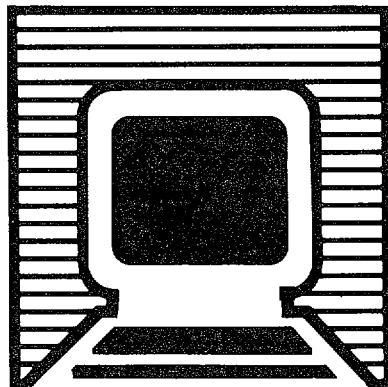
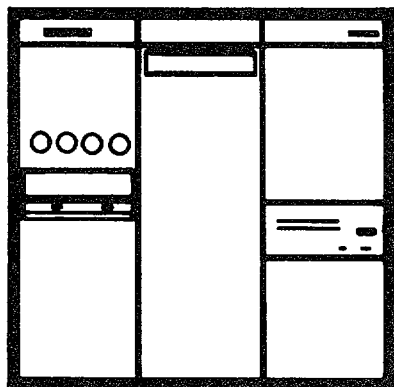




A Bibliography of Documents Issued by the
GAO on Matters Related to:

ADP, IRM & Telecommunications



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United States General Accounting Office

A Bibliography of Documents Issued by the
GAO on Matters Related to:

ADP, IRM & Telecommunications

IMTEC-85-9
April 1985

U.S. GENERAL ACCOUNTING OFFICE

CHARLES A. BOWSHER

COMPTROLLER GENERAL OF THE UNITED STATES

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FOREWORD

Increasingly, agencies are relying on computers, automatic data processing (ADP), information resources management (IRM), and telecommunications to help at all levels of management. The use and cost of these technologies call for knowledgeable and effective management of available resources and appropriate auditing.

Appropriate auditing of management encompasses a review of an agency's history to see if current problems were noted before and, if so, how they were addressed. To help auditors identify recurring ADP problems, the U.S. General Accounting Office (GAO), over the past few years, has issued bibliographies listing most GAO reports, decisions, and letters dealing with ADP. The first bibliography was issued in September 1981 (AFMD-81-85), the second in April 1982 (AFMD-82-50), the third in May 1983 (AFMD-83-53), and the fourth in April 1984 (IMTEC-84-9). They include ADP-related documents issued between 1976 and 1983.

Working with existing and future issues, one will be able to follow the history of major problems with ADP, IRM, and telecommunications and perhaps trace their resolution. Although GAO's Information Management and Technology Division is now primarily responsible for these issues, the material covered in this bibliography represents the total ADP, IRM, and telecommunications-related effort of all of GAO.

Questions about the bibliographies should be directed to the GAO IMTEC Information Center, Room 6468, 441 G Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20548, (202) 275-4634. To order individual documents or to request bibliographic searches on a specific topic, call GAO's Information Handling and Support Facility (IHSF) at (202) 275-6241. You may use the cards in this book to order documents.

INTRODUCTION

This expanded **ADP Bibliography** contains citations and abstracts of ADP, IRM, and telecommunications-related documents released by GAO during 1984 and earlier documents judged appropriate for inclusion in the bibliography. Included are references to audit reports, staff studies, speeches, testimonies, Comptroller General decisions, and other documents. You may use the bibliography for a variety of purposes, including in-depth research into a specific topic, searching for a particular document, maintaining current awareness, and general browsing.

HOW TO USE THE BIBLIOGRAPHY

The bibliography is divided into a CITATION SECTION (white pages) and an INDEX SECTION (yellow pages).

The CITATION SECTION consists of brief descriptions of the documents and often includes an informative abstract. Some or all of the following information is in each citation, as appropriate:

- o **Title or subtitle**
- o **Type, date, and pagination**
- o **Author or witness**
- o **GAO issue areas**
- o **Agencies or organizations concerned**
- o **Congressional Committees, Members of Congress, or agencies to whom the document is specifically relevant**
- o **Law and/or related statutory regulatory authorities upon which the document is based**
- o **GAO contact**

The INDEX SECTION is the key for locating references to documents cited in this bibliography. It is comprised of four indexes that classify information according to the following:

Subject

Agency or organization

(Includes both federal agencies and nongovernmental corporate bodies)

Congressional affiliation

(Includes entries under relevant congressional committees and individual Representatives and Senators)

Document number

(Includes entries arranged by report number and/or B-number--GAO's internal file system--and date)

Reference from the index entries to the corresponding citations is provided by a unique six-digit accession number assigned to each citation. You should also use the accession number to request copies of the document described in the CITATION SECTION.

A sample entry is shown opposite page one of the CITATION SECTION and at the beginning of each index.

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

CITATION SECTION

Accession Numbers

088865-123199	1
123202-123557	11
123560-124035	20
124038-124237	31
124258-124538	41
124565-124952	50
124959-125387	61
125388-125989	72

INDEX SECTION

Type of Index	Page
Subject	85
Agency/Organization	125
Congressional	137
Document Number	147
Common abbreviations used in this publication	inside back cover

CITATION SECTION

SAMPLE CITATION

Accession Number	125545		
Title/Subtitle (Invented Titles Are Bracketed)	Allegations of Contract Buy-In and Substantial Cost Increases in the Navy's Standard Automated Financial System.	IMTEC-85-2; B-214403.	Document/Report Number
Document Date	October 30, 1984.	9 pp. plus 3 appendices (18 pp.).	Pageination
Type of Document	Report to John F. Lehman, Jr., Secretary, Department of the Navy; by Warren G. Reed, Director, GAO Information Management and Technology Division.		Addressee
GAO Issue Area (Code Numbers in Parentheses)	Issue Area: Improving Financial Management: Other Issue Area Work (7091); Information Management and Technology: Other Issue Area Work (7191).		
Budget Function (Code Numbers in Parentheses)	Contact: Information Management and Technology Division. Budget Function: National Defense - Procurement and Contracts (051.2). Organization Concerned: Department of the Navy; Computer Sciences Corp.		GAO Contact Agency/Organization Concerned
Congressional Relevance	Congressional Relevance: Sen. William Proxmire. Authority: NAVCOMPT Manual para. 074723-3d.		Legislative Authority
Abstract	<p>Abstract: In response to a congressional request, GAO reviewed allegations made regarding the Navy's Standard Automated Financial System that: (1) the contractor "bought in" on the contract; (2) the Navy had decided to proceed with the project even though costs have substantially increased; and (3) project costs may increase to \$200 million. Findings/Conclusions: GAO did not find sufficient evidence to conclude that the contractor purposely made a low offer knowing that future modifications would be required and could be used to make up the understated amount. However, GAO found that project and contract costs have increased substantially because the original design concept was expanded, certain costs were not included in the original estimates, and the system's complexity was initially underestimated by both the contractor and the Navy. GAO also found that the Navy's decision to proceed with the project was based on mission needs, contractor commitments, and Navy project management improvements. The contracting officer felt that these factors outweighed concern over increased costs. Although GAO could not substantiate the allegation that project costs may rise to \$200 million, GAO believes that the costs are susceptible to future increases because the Navy does not have specific cost containment plans. Recommendation To Agencies: The Secretary of the Navy should direct the Assistant Secretary for Financial Management to firmly set the Navy's system requirements and ensure that the contractor provides fully documented design specifications at the end of the design phase as required by the contract. The Secretary of the Navy should direct the Assistant Secretary for Financial Management to prepare an updated economic analysis to compare current benefits, or those of a reduced system, with current project cost estimates, including all costs in accordance with NAVCOMPT manual, paragraph 074723-3d, and an updated cost-to-complete estimate from the contractor. The Secretary of the Navy should direct the Assistant Secretary for Financial Management to develop a contingency plan to identify alternative courses of action for management to contain costs and ensure cost-effective results.</p>		
Recommendations to Agencies			

088865

[Improving Generalists' Capabilities in Assessing Output Reliability and Internal Controls in Computer-Based Systems]. November 1982. 7 pp. plus 5 attachments (25 pp.).

by Robert W. Hanlon, Regional Manager, GAO Field Operations Division: Regional Office (Denver).

Contact: Field Operations Division: Regional Office (Denver).

Organization Concerned: General Accounting Office.

Authority: OMB Circular A-123.

088868

The Audit Survey. 1978. 14 pp.

Contact: Office of the Comptroller General.

088890

The Evaluation Synthesis. April 1983. 47 pp. plus 1 appendix (3 pp.) plus 1 enclosure (2 pp.).

by Eleanor Chelimsky, Director, GAO Institute for Program Evaluation.

Contact: Institute for Program Evaluation.

Organization Concerned: General Accounting Office.

088933

[Activities of Washington Data Processing Center Statistical Research Service]. B-167008. April 23, 1970. Released January 3, 1984. 3 pp.

Report to Rep. William L. Scott; by Robert F. Keller, Assistant Comptroller General.

Contact: Office of the Comptroller General.

Organization Concerned: U.S. Time Sharing, Inc.; Department of Agriculture: Statistical Reporting Service: Washington Data Processing Center.

Congressional Relevance: Rep. William L. Scott.

088965

Report of the ADP Task Force. November 17, 1982. 6 pp. plus 4 enclosures (4 pp.).

Memorandum to Charles A. Bowsher, Comptroller General; by Warren G. Reed, Chairman, GAO ADP Task Force.

Contact: ADP Task Force.

089018

[Internal Controls of the Transportation Computer Center and Pollution Reporting Incident Reporting System]. January 31, 1978. Released December 30, 1983. 9 pp.

Report to Edward W. Scott, Jr., Assistant Secretary, Department of Transportation; by Lloyd L. Gregory, Assistant Director, GAO Community and Economic Development Division.

Contact: Community and Economic Development Division.

Organization Concerned: Department of Transportation; United States Coast Guard.

089046

[Survey of the District of Columbia Procurement System]. September 29, 1976. Released December 30, 1983. 11 pp.

Report to Sam D. Starobin, Director, District of Columbia: Department of General Services; by Frank Medico, Assistant Director, GAO General Government Division.

Contact: General Government Division.

ADP Bibliography

Organization Concerned: District of Columbia: Department of General Services.

089059

[Review of Crimes in Computer-Based Data Processing Systems]. June 17, 1975. Released December 30, 1983. 1 p. plus 1 enclosure (4 pp.).

Report to David Legge, Acting Director, District of Columbia: Office of Municipal Audits and Inspection; by H.L. Krieger, Regional Manager, GAO Regional Office (Washington).

Contact: Field Operations Division: Regional Office (Washington).

Organization Concerned: District of Columbia: Office of Municipal Audits and Inspection.

089108

[Need for Computer Program Modifications To Show a Correct Organizational History of Employees' Earnings in the Civilian Payroll System of the U.S. Army Military District of Washington]. March 28, 1975. Released December 30, 1983. 2 pp. plus 1 enclosure (1 p.).

Report to Col. Edward B. Finch, Jr., Comptroller, Department of the Army: Military District of Washington; by H.L. Krieger, Regional Manager, GAO Regional Office (Washington).

Contact: Field Operations Division: Regional Office (Washington).

Organization Concerned: Department of the Army: Military District of Washington.

089117

[Need for Improved Controls at VA Regional Offices To Ensure Timely Correction of Rejected Transactions in the Automated Compensation and Pension System]. September 11, 1975. Released December 30, 1983. 11 pp.

Report to Rufus Wilson, Chief Benefits Director, Veterans Administration: Department of Veterans Benefits; by George d. Peck, Assistant Director, GAO Manpower and Welfare Division.

Contact: Manpower and Welfare Division.

089122

[Review of Crimes in Computer-Based Data Processing System]. August 13, 1975. Released December 30, 1983. 3 pp. plus 1 enclosure (1 p.).

Report to Edward J. Hekman, Administrator, Department of Agriculture: Food and Nutrition Service; by Richard J. Woods, Associate Director, GAO Resources and Economic Development Division.

Contact: Resources and Economic Development Division.

Organization Concerned: Department of Agriculture: Food and Nutrition Service; Department of Agriculture: Food and Nutrition Service: Food Stamp Division; Department of Agriculture: Food and Nutrition Service: Automated Data Processing Division; Department of Agriculture: Office of Audit; Department of Agriculture: Office of Investigations.

089124

[Comments on the Adequacy of the Audit Trail Within GPO's Automated Publication Receipt and Control System]. August 8, 1975. Released December 30, 1983. 2 pp. plus 3 enclosures (4 pp.).

Report to Walter C. DeVaughn, Assistant Public Printer, Government Printing Office; by H.L. Krieger, Regional Manager, GAO Regional Office (Washington).

Contact: Field Operations Division: Regional Office (Washington).

Organization Concerned: Government Printing Office.

089125

[Review of Leave Resulting From Delay Enroute Incident to Permanent Change of Duty Station]. August 7, 1975. Released December 30, 1983. 2 pp. plus 1 enclosure (1 p.).

Report to Department of the Navy: Pacific Fleet: Treasure Island Naval Station, San Francisco, CA; by K. L. Weary, Regional Manager, GAO Regional Office (Kansas City).

Contact: Field Operations Division: Regional Office (Kansas City).

Organization Concerned: Department of the Navy: Pacific Fleet: Treasure Island Naval Station, San Francisco, CA.

089196

[Alleged Violation of the General Services Administration Regulations by the Navy in the Purchase of IBM Optical Character Recognition (OCR) Typewriters]. B-164630. May 2, 1973. Released December 30, 1983. 3 pp.

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

Contact: Office of the Comptroller General.

Organization Concerned: Department of the Navy; Olivetti Corp. of America.

Congressional Relevance: Sen. William Proxmire.

089218

[Advanced, Computer-Oriented, Design System]. B-133170. August 9, 1973. Released December 30, 1983. 2 pp.

Report to Sen. Henry M. Jackson; by Elmer B. Staats, Comptroller General.

Contact: Office of the Comptroller General.

Organization Concerned: Computerized Interference Elimination, Inc.

Congressional Relevance: Sen. Henry M. Jackson.

089225

[Irregularities in the Performance of a Painting Contract at Fort Ord, California]. B-177185. December 4, 1972. Released December 30, 1983. 2 pp.

Report to Rep. Jack Brooks, Chairman, House Committee on Government Operations: Government Activities and Transportation Subcommittee; by Robert F. Keller, Deputy Comptroller General.

Contact: Office of the Comptroller General.

Organization Concerned: Department of the Army: Fort Ord, CA.

Congressional Relevance: House Committee on Government Operations: Government Activities and Transportation Subcommittee; Rep. Jack Brooks.

089229

[Air Force Decision Not To Purchase Certain Automatic Data Processing Equipment Located at Its Environmental Technical Applications Center, Washington, D.C.] B-151204. January 20, 1972. Released December 30, 1983. 9 pp.

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

Contact: Office of the Comptroller General.

Organization Concerned: Department of the Air Force.

Congressional Relevance: Sen. William Proxmire.

089247

[Use of ADP Equipment Operated by Three or Four Typical Government Contractors]. B-115369. November 24, 1971. Released December 30, 1983. 4 pp.

Report to Sen. William Proxmire, Chairman, Joint Economic Committee: Priorities and Economy in Government Subcommittee; by Elmer B. Staats, Comptroller General.

Contact: Office of the Comptroller General.

Organization Concerned: Department of Energy: Lawrence Berkeley Radiation Laboratory; Atomic Energy Commission.

Congressional Relevance: Joint Economic Committee: Priorities and Economy in Government Subcommittee; Joint Economic Committee: Economy in Government Subcommittee; Sen. William Proxmire.

089255

[Survey of the Small Business Administration's Accounting for Loan Guaranty Fees]. AFMD-82-79. May 14, 1982. Released December 21, 1983. 3 pp.

Report to Harry S. Carver, Controller, Small Business Administration; by John F. Simonette, Associate Director, GAO Accounting and Financial Management Division.

Issue Area: Accounting and Financial Reporting: Systems To Insure That Amounts Owed the Federal Government Are Fully and Promptly Collected (2803).

Contact: Accounting and Financial Management Division.

Budget Function: Financial Management and Information Systems: Accounting Systems in Operation (998.1).

Organization Concerned: Small Business Administration.

Abstract: GAO surveyed the Small Business Administration's (SBA) Loan Accounting System, which processes loan guaranty fees. **Findings/Conclusions:** The survey showed that information in the Loan Accounting System was not accurate. The system carried over \$2 million in delinquent guaranty fees, but a review showed that the fees had already been paid or that they were no longer applicable because the related loans had been canceled. Because the accounting system was not producing reliable information, managers maintained manual memorandum records to account for guaranty fee collections and to initiate followup on delinquent fees, a duplicative and costly process. SBA field offices found that 64 percent of the fees shown as due the Government had been paid, but had not been recorded in the system. The remaining 36 percent of the fees should have been deleted from the system because the loans, although approved, were not made. SBA has identified the necessary changes to the automated billing segment of the system. It is important that these changes be quickly implemented and thoroughly tested so that SBA will be able to more efficiently and effectively manage the guaranty fees and realize significant savings by eliminating manual memorandum records.

100002

[Earth Resources Information Satellite System Act]. B-181426. January 3, 1977. Released September 27, 1983.

Letter to Sen. Frank E. Moss, Chairman, Senate Committee on Aeronautical and Space Sciences; by Elmer B. Staats, Comptroller General.

Contact: Office of the General Counsel.

Organization Concerned: National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

Congressional Relevance: Senate Committee on Aeronautical and Space Sciences.

100065

[*Legal Requirements for Retention of Grant-Related Records*]. B-163391. November 18, 1976. Released September 27, 1983. Letter to J. W. Morris, Vice President, Russell and Axon, Inc.; by Rollee Lowenstein, Assistant General Counsel.

Contact: Office of the General Counsel.

100067

[*Use of Microfilm for Record Keeping Purposes*]. B-100489. April 1, 1977. Released September 27, 1983.

Letter to Col. Thomas F. Blake, Jr., Chairman, Department of Defense; by Paul G. Dembling, General Counsel.

Contact: Office of the General Counsel.

100113

[*Survey of the Billing and Collection System for Foreign Military Sales*]. February 28, 1977. Released December 30, 1983.

Report to Maj. Gen. Harold F. Hardin, Jr., Commanding General, Department of the Army: U.S. Army Tank-Automotive Materiel Readiness Command; by Walter C. Herrmann, Jr., Regional Manager, GAO Field Operations Division: Regional Office (Detroit).

Issue Area: International Affairs: Foreign Military Sales and Other U.S. Military Assistance (0605).

Contact: Field Operations Division: Regional Office (Detroit).

Organization Concerned: Department of the Army: International Logistics Command; Department of the Army: U.S. Army Tank-Automotive Materiel Readiness Command.

Abstract: The billing and collection system for foreign military sales (FMS) cases at the Army Tank-Automotive Materiel Readiness Command (TARCOM) was surveyed. In addition to nine FMS cases totaling \$55.2 million from contractor plants, depot stock, and depot rebuild programs, two cases involving the sale of M60 tanks were examined. **Findings/Conclusions:** TARCOM did not send billings to the International Logistics Command (ILC) in a timely manner. Delays ranged from 4 months to 1 year in billings for vehicles valued at about \$17.6 million. TARCOM did not always follow up on billings sent to ILC to ensure timely collection. Collections representing an asset use charge were erroneously applied to a Procurement of Equipment and Missiles appropriation rather than to Miscellaneous Receipts, U.S. Treasury. **Recommendation To Agencies:** Controls over the billing activities should be established to ensure that all shipment data is timely inputted into the computer system and that the billings generated by the computer system are processed quickly and accurately. Procedures should be established requiring TARCOM personnel to age outstanding billings and followup if collection is not received within a specified time. Funds collected for an asset use charge should be immediately deposited to miscellaneous receipts.

100463

[*Request for Opportunity To Inspect Certain GAO Records Relating to Contracts*]. B-173761, B-185146. December 13, 1976. Released September 27, 1983.

Letter to Carl B. Dunlap, Mikelco, Inc.; by Richard R. Pierson, Associate General Counsel.

Contact: Office of the General Counsel: Special Studies and Analysis.

Organization Concerned: Field Operations Division: Regional Office (Dallas).

ADP Bibliography

100469

[*Summary of Records Retention Requirements Relating to the Activities of the GAO*]. A-65768. February 16, 1977. Released September 27, 1983.

Letter to Fred J. Emery, National Archives and Records Service: Office of the Federal Register; by Paul G. Dembling, General Counsel.

Contact: Office of the General Counsel.

100566

[*Views and Comments on H.R. 15353, 94th Congress, Second Session*]. B-173761. November 19, 1976. Released September 27, 1983.

Letter to Rep. Jack Brooks, Chairman, House Committee on Government Operations; by Robert F. Keller, Deputy Comptroller General.

Contact: Office of the General Counsel: Special Studies and Analysis.

Congressional Relevance: House Committee on Government Operations.

102434

[*The Department of Agriculture's Allegation Concerning the General Services Administration's Mandatory Requirements Contract for ITEL Disk Drives*]. LCD-77-115; B-146864. June 20, 1977. Released October 27, 1983.

Report to Rep. Jack Brooks, Chairman, House Committee on Government Operations; by Robert F. Keller, Deputy Comptroller General.

Issue Area: Automatic Data Processing: Acquiring and Using Resources (0102).

Contact: Logistics and Communications Division.

Budget Function: Automatic Data Processing (990.1).

Organization Concerned: General Services Administration; Department of Agriculture; ITEL Data Products Corp.

Congressional Relevance: House Committee on Government Operations.

Abstract: A dispute among the Department of Agriculture, the General Services Administration (GSA), and the ITEL Data Products Corporation concerned an allegation by the Department that disk drives acquired from ITEL through a GSA mandatory requirements contract were causing degradation of service. The Department replaced IBM disk drives with the ITEL disk drives in response to previous GAO recommendations. After testing revealed problems of degradation, the Department curtailed further installation claiming that a breach of contract existed, and provided ITEL with a study supporting its claim. After the issue was brought to the attention of GSA, the contracting officer concluded that ITEL was not in breach of the contract and that the Department's refusal to replace the disk drives was a breach of contract and in violation of regulations. **Findings/Conclusions:** GAO contracted with the Federal Computer Performance Evaluation and Simulation center (FEDSIM) to evaluate the Department's study. FEDSIM concluded that: the study involved the use of inappropriate statistical methods and some inadequate performance measures; failures attributed to ITEL disk drives occurred during the ITEL acceptance tests; environmental factors and test procedures may have adversely affected results; and the conclusion that ITEL disk drives' performance was inferior was not supported. Other Government users of the ITEL disk drives reported either that problems they encountered were thought to be related to environmental factors, or that performance was as

good or better than that of IBM disk drives. After further discussion, the Department agreed to accept and install ITEL disk drives, and ITEL and the Department agreed to negotiate any payments due ITEL as a result of the dispute.

102509

[Survey of States' Utilization Review Programs for Noninstitutional Services Under Medicaid]. March 16, 1977. Released December 30, 1983.

Report to Don I. Wortman, Acting Administrator, Department of Health, Education, and Welfare: Health Care Financing Administration; by Robert E. Iffert, Jr., Assistant Director, GAO Human Resources Division.

Issue Area: Health Programs (1200).

Contact: Human Resources Division.

Budget Function: Health: Health Care Services (551.0).

Organization Concerned: Department of Health, Education, and Welfare; Department of Health, Education, and Welfare: Health Care Financing Administration; Department of Health, Education, and Welfare: Social and Rehabilitation Service.

Authority: Federal Grant and Cooperative Agreement Act of 1977. H.R. 1503 (95th Cong.). Federal Grant and Cooperative Agreement Act of 1976. S. 1437 (94th Cong.). S. 3514 (94th Cong.).

Abstract: A survey of States' utilization review programs for noninstitutional service under Medicaid showed that there was considerable variation among the States regarding the extent and emphasis of their programs and that about 70 percent of the States could not provide any quantifiable information on the results of their program in terms of claims denied. **Findings/Conclusions:** At the time of the survey, there was wide variation in the extent to which States had implemented a noninstitutional utilization control program. Many States were performing this function manually, which is very difficult to do for many types of checks and edits. There was wide variation among the States in the criteria used to identify abnormal claims and in the number of personnel used to review abnormal claims in relation to the number of recipients. Reviews to determine the quality of care provided were nonexistent in a number of States and only covered some types of services in most other States. Even those States which indicated that their claims processing systems met all the requirements for Medicaid Management Information Systems (MMISs) could not provide data on the results of their noninstitutional utilization review programs. **Recommendation To Agencies:** The Social and Rehabilitation Service should ensure that the MMISs in use and being developed by the States have the capability to accumulate and report on the results of utilization control programs and that arrangement be made for the reporting and dissemination of such information.

102824

[Use of Public Funds by the National Technical Information Service To Compete With Private Industry]. B-158363. June 6, 1977. Released January 10, 1984.

Letter to Peter A. Cunningham, President, INPUT; by Elmer B. Staats, Comptroller General.

Contact: Financial and General Management Studies Division.

Organization Concerned: Department of Commerce: National Technical Information Service.

102825

[Approval of Revised Design of Accounting System for U.S. Army Corps of Engineers]. FGMSD-77-45; B-159797. June 21, 1977. Released January 10, 1984.

Letter to Secretary, Department of Defense; by Elmer B. Staats, Comptroller General.

Contact: Financial and General Management Studies Division.

103078

[Evaluation of System Design of the Department of the Navy's Armed Forces Health Professions Scholarship Program Pay System]. B-159797. August 23, 1977. Released January 10, 1984.

Letter to Secretary, Department of Defense; by Robert F. Keller, Acting Comptroller General.

Contact: Financial and General Management Studies Division.

Organization Concerned: Department of the Navy.

103353

[Proposed Regulation Prescribing New "Fixed-Price Options" Provisions for Use in Automatic Data Processing Systems Procurement]. B-186313, B-188658. August 24, 1977. Released January 10, 1984.

Letter to Philip G. Read, Director, Federal Supply Service; by Paul G. Dembling, General Counsel.

Contact: Office of the General Counsel.

Organization Concerned: General Services Administration.

103488

[Organization of Issues Involved in Establishing Machinery and Processes for Handling the Paperwork Problem]. B-182087. September 7, 1977. Released January 10, 1984.

Letter to Frank Horton, Chairman, Commission on Federal Paperwork; by Elmer B. Staats, Comptroller General.

Contact: General Government Division.

Organization Concerned: Office of Management and Budget.

103489

[Right To Make Public a Library of Congress Written Work Product]. B-189669. September 9, 1977. Released January 10, 1984. Letter to Rep. John B. Breckinridge; by Robert F. Keller, Deputy Comptroller General.

Contact: Office of the General Counsel.

Organization Concerned: Library of Congress; House of Representatives.

Congressional Relevance: Rep. John B. Breckinridge.

104823

[GAO's Policies and Practices To Prevent Misuse of Access and Disclosure Authority]. B-164031(4). January 25, 1978. Released January 10, 1984.

Letter to Rep. Richardson Preyer, Chairman, House Committee on Government Operations: Government Information and Individual Rights Subcommittee; by Elmer B. Staats, Comptroller General.

Contact: Office of Program Planning.

Organization Concerned: General Accounting Office.

Congressional Relevance: House Committee on Government Operations: Government Information and Individual Rights Subcommittee; Rep. Richardson Preyer.

105024

[Government Small Purchase Procedures]. B-182869. January 24, 1978. Released January 3, 1984.

Letter to Philip G. Read, Director, Federal Supply Service; by Paul G. Dembling, General Counsel.

Contact: Office of the General Counsel: Special Studies and Analysis.

105644

[Relation of Independent Regulatory Agencies to Paperwork Reduction Program]. B-180224. April 19, 1978. Released January 10, 1984.

Letter to Alfred E. Kahn, Chairman, Civil Aeronautics Board; by Elmer B. Staats, Comptroller General.

