



Office of Special Investigations

B-280763

August 18, 1998

The Honorable Frank R. Lautenberg  
United States Senate

The Honorable Carolyn B. Maloney  
House of Representatives

Subject: Civilian Marksmanship Program: U.S. Army Investigation of Alleged  
Criminal Activity in Program

In response to your January 28, 1998, request, GAO is reviewing aspects of the Civilian Marksmanship Program. This office reviewed your question concerning the thoroughness of the investigation by the U.S. Army Criminal Investigation Command (CID) into allegations of criminal activity within the program. The activity in question—misappropriation of small arms ammunition and rifle scopes by a program official—is alleged to have occurred before the program was converted to a private corporation in October 1996.

The allegations, made to the Army in September 1996, concerned the program official's alleged misappropriation of 12,500 rounds of small arms ammunition (valued at approximately \$1,550); 2,000 bullets (not live ammunition, valued at \$120); and two rifle scopes (valued at \$2,000). The questioned transfers of the materials are alleged to have occurred on specific dates in 1991, 1993, 1994, and 1995. The CID conducted a criminal investigation between November 15, 1996, and February 28, 1997, after the statutory privatization of the program. It reported finding "no evidence of criminal activity."

The Army's investigation into the alleged activity was not as complete as it could have been. We discussed the scope of their work with CID personnel who concurred that the CID could have interviewed additional persons, interviewed others in more detail, and conducted a review or audit of records. However, they told us that because of a number of reasons, they closed their case after they had briefed a prosecutor in the local office of the Army Staff Judge Advocate: the Staff Judge Advocate advised them that no evidence of a crime had been uncovered; the CID had higher priority investigative work, e.g., murders, rapes, and the Aberdeen sexual harassment cases; the dollar amount involved in the questioned transactions was relatively low; and the denials of wrongdoing by those involved in the transactions investigated were plausible.

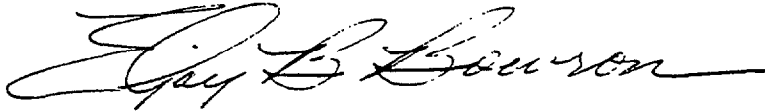
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This letter is in response to a request, made during our July 1, 1998, briefing of your offices, that we document our conclusion in this matter. As discussed, we plan no further action pertaining to this matter.

For our review, we examined the Army's investigative files, interviewed Army investigators, and interviewed the individual who provided the original allegations to the Army. GAO's National Security and International Affairs Division will respond to your other questions concerning the Civilian Marksmanship Program.

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If you have any questions concerning this letter, please contact me or Assistant Director David B. Buckley at (202) 512-7455.



Eljay B. Bowron  
Assistant Comptroller General  
for Special Investigations

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