KUHIO KALANIANA'OLE FEDERAL BUILDING  
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HONOLULU, HAWAII 96850

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MAR 30 1978

Commanding General  
Fleet Marine Forces, Pacific/  
Marine Corps Bases, Pacific  
Camp H. M. Smith, HI 96861

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GAD 00800

Dear Sir:

We visited U.S. Marine Corps installations on Okinawa as part of our survey and followup of military support function consolidations. Two functional areas--disbursing and supply--included matters of a local nature which we want to bring to your attention. In both of these areas, the Marine Corps can save military personnel costs through consolidations of Marine support organizations.

Consolidating Marine disbursing on Okinawa

Three separate organizations provide disbursing and related accounting support to Marines on Okinawa.

- Marine Corps Base, Camp Butler, pays public and travel vouchers, military pay, and civilian pay.
- The 3rd Force Service Support Group (FSSG) processes a military payroll and manually pays travel vouchers.
- Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Futenma processes a military payroll and manually pays travel vouchers.

Marine disbursing officials on Okinawa told us that consolidation is feasible and could result in reduced personnel costs. Consolidating MCAS Futenma disbursing with 3rd FSSG could save two positions, and consolidating 3rd FSSG with Camp Butler could save an estimated five to six positions. Total potential savings from these consolidations could be over \$130,000 annually, including pay and benefits. Added advantages of consolidating would include reduced numbers of reports such as the presently separate computer printouts which could be merged into a single computer run.

Deployable disbursing organizations have been successfully consolidated in other areas, including Army organizations in the continental United States and the Marines in Hawaii. At Kaneohe

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MCAS, which has 55 authorized personnel, all but 6 enlisted and 9 civilian personnel are brigade personnel who would depart upon deployment. Kaneohe MCAS officials believe the consolidated office functions well.

We also discussed the feasibility of an internal consolidation within the 3rd FSSG, which has detachments at Camps Courtney, Hansen, and Schwab. The disbursing officer told us that even greater savings could result if the detachments were consolidated under a single roof, but that, in his opinion, service to the outlying camps would be considerably reduced.

We did not examine the possibility of consolidating detachments in detail, but believe it warrants further consideration because other services, such as the Air Force, have more centralized disbursing systems which work satisfactorily in their opinion. Air Force officials told us that under Air Force procedures, detachments could be consolidated at one location. In their experience, military pay questions can generally be answered quickly by limited on-site enlisted personnel, with more complex questions referred to the central office. In fact, Marine disbursing officials told us that even though they want to retain the detachments, only officers and senior enlisted personnel are now permitted direct access to the Marine disbursing office detachments on Okinawa. Others must route pay related questions through their unit supervisors.

#### Potential supply staffing reductions at MCAS Futenma

MCAS Futenma officials believe that the MCAS supply office is overstaffed as a result of decreased workload which was not accompanied by manpower reductions. Furthermore, the MCAS Futenma supply office stocks and provides common use supplies which are also available nearby at Camp Butler, with a resulting potential for consolidation.

A late 1977 manpower study recommended that 7 of about 28 supply related positions at MCAS Futenma be eliminated. We estimate that the reduction could save over \$100,000 annually, including pay and benefits. By January 1978, the MCAS commanding officer concurred with the proposal and it was to be forwarded to higher Marine Corps commands for approval.

We noted also, however, that about 70 percent of the MCAS supply line items were common use supplies readily available from the nearby Camp Butler supply office. MCAS and Camp Butler supply

officials agreed that Camp Butler could adequately meet MCAS needs for common use supplies. The MCAS Futenma supply officer told us one additional position could be eliminated by consolidating these items at Camp Butler. This additional reduction could save about \$10,000 annually, including pay and benefits.

MCAS officials concurred that the consolidation was desirable, and that air station tenants will now use the Camp Butler supply office. They did not include the additional position reduction with the proposed manpower study reductions, however, because it could delay the other reductions. We do not object to separate treatment of the two potential reductions, but believe that MCAS Futenma should proceed with a proposal to eliminate the position to be saved from supply consolidation.

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We commend the MCAS Futenma initiative to bring supply staffing in line with workload. We believe, however, that further opportunity exists to reduce costs through consolidating the disbursing and supply functions discussed in this letter. These matters have been discussed with the local officials involved.

We suggest that the Commanding General, Fleet Marine Forces, Pacific/Marine Corps Bases, Pacific, take action to complete the Marine Corps supply consolidation at MCAS Futenma and Camp Butler. We further believe that the Commander should initiate a plan to consolidate the three Marine disbursing organizations on Okinawa.

Thank you for the excellent cooperation extended to our staff during this survey. Please advise us of planned disposition for each of the matters discussed.

Sincerely,



W. H. Sheley, Jr.  
Director