Contact: Office of the General Counsel.

Organization Concerned: Commission on Federal Paperwork.

105972

[Evaluation of Two Proposals for Design of a New Financial Management System for the District Government]. B-118638. May 15, 1978. Released January 10, 1984.

Letter to Sen. Thomas F. Eagleton; by Elmer B. Staats, Comptroller General.

Contact: Office of the Comptroller General.

Organization Concerned: District of Columbia; Peat, Marwick, Mitchell and Co.; American Management Systems, Inc.

Congressional Relevance: Sen. Thomas F. Eagleton.

106189

[Legality of Contract Award to Kentron Hawaii, Ltd. by the Department of Transportation]. B-115369. May 31, 1978. Released January 10, 1984.

Letter to Rep. Jack Brooks, Chairman, House Committee on Government Operations; by Elmer B. Staats, Comptroller General.

Contact: Office of the General Counsel.

Organization Concerned: Department of Transportation; Kentron Hawaii, Ltd.

Congressional Relevance: House Committee on Government Operations; Rep. Jack Brooks.

106221

[Availability of GAO Records to the Public]. B-173761, B-178780. June 12, 1978. Released September 27, 1983. 4 pp.

Letter to Richard D. Neumann, Air United States; by Henry R. Wray, Assistant General Counsel.

Contact: Office of the General Counsel: Special Studies and Analysis.

Organization Concerned: Department of the Air Force; Saturn Airways, Inc.; Air United States.

Authority: Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552). 4 C.F.R. 81.

106255

[Approval of Statement of Accounting Principles and Standards]. FGMSD-78-45; B-166741. June 14, 1978. Released January 4, 1984. 3 pp. plus 1 enclosure (9 pp.).

Letter to James B. King, Chairman, National Transportation Safety Board; by Robert F. Keller, Acting Comptroller General.

Contact: Financial and General Management Studies Division.

Organization Concerned: Urban Mass Transportation Administration.

106476

[Freedom of Information Act Request for Records]. B-173761. July 25, 1978. Released January 3, 1984. 3 pp.

Letter to Ralph Applegate; by Henry R. Wray, Assistant General Counsel.

Contact: Office of the General Counsel: Special Studies and Analysis.

Authority: 4 C.F.R. 81. Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552).

106776

[Proposed Procedure for Access by GAO to Records of Students in the Murphy School District]. B-164031(1).174. July 31, 1978. Released September 27, 1983. 7 pp.

Letter to Gilbert T. Venable, Venable, Rice, Lee and Capra; by Paul G. Dembling, General Counsel.

Contact: Office of the General Counsel: Special Studies and Analysis.

Organization Concerned: Arizona: Murphy School District; Venable, Rice, Lee and Capra.

Authority: 20 U.S.C. 1232.

106777

[Establishment of a Central Focal Point for Telecommunications Matters]. B-131935. August 18, 1978. Released October 4, 1983. 4 pp.

Letter to James T. McIntyre, Jr., Director, Office of Management and Budget; by Elmer B. Staats, Comptroller General.

Contact: Logistics and Communications Division.

Organization Concerned: Office of Telecommunications Policy; Office of Management and Budget.

Authority: Executive Order 11556. Executive Order 12046. Communications Act of 1978. H.R. 13015 (95th Cong.). Reorganization Plan No. 1 of 1970. B-116655 (1969).

106870

[Audit of the Interstate Organized Crime Index]. GG-8-273; B-171019. August 18, 1978. Released October 4, 1983.

Letter to Rep. John E. Moss, Chairman, House Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce: Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee; Rep. John Conyers, Jr., Chairman, House Committee on the Judiciary: Crime Subcommittee; by Elmer B. Staats, Comptroller General.

Contact: General Government Division.

Organization Concerned: Law Enforcement Assistance Administration.

Congressional Relevance: House Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce: Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee; House Committee on the Judiciary: Crime Subcommittee; Rep. John E. Moss; Rep. John Conyers, Jr.

107007

[Policy and Procedures Pertaining to Procurement of ADP Equipment]. B-159605. August 9, 1978. Released October 4, 1983.

Letter to T. G. Cassidy, Acting Deputy Director, Department of Defense: Office of the Secretary; by Milton J. Socolar, (for Paul G. Dembling, General Counsel).

Contact: Office of the General Counsel.

Organization Concerned: General Services Administration; Department of Defense: Office of the Secretary.

107059

[Contract/Relationship Between the City of Boston and Health and Hospitals, Inc.] B-173761. September 18, 1978. Released October 4, 1983.

Letter to Joseph M. Tierney, City Councillor, Boston, MA; by Henry R. Wary, Assistant General Counsel.

Contact: Office of the General Counsel: Special Studies and Analysis.

Organization Concerned: Health and Hospitals, Inc.; Boston, MA.

107421

[Federal Agency Compliance with Indexing and Publishing Requirements of the Freedom of Information Act]. B-173761. October 12, 1978. Released January 4, 1984.

Letter to Sen. James Abourezk, Chairman, Senate Committee on the Judiciary: Administrative Practice and Procedure Subcommittee; by Elmer B. Staats, Comptroller General.

Contact: Logistics and Communications Division.

Organization Concerned: General Services Administration; National Archives and Records Service.

Congressional Relevance: Senate Committee on the Judiciary: Administrative Practice and Procedure Subcommittee; Sen. James Abourezk.

107974

[H.R. 13955, the Paperwork and Redtape Reduction Act of 1978]. GG-8-354; B-182087. November 27, 1978. Released January 4, 1984.

Letter to Rep. Frank Horton; Rep. Jack Brooks, Chairman, House Committee on Government Operations; by Elmer B. Staats, Comptroller General.

Contact: General Government Division.

Organization Concerned: Office of Management and Budget.

Congressional Relevance: House Committee on Government Operations; Rep. Frank Horton; Rep. Jack Brooks.

114062

Reissuing Tamper-Resistant Cards Will Not Eliminate Misuse of Social Security Numbers. HRD-81-20; B-201373. December 23, 1980. Released January 5, 1981. 30 pp. plus 4 appendices (8 pp.).

Report to Sen. Max S. Baucus, Chairman, Senate Committee on the Judiciary: Limitations of Contracted and Delegated Authority Subcommittee; by Elmer B. Staats, Comptroller General.

Issue Area: Income Security and Social Services: Program Resource Allocation and Utilization (1310).

Contact: Human Resources Division.

Budget Function: Income Security: General Retirement and Disability Insurance (601.0).

Organization Concerned: Department of Health and Human Services; Social Security Administration.

Congressional Relevance: Senate Committee on the Judiciary: Limitations of Contracted and Delegated Authority Subcommittee; Sen. Max S. Baucus.

Authority: Social Security Act. Tax Reform Act of 1976.

Abstract: The social security number (SSN) has become a widespread means of identification in the United States. As its use as an identifier has grown, so has the opportunity for its misuse, often to fraudulently obtain employment or monetary benefits. GAO reported on whether there is a need for redesigning and reissuing tamper-resistant social security cards to prevent misuse of the card, and the appropriateness of using social security trust funds to pay for such reissuance. **Findings/Conclusions:** GAO found that reissuing the cards will not correct the underlying conditions contributing to social security number and card misuse. For instance, it will not prevent individuals from

obtaining social security numbers using false identity documents or from using someone else's number and card. Furthermore, neither the Social Security Administration (SSA) nor other public or private entities would benefit appreciably from such reissuance. Therefore, GAO questioned whether the cost of reissuing the cards, which would be at least \$850 million and could be as much as \$2 billion, is justifiable. Additionally, from a logistical standpoint, reissuance may not be practicable and may cause adverse public reaction. GAO found that SSA has taken other steps to strengthen the integrity of the social security numbering system. Currently, all applicants requesting original social security numbers must submit documentary evidence of age, identity, and citizenship or alien status along with the application. SSA has identified many fraudulently obtained numbers in its system but has not flagged them for SSA and other agency uses. Some of the problems contributing to social security number and card misuses are beyond the control or authority of SSA. **Recommendation To Congress:** The Congress should enact legislation similar that proposed, making it a felony to fraudulently obtain or use one or more SSNs or to alter, reproduce, counterfeit, buy, or sell the SSN or card. **Recommendation To Agencies:** The Secretary of HHS should direct the Commissioner of Social Security to further strengthen the integrity of the SSN system by placing the SSN application forms and cards under tighter controls. The Secretary of HHS should direct the Commissioner of Social Security to further strengthen the integrity of the SSN system by flagging identified fraudulently obtained SSNs currently in the system for SSA and other agency uses. The Secretary of HHS should direct the Commissioner of Social Security to further strengthen the integrity of the SSN system by encouraging the States to tighten their controls over vital statistics records since State programs can be adversely affected by SSN misuse. The Secretary of Health and Human Services should direct the Commissioner of Social Security to further strengthen the integrity of the SSN system by providing training to social security field office personnel to enable them to more readily detect fraudulent evidentiary documents submitted with SSN applications.

114830

Improved Collections Can Reduce Federal and District Government Food Stamp Program Costs. GGD-81-31; B-201283. April 3, 1981. 30 pp. plus 2 appendices (11 pp.).

Report to Marion S. Barry, Jr., Mayor, District of Columbia; by William J. Anderson, Director, GAO General Government Division.

Issue Area: Food: Non-Line-of-Effort Assignments (1751).

Contact: General Government Division.

Budget Function: General Purpose Fiscal Assistance: Other General Purpose Fiscal Assistance (852.0).

Organization Concerned: District of Columbia: Department of Housing and Community Development; Department of Agriculture; District of Columbia; District of Columbia: Department of Human Services; Office of Fair Hearings.

Congressional Relevance: House Committee on Appropriations: District of Columbia Subcommittee; House Committee on District of Columbia; Senate Committee on Appropriations: District of Columbia Subcommittee; Senate Committee on Governmental Affairs: Governmental Efficiency and the District of Columbia Subcommittee.

Authority: Self-Government and Governmental Reorganization Act (District of Columbia) (P.L. 93-198; 87 Stat. 774). Food Stamp Act of 1964 (7 U.S.C. 2011 et seq.).

Abstract: GAO studied collection procedures for amounts owed to the District of Columbia by food stamp vendors for cash and food stamp shortages and by recipients who were overissued stamps. **Findings/Conclusions:** The District has collected a minimal amount due from food stamp vendors and recipients.

Inadequate collection efforts, lack of systems for identifying improper issuances and for monitoring collection efforts, and poor controls over recipient participation cards contributed to the problem. As a result, District and Department of Agriculture costs were unnecessarily increased. The District was not claiming all reimbursable costs incurred in administering the program. Amounts owed by recipients may be written off as uncollectible after required collection efforts have been exhausted. There are no criteria, however, to provide guidance concerning maximum timeframes within which various processing steps should be accomplished, and there is no reporting system to monitor the progress of claims processing or highlight problem claims. The District has not identified and attempted to collect overissuances resulting from duplicate redemptions or from redemptions of expired, altered, and unsigned participation cards. The District's participation card system does not provide control over the cards, results in increased costs, and does not safeguard the cards to prevent unauthorized use. Transaction cards which have been returned by vendors were improperly filed and stored without adequate physical control to prevent reintroducing the cards into the system. **Recommendation To Agencies:** The Mayor should require the Director of the Department of Human Services (DHS) to establish controls over unused cards in the hands of the computer operators. The Mayor should require the Director of DHS to remind issuers that they are liable and will not be paid fees for improper issuances. The Mayor should instruct the Director of DHS to adopt a policy to consistently offset shortages against transaction fees earned by the vendors. The Mayor should instruct the Director of DHS to investigate all shortages and institute recovery actions when District employees are determined responsible. The Mayor should instruct the Director of DHS to establish maximum time frames within which certain claim processing steps must be accomplished. The Mayor should instruct the Director of DHS to terminate the vendor's participation in the program after taking steps to minimize impact on food stamp recipients served by the vendor if he is unable to reach such agreements with a private vendor within a reasonable period of time. The Mayor should instruct the Director of DHS to establish a policy and procedures for initiating and settling claims for food stamp shortages incurred at District agency issuing outlets. The Mayor should instruct the Director of DHS to include offsetting agency food stamp shortages against moneys due that agency by DHS for operating such outlets. The Mayor should instruct the Director of DHS to establish a procedure to submit claims for unpaid shortages to vendor insurance companies where appropriate. The Mayor should require the Director of DHS to establish a system to record and control serial numbers of participation cards received, distributed, and used. The Mayor should instruct the Directors of DHS and the Department of Housing and Community Services (DHCD) to finalize the agreement under which DHCD issues food stamps at its locations to enable DHS to recover reimbursable administrative costs from the Department of Agriculture. The Mayor should require the Director of DHS to devise a system that will ensure that all voided cards are rendered unusable, are appropriately recorded, and are destroyed within established timeframes. The Mayor should require the Director of DHS to reemphasize to issuers and personnel working in the Food Stamp Program the importance of ensuring that participation cards presented for redemption have not expired, have not been altered, and have been signed by eligible recipients. The Mayor should require the Director of DHS to establish a system to sample redeemed participation cards to evaluate the extent of compliance with program requirements concerning expired, altered, and unsigned cards. As appropriate, redemption of expired, altered, and unsigned cards should be considered as unauthorized issuances for which issuers are liable for the value of the stamps and any fees paid. The Mayor should require the Director of DHS to ensure that the Office of Fair Hearings expedites food stamp

fraud hearings and reports on the status of all food stamp fraud cases until the backlog has been eliminated. The Mayor should instruct the Director of DHS to expand collection efforts for large outstanding amounts to include personal contacts with recipients who do not respond to inquiries concerning food stamp overissuances or do not execute or comply with repayment agreements. The Mayor should instruct the Director of DHS to require that the proposed computerized report on claims be modified to show the status of each claim, the length of time the claim was in each status, and whether the claim was progressing in accordance with established timeframes. The Mayor should require the Director of DHS to revise the filing system for transacted cards so that they are accessible by serial or case number and provide secured storage to prevent their reintroduction into the system. The Mayor should instruct the Director of DHS to execute food stamp contracts with all vendors and obtain documentation that vendors have secured insurance and bonding coverage required by their contracts.

117731

District Could Get More for Urban Renewal Property, but HUD Debt Will Be Repaid. GGD-82-32; B-204207. March 8, 1982. Released March 10, 1982. 13 pp. plus 1 appendix (3 pp.).

Report to Sen. William Proxmire, Ranking Minority Member, Senate Committee on Appropriations; by William J. Anderson, Director, GAO General Government Division.

Issue Area: Domestic Housing and Community Development: How Effective Are Local Communities in Administering Community Development Assistance? (2169).

Contact: General Government Division.

Budget Function: Community and Regional Development: Community Development (451.0).

Organization Concerned: District of Columbia; Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Congressional Relevance: House Committee on Appropriations: District of Columbia Subcommittee; House Committee on District of Columbia; Senate Committee on Appropriations: District of Columbia Subcommittee; Senate Committee on Governmental Affairs: Governmental Efficiency and the District of Columbia Subcommittee; Senate Committee on Appropriations; Sen. William Proxmire.

Authority: Housing Act of 1949 (42 U.S.C. 1441). Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 (42 U.S.C. 5301 et seq.). Self-Government and Governmental Reorganization Act (District of Columbia) (P.L. 93-198; 87 Stat. 774).

Abstract: GAO was requested to examine selected aspects of the District of Columbia's urban renewal property disposition activity. **Findings/Conclusions:** The review showed that District urban renewal property sales should generate sufficient revenues to satisfy the remaining indebtedness to the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). However, GAO is not certain that the District is receiving the best possible price for such properties. Sales prices are based on appraised values and are not set through competitive bidding or public auction; awards are made based on design competition and other criteria. The District has no formal procedures for disposing of urban renewal property, although it generally follows HUD guidelines which offer local agencies substantial latitude. GAO did find some instances where HUD guidelines were not followed. The basis for selecting one developer over another is not clear, and the District's records provide little documentation in this regard. **Recommendation To Agencies:** The Mayor of the District of Columbia should require the Redevelopment Land Agency to formalize and implement procedures for property disposition which provide for use of either sealed bids or public auction, within the parameters of the intended uses and restrictions applicable to the property, to

determine what buyers are willing to pay. The Mayor of the District of Columbia should require the Redevelopment Land Agency to formalize and implement procedures for property disposition which provide for criteria for developer selection. The Mayor of the District of Columbia should require the Redevelopment Land Agency to formalize and implement procedures for property disposition which provide for orderly and complete property disposition files. The Mayor of the District of Columbia should require the Redevelopment Land Agency to formalize and implement procedures for property disposition which provide for documentation of the process of selection and price determination. The Mayor of the District of Columbia should require the Redevelopment Land Agency to formalize and implement procedures for property disposition which provide for a public record of the reasons a particular developer is selected.

122615

Review of the Audit of the National Consumer Cooperative Bank's Financial Statements for the Year Ended December 31, 1982. AFMD-83-101; B-200951. September 30, 1983. 2 pp. plus 1 appendix (10 pp.).

Report to Congress; by Charles A. Bowsher, Comptroller General.

Issue Area: Accounting and Financial Reporting: Operations, Financial Position, and Changes in Financial Position (2802).

Contact: Accounting and Financial Management Division.

Budget Function: Financial Management and Information Systems: Regulatory Accounting Rules and Financial Reporting (998.6); Commerce and Housing Credit: Other Advancement of Commerce (376.0).

Organization Concerned: National Consumer Cooperative Bank.

Congressional Relevance: Congress.

Authority: Consumer Cooperative Bank Act (12 U.S.C. 3001 et seq.).

Abstract: GAO reviewed the independent audits of the balance sheets of the National Consumer Cooperative Bank (NCCB) as of December 31, 1982, and the related statements of operations and retained earnings and changes in financial position for the years then ended. **Findings/Conclusions:** After examining its workpapers and determining the quality and reliability of its audit, GAO relied on the independent auditor's work as the basis for its review. The auditor concluded that the NCCB financial statements presented fairly the financial position of NCCB as of December 31, 1982, and conformed with generally accepted accounting principles. GAO also found nothing to indicate that the audit was inappropriate or could not be relied on.

122883

[Adequacy of the DOD Response to Its Inspector General's Report on the Use of Vehicles Assigned to the Office of the Secretary of Defense Executive Motor Pool]. NSIAD-84-10; B-211921. October 25, 1983. *Released* November 25, 1983. 7 pp. plus 2 enclosures (21 pp.).

Report to Sen. William V. Roth, Jr., Chairman, Senate Committee on Governmental Affairs; by Charles A. Bowsher, Comptroller General.

Issue Area: Logistics Management: Improvements in the Utilization of Equipment To Reduce Equipment Requirements (3815).

Contact: National Security and International Affairs Division.

Budget Function: National Defense: Defense-Related Activities (054.0).

Organization Concerned: Department of Defense: Office of the Secretary; Department of Defense.

Congressional Relevance: House Committee on Appropriations: Defense Subcommittee; Senate Committee on Appropriations:

Defense Subcommittee; Senate Committee on Governmental Affairs; Sen. William V. Roth, Jr.

Authority: DOD Reg. 4500.36-R. DOD Instruction 70. B-210555 (1983). 31 U.S.C. 1344.

Abstract: Pursuant to a congressional request, GAO reviewed the operations of the executive motor pools that support the Office of the Secretary of Defense (OSD), and it conducted a followup on a 1982 Department of Defense (DOD) Inspector General report concerning executive motor pool operations to determine: (1) the corrective actions that were taken concerning questionable trips; (2) the reasons for no corrective actions if none were taken; and (3) the adequacy of present controls over the use of OSD vehicles. **Findings/Conclusions:** GAO found that the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense (Administration) sent letters to officials involved in the questionable use of government-owned vehicles asking them to indicate the purpose of each trip and whether it was personal or official business. In addition, letters were sent to other officials asking them to indicate the purpose of trips taken by relatives and whether the trips were for personal or official business. As a result of these investigations, many officials were asked to reimburse the government. The GAO review also revealed that: (1) the listing of acceptable methods of transportation of personnel before and after normal duty hours was revised; (2) trips are now being questioned by dispatchers; (3) DOD Instruction 70 was prepared as a guideline for the use of the executive motor pool; (4) drivers are now required to fill out a special daily log sheet for all their trips; and (5) quarterly reviews of dispatch records and daily logs are being conducted. GAO concluded that the actions taken to identify and collect for personal trips, except those concerning the transportation of unaccompanied relatives, were prompt and reasonable. Although GAO recognized that the transportation of unaccompanied relatives of government employees has been viewed by many as "official business," it could find no basis to authorize such use. In addition, GAO determined that the actions taken to tighten controls over the use of the motor pool should significantly lessen the possibility of misuse in the future. **Recommendation To Agencies:** The Secretary of Defense should revise DOD regulations to preclude home-to-work transportation for any officials other than those authorized in the law as interpreted by the GAO June 3, 1983, decision or under special circumstances cited in previous GAO decisions.

123141

[Protest of IRS Elimination of Proposal From Competitive Range]. B-209166.2. December 27, 1983. 17 pp.

Decision re: Control Data Corp.; by Harry R. Van Cleve, (for Charles A. Bowsher, Comptroller General).

Contact: Office of the General Counsel.

Organization Concerned: Control Data Corp.; Internal Revenue Service.

Authority: 4 C.F.R. 21.2(b)(2). 60 Comp. Gen. 468. 57 Comp. Gen. 827. *Compuserve Data Systems, Inc. v. Freeman*, 498 F. Supp. 1316 (1980). B-185027 (1976). B-200775 (1981). B-206012.3 (1982). B-201853.3 (1982).

Abstract: A firm protested the elimination of its proposal from competition under an Internal Revenue Service (IRS) procurement. After the protester's proposal had been received as technically acceptable, IRS requested that a segment of the benchmark be redone to show that the bid met the requirement calling for the display of all resource elements in the contract. The protester failed to perform the task within the required timeframe and was removed from competition. The protester argued that: (1) its proposal had initially met the requirement; and (2) IRS failed to clarify the deficiency in sufficient time to permit correction. The protester complained that the requirement's ambiguity rendered its proposal inadequate. However, GAO held that the

implications of the requirement were clear from the entire solicitation and that the protester was properly eliminated from competition. GAO also noted that the discussions held between IRS and the protester put the protester on notice that its bid required correction. Since the protester did not provide evidence that it was given insufficient time to make the correction, its argument was not persuasive. Accordingly, the protest was denied.

123165

[Protest of Certain Requirements Under D.C. Solicitation]. B-213150. January 3, 1984. 4 pp.

Decision re: Amdahl Corp.; by Harry R. Van Cleve, (for Charles A. Bowsher, Comptroller General).

Contact: Office of the General Counsel.

Organization Concerned: Amdahl Corp.; District of Columbia.

Authority: 4 C.F.R. 21.2(a). 4 C.F.R. 21.2(b). B-212356 (1983). B-211474.2 (1983). B-211246.2 (1983).

Abstract: A firm protested certain specifications in a solicitation for automatic data processing equipment issued by the District of Columbia. The protester contended that, when the solicitation was issued, only one firm could meet a requirement for customer references and demonstrations, which would have created an unjustifiable sole-source procurement. The protester also contended that, although its equipment was unavailable at the time of the solicitation, it would be available by the time the District needed it, and that, in this light, the requirement for customer references was unreasonable. The District contended that it did not intend to exclude proposals offering equipment not currently available. GAO held that the solicitation did not accurately reflect the District's intended evaluation scheme and that this action unnecessarily precluded at least the protester from participation. Accordingly, the protest was sustained. GAO recommended that the District terminate the contract which was awarded and reopen the competition on an expedited basis.

123180

[The Energy Information Administration Needs To Strengthen Its Computer Systems Development Procedures]. RCED-84-42; B-213127. January 3, 1984. 3 pp. plus 2 enclosures (11 pp)

Report to: J. Erich Evered, Administrator, Energy Information Administration; by J. Dexter Peach, Director, GAO Resources, Community, and Economic Development Division.

Issue Area: Energy: Non-Line-of-Effort Assignments (1697); General Procurement: Non-Line-of-Effort Assignments (1951); Information Management: How Information Resources Are Being Integrated and Managed (4219).

Contact: Resources, Community, and Economic Development Division.

Budget Function: Energy: Energy Information, Policy, and Regulation (276.0).

Organization Concerned: Energy Information Administration; Department of Energy; Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

Congressional Relevance: House Committee on Appropriations: Interior Subcommittee; House Committee on Energy and Commerce; Senate Committee on Appropriations: Interior Subcommittee; Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

Abstract: GAO reviewed Energy Information Administration (EIA) procedures for developing automated information systems, focusing on the application of those procedures to the development of an automated hydropower billing system for the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC). EIA regularly provides computer systems development services for other Department of Energy components. **Findings/Conclusions:** GAO found that EIA did not have procedures for ensuring that systems development work was properly planned, reviewed, and tested. EIA did not

ensure that a contractor's work was based on a study of the needs of potential system users and did not control changes to the system requested by FERC after the system design was agreed upon. GAO believes that, while new systems development standards issued by EIA will alleviate some identified problems, further improvements can be made. **Recommendation To Agencies:** The Energy Information Administration should develop and implement specific procedures requiring that: (1) a user-needs analysis be performed for systems development projects; and (2) an appropriate management level, depending on the cost of the projects, conducts reviews when significant changes are made to the designs of the systems, at the end of each major development phase, and when planned costs or time frames are exceeded, or other significant problems are encountered.

123198

Increasing HUD Effectiveness Through Improved Management. RCED-84-9; B-208122. January 10, 1984. 195 pp.

Report to Congress; by Charles A. Bowsher, Comptroller General.

Issue Area: Domestic Housing and Community Development: Non-Line-of-Effort Assignments (2151).

Contact: Resources, Community, and Economic Development Division.

Budget Function: Community and Regional Development: Community Development (451.0).

Organization Concerned: Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Congressional Relevance: House Committee on the Budget; House Committee on Appropriations; House Committee on Banking, Currency and Housing; Senate Committee on Budget; Senate Committee on Appropriations: HUD-Independent Agencies Subcommittee; Senate Committee on Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs; Congress.

Authority: Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act of 1982 (P.L. 97-255). Housing Act. Congressional Budget and Impoundment Control Act of 1974. Housing and Urban Development Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3531 et seq.; 79 Stat. 667). Housing and Community Development Act of 1974. Housing and Community Development Amendments of 1981. Department of Housing and Urban Development--Independent Agencies Appropriations Act, 1983. Paperwork Reduction Act of 1980. P.L. 97-377. OMB Circular A-117. OMB Circular A-123.

