



UNITED STATES GENERAL ACCOUNTING OFFICE

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20548

APR 7 1972

RESOURCES AND ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT DIVISION.

Dear Admiral Bender:

We have completed a survey of the Coast Guard's Postgraduate Education Program, through which officers attend civilian and Department of Defense operated academic institutions on a full-time, fully-funded basis to pursue courses of study leading to graduate degrees.

We noted that there was a need for the Coast Guard to provide more program direction concerning such matters as (1) the determinations of the Coast Guard's needs for officers postgraduate education to accomplish its missions, and (2) the manner in which officers are selected for postgraduate study. Also, there is no effective system by which responsible Headquarter's officials are kept aware of the specific courses being taken by the officers or the relevance of these courses to Coast Guard's needs.

On March 30, 1972, we discussed these matters with representatives of the Training and Procurement Division, who stated that they were aware of these problems but that inadequate staffing made corrective action difficult. They advised us, however, that the Coast Guard plans to establish a new position for an officer who will be responsible for evaluating and administering the program.

We appreciate the cooperation given to us by Coast Guard personnel during our survey. We would appreciate being advised of changes the Coast Guard may make in its Postgraduate Education Program.

Sincerely yours,

Richard W. Kelley
Associate Director

Admiral Chester R. Bender
Commandant
The Coast Guard

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