Abstract: GAO evaluated management effectiveness at the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) with the intention of identifying and analyzing management problems. GAO focused on management's performance in: (1) organizing and directing HUD; (2) planning activities and determining resource allocations; (3) executing program delivery; and (4) providing management control. **Findings/Conclusions:** GAO found that HUD has many complex and longstanding problems and that there is a need to: (1) improve organizational stability; (2) increase emphasis on, and accountability for, general management functions; and (3) establish continuity in HUD top management. GAO believes that HUD reliance on the budget process to direct and control HUD activity has not been an effective substitute for needed management systems. Weaknesses in the analytical base used to support the HUD budget and to monitor and analyze program activity have hampered analysis and oversight by Congress and others. Consistent problems have affected program delivery, and HUD has not fully addressed the causes of financial management problems, including inadequacies in long range planning and the absence of a chief financial officer. In addition, HUD management information systems do not provide timely and accurate data which are necessary to establish control over HUD programs. GAO also found that accounting systems are not adequately automated and that many automated accounting

systems are obsolete. **Recommendation To Congress:** Congress should require HUD to expand budget justifications to fully reflect all material aspects of uncontrollable costs and the budgetary and economic consequences of programs on future agency funding needs and on Federal tax collections. **Recommendation To Agencies:** The Secretary of HUD should evaluate how well the new field structure is working. In this evaluation the Secretary should: (1) determine whether functional relationships among headquarters, regions, and field offices promote accountability and establish clear lines of authority; (2) the value of and contribution of regional offices in the management and delivery of program; (3) the cost and benefits of having field offices in all states, especially in the environment of a declining federal role; and (4) the relationship of ongoing and proposed policy and program changes to any organizational change. For the short range, the Secretary of HUD should build on existing efforts to improve planning processes by developing a department-wide planning system. This system should establish accountability for department-wide planning and include: (1) a multiyear Secretarial strategic plan; (2) policy development procedures; (3) program planning guidance; (4) operational plans; and (5) budget execution monitoring. For the short range, the Secretary of HUD should examine those obligations which may not be firm commitments and make appropriate deobligations in order to improve the credibility of HUD budget estimates and free unneeded funding. For the long range, the Secretary of HUD should enhance the analytical base of the budget by continuing efforts to develop and improve financial management systems that integrate budgeting and accounting. For the long range, the Secretary of HUD should enhance the analytical base of the budget by developing a system to obtain the information necessary to determine and allocate workforce requirements and assess productivity. For the long range, the Secretary of HUD should enhance the analytical base of the budget by systematically incorporating program evaluation results in the management decisionmaking process. For the short range, the Secretary of HUD should expand the use of internal editing staff to rewrite existing instructions. For the short range, the Secretary of HUD should involve users, such as field office staff, in the preparation of instructions. For the short range, the Secretary of HUD should establish a central point of accountability to oversee compliance with streamlined departmental clearance procedures. For the short range, the Secretary of HUD should improve monitoring of program participants. The findings and recommendations of the Committee on Fraud, Waste, and Mismanagement should be aggressively pursued by all HUD program offices. The Secretary of HUD, for improvement of program participant monitoring, should develop priorities that reflect the need for better quality monitoring. The Secretary of HUD, for improvement of program participant monitoring, should define the objectives of all types of monitoring and specify realistic expectations for program staff. For the short range, the Secretary of HUD should improve on-site performance reviews by developing standards and guidelines for reviews to obtain a reasonable level of consistency and comparability. For the short range, the Secretary of HUD should improve on-site performance reviews by adopting a plan for reviewing offices and programs that considers resource limitations and concentrates on serious problems and by including headquarters program offices in the universe of offices reviewed. For the short range, the Secretary of HUD should improve on-site performance reviews by including headquarters program offices in the universe of offices reviewed. For the short range, the Secretary of HUD should improve the management of audits and reviews by developing an action plan for improving the internal response to problems arising from all audits and reviews. Such a plan should include: (1) categorizing and prioritizing findings and setting timeframes for correction; and (2) establishing central control for assessing and reporting on the progress of corrective action. To improve staff resources over the long term, the Secretary of

HUD should establish a staff development program linked to overall organizational planning, which will coordinate departmental efforts to forecast personnel needs. To improve staff resources over the long term, the Secretary of HUD should integrate staff needs assessments with program implementation plans. To improve staff resources over the long term, the Secretary of HUD should initiate an aggressive training needs assessments program, including periodic training evaluation. For the short range, the Secretary of HUD should establish a chief financial officer with clear responsibility and accountability for establishing financial policy and providing a central focus for development of financial management systems. For the short range, the Secretary of HUD should correct internal control weaknesses and other financial management information system problems identified during this review by ensuring that: (1) the single-family premium collection system and the process for handling cash receipts and disbursements include adequate internal controls; (2) collections are placed under immediate accounting controls; (3) sound cash management practices are followed in handling receipts and disbursements; and (4) the home improvement loan collection process is streamlined as part of the current automation effort. For the long range, the Secretary of HUD should move to centralize financial management policy development under the chief financial officer. For the long range, the Secretary of HUD should continue efforts to restore integrity to the Department's financial management information systems by enhancing system internal controls. For the long range, the Secretary of HUD should streamline the processes used to accomplish accounting functions. For the long range, the Secretary of HUD should develop accounting systems which comply with the principles and standards established by the Comptroller General. The objective of this development process should be to establish accounting systems capable of providing timely, accurate, and comprehensive information and serving as a basis for reporting on the adequacy of internal controls as required by the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act (FIA). For the long range, the Secretary of HUD should enhance financial management information system improvements and future automation by establishing a long-range automatic data processing planning and control process. As part of the long range automatic data processing planning and control process, the Secretary of HUD should ensure that existing and proposed automated systems are necessary, feasible, and cost effective and that those systems which cannot perform their intended purpose in a cost effective manner are discontinued. As part of the long range automatic data processing planning and control process, the Secretary of HUD should ensure that user needs and administrative burdens are adequately considered during system development. As part of the long range automatic data processing planning and control process, the Secretary of HUD should ensure that efforts to develop modern automated systems are continued.

123199

[Defense Logistics Agency Could Better Identify and Cancel Unneeded On-Order Material]. NSIAD-84-42; B-213652. January 10, 1984. 3 pp. plus 2 enclosures (16 pp.).

Report to Vice Adm. E.A. Grinstead, Director, Defense Logistics Agency; by Frank C. Conahan, Director, GAO National Security and International Affairs Division.

Issue Area: Logistics Management: Determination of Wholesale Needs (3811).

Contact: National Security and International Affairs Division.

Budget Function: National Defense: Department of Defense - Procurement and Contracts (051.2).

Organization Concerned: Defense Logistics Agency.

Authority: 31 U.S.C. 720.

Abstract: GAO reviewed the Defense Logistics Agency's (DLA) procedures and practices for identifying and canceling unneeded on-order material. **Findings/Conclusions:** GAO found that DLA supply centers do not effectively identify and cancel such material, and management practices contribute to unnecessary procurement costs and inventory investment. To achieve better use of stock fund resources, GAO concluded that DLA needs to: (1) establish internal management controls; and (2) modify its procedures and practices for the identification and cancellation of excessive on-order material.

123202

[Withdrawal of Approval of the Federal Election Commission Accounting System]. AFMD-84-30; B-192886. January 9, 1984. 2 pp.

Report to Danny L. McDonald, Chairman, Federal Election Commission; by Milton J. Socolar, (for Charles A. Bowsher, Comptroller General).

Contact: Accounting and Financial Management Division.

Budget Function: Financial Management and Information Systems: Accounting Systems in Operation (998.1).

Organization Concerned: Federal Election Commission.

Abstract: As requested by the Federal Election Commission, GAO completed a review of its accounting system in operation. **Findings/Conclusions:** GAO found substantial deviations from the system design which it approved in 1981. These deviations led it to conclude that the system was not operating in accordance with the approved design and did not comply with GAO standards. Therefore, GAO withdrew its approval of the system until the deviations are corrected. GAO found: (1) a lack of basic documentation for portions of the system that have been automated since approval; (2) nonoperation of a transaction register which results in the misstatement of certain account balances and inaccurate accounting reports unless manual adjustments are made; (3) a lack of certain subsidiary files needed to provide control; (4) nonuse of several necessary general ledger accounts; (5) lack of accountability for property owned by, or loaned to, the Commission; and (6) inadequate accounting staff. Several of the deviations and related problems are being corrected. When the deviations are corrected, GAO will consider reapproval of the system.

123225

Air Force Progress in Implementing the Phase IV Base Level Computer Replacement Program. IMTEC-84-7; B-211087. January 18, 1984. 5 pp.

Report to Rep. Jack Brooks, Chairman, House Committee on Government Operations; by Charles A. Bowsher, Comptroller General.

Issue Area: Automatic Data Processing: Effectively Conducting Major ADP Systems Acquisitions (0113).

Contact: Information Management and Technology Division.

Budget Function: Automatic Data Processing (990.1).

Organization Concerned: Department of the Air Force.

Congressional Relevance: House Committee on Government Operations; *Rep.* Jack Brooks.

Abstract: Pursuant to a congressional request, GAO reviewed the Air Force's Phase IV Base Level Computer Replacement Program which is designed to replace existing computers at 118 air bases worldwide. The Air Force's purchase of the computers is contingent upon successful demonstration of the hardware and the converted software. **Findings/Conclusions:** GAO found that the Air Force had selected a contractor before software conversion from the old to the new computers and performance testing had been completed. Because of difficulties in converting the old software to run on the new computers and in demonstrating that

the new computers can meet the bases' expected workload, the Air Force is 6 months behind schedule in implementing Phase IV at its first site. GAO noted that, although the Air Force and the contractor have taken steps to minimize delays and to complete software conversion and testing efforts, they continue to experience difficulties in: (1) converting software from old to new computers; and (2) demonstrating that the computers operate properly and can handle base workloads. GAO believes that the Air Force must continue to closely monitor the program and, although every effort should be made to stay on schedule and to avoid increased program costs, overall program quality should not be compromised. GAO also believes that additional Air Force actions to reduce program costs need to be taken before Phase IV can be effectively implemented at other bases.

123228

An Improved Automated System Would Better Identify Small Businesses Seeking Federal Contracting Opportunities. IMTEC-84-3; B-206599. January 12, 1984. Released January 19, 1984. 19 pp.

Report to Rep. Berkley W. Bedell, Chairman, House Committee on Small Business: General Oversight and the Economy Subcommittee; by Warren G. Reed, Director, GAO Information Management and Technology Division.

Issue Area: Automatic Data Processing: Effectiveness of the Management of Automated Information Resources Used in Support of Agency Missions (0118).

Contact: Information Management and Technology Division.

Budget Function: Automatic Data Processing (990.1).

Organization Concerned: Small Business Administration.

Congressional Relevance: House Committee on Appropriations: Commerce, Justice, State, the Judiciary, and Related Agencies Subcommittee; House Committee on Small Business: General Oversight and the Economy Subcommittee; Senate Committee on Appropriations: Commerce, Justice, State and Judiciary Subcommittee; Senate Committee on Small Business; *Rep.* Berkley W. Bedell.

Authority: Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 631 et seq.). Small Business Innovation Development Act of 1982 (P.L. 97-219; 96 Stat. 217). P.L. 95-507. P.L. 95-89. 92 Stat. 1757. 91 Stat. 553.

Abstract: Pursuant to a congressional request, GAO reviewed the Small Business Administration's (SBA) Procurement Automated Source System (PASS), which provides federal agencies with information concerning small businesses competing for government contracts, to evaluate: (1) how well the system is functioning; (2) how much federal agencies and contractors use it to foster small business procurement opportunities; (3) the accuracy, relevancy, and timeliness of the system's information; and (4) what plans SBA has for the future of the system. **Findings/Conclusions:** GAO found that: (1) the system is being used by a variety of agencies and prime contractors to obtain information concerning small businesses competing for federal contracts; (2) information generated by the system is often outdated and incomplete; (3) the system has operational problems, resulting in part from inefficient software; and (4) the SBA decision to correct the problems by redesigning the system has raised concerns that such action might be premature. **Recommendation To Agencies:** The Administrator of SBA, to correct the problems in PASS, should increase the efficiency and usefulness of the existing system by: (1) modifying PASS software to correct processing deficiencies; (2) updating system documentation to facilitate timely resolution of operational problems; and (3) increasing efforts to encourage user participation in suggesting and reviewing system improvements. The Administrator of SBA, to correct the problems in PASS, should improve and maintain the currentness and accuracy of PASS information, after resolving the software deficiencies, by: (1)

promptly processing the large backlog of information awaiting entry; and (2) regularly operating the annual update, outreach, 8(a), and vocabulary update functions of the system. The Administrator of SBA, to increase the level of technical oversight in operating PASS and to build an appropriate foundation for a new system, should direct the program and contracting offices to closely monitor the technical and management operations of PASS at the U.S. Railway Association. The Administrator of SBA, to increase the level of technical oversight in operating PASS and to build an appropriate foundation for a new system, should defer any hardware or software decisions on a new system until SBA: (1) analyzes the current functional requirements and evaluates the current system's ability to meet these requirements; (2) identifies alternative system approaches to meeting these requirements; and (3) performs a cost-benefit analysis of each approach to use as a basis for any future redesign efforts.

123230

[Protest of Cancellation and Unrestricted Resolicitation of Commerce RFP]. B-212628, B-212628.2. January 20, 1984. 3 pp.

Decision re: Science and Management Associates, Inc.; James W. Collins and Associates, Inc.; by Milton J. Socolar, (for Charles A. Bowsher, Comptroller General).

Contact: Office of the General Counsel.

Organization Concerned: Department of Commerce; Science and Management Associates, Inc.; James W. Collins and Associates, Inc.

Authority: F.P.R. 1-1.706-3(b). B-184924 (1976). B-198701 (1980).

Abstract: Two firms protested the cancellation of a Department of Commerce small business set-aside for word processing services and the resolicitation of the requirement on an unrestricted basis. Both protesters alleged that the agency failed to point out deficiencies in their proposals during negotiations so that they could submit revised proposals. After technical evaluation, the contracting officer contacted the protesters' references and found that neither firm had the experience needed to perform the requirements. Therefore, Commerce decided not to award the contract to either firm. GAO did not find that decision to be unreasonable because discussions could not have cured the protesters' lack of required experience. Accordingly, the protests were denied.

123240

[Protest of Air Force Contract Award to Higher Priced Offerer]. B-213099. January 19, 1984. 3 pp.

Decision re: Radix, Inc.; by Milton J. Socolar, (for Charles A. Bowsher, Comptroller General).

Contact: Office of the General Counsel.

Organization Concerned: Radix, Inc.; International Business Machines Corp.; Department of the Air Force: Air Force Logistics Command: Air Logistics Center, Hill AFB, UT.

Authority: B-200675 (1981).

Abstract: A firm protested an Air Force contract award under a request for proposals (RFP) for the lease and maintenance of automatic data processing equipment and software. Although the protester was the low bidder, it rated lower in a test demonstration than the awardee. The protester maintained that the Air Force should have advised it of any deficiencies in its proposal and test and allowed it to cure them. Since the protester ranked lower than the awardee based on the evaluation criteria in the RFP and its test results left the Air Force with doubts as to its performance, GAO found that the Air Force was not responsible for pointing out the weaknesses in the protester's proposal. Accordingly, the protest was denied.

123270

[Protest of HHS Rejection of Offer and Issuance of Delivery Order to Another Firm]. B-212933. January 26, 1984. 5 pp.

Decision re: American Sterilizer Co.; by Milton J. Socolar, (for Charles A. Bowsher, Comptroller General).

Contact: Office of the General Counsel.

Organization Concerned: American Sterilizer Co.; Sybron Corp.: Castle Division; Department of Health and Human Services.

Authority: 41 C.F.R. 101-26.408. 4 C.F.R. 21.2(b)(1). 52 Comp. Gen. 941. B-193541 (1979). B-194213 (1979). B-192361 (1981). B-205610 (1982).

Abstract: A firm protested the Department of Health and Human Services' (HHS) rejection of its offer and the issuance of a delivery order to another firm, pursuant to a request for quotations (RFQ) for a microcomputer-controlled steam sterilizer. The protester contended that, because its sterilizer met or exceeded all RFQ specifications at a lower price, it should have been awarded the contract. Additionally, the protester argued that the RFQ overstated the minimum requirements for a sterilizer regulatory device. Federal regulations provide that determinations as to the needs of an agency as well as which products on the Federal Supply Schedule best meet them are matters primarily within the jurisdiction of the procuring agency. GAO will not interfere with such determinations unless they involve bad faith or are not based on substantial evidence. Although HHS awarded the delivery order to a higher priced Federal Supply Schedule contractor, the record showed that the protester's offered equipment did not meet an RFP requirement, and GAO held that award to the higher priced offerer which met all of the specifications was reasonable. GAO found that the protest challenging the minimum requirements was untimely, since the protester submitted its objections with its offer. Bid protest procedures require that protests alleging improprieties in a RFQ must be filed prior to the closing date for receipt of initial proposals. Accordingly, the protest was denied in part and dismissed in part.

123305

[Protest of Issuance of Air Force Delivery Order]. B-211981. February 1, 1984. 3 pp.

Decision re: A. B. Dick Co.; by Milton J. Socolar, (for Charles A. Bowsher, Comptroller General).

Contact: Office of the General Counsel.

Organization Concerned: Department of the Air Force: Carswell AFB, TX; A. B. Dick Co.; Exxon Office Systems Co.

Authority: B-186057 (1976). B-191339 (1978). B-195043 (1979). B-208035 (1983). B-210032 (1983).

Abstract: A firm protested the Air Force's issuance of a delivery order for word processing systems, contending that its price for the equipment was lower than the awardee's. It requested that the delivery order be invalidated and that a new order be issued to it. In evaluating the protester's price, the contracting officer failed to consider information he received about a price reduction because the General Services Administration (GSA) did not confirm the price change. GAO agreed with the protester's contention that once the protester's representative informed the Air Force of its price reduction, the contracting officer was obliged to use that price in determining the low quote. A vendor may offer a price reduction at any time and by any method without prior or subsequent GSA approval, and the agency must consider that reduction in evaluating quotes. The Air Force conceded that the contracting officer should have awarded the delivery order to the protester. Accordingly, the protest was sustained. However, since the equipment had already been delivered, corrective action was not appropriate.

123309

FERC Can Improve Its Operational Performance by Broadening and Deepening Current Management Efforts. AFMD-84-8; B-213992. January 30, 1984. 6 pp. plus 3 appendices (28 pp.). Report to Raymond J. O'Connor, Chairman, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission; by Wilbur D. Campbell, Acting Director, GAO Accounting and Financial Management Division.

Issue Area: National Productivity: Productivity for Common Government Functions (2902).

Contact: Accounting and Financial Management Division.

Budget Function: Energy: Energy Information, Policy, and Regulation (276.0); General Government: Executive Direction and Management (802.0).

Organization Concerned: Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

Congressional Relevance: House Committee on Appropriations: Energy and Water Development Subcommittee; House Committee on Energy and Commerce: Fossil and Synthetic Fuels Subcommittee; House Committee on Energy and Commerce: Energy Conservation and Power Subcommittee; Senate Committee on Appropriations: Energy and Water Development Subcommittee; Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: Energy Regulation Subcommittee.

Abstract: GAO examined the overall operational performance of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) to assess its management of operational performance and to identify opportunities for improvement. Operational performance is measured by timeliness, productivity, and quality of work and is a key indicator of management's effectiveness in using its resources to accomplish its workload. **Findings/Conclusions:** Although FERC operational performance has improved since 1980, GAO found the need for further improvement in the areas of productivity and quality. Increases in productivity were significantly less than in previous years and were more moderate than improvements in timeliness. Despite overall gains in productivity, many organizational subdivisions experienced declines. GAO was unable to evaluate the quality of work because FERC has not developed any evaluation criteria but GAO feels that this performance attribute requires attention to improve overall operational performance. FERC improved its timeliness by initiating specific improvement projects and emphasizing the importance of timeliness to all levels of management through techniques such as developing measures, setting goals, and developing a system of accountability. **Recommendation To Agencies:** The Executive Director, FERC, should develop measures of productivity, beginning in fiscal year 1983, using the current management information system as a basis. The Executive Director, FERC, should establish a system of accountability for productivity performance similar to that used for timeliness. GAO believes that discussing productivity as well as timeliness in the monthly workload review meetings will help provide this additional level of accountability. The Executive Director, FERC, should establish productivity improvement goals for all organizational levels and require managers at each level to report their plans for achieving such goals. These goals should be incorporated into the Senior Executive Service and merit pay contracts of agency managers and be used to ensure accountability for productivity performance. The Executive Director, FERC, should develop objective measures for quality. A first step in the process should be to review the 54 FERC activities and identify those that could be measured for quality. Also, in this development process, FERC should review similar organizations' experiences in developing and using quality measures. The Executive Director, FERC, should address specific proposals listed in Appendix II of this report.

123311

[Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs' Actions To Improve Processing of Handicapped Employment Discrimination Com-

plaints]. HRD-84-21; B-214127. January 31, 1984. 3 pp. plus 4 enclosures (21 pp.).

Report to Sen. Lowell P. Weicker, Chairman, Senate Committee on Labor and Human Resources: Handicapped Subcommittee; Sen. Robert T. Stafford; by Richard L. Fogel, Director, GAO Human Resources Division.

Issue Area: Consumer and Worker Protection: How Federal Agencies Are Enforcing the Nondiscrimination and Opportunity Provisions of Their Financial Assistance Programs (0936).

Contact: Human Resources Division.

Budget Function: Nondiscrimination - Equal Opportunity Programs (990.3).

Organization Concerned: Department of Labor.

Congressional Relevance: Senate Committee on Labor and Human Resources: Handicapped Subcommittee; Sen. Robert T. Stafford; Sen. Lowell P. Weicker.

Authority: Rehabilitation Act of 1973.

Abstract: Pursuant to a congressional request, GAO reviewed the Department of Labor's Office of Federal Contract Compliance Program (OFCCP) policies and procedures for enforcing sections of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 which protect the handicapped from employment discrimination. **Findings/Conclusions:** GAO found that, between fiscal years (FY's) 1981 and 1983, there was a decrease in Labor's largest identifiable workload concerning the enforcement of those sections of the act which protect the handicapped. In addition, there has been a decline in the average processing times for such complaints. Labor experienced a decline in the number of discrimination complaints received since FY 1981. GAO also found that, although there are inaccuracies in the OFCCP computerized system's data, the data provide the most complete and consistent picture of Labor's corrective activities. GAO noted that Labor has implemented initiatives to improve complaint processing policies and procedures.

123312

[GAO Examination of Air Force's Proposed Multiyear Procurement for DSCS III]. NSIAD-84-54; B-206570. February 1, 1984. 4 pp.

Report to Sen. Ted Stevens, Chairman, Senate Committee on Appropriations: Defense Subcommittee; by Frank C. Conahan, Director, GAO National Security and International Affairs Division.

Issue Area: General Procurement: Impact of Federal Fiscal and Economic Policies on the Procurement Process (1945); Procurement of Major Systems: Impact of OMB Circular A-109 on Federal Acquisition Programs (3015).

Contact: National Security and International Affairs Division.

Budget Function: National Defense: Department of Defense - Procurement and Contracts (051.2).

Organization Concerned: Department of Defense; Department of the Air Force; General Electric Co.: Space Division.

Congressional Relevance: Senate Committee on Appropriations: Defense Subcommittee; Sen. Ted Stevens.

Abstract: In response to a congressional request, GAO examined the Air Force's proposed multiyear procurement for the Defense Satellite Communications System (DSCS) III to determine the stability of the program, the maturity of design, and the availability of sufficient funds to complete the program. **Findings/Conclusions:** GAO found that the satellites have experienced only minor design changes and such changes have been infrequent and immaterial to satellite configuration. The Air Force is making two planned product improvements in the next group of satellites. These improvements are believed to involve minimal risk. A few major problems were cited which affected contract

cost performance in the early stages of development. However, since 1980, cost performance on the development and production contracts has been satisfactory. According to the Air Force, the program is very stable because of longstanding approved requirements and a high national priority. In addition, the DSCS III program is currently without an alternative because related systems do not have the needed capabilities. According to the Air Force, there is little possibility of a reduction in the need for the 14 satellites presently required and increased military needs will probably require more. GAO found that the discounted cost and savings associated with the multiyear advanced procurement will save approximately \$8 million.

123327

Ask the Experts: Getting Through the Information Maze. 1983. 3 pp.
by David F. Fiske, Evaluator, GAO Field Operations Division: Regional Office (San Francisco).
In *The GAO Review*, Vol. 18, Issue 4, Fall 1983, pp. 18-19, 38.

Contact: Field Operations Division: Regional Office (San Francisco).

Abstract: This article describes the San Francisco Regional Office's experiences using word processors and computers for data analysis, and stresses the importance of getting advice from experts in the area, planning programs, and testing.

123335

[Protest of USDA Solicitation]. B-212660. February 7, 1984. 7 pp.
Decision re: Memorex Corp.; by Milton J. Socolar, (for Charles A. Bowsher, Comptroller General).

Contact: Office of the General Counsel.

Organization Concerned: Memorex Corp.; Department of Agriculture.

Authority: 60 Comp. Gen. 548. B-179762 (1974). B-193126 (1979). B-193501 (1979). B-200399 (1981). B-204136 (1982). B-205266 (1982). B-207573.3 (1983). B-207949 (1982). B-209780 (1983). B-211711 (1983).

Abstract: A firm protested a Department of Agriculture (USDA) request for proposals for computer equipment, contending that competition was unduly restricted since the specified disc drive was a new product and that only the manufacturer could meet the required delivery schedule. The protester further contended that the specifications and evaluation criteria were excessively general, preventing the submission of intelligent proposals, and that the provision for functional demonstration after best and final offers was improper. GAO held that: (1) it would not question the USDA determination of its minimum needs absent evidence of a lack of reasonable basis; (2) since five proposals were received, adequate competition was obtained; (3) the specifications detailed the requirements and evaluation factors with sufficient clarity; and (4) the provision allowing demonstration of tentatively selected equipment after receipt of best and final offers was not objectionable. Accordingly, the protest was denied.

123347

Federal and State Initiatives Needed To Improve Productivity and Reduce Administrative Costs of the Aid to Families With Dependent Children and Food Stamp Programs. AFMD-84-18; B-214174. February 2, 1984. 33 pp. plus 15 appendices (35 pp.).
Report to Margaret M. Heckler, Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services; John R. Block, Secretary, Department of Agriculture; by Wilbur D. Campbell, Acting Director, GAO Accounting and Financial Management Division.

Issue Area: National Productivity: Restructuring the Federal Grants System To Enhance Its Impact on Productivity (2908); Income Security and Social Services: Eligibility Determinations (1307); Intergovernmental Policies and Fiscal Relations: Assessing the Impact of Federally Mandated Standards and Costs on State and Local Governments (0410).

Contact: Accounting and Financial Management Division.

Budget Function: General Government: Other General Government (806.0).

Organization Concerned: Department of Agriculture; Department of Health and Human Services.

Congressional Relevance: House Committee on Appropriations: Agriculture, Rural Development, and Related Agencies Subcommittee; House Committee on Agriculture; Senate Committee on Appropriations: Agriculture and Related Agencies Subcommittee; Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

Authority: H. Rept. 96-285.

Abstract: Administrative costs in the Aid to Families With Dependent Children (AFDC) and Food Stamp programs have increased at a more rapid pace than benefit payments to recipients. GAO reviewed the processing of AFDC and Food Stamp applications at 15 welfare offices in 8 states. This review was based on a comparison of the productivity of these offices. GAO also examined the impact that inconsistent federal criteria for determining an applicant's income and assets, and different federal time periods for processing AFDC and Food Stamp cases, have on productivity. **Findings/Conclusions:** From its review, GAO found that productivity rates of workers directly involved in processing AFDC and Food Stamp applications varied widely among the 15 welfare offices. This variance resulted primarily from processing practices, which included case-processing methods, use of computers, management expectation of employee performance, and efforts to verify applicants' data. Although the Department of Health and Human Services considered demographic factors to be a key cause of productivity variances in the AFDC program, GAO determined that they did not have a significant impact on the 15 offices. In addition, GAO found that: (1) federal requirements for determining an applicant's income and assets hinder state and local case-processing productivity; and (2) federal agencies need to emphasize productivity in much the same way as they have emphasized reducing payment errors. **Recommendation To Agencies:** The Secretaries of Agriculture and Health and Human Services should establish a nationwide productivity measurement and reporting system for the AFDC and Food Stamp programs. The Secretaries of Agriculture and Health and Human Services should establish a joint mechanism for identifying the best operating practices, including changes in federal laws and regulations, that will facilitate prompt, accurate, and efficient processing for both programs. The Secretaries of Agriculture and Health and Human Services should formulate uniform federal financial requirements for measuring incomes and assets, setting common time periods for processing applications and closing out cases, and proposing legislative change as necessary for congressional action.

123358

[Reform of the Federal Budget Process]. February 9, 1984. 10 pp.
Testimony before the House Committee on Rules: Budget Process Task Force; by Harry S. Havens, Assistant Comptroller General, GAO Office of the Comptroller General.

Contact: Office of the Comptroller General.

Congressional Relevance: House Committee on Rules: Budget Process Task Force.

Authority: Congressional Budget and Impoundment Control Act of 1974.

Abstract: GAO discussed the importance of reforming the Federal budget process to avoid enormous fiscal and economic

difficulties. Two alternative budget approaches to the current process include the single budget resolution and the comprehensive budget bill. However, these are only superficial remedies for a more complex problem. GAO believes that Congress must build a modern financial management structure for the Federal Government. This structure should include strengthened accounting, auditing and data reporting, improved planning and programming, a streamlined budget process, and a systematic measurement of performance. GAO believes that, if reforms are limited to the congressional phase of the process, other budget problems will remain within the Federal process, as well as within the processes at the State and local level.

123385

[*National Public Radio*]. February 10, 1984. 25 pp. plus 3 appendices (6 pp.) plus 1 enclosure (32 pp.).

Testimony before the House Committee on Energy and Commerce: Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee; by Frederick D. Wolf, Director, GAO Accounting and Financial Management Division.

Contact: Accounting and Financial Management Division.

Organization Concerned: Corporation for Public Broadcasting; National Public Radio.

Congressional Relevance: House Committee on Energy and Commerce: Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee.

Authority: Public Radio Act of 1981.

Abstract: In response to a congressional request, GAO reviewed the financial operations of National Public Radio (NPR) and the significant financial crisis that it underwent in 1983 which culminated in the need to seek a loan of \$7 million from the Corporation for Public Broadcasting (CPB). GAO found that the NPR financial problems occurred because the organization was not properly prepared for and failed in the ambitious plan by which it hoped to eliminate its need for Federal funds by 1988. NPR management operations were not properly structured to undertake the major expansion envisioned in the project. In addition, the NPR capability to raise funds from private grants and contributions had not been fully developed and, as a result, its grant revenue goals were not realized. The NPR financial position was not adequate to sustain the increased operations and commercial joint ventures if these activities did not begin producing revenues as planned. NPR did not have a formal contingency plan to compensate for any revenue deficiencies. Finally, NPR did not have a functioning financial management system to provide essential reports to enable management to monitor operations during a period when vital financial management decisions needed to be made. Since April 30, 1983, the peak of the crisis period, numerous changes and controls over operations have been instituted internally by NPR management, externally by CPB through the loan agreement, and on the advice of an accounting firm hired as a consultant, including: (1) drafting and implementing formal budget policies; (2) changing a number of administrative policies; (3) instituting revenue controls to tighten the billing and revenue collection procedures; (4) the adoption of improved purchasing controls; (5) strengthening of CPB oversight; (6) redrafting of NPR bylaws to incorporate control over the budget and internal control systems; and (7) implementing a new financial management information system. GAO found that NPR has made substantial progress in bringing operations under control and it concurred with the recommendations made by the consulting firm, the new NPR management, and the controls currently required by the CPB loan agreement. GAO recommended the completion of the implementation of these recommendations and regular review of the improved controls.

123416

[*Request for Reconsideration of Protest Under Navy RFP*]. B-211240.2. February 14, 1984. 3 pp.

Decision re: Masstor Systems Corp.; by Milton J. Socolar, (for Charles A. Bowsher, Comptroller General).

Contact: Office of the General Counsel.

Organization Concerned: Masstor Systems Corp.; Department of the Navy: Naval Data Automation Command: Navy Automatic Data Processing Selection Office.

Authority: 4 C.F.R. 21. B-211240 (1983). B-189551 (1978). B-213150 (1984).

Abstract: A firm requested reconsideration of a prior decision which denied in part and dismissed in part its protest of a request for proposals (RFP) issued by the Navy. The RFP sought a single prime contractor to provide an IBM-compatible computer system as well as to provide installation, documentation, and continuing support services. The protester contended that GAO erred in concluding that: (1) the solicitation did not require peripheral computer equipment to be manufactured by IBM; (2) the protester was not an interested party under bid protest procedures. GAO found that: (1) nothing in the solicitation precluded the bidders from offering an IBM computer with its own peripherals or those of another manufacturer; and (2) the RFP requirement for the IBM operating system affected manufacturers of compatible computers more than it affected the protester, foreclosing the protester's status as an interested party. Accordingly, the prior decision was affirmed.

123433

[*Protests of Bid Rejections by SSA*]. B-212867, B-212867.2, B-212867.3. February 15, 1984. 5 pp.

Decision re: Vycor Corp.; Computer Switch, Inc.; Locom Corp.; by Milton J. Socolar, (for Charles A. Bowsher, Comptroller General).

Contact: Office of the General Counsel.

Organization Concerned: Social Security Administration; Vycor Corp.; Computer Switch, Inc.; Locom Corp.

Authority: 4 C.F.R. 21.2(b)(2). 4 C.F.R. 21.2(c). 62 Comp. Gen. 50 B-200523.3 (1982). B-206340 (1983). B-207898.3 (1983). B-208557.3 (1982). B-209297 (1983). B-211547.3 (1983).

Abstract: Three firms protested the Social Security Administration's (SSA) rejection of two proposals under a request for proposals (RFP) for a computer switching system. SSA rejected the proposals because they did not comply with a mandatory requirement of the RFP. One of the protesters did not submit a proposal in response to the RFP, but was the supplier of the switches proposed by another protester. Since that firm also protested on the same basis, GAO considered the supplier's contentions. GAO agreed with SSA that one bidder's protest was untimely since it was filed more than 10 working days after the protester learned of the basis of the protest. GAO did not consider the application of the exceptions that allow for consideration of untimely protests for good cause shown or for significant issues to be appropriate in this case. The supplier alleged that one proposal was rejected due to a bias on the part of SSA against small businesses. GAO found that this protester failed to offer support for this allegation. The final protest concerned a requirement that the switches had to have performed successfully for at least 30 calendar days prior to the date set for receipt of proposals, when the protester was not informed of the requirement until after the deadline for proposal submission. GAO felt that it was unlikely that an offerer which did not meet the operating requirements at the time the RFP was issued could do so in the time available for proposal preparation. Accordingly, this aspect of the protest was denied. However, GAO recommended that SSA take steps to

ensure that its requirements are stated as clearly and accurately as possible in forthcoming solicitations. Accordingly, two of the protests were denied and one protest was dismissed.

123439

[Army Could Do More To Reduce Imbalances in Military Occupational Specialties]. NSIAD-84-20; B-211752. February 17, 1984. 10 pp.

Report to John O. Marsh, Jr., Secretary, Department of the Army; by Frank C. Conahan, Director, GAO National Security and International Affairs Division.

Issue Area: Military Personnel: Improving the Ability of the United States To Accomplish a Timely, Responsive Mobilization of Manpower During a National Emergency (4305).

Contact: National Security and International Affairs Division.

Budget Function: National Defense: Department of Defense - Military (Except Procurement and Contracting) (051.0).

Organization Concerned: Department of Defense; Department of the Army; Department of the Air Force.

Congressional Relevance: House Committee on Appropriations: Defense Subcommittee; House Committee on Armed Services; Senate Committee on Appropriations: Defense Subcommittee; Senate Committee on Armed Services.

Abstract: GAO examined Army efforts to rectify skill imbalances in light of the highly favorable recruitment and retention environment of the past 2 years. The review focused on military occupational specialties (MOS) which have either significantly more or fewer soldiers than the Army requires in these occupations. **Findings/Conclusions:** GAO found that staffing imbalances have existed since 1973. At the end of the second quarter of fiscal year 1983, about 66 percent of the Army's MOS were imbalanced and imbalances have also occurred for various pay grades and years-of-service groups within specific MOS. In 1982, the Army began to place greater emphasis on correcting the grade distribution imbalances of noncommissioned officers within career management fields to improve skill matches, focus on critical skills, eliminate poor performers, and support modernization. The Army attempted to resolve the imbalances through limiting entry of prior service reenlistees to specific understrength MOS, reducing promotion opportunity in overstrength MOS, reclassification, and changing retention criteria. Despite these efforts, the Army has made relatively little progress toward reducing skill imbalances; however, it has reduced the imbalances of noncommissioned officers within career management fields. GAO found that Army reenlistment practice, which allows first-term soldiers to reenlist in their present MOS, impedes progress toward reducing skill imbalances. The Air Force's career reservation system, which requires all eligible first-term reenlistees to make a job reservation, demonstrates how a program of controlling first-term reenlistment can be designed. In the Air Force, reservations are limited by occupational need and Air Force personnel who are unable to obtain a reservation within their occupation must retrain for a shortage occupation or leave the service. **Recommendation To Agencies:** The Secretary of the Army should implement, on a test basis, the Army's stated policy for controlling first-term reenlistments in overstrength MOS and retrain soldiers into understrength MOS.

123440

The Army Can Do More To Assure War Reserve Funds Are Spent Effectively. NSIAD-84-50; B-214126. February 17, 1984. 23 pp. plus 1 appendix (2 pp.).

Report to John O. Marsh, Jr., Secretary, Department of the Army; by David A. Littleton, (for Frank C. Conahan, Director), GAO National Security and International Affairs Division.

Issue Area: Logistics Management: Determination of Wholesale Needs (3811).

Contact: National Security and International Affairs Division.

Budget Function: National Defense: Department of Defense - Military (Except Procurement and Contracting) (051.0).

Organization Concerned: Department of Defense; Department of the Army; Department of the Army: U.S. Army Materiel Development and Readiness Command.

Congressional Relevance: House Committee on Appropriations: Defense Subcommittee; House Committee on Armed Services; Senate Committee on Appropriations: Defense Subcommittee; Senate Committee on Armed Services.

Authority: DOD Instruction 4140.47. A.R. 710-1.

Abstract: GAO reviewed the Army's current program to revise its system for computing war reserve materiel requirements, including its procedures for management reporting, funding, item identification, and selection of war reserve items. **Findings/Conclusions:** GAO found that: (1) the Army needs to improve its war reserve item identification and selection procedures; (2) war reserve stocks are imbalanced; and (3) low priority assets are not redistributed overseas. GAO also determined that: (1) excess assets should be deleted and peacetime long-supply assets should be transferred to improve Army war reserves; and (2) the Army needs to establish criteria for preparing and using war reserve studies. **Recommendation To Agencies:** The Secretary of the Army should direct the Army Materiel Development and Readiness Command (DARCOM) to comply with existing regulations when identifying and selecting war reserve items in order to exclude unnecessary items and reduce requirements. The Secretary of the Army should direct DARCOM to screen existing war reserve items to eliminate requirements and inventories which do not meet selection criteria and sell the unnecessary assets to buy needed war reserves. The Secretary of the Army should direct DARCOM to comply with the 1979 Department of Defense guidance on balancing the war reserve inventories. Specifically, DARCOM should discontinue buying low priority war reserve items and actively pursue the sale of items for peacetime use. The resulting conserved funds could then be used to acquire high priority war reserve items. The Secretary of the Army should direct DARCOM to periodically meet with representatives from the major commands to ensure that existing low priority war reserves are screened for possible physical transfer to higher priority locations. The type of screening process used--providing major-command-computed shortages for DARCOM screening or having DARCOM provide lists of currently owned low priority war reserve assets for major command screening--should be jointly determined by all affected parties. The Secretary of the Army should direct DARCOM to transfer excess war reserve assets to general issue and use the proceeds to acquire war reserve items that have unfilled requirements. The Secretary of the Army should direct DARCOM to require that the major subordinate commands use long-supply general issue assets to meet war reserve requirements. The Secretary of the Army should develop and publish minimum criteria for use in reporting on the results of complex analyses. The standards prepared by the Operations Research Society of America and other organizations should also be considered in developing these criteria.

123463

[Review of the Activities of the House Office Equipment Service for the Year Ended June 30, 1983]. AFMD-84-22; B-114865. February 22, 1984. 1 p. plus 4 enclosures (6 pp.).

Report to Benjamin J. Guthrie, House of Representatives: Clerk of the House; by Charles A. Bowsher, Comptroller General.

Issue Area: Accounting and Financial Reporting: Operations, Financial Position, and Changes in Financial Position (2802).

Contact: Accounting and Financial Management Division.

Budget Function: General Government: Legislative Functions (801.0).

Organization Concerned: House of Representatives: Clerk of the House; House of Representatives: Office Equipment Service.

Abstract: Pursuant to a congressional request, GAO evaluated whether the House Office Equipment Service was controlling congressionally owned and leased equipment in accordance with House regulations. **Findings/Conclusions:** GAO found that, as of June 30, 1983, the operating costs, equipment purchase, lease, and disposal transactions appeared to be recorded in accordance with appropriate accounting principles and standards and managed in accordance with House regulations. Further, the system used by the Office Equipment Service to provide control over owned and leased equipment was effective. GAO concluded that the Service's procedures and records adequately accounted for the equipment and provided a satisfactory basis for the monthly charges to users of the equipment.

123475

[Protest of SBA Contract Award]. B-213002. February 22, 1984. 4 pp.

Decision re: Advance, Inc.; by Milton J. Socolar, Acting Comptroller General.

Contact: Office of the General Counsel.

Organization Concerned: Advance, Inc.; Applied Systems Institute; Small Business Administration.

Authority: Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 637). Service Contract Act of 1965 (41 U.S.C. 357). 13 C.F.R. 124. 41 C.F.R. 1-4.803(a). 41 C.F.R. 1-4.803(a)(5)(ii). 58 Comp. Gen. 665. 59 Comp. Gen. 522. B-189702 (1978). B-205060 (1982). B-207306.2 (1982).

Abstract: A firm protested a Small Business Administration (SBA) total small business set-aside contract award under a request for proposals (RFP) for an automated management information and communication system. The protester contended that the solicitation was defective since it failed to state the relationship between price and technical evaluation scores, failed to disclose the basis on which the technical proposals were evaluated, and improperly limited discussions. In addition, the protester argued that SBA did not comply with the Service Contract Act and that appropriate administrative approval was not obtained prior to issuing the solicitation. GAO review of small business set-asides is limited to determining whether pertinent regulations are followed and considering allegations of fraud or bad faith. GAO found nothing improper in the RFP or in the manner in which the procurement was conducted. Under the Small Business 8(a) Procurement Program, there is no requirement to hold competitive range discussions. Furthermore, GAO found that the RFP did contain a clear statement of the relative importance of price in the evaluation and that the evaluation criteria were not ambiguous. The procuring agency is charged with the determination of whether a proposed contract is subject to the Service Contract Act, and its determination will not be questioned by GAO absent a showing that it was not reasonable. Such a showing was not made in this case. Since the protester did not offer evidence that administrative approval for consulting services was required, and the agency indicated that this contract was for a product, rather than for consulting services, GAO found that this protest ground was also without merit. Accordingly, the protest was denied.

123496

Use of Investigative Information by Inspectors General To Identify and Report Internal Control Weaknesses. AFMD-84-38; B-214334. February 24, 1984. 16 pp. plus 6 appendices (12 pp.).

Report to: Statutory Inspectors General; by Frederick D. Wolf, Director, GAO Accounting and Financial Management Division.

Issue Area: Internal Auditing Systems: Management Control Systems in Federal Agencies for the Prevention of Fraud and Abuse (0206).

Contact: Accounting and Financial Management Division.

Budget Function: Financial Management and Information Systems: Internal Audit (998.3).

Organization Concerned: Department of Education; Department of Housing and Urban Development: Office of the Inspector General; Department of Health and Human Services: Office of Inspector General; Department of the Interior: Office of the Inspector General; Department of Commerce: Office of the Inspector General.

Authority: Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act of 1982 (P.L. 97-255).

Abstract: GAO reviewed the Offices of Inspectors General (OIG's) at four agencies to determine the approaches that the OIG's employ to identify and report systemic information, demonstrated through case examples the value of having OIG's share the information, and identified issues that OIG's should consider when designing an approach to share information. **Findings/Conclusions:** The four OIG's reviewed use various formal and informal methods to share systemic information developed during investigation with other OIG's. The systems used differ in degree of structure, stage of development, and OIG management emphasis and use. OIG officials recognize the continual need for refinement and have made, or are contemplating, changes in their systems. Some OIG's have placed their audit and investigative staffs in the same location, and all OIG's hold joint meetings with auditors and investigators. Shared information has: (1) triggered OIG audits and reviews resulting in improvements in internal controls; (2) been the basis for suggesting corrective action to program management; and (3) been the subject of bulletins that inform agency employees of significant patterns of fraud. GAO suggested that Inspectors General should consider the following issues when redesigning systems for sharing systemic information: (1) the necessity of preparing special reports detailing systemic weaknesses; (2) identifying who should prepare, review, and transmit the systemic information; (3) the degree of structure and detail needed in the reporting method; (4) methods of motivating investigators to identify and report systemic information; and (5) the extent to which Inspectors General should ensure that investigators can identify and describe internal control weaknesses that permit fraud. Finally, OIG's should balance the potential usefulness of systemic information against the cost of acquiring, analyzing, and sharing it.

123527

Internal Controls Can Be Improved To Help Ensure Proper and Correct Military Retirement Payments. AFMD-84-7; B-205616. February 28, 1984. 15 pp.

Report to: Caspar W. Weinberger, Secretary, Department of Defense; by Frederick D. Wolf, Director, GAO Accounting and Financial Management Division.

Issue Area: Accounting and Financial Reporting: Ensuring That Employees Are Paid Accurately and Promptly (2813).

Contact: Accounting and Financial Management Division.

Budget Function: Financial Management and Information Systems: Accounting Systems in Operation (998.1).

Organization Concerned: Department of Defense; Veterans Administration.

Congressional Relevance: House Committee on Appropriations: Defense Subcommittee; House Committee on Armed Services; Senate Committee on Appropriations: Defense Subcommittee; Senate Committee on Armed Services.

Authority: Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act of 1982 (P.L. 97-255) OMB Circular A-123. DOD Military Retired Pay Manual.

Abstract: GAO reviewed the retirement pay systems of the Army, Navy, Air Force, and Marine Corps to determine whether internal controls are in effect to ensure proper and correct payments to retirees and their families. **Findings/Conclusions:** The military services maintain independent payroll systems to pay and administer benefits to military retirees and survivors. GAO found that there is a need for the military services to improve internal controls to help ensure that: (1) the Navy and Marine Corps place only authorized persons on their payrolls; (2) payments by the military services continue only if recipients retain their eligibility for such payments; and (3) payments by the military services are not made to deceased persons. Furthermore, GAO reported that military retirees have received overpayments because: (1) required offsets to military retirement pay were not made when the retirees entered the federal civil service; and (2) Veterans Administration compensation was not deducted from military retirement benefits. **Recommendation To Agencies:** The Secretary of Defense should direct the services to ensure that internal controls over establishing new retirement pay accounts are strengthened. The Secretary of Defense should direct the services to ensure that annuitants submit certificates of eligibility and, where appropriate, that payments to ineligible persons are promptly terminated and overpayments collected. The Secretary of Defense should direct the services to ensure that controls over payments to 18- to 23-year-old survivors attending school are improved. The Secretary of Defense should require the services to ensure that existing control techniques to identify deceased persons on the payment rolls are improved and to ensure that the feasibility of additional control techniques are considered, including requiring certifications of existence from retirees residing in the United States and expanding the computer death matches and performing them on a recurring basis. The Secretary of Defense should ensure that a central computerized data file is developed and used to identify recipients of readjustment and severance pay so that the services and the Veterans Administration can make required offsets to benefits paid.

123530

[The Grace Commission's Major Proposals To Control Federal Costs]. February 28, 1984. 13 pp.
Testimony before the Senate Committee on Budget; by Charles A. Bowsher, Comptroller General.
 Refer to "Analysis of the Grace Commission's Major Proposals for Cost Control," February 1984, Accession Number 123531.

Contact: Office of the Comptroller General.

Organization Concerned: Private Sector Survey on Cost Control; Department of Defense.

Congressional Relevance: Senate Committee on Budget.

Authority: Administrative Procedure Act. Debt Collection Act of 1982.

Abstract: Testimony was given concerning the results of a GAO analysis of the major proposals of the President's Private Sector Survey on Cost Control, known as the Grace Commission. GAO found that many of survey's savings estimates are considerably higher than can reasonably be expected. In addition, GAO is concerned that the survey characterized its proposals as actions needed to reduce waste, abuse, and inefficiency when much of its work and the identified savings potential more precisely concern policy and legislative readjustment. GAO was able to endorse 45 of the proposals on conceptual merit. Additional savings may be possible by adopting some or all of the proposals for which GAO had to qualify its support or had no basis upon which to offer an opinion. GAO agreed that improving weapon system procurement practices would result in both savings and better quality weapon systems. However, GAO believes that adopting biennial

budgeting for weapon systems without other needed improvements would be disappointing. GAO also questioned a military retirement system proposal's effect on national defense operations. In the opinion of GAO, it is not appropriate to implement a proposal involving health care costs, and GAO has concerns regarding a proposal to change the appeals process for persons who have been denied social security disability benefits. It was noted that some of the proposals in the program management area have already been addressed. In addition, GAO questioned the equity of proposed retroactive cuts in retirement benefits and believes that they could be subject to question in the courts. Finally, GAO disagreed with the concept of taxing means-tested benefits and felt that the implementation of such programs would be difficult because many means-tested programs are jointly administered by Federal and State Governments. However, GAO supports a proposal to increase tax return audit staff.

123531

Analysis of the Grace Commission's Major Proposals for Cost Control. February 28, 1984. 332 pp. plus 4 appendices (63 pp.).
 by Charles A. Bowsher, Comptroller General.
 A joint study by GAO and the Congressional Budget Office. Refer to Testimony, February 28, 1984, Accession Number 123530.

Contact: Office of the Comptroller General.

Organization Concerned: Private Sector Survey on Cost Control.

Congressional Relevance: House Committee on the Budget; Senate Committee on Budget.

Authority: Executive Order 12369. OMB Circular A-76.

Abstract: GAO and the Congressional Budget Office evaluated the proposals made by the President's Private Sector Survey on Cost Control, known as the Grace Commission. The report focused on the survey's recommendations that would have a major impact on budgetary savings and did not cover all of the proposals. The analysis included estimates of the possible budget impact for fiscal years 1985-1989, the likely impact on the Federal programs involved, and the actions necessary to implement the proposals.

123534

[Protest of Forest Service Contract Award]. B-213028. February 28, 1984. 2 pp.
Decision re: Tolica Construction Co.; by Milton J. Socolar, (for Charles A. Bowsher, Comptroller General).

Contact: Office of the General Counsel.

Organization Concerned: Forest Service; Tolica Construction Co.

Authority: F.P.R. 1-2.207(a). B-193264 (1979). 41 U.S.C. 253(a).

Abstract: A firm protested a Forest Service contract award for road construction. The contracting officer had amended the solicitation to postpone the bid opening date because he feared that a short advertising period had restricted competition. Only the protester's bid had been received by the original bid opening date and that remained unopened until the extended bid opening date. The protester contended that the contracting officer should have opened its bid as originally scheduled to determine whether the price was reasonable. If its price was unreasonably high, the solicitation could then have been canceled and rebid. The protester also contended that Federal Procurement Regulations (FPR) do not allow a contracting officer to refuse to open bids received at the time set for bid opening. GAO stated that the FPR clearly authorize the amendment of a solicitation when it becomes necessary to change the opening date. Furthermore, it found that it was necessary in this case because the contracting officer feared that the bid period allowed was insufficient to permit full competition. Accordingly, the protest was denied.

123550

[*The FAA Process of Selecting Locations for Automated Flight Service Stations*]. RCED-84-95; B-214395. March 2, 1984. 10 pp. Report to Elizabeth H. Dole, Secretary, Department of Transportation; by J. Dexter Peach, Director, GAO Resources, Community, and Economic Development Division.

Issue Area: Transportation Systems and Policies: Economy, Effectiveness, and Efficiency in the Management of FAA's Activities and Functions (2475).

Contact: Resources, Community, and Economic Development Division.

Budget Function: Transportation: Air Transportation (402.0).

Organization Concerned: Federal Aviation Administration; Department of Transportation.

Congressional Relevance: House Committee on Appropriations: Transportation Subcommittee; House Committee on Public Works and Transportation; Senate Committee on Appropriations: Transportation Subcommittee; Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation; Rep. Carl D. Purcell; Rep. Connie Mack; Rep. John McCain; Rep. John P. Murtha; Rep. Gene Taylor.

Abstract: In response to a congressional request, GAO reviewed the Federal Aviation Administration's (FAA) selection process for leased automated flight service stations (AFSS's). **Findings/Conclusions:** GAO found that the guidance provided to FAA regional offices for evaluating community proposals and costs for AFSS facilities did not contain specific instructions on how to evaluate facility communication costs which generally make up about 50 to 80 percent of the total long-term cost estimate for a site. As a result, regional office inconsistencies in dealing with communication costs influenced the selections of communities and resulted in higher costs. After this matter was brought to the attention of FAA, it took action to standardize the criteria. Despite predicted reductions in AFSS staff levels, FAA regional representatives were telling communities that each of the new stations would employ about 80 to 100 people. After notification, FAA has amended such information. GAO noted other variances among FAA regions in the way they evaluate proposals and calculated long-term costs which indicated that more specific guidance was needed. As a result, FAA may have limited competition in some areas. **Recommendation To Agencies:** The Secretary of Transportation should direct the Administrator, FAA, to develop and issue to its regions standardized and consistent guidance for evaluating all cost elements in community proposals. The Secretary of Transportation should direct the Administrator, FAA, to encourage additional competition by removing restrictions that require AFSS's to be located on airports and limit the lease terms to 1-year periods.

123556

[*Examination of Alleged Waste and Mismanagement in Army Test, Measurement, and Diagnostic Equipment Support Group*]. NSIAD-84-67; B-214401. March 5, 1984. 2 pp. plus 1 enclosure (6 pp.).

Report to Rep. Joseph P. Addabbo, Chairman, House Committee on Appropriations: Defense Subcommittee; by Frank C. Conahan, Director, GAO National Security and International Affairs Division.

Issue Area: Logistics Management: Equipment Maintenance and Procurement Achieving Optimum Efficiency and Effectiveness (3808).

Contact: National Security and International Affairs Division.

Budget Function: National Defense: Department of Defense - Military (Except Procurement and Contracting) (051.0); National Defense (050.0).

ADP Bibliography

Organization Concerned: Department of the Army: Yuma Proving Ground, AZ; National Guard Calibration Co.; Department of the Army: Tobyhanna Army Depot, PA; Department of the Army: Letterkenny Army Depot, PA; Department of the Army: U.S. Army Materiel Development and Readiness Command: Test, Measurement, and Diagnostic Equipment Support Group.

Congressional Relevance: House Committee on Appropriations: Defense Subcommittee; Rep. Joseph P. Addabbo.

Abstract: In response to a congressional request, GAO examined the validity of an employee's allegations of waste and mismanagement in the Army's Test, Measurement, and Diagnostic Equipment Support Group. **Findings/Conclusions:** GAO and the Army believe the allegations, and the Army is trying to resolve them by: (1) deferring fiscal year 1985 and 1986 funding requests for calibration equipment and canceling requirements for ancillary equipment; (2) reassessing the need for addition calibration equipment and three laboratories; (3) consolidating two laboratories; (4) purging the inventory of the automotive test equipment which is being replaced by a new system; and (4) considering establishing calibration requirements based on equipment use.

123557

[*Insights Into Major Urban Development Action Grant Issues*]. RCED-84-55; B-212637. March 5, 1984. 49 pp. plus 8 appendices (40 pp.).

Report to Congress; by Milton J. Socolar, Acting Comptroller General.

Issue Area: Domestic Housing and Community Development: Effectiveness of Federal Efforts To Preserve and Revitalize Cities and Counties (2137).

Contact: Resources, Community, and Economic Development Division.

Budget Function: Community and Regional Development: Community Development (451.0).

Organization Concerned: Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Congressional Relevance: House Committee on Appropriations: HUD-Independent Agencies Subcommittee; House Committee on Banking, Finance and Urban Affairs; Senate Committee on Appropriations: HUD-Independent Agencies Subcommittee; Senate Committee on Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs; Congress.

Authority: Housing and Community Development Act of 1977 (P.L. 95-128). Comprehensive Employment and Training Act of 1973. Housing and Urban-Rural Recovery Act of 1983. 44 Comp. Gen. 87. 60 Comp. Gen. 540. 58 Comp. Gen. 676. OMB Circular A-102.

Abstract: GAO examined the Urban Development Action Grant (UDAG) Program, focusing on: (1) the accuracy of the Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) information on the results of completed projects; (2) the participation of small cities in the program; and (3) the requirements governing monies that recipient cities can generate by loaning action grant funds to private developers. **Findings/Conclusions:** GAO found that, between 1978 and November 1983, UDAG funded \$3 billion in grants to distressed communities for economic revitalization and neighborhood reclamation projects. The HUD information system, however, did not provide complete information on program results realized from the 12 completed projects reviewed by GAO. GAO also found that many of the most economically distressed small cities did not participate in UDAG, because they: (1) were unfamiliar with the program; (2) had insufficient city government capacity to plan a program project; and (3) had difficulties in obtaining adequate private sector involvement. In addition, many recipients have been repayed UDAG loans by

developers before completion of the intended UDAG projects, but there is no clear policy on whether cities can use these early repayments for additional community and economic development activities. **Recommendation To Agencies:** The Secretary of HUD should direct the UDAG information system to: (1) record each UDAG project's expectations according to the grant agreement or its amendment; and (2) use additional, available information provided by grantees on project results up to the time HUD considers a project complete. The Secretary of HUD, to help increase participation in the UDAG program of cities with populations below 50,000, should develop a plan aimed at helping severely distressed small cities participate in the UDAG program by: (1) identifying highly distressed, potentially eligible small cities that have not applied for, or received, funding; and (2) establishing goals and criteria for selecting small cities to receive technical assistance to help them participate in the UDAG program. The Secretary of HUD, to help increase participation in the UDAG program of cities with populations below 50,000, should develop comprehensive UDAG information materials to help educate small cities and the private sector about the program. The Secretary of HUD, to help increase participation in the UDAG program of cities with populations below 50,000, should develop and test a streamlined application form for use by small cities. The Secretary of HUD should develop and issue policy guidance defining the circumstances under which cities should be able to use early UDAG repayments.

123560

[Protest of Air Force Issuance of Delivery Orders]. B-211330.2. March 5, 1984. 2 pp.

Decision re: Systems Architects, Inc.; by Harry R. Van Cleve, Acting General Counsel.

Contact: Office of the General Counsel.

Organization Concerned: Systems Architects, Inc.; Digital Equipment Corp.; Department of the Air Force.

Authority: Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 637(a)). 4 C.F.R. 21.1(a). D.A.R. 1-604.1(a).

Abstract: A firm protested the Air Force's issuance of delivery orders to another firm for computer equipment and services. The protester alleged that the Air Force violated the Small Business Act and breached its contract by: failing to issue it more than one order, refusing to exercise a second-year option, and ordering direct from the awardee who had previously been a subcontractor of the protester. The protester requested GAO to recommend cancellation of the orders and renegotiation with itself. Alternatively, the protester requested GAO to recommend that the Air Force conduct a competitive procurement in order to satisfy its needs. After it filed this protest, the protester was suspended from future contracting by the Air Force because it had been indicted for fraud. In view of this suspension, the firm was not eligible for award even if its protest were sustained. Accordingly, it was not an interested party and the protest was dismissed.

123565

[Protest of EPA Contract Award Under Oral Solicitation]. B-213452. March 6, 1984. 4 pp.

Decision re: Contech; by Milton J. Socolar, (for Charles A. Bowsher, Comptroller General).

Contact: Office of the General Counsel.

Organization Concerned: Environmental Protection Agency; Contech; Kidd Enterprises, Inc.

Authority: F.P.R. 1-3.202(b)(2). B-207200 (1983).

Abstract: A firm protested an Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) contract award under an oral solicitation for a teleconferencing system. The protester contended that it was never requested to submit a quotation on the procurement and requested that the award be canceled and the procurement resolicited. EPA stated that four firms, including the protester, were orally requested to submit price quotations to meet an urgent need to procure the system. Three other firms agreed that they were requested to submit quotations on the system. Based on its review of the record, GAO could not say that the protester met its burden of affirmatively proving its case. Because of numerous requests for quotations for various size systems, a lease buy out, and confusion about usable and nonusable ports, GAO believed that there was probably miscommunication between the protester and EPA which led to a misunderstanding of the requirement. GAO judges the propriety of a procurement on whether reasonable prices were obtained through adequate competition, unless there is evidence that the agency consciously attempted to exclude a possible competitor. Since at least three firms competed for the requirement and a reasonable price was obtained, there was no such evidence in this case. Accordingly, the protest was denied.

123594

[Social Security Could Improve Its Management and Detection of Postentitlement Changes by Using Postadjudicative Appraisal Data]. HRD-84-27. January 20, 1984. 2 pp. plus 2 enclosures (10 pp.). **Report to** Martha A. McSteen, Acting Commissioner of Social Security, Department of Health and Human Services; by Joseph F. Delfico, Associate Director, GAO Human Resources Division.

Issue Area: Income Security and Social Services: Insuring Proper, Accurate, and Timely Payments With the Benefit Payment Process for Retirees and Survivors (1326).

Contact: Human Resources Division.

Budget Function: Income Security: General Retirement and Disability Insurance (601.0).

Organization Concerned: Department of Health and Human Services; Social Security Administration.

Abstract: GAO analyzed the timeliness with which people report to the Social Security Administration (SSA) events such as marriage, death, and cessation of school attendance, which could affect their social security benefits. **Findings/Conclusions:** GAO found that most such events are reported promptly. However, it estimated that for 1981 about 7 percent of such events were not reported within 2 months of the event and that about \$65 million in overpayments were made to such beneficiaries. GAO could not estimate how much of this overpayment will eventually be recovered because the SSA debt collection management system does not track collection of overpayments by event. Late notification of death caused about half of all the overpayments resulting from untimely reporting. Marriage notifications were most often 2 or more months late. Data on the frequency and effect of late reporting and the characteristics of late reporters could be useful to SSA. By using the data it already collects and other data from its enforcement efforts, SSA should be better able to: (1) assess the degree of compliance with its reporting requirements; (2) determine the type of events that are most often not reported; (3) determine the characteristics of beneficiaries who do not report in a timely manner; (4) determine the overpayment effects of untimely reporting; (5) decide what changes might be needed to quickly detect unreported postentitlement changes and better enforce beneficiary reporting requirements; and (6) monitor changes in the mix of late reporters and the amounts lost due to late reporting to help assess the future impact of any new outreach or detection efforts.

123595

The Unit Status and Identity Report (UNITREP) System--What It Does and Does Not Measure. NSIAD-84-39. March 12, 1984. 22 pp. plus 5 appendices (9 pp.).
Staff Study by Frank C. Conahan, Director, GAO National Security and International Affairs Division.

Issue Area: Military Preparedness Plans: Improvement of Readiness Reporting Systems To More Accurately Reflect Capabilities (0813).

Contact: National Security and International Affairs Division.

Budget Function: National Defense: Department of Defense - Military (Except Procurement and Contracting) (051.0).

Organization Concerned: Department of Defense; Department of the Air Force; Department of the Army; Department of the Navy.

Authority: DOD Directive S-5100.44. JCS Memorandum of Policy 172. JCS Pub 6.

Abstract: GAO analyzed the Unit Status and Identity Report (UNITREP) system, described its functions, and evaluated how it fits into the overall military capability reporting system established by the Joint Chiefs of Staff (JCS). **Findings/Conclusions:** In 1982, the Department of Defense established a standard definition of military capability which includes readiness as well as force structure, sustainability, and modernization. Combat readiness ratings (C-ratings) could then be assigned to each component of the military unit under study. GAO found that UNITREP, which is a management information system, is probably the most authoritative source for unit status information, and its C-ratings data are used routinely to track trends and deficiencies in the equipment, personnel, and training areas. Nevertheless, UNITREP does not provide sufficient detail or information on which to base specific corrective actions and serves basically to flag potential problems. Specifically, GAO found that UNITREP only reports on readiness, combat-type units, and selected resources, which most likely will not include consumable resources such as fuel and ammunition. Furthermore, UNITREP does not attempt to rate units against the requirements of specific operational plans or, except for the Navy, within mission areas. GAO believes that the system's usefulness or applicability during a crisis or mobilization may be limited because the communications system that supports it is unresponsive and vulnerable.

123603

[Protest of Proposed Army Contract Award]. B-212573. March 12, 1984. 2 pp.

Decision re: Beehive Telephone Co.; by Harry R. Van Cleve, Acting General Counsel.

Contact: Office of the General Counsel.

Organization Concerned: Beehive Telephone Co.; Mountain States Telephone and Telegraph Co.; Department of the Army.

Authority: D.A.R. 22-1002(e). D.A.R. 22-1005.1(a). D.A.R. 22-1005.1(b). B-179500 (1974).

Abstract: A firm protested a proposed contract award for telecommunication services to an Army housing area, contending that it was improperly excluded from competition and that the Army's sole source negotiations with the proposed awardee violated Defense Acquisition Regulations (DAR). Pursuant to the DAR, communication services are to be procured from the common carrier authorized to operate within a service area. GAO found that the proposed awardee was the only firm certified to provide service to the base housing area and that the protester had applied to the State public service commission for certification. Since the certification issue was pending resolution by State authorities, GAO declined to review the protest. Accordingly, the protest was dismissed.

123611

[Protest Alleging Unduly Restrictive Specifications in Army RFP]. B-213913. March 13, 1984. 1 p.

Decision re: Walker Telecommunications Corp.; Sigme Teleproducts, Inc.; by Harry R. Van Cleve, Acting General Counsel.

Contact: Office of the General Counsel.

Organization Concerned: Walker Telecommunications Corp.; Sigme Teleproducts, Inc.; Department of the Army.

Authority: B-212112.3 (1983).

Abstract: A firm protested that the specifications in an Army solicitation were unduly restrictive of competition. GAO held that, since the Army canceled the solicitation and agreed to consider the protester's complaint before resoliciting, the matter was academic. Accordingly, the protest was dismissed.

123641

[Protest of Specifications in RFQ]. B-214526. March 15, 1984. 1 p.

Decision re: NCR Corp.; Micrographics Systems Division; by Harry R. Van Cleve, Acting General Counsel.

Contact: Office of the General Counsel.

Organization Concerned: NCR Corp.; Micrographics Systems Division.

Authority: 4 C.F.R. 21.2(b)(1). B-209093 (1982).

Abstract: A firm protested that the specifications in a request for quotations were drafted to favor the incumbent contractor and deprive other qualified vendors of the opportunity to compete for the award. GAO found that the protest was not filed within the timeframe required by bid protest procedures. Accordingly, the protest was dismissed.

123647

Electronic Marketing of Agricultural Commodities: An Evolutionary Trend. RCED-84-97; B-214420. March 8, 1984. Released March 12, 1984. 15 pp. plus 2 appendices (2 pp.).

Report to Rep. Parren J. Mitchell, Chairman, House Committee on Small Business; by J. Dexter Peach, Director, GAO Resources, Community, and Economic Development Division.

Issue Area: Food: Need for Federal Action To Improve Efficiency in Food Marketing (1740); Consumer and Worker Protection: FTC's Role for Protecting Consumers From Unfair or Deceptive Trade Practices (0928).

Contact: Resources, Community, and Economic Development Division.

Budget Function: Agriculture: Agricultural Research and Services (352.0).

Organization Concerned: Department of Agriculture.

Congressional Relevance: House Committee on Small Business; Rep. Parren J. Mitchell.

Authority: Packers and Stockyards Act, 1921 (7 U.S.C. 181 et seq.).

Abstract: In response to a congressional request, GAO reported on the efforts of the Department of Agriculture (USDA) to develop electronic marketing for agricultural commodities, the benefits and problems of electronic marketing, and the status of electronic marketing in agriculture. **Findings/Conclusions:** USDA is monitoring the use of electronic systems in marketing livestock, providing educational activities to persons interested in learning about electronic marketing systems, and funding pilot projects to demonstrate the feasibility of computerized electronic marketing. Overall, the projects demonstrated that agricultural commodities can be traded electronically and that electronic marketing is a feasible alternative to current marketing systems. However, the studies showed that, to be successful and economically viable, trading volume must be sufficient to cover the fixed and

operating costs of an electronic market as well as to attract and keep traders in the system. The projects showed that electronic marketing improved market information, increased marketing efficiency, increased competition, and increased access to the market for both buyers and sellers. In addition, transportation costs are lower because an electronic market eliminates the need for central assembly of products prior to sale. Some of the problems associated with electronic marketing include concerns that: products cannot be adequately described, personal interchange will be lost, buyers and sellers will not perform according to the terms stipulated in the trade, and that electronic marketing is not cost-effective. In addition, some potential users are unwilling to participate or see no advantage in participating.

123651

[Protest of HHS Issuance of Delivery Order]. B-213812. March 15, 1984. 2 pp.

Decision re: Canberra Industries, Inc.; by Harry R. Van Cleve, Acting General Counsel.

Contact: Office of the General Counsel.

Organization Concerned: Canberra Industries, Inc.; National Institutes of Health.

Authority: 4 C.F.R. 21.1(a). 4 C.F.R. 21.1(c)(4). 4 C.F.R. 21.2(b)(2). 4 C.F.R. 21.2(b)(3). B-195703 (1979). B-208150.2 (1982).

Abstract: A firm protested the National Institutes of Health's (NIH) issuance of a delivery order for automatic data processing equipment under a Federal Supply Schedule contract. The protester stated that the equipment which the awardee furnished was not on its supply schedule contract and, therefore, the purchase was improper. Bid protest procedures require that protests be filed within 10 working days after the basis for the protest is known. In addition, if a protest is initially filed with a contracting activity, any subsequent protest to GAO must be filed within 10 working days of actual or constructive notice of the initial adverse agency action. Since the protest was not received within the required timeframe it was untimely filed. Accordingly, the protest was dismissed.

123685

Federal Evaluations. OACG-84-3. 1984. 1192 pp.
by Charles A. Bowsher, Comptroller General.

Issue Area: Program and Budget Information for Congressional Use: Development and Maintenance of Information Sources Inventories and Directories (3410).

Contact: Office of the Assistant Comptroller General.

Budget Function: Congressional Information Services (990.5).

Organization Concerned: Government-Wide.

Authority: Congressional Budget and Impoundment Control Act of 1974 (P.L. 93-344). 31 U.S.C. 1112. 31 U.S.C. 1113.

Abstract: This publication is presented as part of the GAO effort to provide Congress with improved access to program and management evaluation information in the Federal Government. The evaluations were conducted by Federal agencies to determine whether programs and operations are meeting their objectives. This publication is intended to be a reference for use by Congress in carrying out its budget and oversight responsibilities.

123693

[Protest of Defense Mapping Agency Contract Award]. B-213440. March 20, 1984. 4 pp.

Decision re: Whittaker Corp.: Falcon Research; by Milton J. Socolar. (for Charles A. Bowsher, Comptroller General).

Contact: Office of the General Counsel.

Organization Concerned: Whittaker Corp.: Falcon Research; Teledyne Geotronics; Defense Mapping Agency; Hydrographic/Topographic Center, Washington, DC.

Authority: D.A.R. 1-902. B-211170 (1983). B-209491 (1983).

Abstract: A firm protested a contract award by the Defense Mapping Agency under a solicitation for processed digital data. The protester challenged the agency's determination that it was not a responsible prospective contractor for the procurement and claimed that the perceived deficiencies could be easily cured. GAO does not question a determination of nonresponsibility unless a protester demonstrates that the agency acted in bad faith or lacked a reasonable basis for the determination. GAO found that the agency's determination was rationally based. Accordingly, the protest was denied.

123708

[Activities of the Energy Information Administration]. March 22, 1984. 9 pp.

Testimony before the House Committee on Energy and Commerce: Fossil and Synthetic Fuels Subcommittee; by F. Kevin Boland, Senior Associate Director, GAO Resources, Community, and Economic Development Division.

Contact: Resources, Community, and Economic Development Division.

Organization Concerned: Energy Information Administration; Professional Audit Review Team.

Congressional Relevance: House Committee on Energy and Commerce: Fossil and Synthetic Fuels Subcommittee.

Authority: Department of Energy Organization Act.

Abstract: GAO discussed the Professional Audit Review Team's (PART) evaluation of the Energy Information Administration (EIA). GAO noted that EIA has made progress in several areas in spite of budgetary and staffing resource constraints. PART found that EIA is strengthening internal quality controls and assessment activities to better ensure its objectivity and independence. EIA is evaluating its staff needs, enhancing its annual planning activities, and determining the usefulness of its energy data and publications. Regarding EIA objectivity, PART found that EIA continues to obtain expert review of and comment on its work. A continuing, serious problem is maintaining and improving the accuracy and credibility of energy information that EIA gathers and disseminates.

123710

Summaries of Conclusions and Recommendations on Department of Defense Operations. OADPS-84-2; B-205879. March 20, 1984. 135 pp.

Report to Sen. Mark O. Hatfield, Chairman, Senate Committee on Appropriations; Rep. Jamie L. Whitten, Chairman, House Committee on Appropriations; by Charles A. Bowsher, Comptroller General.

Contact: Office of ADP Services.

Budget Function: General Government (800.0).

Organization Concerned: Department of Defense.

Congressional Relevance: House Committee on Appropriations; Senate Committee on Appropriations; Rep. Jamie L. Whitten; Sen. Mark O. Hatfield.

Abstract: Summaries are provided of conclusions and recommendations resulting from GAO audits and other review work of the Department of Defense. The summaries presented are those on which no satisfactory legislative or administrative actions have been taken. They are submitted for use in congressional review of budget requests for fiscal year 1985.

123713

Summaries of Conclusions and Recommendations on the Operations of Civil Departments and Agencies. OADPS-84-1; B-205879. March 20, 1984. 493 pp.

Report to Rep. Jamie L. Whitten, Chairman, House Committee on Appropriations; Sen. Mark O. Hatfield, Chairman, Senate Committee on Appropriations; by Charles A. Bowsher, Comptroller General.

Contact: Office of ADP Services.

Budget Function: General Government (800.0).

Organization Concerned: Government-Wide.

Congressional Relevance: House Committee on Appropriations; Senate Committee on Appropriations; Rep. Jamie L. Whitten; Sen. Mark O. Hatfield.

Abstract: Summaries are provided of conclusions and recommendations resulting from GAO audits and other review work in Federal civil departments and agencies. The summaries presented are those on which no satisfactory legislative or administrative actions have been taken or are being taken. They are submitted for use in congressional review of budget requests for fiscal year 1985.

123751

[GAO Views on H.R. 5184]. March 27, 1984. 10 pp. plus 1 enclosure (4 pp.).

Testimony before the House Committee on Government Operations; by Charles A. Bowsher, Comptroller General.

Contact: Office of the Comptroller General.

Congressional Relevance: House Committee on Government Operations.

Authority: Property and Administrative Services Act. 4 C.F.R. 21. H.R. 5184 (98th Cong.).

Abstract: Testimony was given on proposed legislation which would encourage federal agencies to base their contract awards on competition to the maximum extent practical. GAO generally supports this legislation; however, there are a few areas of the bill in which GAO believes that refinements would be useful. The bill would preclude an agency from either awarding a contract or continuing contract performance when a protest is pending before GAO unless vital interests of the United States are at stake. GAO believes that this standard may be too rigid to apply realistically. In addition, GAO believes that the reporting requirements imposed on agencies may be unreasonable. However, a proposal to enable GAO to declare the entitlement of a successful protester to the costs of pursuing its protest, as well as to bid preparation costs, would enhance GAO ability to provide protesters with meaningful relief. GAO believes that the bill's tightened competition requirements, together with stricter protest requirements, could cause delay in Government procurement programs and increased costs. Furthermore, GAO sees no reason why procurements of automatic data processing equipment could be protested to the General Services Administration as well as to GAO. GAO believes that: (1) a better definition is needed of the circumstances authorizing the use of noncompetitive practices; (2) a report should be required in each case where the lack of advance planning caused a noncompetitive procurement; (3) the bill should provide that failure to obligate funds by reason of a pending protest should not cause the funds to lapse if the protest is resolved in favor of the agency; and (4) GAO should be given some discretion to determine how best to handle its caseload.

123762

[Protest of USGS Proposed Contract Award]. B-211762. March 27, 1984. 4 pp.

Decision re: Townsend & Co.; by Milton J. Socolar, (for Charles A. Bowsher, Comptroller General).

Contact: Office of the General Counsel.

Organization Concerned: Townsend & Co.; Department of the Interior; Geological Survey.

Authority: 52 Comp. Gen. 425. 55 Comp. Gen. 244. 48 Comp. Gen. 605. F.P.R. 1-3.805-1(a). B-212570 (1984).

Abstract: A firm protested a proposed contract award under a solicitation for computer equipment items issued by the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), contending that award should have been made on the basis of its initial proposal. Upon evaluating the protester's proposal, the contracting officer requested best and final offers and informed other bidders that the procurement was competitive and the price list was variable. The protester complained that USGS did not have sufficient reason to request best and final offers. GAO stated that, in a negotiated procurement, the decision whether to award on the basis of an initial proposal is discretionary and, therefore, the protester had no legal right to insist that award be made to its initial proposal. Finally, the protester complained that the contracting officer accepted a substitution in the potential awardee's offering entity when it submitted its best and final offer. GAO found that, for business reasons, the potential awardee changed the offerer's identification without making any change in the actual contracting party. Accordingly, the protest was denied.

123788

An Assessment of Random Audit--A New Department of Labor Program to Improve the Accuracy of Unemployment Insurance Benefit Payments. HRD-84-26; B-214581. March 30, 1984. 8 pp. plus 3 appendices (38 pp.).

Report to Raymond J. Donovan, Secretary, Department of Labor; by Richard L. Fogel, Director, GAO Human Resources Division.

Issue Area: Federally Sponsored or Assisted Employment and Training Programs: Minimizing Unemployment Insurance Costs While Providing Adequate Benefits (3225); Internal Auditing Systems: Management Control Systems in Federal Agencies for the Prevention of Fraud and Abuse (0206).

Contact: Human Resources Division.

Budget Function: Education, Training, Employment, and Social Services: Training and Employment (504.0).

Organization Concerned: Department of Labor; Employment and Training Administration.

Congressional Relevance: House Committee on Appropriations: Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Subcommittee; House Committee on Ways and Means; Senate Committee on Appropriations: Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Subcommittee; Senate Committee on Finance.

Abstract: GAO assessed the Department of Labor's random audit program which was initiated to improve the accuracy of benefit payments under the unemployment insurance system. **Findings/Conclusions:** In each participating state, a random sample of about eight unemployment insurance payments are selected for detailed weekly investigations and this provides the basis for estimating the extent, type, and cause of overpayments. GAO believes that the program is conceptually sound and should, if properly implemented, provide needed information. However, comparisons between states may not be meaningful, statistically reliable projections of a national overpayment rate cannot be made until all States have implemented the random audit, not all unemployment insurance claims are covered by the random audit, and overpayment rates tend to be understated. The results of the random audit program have generally confirmed that high overpayment rates exist. The principal identified cause for these overpayments is that claimants are not actively seeking work. In addition, there are limitations in the states' systems for detecting,

preventing, and recovering overpayments. GAO believes that overpayments can be greatly reduced if Labor and the states effectively use the random audit information. In several states, the program is contributing to improved claims processing and overpayment control. However, others have not made substantial changes to improve their programs, principally because of Labor's initial passive role in seeking corrective actions. Concern exists as to whether the federal monitoring of the program in each state should be strengthened, and whether the program should be expanded to include additional types of unemployment insurance claims. **Recommendation To Agencies:** The Secretary of Labor should direct the Assistant Secretary for Employment and Training to determine the adequacy of federal efforts to monitor the implementation of the random audit. The Secretary of Labor should direct the Assistant Secretary for Employment and Training to determine and evaluate alternatives for assessing the extent, type, and cause of overpayments in extended benefits and federal supplemental compensation claims.

123790

Topics in Evaluation. 1984. 4 pp.

by Carl E. Wisler, Associate Director, GAO Program Evaluation and Methodology Division.

In *The GAO Review*, Vol. 19, Issue 1, Winter 1984, pp. 12-13, 34-35.

Contact: Program Evaluation and Methodology Division.

Abstract: This article is intended to clarify the scope of the inferences which can be drawn from a criterion-condition-cause-effect design for audits and evaluations and discusses the criterion-referenced design, which is widely applicable within GAO. Two types of evaluations of an employment and training program are presented to illustrate the different types of questions asked in criterion-referenced evaluations and in field experiment evaluations.

123791

Sole-Source Versus Competitive Contracting: Why a GAO Audit Guide Is Needed. 1984. 2 pp.

by Kevin M. Tansey, Group Director, GAO National Security and International Affairs Division.

In *The GAO Review*, Vol. 19, Issue 1, Winter 1984, pp. 14-15.

Contact: National Security and International Affairs Division.

Authority: P.L. 96-83. S. 338 (98th Cong.). 41 U.S.C. 401 et seq.

Abstract: This article discusses the fact that, although Congress requires the Government to purchase its goods and services by using competition whenever practical, many contracts have been awarded sole-source unnecessarily. As a result, GAO has issued an audit guide for reviewing the feasibility of competition on sole-source contracts which summarizes the conditions that justify a noncompetitive decision, identifies unacceptable sole-source justifications, and summarizes the most important criteria for evaluating noncompetitive decisions.

123808

[Corps of Engineers Request for Decision Concerning Legality of Expending Appropriated Funds]. B-213415. April 2, 1984. 5 pp. **Decision re:** Department of the Army: Corps of Engineers: Ohio River Division; National Federation of Federal Employees: Local 892; by Milton J. Socolar, (for Charles A. Bowsher, Comptroller General).

Contact: Office of the General Counsel.

Organization Concerned: Department of the Army: Corps of Engineers: Ohio River Division; National Federation of Federal Employees: Local 892.

Authority: Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970 (29 U.S.C. 651 et seq.). 29 C.F.R. 1910.133. 3 Comp. Gen. 433. 42 Comp. Gen. 626. 45 Comp. Gen. 215. 51 Comp. Gen. 446. 61 Comp. Gen. 634. 61 Comp. Gen. 635. B-193559 (1979). 5 U.S.C. 5901 et seq. 5 U.S.C. 668. 5 U.S.C. 7903.

Abstract: The Army Corps of Engineers requested a decision concerning the legality of expending appropriated funds to reimburse employees who purchase special eyeglasses for use in the operation of video display terminals. The Corps and a labor union are negotiating over the impact of an agency decision to install the terminals when certain employees who have not worn glasses may need them, and others may need corrective lenses to operate the terminals. The agency concluded that the principal benefit from use of the glasses is to the employee, although the Government could receive a long-range benefit. In addition, the agency does not consider work with the video display terminals to be hazardous. The Occupational Safety and Health Act and other regulations allow an agency to purchase certain equipment, if an agency head determines the items to be needed as protection from hazardous conditions. Since the agency has not determined that the work involved is hazardous, these authorities cannot be used to expend appropriated funds for eyeglasses. In addition, because of the absence of benefit to the United States, regulations for the purchase of personal equipment do not provide the authority for the purchase. Under the circumstances, GAO found that there was no basis for the agency to enter into an agreement with the union to expend appropriated funds on the equipment.

123816

[Extending the Authorization of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1980]. April 4, 1984. 8 pp. plus 2 enclosures (6 pp.).

Testimony before the Senate Committee on Governmental Affairs: Information Management and Regulatory Affairs Subcommittee; by Charles A. Bowsher, Comptroller General.

Contact: Office of the Comptroller General.

Organization Concerned: Office of Management and Budget: Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs.

Congressional Relevance: Senate Committee on Governmental Affairs: Information Management and Regulatory Affairs Subcommittee.

Authority: Paperwork Reduction Act of 1980. S. 2433 (98th Cong.).

Abstract: GAO discussed the reauthorization of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1980, the Office of Management and Budget's (OMB) implementation of the act, and a proposal to amend the act. GAO believes that OMB has made significant progress in implementing the act. OMB has issued a 5-year automatic data processing (ADP) and telecommunications plan which it believes will bring about effective ADP and telecommunications planning at the agency level, and it has increased its interest in statistical policy and is monitoring compliance with statistical standards. While OMB has issued detailed policies and procedural guidance to agencies regarding paperwork management, it has not yet issued detailed guidance for ADP, telecommunications, or statistical policy. OMB does plan to issue a policy circular on information resources management soon. GAO believes that the proposed amendments would strengthen the act and further its original purposes.

123820

[Protest of Rejection of Offer by Army]. B-213878. April 3, 1984. 6 pp.

Decision re: Software Associates, Ltd.; by Milton J. Socolar, (for Charles A. Bowsher, Comptroller General).

Contact: Office of the General Counsel.

Organization Concerned: Department of the Army: U.S. Army Communications-Electronics Command; Software Associates, Ltd.

Authority: 55 Comp. Gen. 432. B-202762 (1982). B-204701 (1982).

Abstract: A firm protested the Army's rejection of the offer it submitted in response to a request for proposals (RFP) for configuration management of tactical satellite terminals. The protester believed that the statement of work related to technical publication and accounting services rather than configuration management services. Therefore, it contended that the Army improperly evaluated its proposal on the basis of criteria related to configuration management. It also contended that the Army's determination of its technical unacceptability was otherwise unjustified. Since the RFP made it clear that the Army regarded the requested services to be configuration management, the Army's evaluation of proposals with such an understanding was required. The determination of whether a proposal is technically acceptable is primarily a matter of contract administration. GAO will not disturb such a determination absent a showing that it lacked a reasonable basis or violated procurement laws. An examination of the protester's proposal revealed a more than adequate basis for the finding of technical unacceptability since the protester failed to: (1) address the broad aspects of the RFP requirements; (2) describe the manpower allocation for each task; or (3) demonstrate a comprehensive knowledge of the degree of effort required to accomplish the necessary tasks. Although the protester had extensive experience in the field of technical publications, GAO found that this experience only indirectly related to the configuration management services required. Since GAO concluded that the protester's allegations concerning the evaluation were without merit, the protest was denied.

123826

[Protest of Proposed Subcontract Award by EPA Contractor]. B-213682. April 2, 1984. 4 pp.

Decision re: Information Consultants, Inc.; by Harry R. Van Cleve, Acting General Counsel.

Contact: Office of the General Counsel.

Organization Concerned: Information Consultants, Inc.; Environmental Protection Agency.

Authority: 54 Comp. Gen. 767. B-210726 (1983).

Abstract: A firm protested a solicitation and proposed subcontract award by an Environmental Protection Agency prime contractor, contending that: (1) the Government directly controlled subcontractor selection; (2) the subcontractor was actually performing for the Government; and (3) Government officials improperly approved the subcontract award. GAO noted that the first and second arguments did not meet any of the circumstances which permit subcontract reviews, and the third argument was premature since the subcontract award had not been made. Accordingly, the protest was dismissed.

123829

The Audit and Inspection Functions at the United States Information Agency Need Management Attention. NSIAD-84-14; B-206427. April 4, 1984. 29 pp. plus 1 appendix (21 pp.).

Report to Charles Z. Wick, Director, United States Information Agency; by Frank C. Conahan, Director, GAO National Security and International Affairs Division.

Issue Area: Internal Auditing Systems: Audit and Investigative Coverage to Federal Programs and Operations Provided by Inspector General Offices and Federal Internal Audit Organizations (0207); International Affairs: Management of Foreign Affairs (0614).

Contact: National Security and International Affairs Division.

Budget Function: International Affairs: Conduct of Foreign Affairs (153.0).

Organization Concerned: United States Information Agency.

Congressional Relevance: House Committee on Appropriations: Foreign Operations Subcommittee; House Committee on Government Operations; House Committee on Foreign Affairs; Senate Committee on Appropriations: Foreign Operations Subcommittee; Senate Committee on Governmental Affairs; Senate Committee on Foreign Relations.

Authority: OMB Circular A-73. OMB Circular A-50.

Abstract: GAO reviewed the audit and inspection functions at the United States Information Agency (USIA). **Findings/Conclusions:** GAO found that the effectiveness of audit activity at USIA was impaired because: (1) there was a lack of timely compliance with audit recommendations; (2) the audit function was not properly located within the organizational structure of USIA; (3) there was insufficient funding and staffing of audit activities; and (4) the scope of audit activities was inadequate. USIA has not implemented an audit recommendation resolution system, and GAO identified numerous recurring management problems in such areas as personnel, payroll, travel, and cash, property, contract, and grant management. In addition, GAO found perceptions throughout the agency that the inspection function was ineffective because: (1) inspectors did not use adequate criteria, standards, and methods; (2) inspectors had preconceived ideas about programs that hindered their ability to apply objective inspection criteria; and (3) inspectors recommended actions which would not be effective. GAO was unable to independently assess the inspection function at USIA because of a lack of sufficient documentation. **Recommendation To Agencies:** The Director of USIA should appoint an experienced and qualified Inspector General to carry out USIA audit activities in conformance with governmental audit standards. The Director of USIA should support the Inspector General's audit activities with adequate staffing and funding. The Director of USIA should develop and implement an effective audit recommendation and followup compliance system adhering to OMB Circular A-50 and the Comptroller General's resolution standards and have the Inspector General monitor the effectiveness of the system. The Director of USIA should direct the audit staff to prepare and maintain complete and proper workpapers and supporting evidence and index (cross-reference) the facts to a completed report to ensure accuracy and supportability. The Director of USIA should establish a permanent professional inspection staff trained in management analysis. The Director of USIA should direct the Chief Inspector to develop standards and criteria for the inspection process, after consulting with the Director and area offices to satisfy their inspection objectives, and to provide an uniform inspection approach. The Director of USIA should develop and implement an effective inspection follow-up and compliance system.

123863

[Protest of Rejection of Bid as Nonresponsive by Army]. B-213579. April 9, 1984. 3 pp.

Decision re: Inland Associates; by Milton J. Socolar, (for Charles A. Bowsher, Comptroller General).

Contact: Office of the General Counsel.

Organization Concerned: Inland Associates; Department of the Army: Fort Benjamin Harrison, IN; Federal Communications Commission.

Authority: 47 C.F.R. 68.102. 47 C.F.R. 68.300. 58 Comp. Gen. 214. B-193704 (1979). B-204311 (1982).

Abstract: A firm protested the rejection of its bid by the Army, contending that the Army improperly rejected the bid as

nonresponsive. The Army rejected the bid because it thought that the product offered was not registered with the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), as required by law and the solicitation. Descriptive literature submitted by the protester contained the words "FCC Registration Number: Pending." The Army contacted the manufacturer of the product and was told that the equipment was not registered. GAO held that: (1) while the protester's literature was unclear, the Army should have contacted FCC to determine the registration status of the equipment offered by the protester; and (2) the equipment was in fact registered and the protester's bid was responsive. Accordingly, the protest was sustained. Because the contract had been awarded and performed, GAO did not recommend corrective action.

123881

[Bank Liability Pursuant to Electronic Transfer of Reoccurring Federal Payments]. B-210412. April 11, 1984. 4 pp.

Decision re: Claim Against Government; by Milton J. Socolar, (for Charles A. Bowsher, Comptroller General).

Contact: Office of the General Counsel.

Organization Concerned: Department of the Treasury; Jefferson Bank & Trust Co. of Lakewood, CO.

Authority: Administrative Procedure Act (5 U.S.C. 552). 31 C.F.R. 210. 31 C.F.R. 210.9(a). 31 C.F.R. 210.10(a). 31 C.F.R. 210.10(b). 31 C.F.R. 210.10(c). 40 Fed. Reg. 47492.

Abstract: A bank filed a claim against the Government for money that was debited to its account with the Federal Reserve Bank at the request of the Department of the Treasury. Treasury found the bank liable for Government payments made to a deceased civil service retiree's account after the death of the retiree. Treasury regulations require banks to provide the names of individuals who withdraw from Federal retiree's electronic transfer accounts after the retiree's death, before waiving the banks' liability for the funds. However, the bank failed to provide the names within the required timeframe. Since GAO found the Treasury requirement reasonable, and the bank failed to provide the names within the required timeframe, Treasury properly found the bank liable for the payments. Accordingly, the claim was denied.

123921

Depository Librarians' Views on GPO's Administration of the Depository Library Program. AFMD-84-50; B-214852. April 9, 1984. 1 p. plus 2 appendices (40 pp.).

Report to Rep. Augustus F. Hawkins, Chairman, Joint Committee on Printing; by Frederick D. Wolf, Director, GAO Accounting and Financial Management Division.

Issue Area: Accounting and Financial Reporting: Operations, Financial Position, and Changes in Financial Position (2802).

Contact: Accounting and Financial Management Division.

Budget Function: Financial Management and Information Systems: Accounting Systems in Operation (998.1).

Organization Concerned: Government Printing Office.

Congressional Relevance: Joint Committee on Printing; *Rep.* Augustus F. Hawkins.

Abstract: Pursuant to a congressional request, GAO used a questionnaire to obtain the views of depository librarians on the Government Printing Office's depository library program. **Findings/Conclusions:** GAO discussed the librarians' responses to the individual questions and included a tabulation of the responses to each question.

123931

[Protest of Forest Service Rejection of Bid]. B-213255. April 17, 1984. 5 pp.

Decision re: Continental Telephone of California; by Milton J. Socolar, (for Charles A. Bowsher, Comptroller General).

Contact: Office of the General Counsel.

Organization Concerned: Forest Service; Continental Telephone of California.

Authority: 61 Comp. Gen. 581. B-209260.2 (1983). B-210466 (1983).

Abstract: A firm protested the Forest Service's rejection of its bid as nonresponsive and its subsequent contract award for items under an invitation for bids for the procurement of a telephone system. The Forest Service rejected the protester's bid as nonresponsive because the descriptive literature it submitted failed to demonstrate that the system it offered conformed to the specifications. The protester conceded that its descriptive literature did not demonstrate that its system possessed the necessary capability. However, the protester maintained that, since it did not state that the products it offered were not in compliance with the specifications, it was obligated to supply products which met the specifications. GAO stated that, when an agency requires descriptive literature for use in its bid evaluation, bid rejection is required when the literature supplied does not show conformance with the specifications. Accordingly, the protest was denied.

123943

Improving Controls Over Rent and Management Fees at Multifamily Housing Projects. RCED-84-118; B-214786. April 11, 1984. 20 pp. plus 1 appendix (1 p.).

Report to Sen. William Proxmire; by Ralph V. Carlone, (for J. Dexter Peach, Director), GAO Resources, Community, and Economic Development Division.

Issue Area: Domestic Housing and Community Development: Efficiency and Economy of Administration of Housing Production Program (2127).

Contact: Resources, Community, and Economic Development Division.

Budget Function: Community and Regional Development: Community Development (451.0).

Organization Concerned: Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Congressional Relevance: House Committee on Appropriations: HUD-Independent Agencies Subcommittee; House Committee on Banking, Finance and Urban Affairs; Senate Committee on Appropriations: HUD-Independent Agencies Subcommittee; Senate Committee on Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs; Sen. William Proxmire.

Authority: Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act of 1982. Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 (P.L. 93-383). HUD Handbook 4350.1. HUD Handbook 4381.5.

Abstract: Pursuant to a congressional request, GAO evaluated the Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) procedures for controlling rents and management fees at multifamily housing projects. **Findings/Conclusions:** As part of its oversight role in housing programs, HUD reviews and approves rent and management fee increases for multifamily rental housing projects. GAO found that inadequate controls were resulting in excessive rents, higher management fees, and possible overpayment of HUD subsidies. Three HUD field offices processed or approved rent increases without receiving supporting documentation. Approved rents were overstated by about \$510,000 at 17 projects, including overstatements of capital improvements, commercial income, expenses associated with providing rent-free apartments to management personnel, and calculation errors. GAO found that capital improvements and commercial income were overstated because HUD personnel did not follow procedures. Current HUD instructions are unclear regarding the value of rent-free apartments. In some cases, GAO found no

evidence that supervisors reviewed the work of personnel who processed rent increases. GAO also found that management fees were being approved under different criteria and rationales. In addition, field offices were not comparing the payment of management fees with approved fees. HUD is in the process of developing new procedures for the review of both rent increases and management fees. **Recommendation To Agencies:** The Secretary of HUD should finalize and implement new procedures for improving controls over rents and management fees. These procedures should include the development of more specific guidelines on the documentation required and the analysis needed for field offices to process and approve rent increases. The Secretary of HUD should finalize and implement new procedures for improving controls over rents and management fees. These procedures should include clarification of guidelines pertaining to the treatment of rent-free units in evaluating rent increase requests. The Secretary of HUD should finalize and implement new procedures for improving controls over rents and management fees. These procedures should include the establishment of a uniform method for approving management fees. The Secretary of HUD should finalize and implement new procedures for improving controls over rents and management fees. These procedures should include clarification of what sources of project income are permitted in calculating the basis for the payment of management fees. The Secretary of HUD should finalize and implement new procedures for improving controls over rents and management fees. These procedures should include the development of guidelines for supervisory controls over the rent and management fee processes.

123947

[Protest of GSA Decision To Exclude Carriers From Competition]. B-213995. April 19, 1984. 4 pp.

Decision re: RCA American Communications, Inc.; by Milton J. Socolar, (for Charles A. Bowsher, Comptroller General).

Contact: Office of the General Counsel.

Organization Concerned: RCA American Communications, Inc., General Services Administration.

Authority: B-209660 (1983). B-204364.2 (1982).

Abstract: A telecommunications common carrier protested a General Services Administration (GSA) decision to exclude satellite transmission carriers from Federal Telecommunications Systems procurements of private line intercity switched telecommunications. The carrier contended that the decision under a solicitation was unduly restrictive of competition and that GSA could achieve a substantial cost saving by allowing satellite carriers to participate in such procurements. GAO held that GSA established a prima facie case in support of the exclusion of satellite carriers and showed that the minimum needs of GSA could still be met by limiting competition to terrestrial carriers. GAO found that the protester did not present evidence showing that the exclusion of satellite carriers was clearly unreasonable for this procurement. Further, the question of cost savings was irrelevant since GSA reasonably determined that satellite transmission services could not currently meet GSA needs. GAO noted that GSA decides the amount of cost reduction required in each procurement on a case-by-case basis to maximize competition. Accordingly, the protest was denied.

123949

[Protest of Contract Award by the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts]. B-213941. April 20, 1984. 4 pp.

Decision re: Planning and Analysis, Inc.; by Milton J. Socolar, (for Charles A. Bowsher, Comptroller General).

Contact: Office of the General Counsel

Organization Concerned: Administrative Office of the United States Courts; Planning and Analysis, Inc.; Oakland County, MI; Department of Computer Services.

Authority: 54 Comp. Gen. 480. B-184850 (1976). B-196935 (1979). B-210239 (1983).

Abstract: A firm protested an Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts' contract award to a local government entity for an automated jury selection system. The protester contended that it was unfair to permit a local government entity, which is subsidized by the taxpayers and has other competitive advantages over commercial firms, to compete under this request for proposals (RFP). The protester asserted that, had it been aware that it was competing with a public sector offerer, it would not have participated. In addition, the protester objected to the agency's holding discussions at the awardee's computer installation, alleged that the awardee was improperly provided with information, and contended that the agency should have negotiated with it concerning price before canceling a prior RFP for the same procurement. The agency awarded the contract to the local entity based on its higher technical score and lower price. GAO concluded that under this procurement there was no prohibition against local governments' competing with commercial concerns, and there is no requirement to equalize competition by taking into consideration local entities' competitive advantage. GAO found that the protester failed to provide evidence that the agency improperly provided the awardee with information during negotiations or that both offerers were not competing on an equal basis. In addition, the agency's visit to the awardee's installation did not prejudice the protester, because discussions there were limited to price. Finally, GAO found that the agency's decision not to hold negotiations with the protester after the original solicitation and its decision to cancel and resolicit were reasonable, since the potential for cost savings is a legitimate basis for canceling a negotiated solicitation. Accordingly, the protest was denied.

123955

[Protest of FBI Contract Award]. B-213396. April 17, 1984. 13 pp.

Decision re: Delta Data Systems Corp.; by Milton J. Socolar, (for Charles A. Bowsher, Comptroller General).

Contact: Office of the General Counsel

Organization Concerned: Delta Data Systems Corp.; Burroughs Corp.; Systems Development Corp.; Federal Bureau of Investigation; United States District Court: District of Columbia

Authority: F.P.R. 1-1.1203-1(a). Kalvar Corp., Inc. v. United States, 543 F.2d 1298 (Ct. Cl. 1976). B-207485.3 (1983). B-184754 (1975). B-208632 (1983). B-209243 (1983). B-209705 (1983). B-212018 (1983). 15 U.S.C. 637(b)(7)(A).

Abstract: A firm protested a contract award by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) to another firm under a solicitation for computer equipment. GAO rendered its decision pursuant to a request from a court that was hearing a civil suit filed by the protester. The protester contended that: (1) FBI improperly downgraded the protester's technical evaluation scores upon obtaining information regarding the protester's allegedly unstable financial condition; (2) the awardee's proposal did not meet the solicitation specifications; and (3) FBI acted in bad faith and improperly favored the awardee. GAO held that: (1) the financial condition of the protester was a matter of bidder responsibility; (2) FBI should not have rescored the technical evaluation as a result of obtaining information pertinent to bidder responsibility; and (3) FBI should have referred the matter of the protester's responsibility to the Small Business Administration (SBA). In addition, GAO held that: (1) the solicitation was subject to more than one reasonable interpretation, and (2) FBI should have become aware of the ambiguity when the protester called

attention to it in its best and final offer. GAO also held that the protester did not provide irrefragable proof that FBI acted in bad faith with a malicious and specific intent to injure the protester. Accordingly, the protest was sustained. GAO recommended that: (1) the protester's proposal be considered; (2) the contract be terminated and awarded to the protester if the protester was found to be responsible; (3) any finding of nonresponsibility be referred to SBA; and (4) if the recommended corrective actions were not feasible, the protester be paid proposal preparation costs.

123974

[Actions Taken To Improve Management and Reduce Costs of Interior's Aircraft Operations]. NSIAD-84-45; B-206232. April 2, 1984. 11 pp. plus 2 enclosures (7 pp.).

Report to Rep. Jack Brooks, Chairman, House Committee on Government Operations; by Charles A. Bowsher, Comptroller General.

Refer to PLRD-83-45, March 3, 1983, Accession Number 120803; PLRD-83-52, April 1, 1983, Accession Number 121111; and PLRD-83-64, June 24, 1983, Accession Number 121940.

Issue Area: Logistics Management: Alternative Logistics Concepts, Structures, and Policies To Provide Necessary Mission Support (3801).

Contact: National Security and International Affairs Division.

Budget Function: Transportation (400.0).

Organization Concerned: Department of the Interior: Office of Aircraft Services; Bureau of Land Management.

Congressional Relevance: *House Committee on Appropriations; House Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs; House Committee on Government Operations; Government Activities and Transportation Subcommittee; House Committee on Government Operations; Senate Committee on Appropriations; Rep. Jack Brooks.*

Authority: OMB Circular A-76.

Abstract: GAO reported on actions taken by the Department of the Interior's Office of Aircraft Services (OAS) in response to recommendations in three prior GAO reports on OAS aircraft management. GAO also provided information on the management role of OAS and on the aircraft operations of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) at one of its fire centers. **Findings/Conclusions:** GAO had previously recommended that OAS manage all of Interior's aircraft and related services in the contiguous 48 States to the same extent as it does in Alaska and that BLM should halt efforts to develop its own aircraft management systems unless it could be shown that OAS could not provide the needed services at lower cost. It was also recommended that OAS provide its services to non-Interior agencies under certain circumstances. Interior disagreed with many of the recommendations; however, Interior has since implemented all of the recommendations except the one concerning OAS management of aviation resources in the contiguous 48 States. Although Interior's recent support of OAS and bureaus' increasing voluntary use of certain OAS services are encouraging, further actions are needed to provide departmental oversight and to ensure continued improvement in the management of Interior's aviation resources outside of Alaska. Concerning the BLM fire center's use of its own aircraft, GAO found questionable the year-round necessity for aircraft, Government pilots, and support personnel because they were used only to a limited extent and because the services they provided could have been obtained from the private sector at a much lower cost. GAO maintains that the continued use of full-service contract or lease aircraft will save millions of dollars in the fire center's aviation costs without affecting its mission. **Recommendation To Agencies:** The Secretary of the Interior should direct OAS to assume ownership and management of all departmental aircraft, aircraft facilities and equipment, and

aviation-related personnel presently managed by other bureaus and offices.

124000

[Protests of Army, Defense, and Coast Guard Procurements]. B-212425, B-213106, B-214722. April 24, 1984. 3 pp.

Decision re: TeQcom Inc.; by Milton J. Socolar, Acting Comptroller General.

Contact: Office of the General Counsel.

Organization Concerned: TeQcom Inc.; Department of the Army: U.S. Army Materiel Development and Readiness Command; Defense Communications Agency; United States Coast Guard.

Authority: 4 C.F.R. 21. B-211884 (1983). B-210137 (1983). B-212829.2 (1983).

Abstract: A firm protested various procurements conducted by the Defense Communications Agency, the Army, and the Coast Guard for communications equipment, contending that: (1) a requirement in each procurement for certification that the equipment met certain criteria was unduly restrictive; and (2) the Army took certain actions to exclude the protester from competition. GAO held that: (1) determination of the needs of the Government is within the discretion of a procuring agency; and (2) the specified criteria were reasonable. Accordingly, the protests were denied.

124023

First-Year Implementation of the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act in VA. HRD-84-46; B-202205. April 27, 1984. 5 pp. plus 3 appendices (23 pp.).

Report to Harry N. Walters, Administrator, Veterans Administration; by Richard L. Fogel, Director, GAO Human Resources Division.

Issue Area: Accounting and Financial Reporting: Financial Integrity Act Reviews (2815).

Contact: Human Resources Division.

Budget Function: Financial Management and Information Systems: Accounting Systems in Operation (998.1).

Organization Concerned: Veterans Administration.

Authority: Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act of 1982.

Abstract: GAO reviewed Veterans Administration (VA) efforts to implement the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act. **Findings/Conclusions:** GAO found that VA has made progress in establishing its internal control system; however, several aspects of the system were found to be in need of improvement. VA did not develop a comprehensive inventory of assessable units or assess cross-cutting and common functions. As a result, some areas were not assessed while other areas were not consistently assessed. In addition, some field managers did not participate in the process although their expertise would have been useful. The vulnerability assessments generally did not provide adequate information as to the bases for ratings or whether existing and potential weaknesses had been identified. In addition, the internal control reviews generally did not analyze the processes used or the adequacy of internal control objectives and techniques. Furthermore, the reviews often did not test controls to ensure that they were functioning as intended and did not involve adequate field participation. Because VA failed to specify the extent and type of training that should be provided to personnel performing internal control evaluation activities, some personnel did not receive training. Finally, GAO found that VA limited its accounting systems review to an analysis of the policies of each system and failed to determine whether the systems conformed to the Comptroller General's principles and standards.

124028

Federal and State Liability for Inaccurate Payments of Food Stamp, AFDC, and SSI Program Benefits. RCED-84-155; B-215017. April 25, 1984. 8 pp. plus 5 appendices (43 pp.).

Report to Sen. Jesse A. Helms, Chairman, Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry; by J. Dexter Peach, Director, GAO Resources, Community, and Economic Development Division.

Issue Area: Income Security and Social Services: Efficient Administration and Quality of Service of Needs-Based Cash Assistance Programs (1332).

Contact: Resources, Community, and Economic Development Division.

Budget Function: Income Security: Housing Assistance and Other Income Supplements (604.0).

Organization Concerned: Department of Agriculture: Food and Nutrition Service; Social Security Administration.

Congressional Relevance: Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry; Sen. Jesse A. Helms.

Authority: Food Stamp Act Amendments of 1982.

Abstract: Pursuant to a congressional request, GAO analyzed the error-rate sanction system for the Food Stamp program and compared it to systems used for the Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) programs. Sanction systems are used to hold states, or the federal government, responsible for excessive errors in determining applicants' eligibility and benefit levels. **Findings/Conclusions:** GAO found that sanction systems for the three programs establish error-rate thresholds for erroneous payments and impose financial sanctions for errors that exceed the thresholds. The three systems differ regarding: (1) who is liable and for what; (2) applicable error-rate thresholds; (3) calculation of sanctions; and (4) waiver procedures to reduce sanction liabilities. For the Food Stamp and AFDC programs, states are liable for excessive errors involving federal funds. Under the SSI program, which is administered by the Social Security Administration (SSA), the federal government is responsible for overpayments of state funds by states for which SSA administers State supplements concurrently with Federal benefits. The Food Stamp program uses an error-rate threshold of 9 percent for fiscal year (FY) 1983, 7 percent for FY 1984, and 5 percent for FY 1985. The AFDC program uses a threshold of 4 percent for FY 1983 and 3 percent for FY 1984 and thereafter. The SSI program has used a threshold of 4 percent since 1980. For the SSI and AFDC programs, calculation of sanctions involves multiplying the amount of program benefits by the extent the actual error rate exceeds the threshold. For the Food Stamp program, sanctions are based on the amount of a state's federally reimbursed administrative costs. Waivers of sanctions are possible under the Food Stamp and AFDC programs but not under the SSI program. GAO found that SSA and the Department of Agriculture, which administers the Food Stamp program, have made extensive use of this authority to eliminate state liability.

124029

Department of State's First-Year Implementation of the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act. NSIAD-84-91; B-202205. May 1, 1984. 7 pp. plus 4 appendices (23 pp.).

Report to George P. Shultz, Secretary, Department of State; by Frank C. Conahan, Director, GAO National Security and International Affairs Division.

Issue Area: Accounting and Financial Reporting: Financial Integrity Act Reviews (2815).

Contact: National Security and International Affairs Division

Budget Function: International Affairs: Conduct of Foreign Affairs (153.0).

ADP Bibliography

Organization Concerned: Department of State.

Authority: Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act of 1982. Accounting and Auditing Act (31 U.S.C. 3512).

Abstract: GAO reviewed Department of State efforts to implement and comply with the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act of 1982. **Findings/Conclusions:** GAO found that State has made progress in complying with Office of Management and Budget (OMB) guidelines for evaluating and reporting on internal controls. However, GAO noted that: (1) some programs and functions were not included in assessable units; (2) staff training and quality assurance were needed; and (3) internal control reviews were incomplete. Weaknesses in State's process for first-year implementation of the act need to be corrected so that the yearend statement on the status of internal administrative and accounting controls and the extent to which its accounting systems comply with the Comptroller General's requirements will become more meaningful. GAO encourages active participation in the program by top level managers and believes that managers should be held accountable for their internal control responsibilities. GAO plans to monitor the planned improvements.

124030

Defense Logistics Agency's First-Year Implementation of the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act. NSIAD-84-99; B-202205. May 1, 1984. 7 pp. plus 3 appendices (13 pp.).

Report to Vice Adm. E.A. Grinstead, Director, Defense Logistics Agency; by Frank C. Conahan, Director, GAO National Security and International Affairs Division.

Refer to NSIAD-84-98, May 1, 1984, Accession Number 124031.

Issue Area: Accounting and Financial Reporting: Financial Integrity Act Reviews (2815).

Contact: National Security and International Affairs Division.

Budget Function: National Defense: Department of Defense - Military (Except Procurement and Contracting) (051.0).

Organization Concerned: Department of Defense; Defense Logistics Agency.

Authority: Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act of 1982. DLA Reg 7000.12. DLA Reg. 7000.13. DOD Directive 7040.6. OMB Circular A-123.

Abstract: GAO reviewed Defense Logistic Agency (DLA) efforts to implement and comply with the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act of 1982. **Findings/Conclusions:** GAO found that DLA has generally made progress in evaluating internal accounting and administrative controls and accounting compliance as required under the act. DLA has made changes in the internal controls evaluation process to: (1) provide specific guidance and training to personnel in field activities; (2) assign responsibility to managers for evaluating automatic data processing controls; and (3) incorporate a tracking system to identify corrective actions. Although the DLA process complied with the Comptroller General's accounting principles and standards, it did not test accounting systems. DLA identified its areas of weakness as policies and procedures that do not ensure the receipt of materials requisitioned by the military services. In addition, DLA noted problems in specific program areas. GAO believes that the reasonable assurance statement in the annual reports to the President and Congress will become more meaningful as changes are implemented.

124031

Department of Defense's First-Year Implementation of the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act. NSIAD-84-98; B-202205. May 1, 1984. 4 pp. plus 4 appendices (27 pp.).

Report to Caspar W. Weinberger, Secretary of Defense, Department of Defense; by Frank C. Conahan, Director, GAO National Security and International Affairs Division.

Refer to NSIAD-84-99, May 1, 1984, Accession Number 124030.

Issue Area: Accounting and Financial Reporting: Financial Integrity Act Reviews (2815).

Contact: National Security and International Affairs Division.

Budget Function: National Defense: Department of Defense - Military (Except Procurement and Contracting) (051.0).

Organization Concerned: Department of Defense.

Authority: Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act of 1982. DOD Directive 7040.6. OMB Circular A-123.

Abstract: GAO summarized the results of its reviews of Department of Defense (DOD) efforts to implement and comply with the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act of 1982. **Findings/Conclusions:** GAO found that DOD made progress in implementing the act. However, improvements in the areas of personnel training, vulnerability assessments, and reporting are needed. GAO noted that DOD has recognized the need to improve its internal control evaluation process and has taken corrective actions in weak areas. GAO believes that such actions will enhance DOD efforts to comply with the act in the future and provide information regarding DOD internal controls.

124032

Expanded Federal Authority Needed To Protect Medicare and Medicaid Patients From Health Practitioners Who Lose Their Licenses HRD-84-53; B-214207. May 1, 1984. 21 pp. plus 4 appendices (5 pp.).

Report to Margaret M. Heckler, Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services; by Richard L. Fogel, Director, GAO Human Resources Division.

Refer to Testimony, May 1, 1984, Accession Number 123022; and Testimony, September 18, 1984, Accession Number 125177.

Issue Area: Health Programs: Effectiveness of Government Efforts To Reduce Fraud and Abuse in Health Care Programs (1220).

Contact: Human Resources Division.

Budget Function: Health: Health Care Services (551.0).

Organization Concerned: Department of Health and Human Services.

Congressional Relevance: House Committee on Appropriations: Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Subcommittee; House Committee on Ways and Means; House Committee on Energy and Commerce; Senate Committee on Appropriations: Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Subcommittee; Senate Committee on Finance.

Authority: Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395 et seq.).

Abstract: GAO obtained information on health care practitioners in three states who had their licenses revoked or suspended to determine whether they were relocating and continuing to treat patients under the Medicaid and Medicare programs in other states. **Findings/Conclusions:** GAO found that, when a state licensing board revokes or suspends a practitioner's license, Medicare and Medicaid are informed that he can no longer legally provide services in that state. However, sanctioning action by one state does not automatically result in sanctioning by other states where the practitioner holds licenses. GAO obtained information on 328 sanctioned practitioners who had their licenses revoked or suspended for a year or more during the period from January 1977 to December 1982. The practitioners were sanctioned for such offenses as drug trafficking, malpractice, alcohol and drug abuse, immoral conduct, private insurance fraud, and submitting false Medicare or Medicaid claims. Of the 328 sanctioned practitioners, 122 held licenses in at least one state other than the state which took action against them; 39 relocated and enrolled in the Medicare and/or Medicaid programs; 10 relocated, but no Medicare or Medicaid participation was identified; and 43 held licenses in other states but could not be located. Under Medicare

and Medicaid law, the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) can exclude practitioners from participation in these programs only for acts committed against the program or its beneficiaries. GAO believes that HHS could better protect Medicaid and Medicare beneficiaries if it had extended authority to exclude unqualified practitioners from participating in these programs. **Recommendation To Agencies:** The Secretary, HHS, should revise the HHS practitioner exclusion legislative proposal so that it includes provisions authorizing HHS to sanction nationally for Medicare and Medicaid practitioners who are excluded by any state Medicaid program, are excluded by Medicare, are convicted of crimes involving any federal or non-federal health program, or are sanctioned by any state licensing board. The Secretary, HHS, should direct the HHS Inspector General to include in the Health Care Program Violation Information System all practitioners sanctioned by state licensing boards.

124033

Department of the Air Force's First-Year Implementation of the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act. NSIAD-84-93; B-202205. May 1, 1984. 5 pp. plus 4 appendices (26 pp.).

Report to Verne Orr, Secretary, Department of the Air Force; by Frank C. Conahan, Director, GAO National Security and International Affairs Division.

Issue Area: Accounting and Financial Reporting: Financial Integrity Act Reviews (2815).

Contact: National Security and International Affairs Division.

Budget Function: National Defense: Department of Defense - Military (Except Procurement and Contracting) (051.0).

Organization Concerned: Department of the Air Force; Department of the Army; Department of Defense: Army and Air Force Exchange Service.

Authority: Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act of 1982. DOD Directive 7040.6.

Abstract: GAO reviewed the Air Force's first-year efforts to implement and comply with the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act. **Findings/Conclusions:** GAO found that the Air Force generally implemented its internal control program in accordance with Federal guidelines. The program was organized effectively and used existing resources. However, the Air Force failed to establish a complete inventory of its programs, activities, and functions before it compiled a vulnerability assessment list. The Air Force intends to compile such an inventory during fiscal year 1984. GAO noted that, while the Air Force demonstrated its commitment to internal control reviews, there was little consideration of automatic data processing controls. In addition, the Air Force failed to identify specific material weaknesses in its required report to the Secretary of Defense. GAO found that the Air Force's efforts to evaluate accounting systems were reasonable but that the Air Force should: (1) develop a comprehensive systems inventory; (2) prepare written policies and procedures for accounting systems evaluation; and (3) evaluate the accounting systems and segments in operation. GAO also found that the Army and Air Force Exchange Service did not report on its internal controls because it believed that it was not subject to the reporting requirements of the act. GAO believes that the Exchange Service should report on its internal controls and that either the Army or the Air Force should be given responsibility for oversight of the Exchange Service's internal control evaluation program.

124035

Defense Mapping Agency's First-Year Implementation of the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act. NSIAD-84-101; B-202205. May 1, 1984. 7 pp. plus 3 appendices (13 pp.).

Report to Rear Adm. E.A. Wilkinson, Jr., Director, Defense Mapping Agency; by Frank C. Conahan, Director, GAO National Security and International Affairs Division.

Issue Area: Accounting and Financial Reporting: Financial Integrity Act Reviews (2815).

Contact: National Security and International Affairs Division.

Budget Function: National Defense: Department of Defense - Military (Except Procurement and Contracting) (051.0).

Organization Concerned: Defense Mapping Agency; Department of Defense; Department of the Air Force.

Authority: Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act of 1982. DOD Directive 7040.6. OMB Circular A-123.

Abstract: GAO reviewed the efforts of the Defense Mapping Agency (DMA) to implement and comply with the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act. **Findings/Conclusions:** GAO found that DMA segments its internal control evaluation program by organizational units and program areas. Each unit identifies the areas where vulnerability assessments are to be performed. DMA initiated an automated follow-up system to track internal control review recommendations. GAO believes that the DMA process represented a reasonable first-year effort and that additional guidance that is under development should improve the internal control review process. DMA did not perform evaluations of its own accounting systems because compliance evaluations of those systems were performed by the Air Force, which designed and maintained the systems. GAO noted that DMA is planning additional improvements to its accounting system evaluation process that would further strengthen the process and improve DMA compliance with the act.

124038

National Aeronautics and Space Administration's First-Year Implementation of the Federal Manager's Financial Integrity Act. NSIAD-84-100; B-202205. May 1, 1984. 6 pp. plus 4 appendices (23 pp.).

Report to James M. Beggs, Administrator, National Aeronautics and Space Administration; by Frank C. Conahan, Director, GAO National Security and International Affairs Division.

Issue Area: Accounting and Financial Reporting: Financial Integrity Act Reviews (2815).

Contact: National Security and International Affairs Division.

Budget Function: General Science, Space, and Technology: Space Science, Applications, and Technology (254.0).

Organization Concerned: National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

Authority: Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act of 1982.

Abstract: GAO reviewed the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's (NASA) implementation of the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act. **Findings/Conclusions:** GAO found that NASA expanded its existing internal control review process in response to the requirements of the act. GAO believes that the overall approach used by NASA was reasonable, but that some improvements are needed, including: (1) stronger review and oversight procedures by NASA management; (2) improved training on how to perform vulnerability assessments; (3) more effective follow-up systems; (4) a new inventory of internal control systems at NASA; and (5) clarification of the basis for reporting material weaknesses. GAO also suggested improvements to the NASA accounting system evaluation program that would improve NASA compliance with the act.

124041

[Information on Shortages in Stamp Stock at the Main Post Office and the Carl Range Station in Irving, Texas]. GGD-84-67; B-214663. May 1, 1984. 10 pp.

Report to Sen. John G. Tower; by William J. Anderson, Director, GAO General Government Division.

Contact: General Government Division.

Budget Function: Commerce and Housing Credit: Postal Service (372.0).

Organization Concerned: United States Postal Service; United States Postal Service: Irving, TX Post Office; United States Postal Service: Irving, TX Post Office: Carl Range Station.

Congressional Relevance: Sen. John G. Tower.

Abstract: Pursuant to a congressional request, GAO reviewed the circumstances surrounding the claims of a former supervisor and another employee for losses of stamps worth a total of \$8,000 from two Postal Service facilities. **Findings/Conclusions:** The former supervisor stated that: (1) the Postal Inspection Service would not investigate the losses; (2) the local postmaster would not file a claim to relieve the accountable employees from paying for the losses; and (3) the postmaster applied some window clerks' overages, or balances exceeding accountable amounts, to reduce the losses, but he had not applied one overage of \$1,600. As a result, the supervisor and the other employee had to pay for the losses, less applied overages. GAO found that the Postal Service did not extensively investigate the two losses because the accountable employees had not followed the required procedures for stamp accountability and, therefore, were personally liable for the losses under Service regulations. The local postmaster did not file a claim in either case to relieve the accountable employees from liability because he did not believe that the claims would be relieved under Service criteria. Further, the postmaster did not apply an additional \$1,600 overage because he did not believe that it was directly related to the losses. GAO found that postal procedures concerning the charging of losses to accountable employees were followed but was not able to determine whether these cases were representative of the Service's handling of such matters.

124059

[The Assets, Liabilities, and Vulnerabilities of Information]. April 11, 1984. 4 pp.

Speech before the 1984 International Conference on Computer Capacity Management; by Walter L. Anderson, Senior Associate Director, GAO Information Management and Technology Division.

Contact: Information Management and Technology Division.

Authority: Paperwork Reduction Act of 1980 (P.L. 96-511).

Abstract: A paper was presented at the 1984 International Conference on Computer Capacity Management which described the procedures and criteria used by GAO in auditing Federal agency information resources management. The paper described methods of quantifying information, some aspects of the vulnerabilities of information, and attendant protection systems with their impacts on valuation. Both cost-based valuation and appraisal-based valuation were discussed. It was stated that the valuation method used should provide a measure of the level of protection required for information and the protection cost warranted. Consideration should also be given to the value of sources of information outside the organization.

124060

Control Improvements Needed in Accounting for Treasury Securities at the Federal Reserve Bank of New York. AFMD-84-10; B-211646. May 2, 1984. 4 pp. plus 5 appendices (20 pp.).

Report to Donald T. Regan, Secretary, Department of the Treasury; Paul A. Volcker, Chairman, Federal Reserve System; Board of Governors; by Frederick D. Wolf, Director, GAO Accounting and Financial Management Division.

Issue Area: Accounting and Financial Reporting: Accounting Systems Implemented and Operating Consistent With Designs Approved by GAO (2812).

Contact: Accounting and Financial Management Division.

Budget Function: Financial Management and Information Systems: Accounting Systems in Operation (998.1).

Organization Concerned: Department of the Treasury; Federal Reserve System; Board of Governors; Federal Reserve Bank, New York, NY.

Congressional Relevance: House Committee on Appropriations: Treasury-Postal Service and General Government Subcommittee; House Committee on Ways and Means; Senate Committee on Appropriations: Treasury, Postal Service, and General Government Subcommittee; Senate Committee on Finance.

Abstract: GAO summarized the results of its internal control review of the Federal Reserve Bank of New York's accounting systems for Treasury securities. **Findings/Conclusions:** Although the Bank has extensive controls in place to identify errors and abuse, GAO found weaknesses in both the automated and manual controls. GAO identified 15 incorrect payments totaling \$2.7 million. Inadequate records prevented GAO from verifying that only these incorrect payments occurred. Furthermore, the Bank has not isolated the cause of these incorrect payments to take appropriate corrective action. In addition, GAO found that the Bank did not require individual operator passwords to access one automated system, the passwords required for access through other types of terminals were not adequately safeguarded, and it was difficult to determine who processed a given transaction. Procedures for verifying data input accuracy were not always followed and need improvement. As a result, no assurance existed that verification took place or that all transactions were properly processed. Errors detected during the data input phase were not always adequately controlled to ensure that they were corrected and reentered promptly. No documentation was available for the automated system which contains the master file of securities account balances. When securities account balances were reconciled to prove their accuracy, the Bank did not always properly document either how any differences were resolved or that any related adjustments to the account balances were accurate. Finally, the Bank did not always detect inaccurate information generated by an automated system and, as a result, erroneous payments occurred when the securities were redeemed. **Recommendation To Agencies:** The Chairman of the Federal Reserve Board should require the Federal Reserve Bank of New York to: (1) restrict access to the automated systems through terminals with properly safeguarded passwords; (2) strengthen other controls over data input by ensuring key verification of input, separating keying and verifying duties among employees, and monitoring error correction activities; (3) develop documentation for the automated system which contains the master file of securities account balances; (4) fully document all changes to the manual reconciliation of account balances to ensure that all transactions are properly executed and resulting account adjustments are appropriate; and (5) determine the causes of inaccurate information and related incorrect payments to prevent their recurrence. The Secretary of the Treasury should verify that the corrective actions are fully implemented.

124061

First-Year Implementation of the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act in the Department of Labor. HRD-84-45; B-202205. May 3, 1984. 4 pp. plus 3 appendices (24 pp.).

Report to Raymond J. Donovan, Secretary, Department of Labor; by Richard L. Fogel, Director, GAO Human Resources Division.

Issue Area: Accounting and Financial Reporting: Financial Integrity Act Reviews (2815).

Contact: Human Resources Division.

Budget Function: Education, Training, Employment, and Social Services: Other Labor Services (505.0).

Organization Concerned: Department of Labor; Office of Management and Budget.

Authority: Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act of 1982.

Abstract: GAO reviewed the Department of Labor's efforts to implement and comply with the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act which establishes a framework for improving the effectiveness of financial management in Federal agencies. **Findings/Conclusions:** GAO found that Labor has made progress in complying with the requirements of the act. However, some aspects of its internal control and accounting systems evaluation process could be improved. GAO found that Labor's process for developing a Department-wide inventory of assessable units does not ensure coverage of all activities in the vulnerability assessment process because explicit guidelines are not provided on how to develop such an inventory. Furthermore, Labor's Internal Control Policy Board has no mechanism for ensuring that all assessable units are covered, fails to provide adequate guidance, and fails to adequately monitor compliance with their approved plans for conducting assessments. GAO also found that organizational units are not required to follow the Department-wide guidelines in performing internal control reviews and fail to follow Office of Management and Budget guidelines. In addition, GAO found that Labor's approach did not result in a comprehensive, structured evaluation of accounting systems compliance. However, the accounting systems generally complied with the principles, standards, and related requirements of the Comptroller General with some variations. GAO made specific proposals to correct these deficiencies, and Labor has indicated that it is taking actions to address the GAO concerns.

124062

The GAO Review, Vol. 19, Issue 2, Spring 1984. 1984. 52 pp.

Harry S. Havens, Editor; Carol A. Codori, Assistant Editor. Citations to individual articles appear elsewhere in the June 1984 issue of GAO Documents.

Contact: Office of the Comptroller General.

Abstract: This quarterly publication is prepared primarily for use by the GAO staff. Articles in this issue cover such topics as: case study evaluations, part-time work and job sharing, the Federal budget deficit, Government-wide management reform, epidemics, training at GAO, electronic auditing methods, and legislative developments.

124069

Frontiers of Automated Analyses: From Frustration to Comfort. 1984. 3 pp.

by Arleen Alleman, Evaluator, GAO Field Operations Division: Regional Office (Denver).

In *The GAO Review*, Vol. 19, Issue 2, Spring 1984, pp. 30-31, 41.

Contact: Field Operations Division: Regional Office (Denver).

Abstract: The article provides information concerning the introduction and extensive use of electronic work stations (EWS) at the GAO Denver Regional Office. Suggestions given to improve the transition from manual computation and paperwork analysis to use of EWS include: (1) employing a GAO training cadre of experts familiar with the specific system; (2) establishing interim guidelines for workpapers; (3) ensuring that data meets specified standards; (4) formatting workpapers; (5) ensuring data accuracy; and (6) documenting workpapers.

124074

Department of the Army's First-Year Implementation of the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act. NSIAD-84-92; B-202205. May 1, 1984. 5 pp. plus 5 appendices (26 pp.).
Report to John O. Marsh, Jr., Secretary, Department of the Army; by Frank C. Conahan, Director, GAO National Security and International Affairs Division.

Issue Area: Accounting and Financial Reporting: Financial Integrity Act Reviews (2815).

Contact: National Security and International Affairs Division.

Budget Function: National Defense: Department of Defense - Military (Except Procurement and Contracting) (051.0).

Organization Concerned: Department of the Army; Department of Defense.

Authority: Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act of 1982. A.R. 11-2.

Abstract: GAO reviewed the Army's efforts to implement and comply with the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act of 1982. **Findings/Conclusions:** GAO found that the Army has made progress in complying with the guidelines provided by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for evaluating internal controls. In addition, it has made reasonable efforts to determine the conformance of its accounting systems with the Comptroller General's accounting principles and standards. However, some weaknesses were noted in the processes involved in the first year's internal controls evaluations and accounting system compliance evaluations which need to be corrected. GAO found that some vulnerability assessments are unacceptable according to current Army and OMB criteria. A planned redesign of the Army's internal controls evaluation process with the development of more specific guidance and training should improve the quality and consistency of these assessments. GAO found a wide variance in the quality and documentation of Army internal control reviews. Some were not sufficiently detailed to identify specific control weaknesses or provide a basis for corrective action. In addition, many internal control reviews did not adequately consider automated systems. Lower level managers need more specific training in conducting internal review. Finally, GAO found that the Army needs to do more to judge whether accounting systems fully comply with the Comptroller General's accounting principles and standards.

124076

Department of Energy's Activities To Limit Distribution of Certain Unclassified Scientific and Technical Information. RCED-84-129; B-212184. March 30, 1984. Released April 30, 1984. 7 pp. plus 2 appendices (17 pp.).

Report to Rep. John D. Dingell, Chairman, House Committee on Energy and Commerce; by Ralph V. Carlone, (for J. Dexter Peach, Director), GAO Resources, Community, and Economic Development Division.

Issue Area: Information Management: Assessing Agencies' Classification, Declassification, and Protection of National Security Information (4215).

Contact: Resources, Community, and Economic Development Division.

Budget Function: Commerce and Housing Credit: Other Advancement of Commerce (376.0).

Organization Concerned: Department of Commerce: National Technical Information Service; Department of Energy; Department of Defense; National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

Congressional Relevance: House Committee on Energy and Commerce; Rep. John D. Dingell.

Authority: Atomic Energy Act of 1954 (42 U.S.C. 2168). Trade Secrets Act (18 U.S.C. 1905). Freedom of Information Act. DOE Order 1430.1. DOE Order 1430.2. 35 U.S.C. 205.

Abstract: Pursuant to a congressional request, GAO examined policies and practices used by the Department of Energy (DOE) to limit the distribution of certain unclassified information. GAO: (1) determined the rationale and legal authority for limiting the distribution of unclassified information; (2) examined DOE program guidance for limiting information dissemination; (3) reviewed controls used by DOE to protect information that has been designated for limited distribution; and (4) compared DOE guidance and controls over unclassified information with similar controls at other Federal agencies. **Findings/Conclusions:** GAO found that, in fiscal years 1981 through 1983, DOE collected about 96,000 unclassified documents and limited the distribution of about 6,600 to the Federal Government and its contractors. DOE limits unclassified information because the information involves: (1) nuclear safety; (2) proprietary data; and (3) technology that has foreign trade value. DOE authority for limiting information dissemination comes from the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, patent laws, and the Trade Secrets Act. DOE was also attempting to strengthen its authority to limit the distribution of information having foreign trade value. The primary method used by DOE to control information dissemination is to prevent the existence of limited information from becoming known outside of the Government. Physical and computerized controls are also used. DOE has issued its own guidance for the control of limited information; this guidance is similar to that used by other Federal agencies.

124078

[Request for Reconsideration of Sustained Protest Under FBI Solicitation]. B-213396.2. May 2, 1984. 2 pp.

Decision re: Burroughs Corp; Systems Development Corp.; by Harry R. Van Cleve, Acting General Counsel.

Contact: Office of the General Counsel.

Organization Concerned: Burroughs Corp; Systems Development Corp.; Delta Data Systems Corp.; Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Authority: 4 C.F.R. 21.10. B-208690.2 (1983). B-209458.6 (1983). B-213396 (1984).

Abstract: A firm requested reconsideration of a GAO decision which sustained a protest of a contract award to the requester under a Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) solicitation for computer terminals and equipment. The decision was issued in response to a request for an advisory opinion from a U.S. District Court. The requester contended that the decision was erroneous because GAO failed to consider arguments made in the FBI final brief. Since the issues raised by the requester were the same as those which were the subject of a court action and the court has failed to indicate any interest in a reconsideration, GAO would not reconsider the matter. Accordingly, the request was dismissed.

124097

First Year Implementation of the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act by the Department of Justice. GGD-84-63; B-202205. May 8, 1984. 35 pp. plus 2 appendices (4 pp.).

Report to William French Smith, Attorney General, Department of Justice; by William J. Anderson, Director, GAO General Government Division.

Issue Area: Accounting and Financial Reporting: Financial Integrity Act Reviews (2815).

Contact: General Government Division.

Budget Function: Administration of Justice (750.0).

Organization Concerned: Department of Justice.

Congressional Relevance: House Committee on Appropriations: Commerce, Justice, State, the Judiciary, and Related Agencies

Subcommittee; House Committee on Government Operations; Senate Committee on Appropriations: Commerce, Justice, State and Judiciary Subcommittee; Senate Committee on Government Operations.

Authority: Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act of 1982 (31 U.S.C. 3512(b)). Accounting and Auditing Act (31 U.S.C. 3512(a)(3)). OMB Circular A-123. OMB Circular A-71. OMB Transmittal Memo No. 1.

Abstract: GAO evaluated the Department of Justice's implementation of the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act. **Findings/Conclusions:** GAO found that Justice's yearend report on the status of its internal controls was responsive to the requirements of the act. Justice implemented its internal control process using a decentralized approach. GAO determined that: (1) some Justice activities are not covered by the process established to assess them; (2) vulnerability assessments are useful but need improvements; (3) reviews of internal controls vary in quality and usefulness; and (4) not all follow-up and tracking systems are in place. GAO outlined actions that it believes would improve Justice's implementation of the act, including: (1) developing a Department-wide comprehensive training program; (2) providing Department-wide guidance on the documentation required to support the internal control process; (3) strengthening the analysis of automatic data processing internal controls; (4) defining the role of the Justice Management Division's audit staff in the internal control process; and (5) expanding the involvement of field office managers. GAO found that Justice has made a reasonable effort to assess the compliance of its accounting systems with federal requirements and guidelines. GAO believes that the success of future accounting system reviews would be enhanced if Justice: (1) develops a program for the evaluation of its accounting systems; (2) undertakes more extensive reviews; and (3) measures the significance of material system deviations. GAO was unable to determine whether Justice's accounting systems are in overall compliance with federal requirements and guidelines. **Recommendation To Agencies:** The Attorney General should incorporate in future Department guidance on the implementation of the internal control process, a requirement that the components provide field office managers with the opportunity to participate in the process. Their level of participation may vary to some degree based on the extent to which a component's operations are decentralized.

124107

[Licensing Data for Exports to Non-Communist Countries]. NSIAD-84-105; B-201919. May 1, 1984. Released May 8, 1984. 5 pp. plus 1 enclosure (1 p.).

Report to Rep. Toby Roth, Ranking Minority Member, House Committee on Foreign Affairs: International Economic Policy and Trade Subcommittee; by Bill W. Thurman, (for Frank C. Conahan, Director), GAO National Security and International Affairs Division.

Refer to ID-82-14, May 26, 1982, Accession Number 118484.

Issue Area: International Affairs: U.S. Advantage in Trade and Technology (0608).

Contact: National Security and International Affairs Division.

Budget Function: International Affairs: Conduct of Foreign Affairs (153.0).

Organization Concerned: Coordinating Council for Multilateral Export Controls; Department of Commerce: Office of Export Administration.

Congressional Relevance: House Committee on Foreign Affairs: International Economic Policy and Trade Subcommittee; Rep. Toby Roth.

Abstract: Pursuant to a congressional request, GAO updated certain export licensing data contained in a previous GAO report.

Findings/Conclusions: GAO sampled export license applications

received by the Department of Commerce, Office of Export Administration (OEA). GAO determined that the number of applications processed by OEA would be reduced by 26 to 38 percent if certain export licensing requirements were eliminated.

124112

First-Year Implementation of the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act in the Department of Education. HRD-84-49; B-202205. May 9, 1984. 5 pp. plus 3 appendices (25 pp.).

Report to Terrell H. Bell, Secretary, Department of Education; by Richard L. Fogel, Director, GAO Human Resources Division.

Issue Area: Accounting and Financial Reporting: Financial Integrity Act Reviews (2815).

Contact: Human Resources Division.

Budget Function: Financial Management and Information Systems: Accounting Systems in Operation (998.1).

Organization Concerned: Department of Education.

Authority: Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act of 1982.

Abstract: GAO evaluated the Department of Education's implementation of the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act of 1982. **Findings/Conclusions:** GAO found that Education's program for evaluating and reporting on its internal control and accounting systems made progress during the first year of implementation of the act. GAO noted that Education needs to improve certain aspects of its internal control evaluation program because: (1) not all weaknesses identified by vulnerability assessments were corrected; (2) in some instances, Education personnel did not comply with certain documentation requirements for internal control reviews; and (3) automatic data processing controls were not covered in the vulnerability assessment process. GAO found that Education's report on its accounting systems did not express an opinion as to whether its systems complied with Federal guidelines and requirements. GAO believes that improvements are necessary because: (1) two accounting systems were omitted from Education's inventory of its accounting systems; (2) personnel performing accounting system reviews are not adequately trained and do not comply with certain documentation requirements; and (3) Education's accounting system assessment guidelines do not require testing accounting systems in operation.

124121

Federal Aviation Administration's System for Prioritizing Airport Grants. RCED-84-124; B-214677. April 13, 1984. 11 pp. plus 2 appendices (5 pp.).

Report to Rep. Norman Y. Mineta, Chairman, House Committee on Public Works and Transportation: Aviation Subcommittee; by Ralph V. Carlone, (for J. Dexter Peach, Director), GAO Resources, Community, and Economic Development Division.

Issue Area: Transportation Systems and Policies: Economy, Effectiveness, and Efficiency in the Management of FAA's Activities and Functions (2475).

Contact: Resources, Community, and Economic Development Division.

Budget Function: Transportation: Air Transportation (402.0).

Organization Concerned: Federal Aviation Administration; Department of Transportation.

Congressional Relevance: House Committee on Public Works and Transportation: Aviation Subcommittee; Rep. Norman Y. Mineta.

Authority: Airport and Airway Improvement Act of 1982 (P.L. 97-248). Surface Transportation Assistance Act of 1982. Emergency Job Appropriations Act of 1983.

Abstract: In response to a congressional request, GAO reviewed the Federal Aviation Administration's (FAA) system for priori-

tizing discretionary airport grant projects. GAO analyzed airport planning and development projects in four FAA regions to determine: (1) whether FAA funded the projects in conformance with its priority system; and (2) the basis for funding projects that ranked low under the system. GAO also reviewed the airports named in 1982 and 1983 congressional appropriation reports to determine whether naming airports for priority consideration caused FAA to fund low-priority projects. **Findings/Conclusions:** GAO found that the FAA priority system conforms to statutory guidance on airport planning and development priorities, in that the highest priority is given to safety-related projects and priority is given to commercial service and reliever airports. An analysis of 519 projects in the four FAA regions disclosed that FAA discretionary grants generally went to high-priority projects. However, in some instances, FAA awarded discretionary grants to low priority projects outside the funding criteria without written justification as required by the system guidelines. The projects that did not conform to the priority system represented only about 3 percent of the total discretionary funds obligated in the period reviewed. GAO also found that the congressional naming of airports for priority consideration in appropriation reports did not result in low-priority projects' being funded

124123

The Department of Health and Human Services' First-Year Implementation of the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act. HRD-84-47; B-202205. May 9, 1984. 39 pp. plus 6 appendices (22 pp.).

Report to Margaret M. Heckler, Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services; by Richard L. Fogel, Director, GAO Human Resources Division.

Issue Area: Accounting and Financial Reporting: Financial Integrity Act Reviews (2815).

Contact: Human Resources Division.

Budget Function: Financial Management and Information Systems (998.0); Health (550.0); Income Security (600.0)

Organization Concerned: Department of Health and Human Services.

Authority: Accounting and Auditing Act. Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act of 1982 (31 U.S.C. 3512). OMB Circular A-71. OMB Circular A-123.

Abstract: GAO reviewed the Department of Health and Human Services' (HHS) first-year efforts to implement the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act to assess the adequacy of HHS implementation efforts and to identify possible improvements needed for subsequent years' efforts. **Findings/Conclusions:** GAO found that HHS has made progress in its first-year efforts to implement the act and, for its internal control evaluation and improvement effort, HHS essentially followed the sequence of steps established by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB). For performing accounting systems reviews, HHS assigned responsibilities and developed policies and procedures, conducted reviews of 10 of the 22 systems it identified, and reported the results. While the HHS written procedures for evaluating its accounting systems appear reasonable, its evaluations did not fully comply with its procedures and, consequently, were inadequate to properly determine whether the systems evaluated complied with GAO principles and standards. GAO found that some of the internal control areas which HHS should have included for vulnerability assessments were missed. In addition, changes are needed in the HHS vulnerability assessment process because GAO found that the assessments it reviewed were not a reliable basis for scheduling and guiding subsequent internal control reviews. Furthermore, although HHS conducted 1,135 internal control reviews during the first year, these reviews did not always result in adequate evaluations of internal controls and many

missed important evaluation factors included in OMB guidelines. Finally, GAO found that HHS essentially excluded automatic data processing activities from its vulnerability assessments and internal control reviews

124124

Examination of the Financial Statements of the Export-Import Bank of the United States for the Fiscal Year Ended September 30, 1983. AFMD-84-48; B-197710 April 26, 1984. 2 pp. plus 3 appendices (14 pp.)

Report to Congress; by Charles A. Bowsher, Comptroller General.

Issue Area: Accounting and Financial Reporting: Operations, Financial Position, and Changes in Financial Position (2802).

Contact: Accounting and Financial Management Division

Budget Function: Financial Management and Information Systems: Regulatory Accounting Rules and Financial Reporting (998.6).

Organization Concerned: Export-Import Bank of the United States.

Congressional Relevance: Congress.

Authority: 31 U.S.C. 9105

Abstract: GAO examined the statement of the financial condition of the Export-Import Bank of the United States as of September 30, 1983, the related statement of income and reserve for contingencies and defaults, and the statement of changes in financial position for the year then ended in accordance with generally accepted Government auditing standards. **Findings/Conclusions:** GAO found that the Bank's assets include a significant amount of loans which are in arrears, under reschedulings, or outstanding to countries which are experiencing financial difficulties. The Bank reported a net loss in its fiscal year 1983 financial statements of \$247 million. These financial statements do not include any deduction from revenues or assets for estimated losses that are likely to be sustained due to the uncollectibility of the loans the Bank has made, nor has the Bank developed an estimate of an allowance for potential loan losses. In the opinion of GAO, such an allowance should be deducted from revenues and assets to conform with generally accepted accounting principles. If such an allowance had been deducted, total assets and accumulated income would have been decreased by \$1 to \$1.5 billion. Because the Bank failed to deduct an allowance for loan losses from revenues and assets, the accompanying financial statements did not present fairly the financial position of the Bank as of September 30, 1983, or the results of its operations and changes in its financial position for the year then ended in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles.

124125

Tax Court Can Reduce Growing Case Backlog and Expenses Through Administrative Improvements. GGD-84-25; B-214560. May 14, 1984. 39 pp. plus 4 appendices (33 pp.).

Report to Howard A. Dawson, Jr., Chief Judge, United States Tax Court; by William J. Anderson, Director, GAO General Government Division.

Issue Area: Tax Administration: Ensuring Equitable Taxpayer Treatment and Protecting the Government's Interest Through Administrative and Judicial Appeals Processes (2719); Law Enforcement and Crime Prevention: Federal Court System's Operational Effectiveness (0520).

Contact: General Government Division.

Budget Function: General Government: Tax Administration (803.1); Administration of Justice: Federal Litigative and Judicial Activities (752 0).

Organization Concerned: United States Tax Court; Department of the Treasury; Administrative Office of the United States Courts; Internal Revenue Service.

Congressional Relevance: *House* Committee on Appropriations: Treasury-Postal Service and General Government Subcommittee; *House* Committee on Ways and Means; *Senate* Committee on Finance; *Senate* Committee on Appropriations: Treasury, Postal Service, and General Government Subcommittee.

Authority: Miscellaneous Revenue Act of 1982 (P.L. 97-362). Internal Revenue Code (IRC), §7459.

Abstract: In response to a congressional request, GAO reviewed the operations of the U.S. Tax Court to identify areas that need improvement. **Findings/Conclusions:** GAO found that the Court could make improvements in the scheduling and management of cases. As a result of the increase in petitions filed with the Court, the case backlog doubled between 1980 and 1982. To reduce the backlog and prevent old cases from accumulating, the Court needs to take more action so that available trial time is used more. The Court also needs to develop techniques for monitoring the progress being made in closing the cases that have been reported as settled. Because cases are not closed when scheduled, they are placed back into the trial setting process, consuming time and personnel resources and delaying other cases from being heard. GAO found that more efficient alternatives could be tried to reduce the expense of leasing courtrooms in cities where trials are held infrequently. GAO also found a need to improve the Court's accounting procedures and travel allowance guidelines. In addition, GAO found that the Court has not taken advantage of automated equipment to assist in document processing and developing management information. The Court needs to test alternatives to its current system of basing all of its judges in Washington, D.C., and sending them to other cities to conduct trial sessions. Finally, GAO found that, after the Court holds a trial, it takes it an average of more than 14 months to issue its opinion. **Recommendation To Agencies:** The Chief Judge of the U.S. Tax Court should gather and analyze data on the length of trial sessions so that periodic adjustments to case scheduling can be made in the future. The Chief Judge of the U.S. Tax Court should test the model GAO developed as a basis for estimating the number of cases to be scheduled for trial sessions. The Chief Judge of the U.S. Tax Court should take action designed to reduce the number of cases that are presently reported as settled, but not closed, within 90 days. The U.S. Tax Court should experiment with the solutions GAO suggested, as well as others that it may identify, to reduce the number of cases that are presently reported as settled, but not closed, within 90 days. The Chief Judge and the Clerk of the U.S. Tax Court should establish a mechanism for periodically reviewing the Court's trial locations and courtroom leasing arrangements to determine: (1) whether the number of trial locations could be reduced; and (2) whether arrangements can be made to secure space other than through yearly leases. The Chief Judge and the Clerk of the U.S. Tax Court should develop written guidelines for handling and processing cash and checks and take appropriate steps to physically secure checks and cash in a safe while petitions are being processed. The Chief Judge and the Clerk of the U.S. Tax Court should develop guidelines to supplement the Travel Regulations for U.S. Justices and Judges and GSA Travel Regulations and to establish procedures for justifying the use of first-class travel accommodations. The Chief Judge and the Clerk of the U.S. Tax Court should provide for the periodic assessment of staffing levels required by the Court. In this regard, the need for the regular judges to have two secretaries should be examined. The Chief Judge of the U.S. Tax Court should modify the calendar system at the Court to encourage the parties to move cases more rapidly through the process and test the feasibility of some decentralization of the court. The Chief Judge of the U.S. Tax Court should test the feasibility of some decentralization of the Court. The Chief Judge of the U.S. Tax Court should appoint a

committee of judges to monitor opinion production for the purpose of identifying ways to increase the number of opinions issued. Some approaches that the committee should consider include standardizing opinion formats, encouraging shorter opinions, expediting opinion reviews, and developing production targets. The Chief Judge of the U.S. Tax Court should assign special trial judges to handle pretrial matters in regular cases so that regular judges have more time to devote to trying cases and drafting opinions.

124142

[Protests Concerning Bidder Responsiveness Pursuant to Department of Education Contract Award]. B-212781.2, B-212781.3. May 15, 1984. 9 pp.

Decision re: Syntrex, Inc.; Managed Information Systems; by Milton J. Socolar, Acting Comptroller General.

Contact: Office of the General Counsel.

Organization Concerned: Department of Education; Compucorp; Syntrex, Inc.; Managed Information Systems.

Authority: 53 Comp. Gen. 499. 55 Comp. Gen. 592. B-178494 (1974). B-182063 (1974). B-203391.4 (1982). B-206946 (1983). B-211046 (1983).

Abstract: Two firms protested a Department of Education contract award for word processing systems. The first protester contended that its low bid was improperly found to be nonresponsive. GAO found that a number of the mandatory requirements of the solicitation were either understated or ambiguous, but that the protester failed to meet at least one clearly stated material requirement. Therefore, GAO did not dispute the agency's determination that the bid was nonresponsive. Accordingly, the first firm's protest was denied. The second protester contended that: (1) the awardee's bid was nonresponsive because its descriptive literature indicated that its specifications were subject to change without notice; (2) if the protester had known that specifications subject to change were acceptable, it would have bid a less expensive system; and (3) the awardee failed to submit required references, its bid was materially unbalanced, and its training equipment would be different than that actually installed. The Department of Education stated that it did not interpret the awardee's literature as a qualification of the bid, allowing the substitution of nonconforming hardware or software, or as an effort to prevent termination of the contract for default. GAO held that there was sufficient evidence that the awardee intended to meet all of the contract requirements and that the bid was properly found to be responsive. GAO also held that: (1) the awardee had provided the required references; (2) its bid was balanced; and (3) the training equipment would be the same as that installed. Accordingly, the second firm's protest was also denied.

124143

[Information on the Department of Energy's Budgets for Enforcing Its Petroleum Allocation and Pricing Regulations and Its Process for Distributing Oil Company Overcharge Refunds]. RCED-84-52; B-213147. April 11, 1984. Released May 11, 1984. 10 pp.

Report to Sen. Jim Sasser; by J. Dexter Peach, Director, GAO Resources, Community, and Economic Development Division.

Issue Area: Energy: Effectiveness and Management of the Regulation of Coal, Crude Oil, and Petroleum Products (1671).

Contact: Resources, Community, and Economic Development Division.

Budget Function: Energy: Energy Information, Policy, and Regulation (276.0).

Organization Concerned: Department of Energy: Economic Regulatory Administration; Department of Energy: Office of Hearings and Appeals.

Congressional Relevance: Sen. Jim Sasser.

Authority: Energy Petroleum Allocation Act of 1973. P.L. 97-257. P.L. 98-63. P.L. 98-146. 42 U.S.C. 7192(b). 42 U.S.C. 7193.

Abstract: In response to a congressional request, GAO reviewed the Economic Regulatory Administration's (ERA) budget for enforcing the Department of Energy's (DOE) petroleum allocation and pricing regulations. In addition, GAO included information on the Office of Hearing and Appeals' (OHA) fiscal year 1981-84 budgets and the DOE process for resolving the cases involving funds collected from oil companies in settling alleged violations of DOE petroleum allocation and pricing regulations.

Findings/Conclusions: GAO found that ERA has consistently set overly optimistic objectives for its compliance program that have resulted in proposed budgets' being understated. In addition, it found that the OHA fiscal year 1984 workload was greater than anticipated in its budget submission because of the unanticipated referral by ERA of 453 oil company overcharge refund cases in October 1983. Finally, GAO found that DOE has made slow progress in resolving cases involving funds collected from oil companies because of higher priority work coupled with the complexity and late referral of the cases.

124150

Department of the Navy's First-Year Implementation of the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act. NSIAD-84-94; B-202205. May 1, 1984. 5 pp. plus 5 appendices (29 pp.).

Report to John F. Lehman, Jr., Secretary, Department of the Navy; by Frank C. Conahan, Director, GAO National Security and International Affairs Division.

Issue Area: Accounting and Financial Reporting: Financial Integrity Act Reviews (2815).

Contact: National Security and International Affairs Division.

Budget Function: National Defense (050.0); National Defense: Department of Defense - Military (Except Procurement and Contracting) (051.0).

Organization Concerned: Department of the Navy; Department of Defense.

Authority: Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act of 1982.

Abstract: GAO reviewed the Navy's implementation of the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act of 1982. **Findings/Conclusions:** GAO found that, although the Navy is making progress, it has encountered problems and delays in achieving a satisfactory program throughout the Navy. Specifically, tight timeframes and limited staff resources in the Office of the Comptroller of the Navy have contributed to late and limited guidance to headquarters components and field activities. As required by law, each of the Navy's 24 reporting centers must: (1) review the adequacy of its internal accounting and administrative control systems; (2) report review findings annually to the Secretary of Defense; and (3) report whether its accounting systems conform to prescribed standards determined by the Comptroller General. When the Secretary of the Navy submitted his annual report to the President and Congress in 1983, he cited areas of material weakness and planned corrective action. Changes being implemented by the Navy include: (1) defining the role of the internal review groups; (2) devising methods for performing vulnerability assessments and reviewing automatic data processing internal controls; and (3) training managers involved in the reviews. GAO concluded that managers at all levels need to give more support to the program to ensure satisfactory implementation and that, in the future, the Navy needs to conduct a thorough assessment before attesting to its system's compliance.

124182

[Control of Aircraft Parts at Maintenance Depots]. NSIAD-84-103; B-214958. April 16, 1984. 3 pp.

ADP Bibliography

Report to Lawrence J. Korb, Assistant Secretary, Department of Defense: Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Manpower, Installations, and Logistics); by Henry W. Connor, Senior Associate Director, GAO National Security and International Affairs Division.

Issue Area: Logistics Management: Equipment Maintenance and Procurement Achieving Optimum Efficiency and Effectiveness (3808).

Contact: National Security and International Affairs Division.

Budget Function: National Defense: Department of Defense - Military (Except Procurement and Contracting) (051.0).

Organization Concerned: Department of the Army; Department of the Navy; Department of the Air Force; Department of Defense: Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Manpower, Installations, and Logistics).

Abstract: GAO reviewed the Department of Defense's (DOD) control of aircraft parts at maintenance depots as part of a continuing evaluation of aircraft depot operations. **Findings/Conclusions:** DOD has spent nearly \$4 billion annually on maintenance at aircraft depots to keep aircraft operationally ready. GAO found that, although the services have improved their parts control operations, current problems include: (1) providing good visibility over stored and routed parts; (2) recording transactions to show parts movement; (3) providing more secure storage areas; (4) making greater use of batch processing; and (5) following good management practices. Specifically, GAO suggested that depots: (1) require that a requisition be processed and a backorder be received before a part is routed; (2) require that the lists of components needed to reassemble an aircraft be annotated using requisition or backorder numbers; (3) require management to review selected parts and routed items lists to ensure that employees are following good parts management practices; and (4) improve physical security over parts by increased use of fencing and caged carts.

124183

[Observations on the Army's Manpower Requirements Criteria Program]. NSIAD-84-78; B-214654. March 27, 1984. 3 pp. plus 1 enclosure (6 pp.).

Report to Delbert L. Spurlock, Assistant Secretary, Department of the Army: Office of the Assistant Secretary (Manpower and Reserve Affairs); by Kenneth J. Coffey, Associate Director, GAO National Security and International Affairs Division.

Issue Area: Military Personnel: Achievement of Reductions in Occupational Skill Imbalances and Cost Savings Through Improved Personnel Utilization Policies and Practices (4304).

Contact: National Security and International Affairs Division.

Budget Function: National Defense: Department of Defense - Military (Except Procurement and Contracting) (051.0).

Organization Concerned: Department of the Army: Office of the Assistant Secretary (Manpower and Reserve Affairs); Department of the Army; Department of Defense.

Abstract: GAO commented on the results of its survey of the Army's Manpower Requirements Criteria (MARC) program. **Findings/Conclusions:** MARC is the process used by the Army to determine the number of soldiers needed to perform combat support and combat service support functions in deployable units. GAO concern about MARC arose from the serious problems found in the Manpower Authorization Criteria program, the predecessor to MARC, which diminished the reliability and credibility of the Army's manpower planning. An effective manpower requirements system is of great importance both to military budgets and to the efficiency of combat support and combat service support. The compensation costs alone for personnel who

would fill positions determined by MARC comprise \$9.4 billion of the Army's military budget. Initiatives to implement MARC are in the early stages and, while GAO is encouraged by these initiatives, it believes that there is room for improvement. Although GAO found a number of problems with specific components of MARC, it believes that these problems are symptomatic of the larger problem of inadequate planning. Without adequate planning, the ultimate ability of MARC to reliably determine vital combat support personnel requirements is doubtful. Comprehensive and rigorous planning will assure the Army and Congress that actions to improve MARC are effective, efficient, and worth supporting.

124186

SEC's Efforts To Find Lost and Stolen Securities. GGD-84-42; B-214637. May 18, 1984. 32 pp. plus 3 appendices (25 pp.). Report to John S.R. Shad, Chairman, Securities and Exchange Commission; William French Smith, Attorney General, Department of Justice; by William J. Anderson, Director, GAO General Government Division.

Issue Area: Federal Oversight of Financial Institutions: Effectiveness and Efficiency of Efforts To Serve the Interests of Customers of Financial Services Institutions (3919); Law Enforcement and Crime Prevention: Law Enforcement Agencies' Coordination (0518).

Contact: General Government Division.

Budget Function: Commerce and Housing Credit: Other Advancement of Commerce (376.0).

Organization Concerned: Securities and Exchange Commission; Department of Justice.

Congressional Relevance: House Committee on Appropriations: Commerce, Justice, State, the Judiciary, and Related Agencies Subcommittee; House Committee on the Judiciary; House Committee on Energy and Commerce: Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee; House Committee on Energy and Commerce: Telecommunications, Consumer Protection, and Finance Subcommittee; Senate Committee on Appropriations: Commerce, Justice, State and Judiciary Subcommittee; Senate Committee on the Judiciary; Senate Committee on Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs: Securities Subcommittee.

Authority: Securities Exchange Act of 1934.

Abstract: The Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) maintains a program to find securities, such as stocks and bonds, that financial institutions and their customers report as lost or missing. GAO reviewed the SEC program to determine its effectiveness in finding such securities. **Findings/Conclusions:** SEC requires financial institutions to register under the program. Registration entitles institutions to report lost or stolen securities and check securities they receive in commercial transactions. GAO found that the number of securities recovered through the program has increased since its inception, but SEC has not accurately reported the dollar value of securities actually found through the program. In addition, SEC has exempted from the program securities that do not have industry identification numbers, and certain securities that were formerly reported to Federal Reserve Banks are no longer reported to either the Federal Reserve or SEC. GAO also found that: (1) financial institutions are not complying with reporting requirements under the program; and (2) SEC has not coordinated its program with the National Crime Information Center (NCIC), which also lists lost and stolen securities. **Recommendation To Agencies:** The Chairman, SEC, should, at a minimum, notify financial institutions to comply with the program requirements that call for dollar values to be specified for all securities that are reported to the program. The Chairman, SEC, should include in any accomplishment report only those securities actually found by the program. As an initial step toward improving the program's capability to find lost and stolen securities, the

Chairman, SEC, should require that lost or stolen securities formerly required to be reported to the Federal Reserve Banks be reported to the SEC program. As an initial step toward improving the program's capability to find lost and stolen securities, the Chairman, SEC, should assess the effect of the underreporting of lost and stolen securities without a securities industry identification number and, if warranted, direct the program operator to assign identification numbers to these securities. As an initial step toward improving the program's capability to find lost and stolen securities, the Chairman, SEC, should develop a pilot program to assess whether the \$10,000 or less transaction exemption should be continued, weighing the regulatory compliance burden against the improvement in securities found for financial institution customers as well as the decreased deterrent effects. The Chairman, SEC, should, in consultation with the bank regulatory agencies, concentrate on obtaining improved compliance with lost and stolen securities regulations by ensuring through appropriate enforcement and administrative actions that financial institutions become registered with the program and that registered institutions report lost and stolen securities and check the status of securities received. The Chairman, SEC, and the Attorney General should link the SEC and NCIC lists of lost and stolen securities.

124193

[Office of Workers' Compensation Programs Needs To Improve Procedures To Help Reduce Payment Errors and Identify Dual Payments] HRD-84-63; B-215152. May 21, 1984. 3 pp. plus 1 enclosure (11 pp.).

Report to Susan R. Meisinger, Deputy Under Secretary for Employment Standards, Department of Labor; by Richard L. Fogel, Director, GAO Human Resources Division.

Issue Area: Income Security and Social Services: Effective Management of the Post-Entitlement Process (1330).

Contact: Human Resources Division.

Budget Function: Income Security: Federal Employee Retirement and Disability (602.0).

Organization Concerned: Department of Labor; Employment Standards Administration; Employment Standards Administration: Office of Workers' Compensation Programs.

Congressional Relevance: House Committee on Appropriations: Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Subcommittee; House Committee on Education and Labor: Labor Standards Subcommittee; Senate Committee on Appropriations: Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Subcommittee; Senate Committee on Labor and Human Resources: Labor Subcommittee.

Authority: Employees' Compensation Act (Injuries).

Abstract: GAO completed a survey of payment and collection activities administered by the Office of Workers' Compensation Programs. **Findings/Conclusions:** GAO found that incorrect payments were made in about 20 percent of the payment transactions reviewed, and about 5 percent of the benefits paid during the test period were incorrect. Most errors occurred because claims examiners and other personnel did not process, incorrectly processed, or failed to follow up on data in case files. More than half of the transactions which involved errors had been reviewed by supervisors who did not detect the errors. In addition, local quality control units were not required to, and generally did not, review the accuracy of the payments. GAO found that these problems were not identified by the Office of Workmens' Compensation Programs because its quality control procedures were not adequate. In addition, some beneficiaries were overpaid because they improperly received Civil Service retirement benefits at the same time they were receiving workers' compensation benefits. These dual payment errors could have been avoided by annually questioning beneficiaries on retirement benefits received

and comparing its benefit roll to that of the Office of Personnel Management (OPM). GAO also found that claims examiners had not followed debt collection procedures for almost two-thirds of the accounts receivable cases tested. **Recommendation To Agencies:** The Deputy Under Secretary for Employment Standards should require that staff responsible for quality control activities monitor the accuracy of compensation payments and the effectiveness of local review of payment transactions. The Deputy Under Secretary for Employment Standards should establish controls, using revised claimant questionnaires, to help identify OPM retirement benefits received by Federal Employees' Compensation Act beneficiaries. The Deputy Under Secretary for Employment Standards should coordinate with OPM in conducting periodic comparisons of benefit rolls to identify Federal Employees' Compensation Act beneficiaries who are receiving prohibited dual benefits.

124210

First Year Implementation of the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act by the GSA. GGD-84-57; B-202205. May 22, 1984. 38 pp. plus 1 appendix (2 pp.).

Report to Ray Kline, Acting Administrator, General Services Administration; by William J. Anderson, Director, GAO General Government Division.

Issue Area: Accounting and Financial Reporting: Financial Integrity Act Reviews (2815).

Contact: General Government Division.

Budget Function: General Government: Other General Government (806.0).

Organization Concerned: General Services Administration.

Authority: Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act of 1982 (31 U.S.C. 3512(a) et seq.). Accounting and Auditing Act. OMB Circular A-123. GSA ADM 5400.39.

Abstract: GAO reviewed the General Services Administration's (GSA) first-year progress in implementing the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act and its reporting on the status of internal controls and accounting systems. **Findings/Conclusions:** GAO found that GSA followed Office of Management and Budget (OMB) guidance and: (1) established a central authority for providing leadership to implement the act; (2) held individual managers accountable for internal control through their annual performance contracts; (3) identified all its programs and functions and assessed their vulnerabilities to fraud, waste, and abuse; (4) ranked the programs and functions for further review; (5) reviewed the most vulnerable operations to list known weaknesses and assess their significance; and (6) required its senior managers to provide assurances on the adequacy of internal controls. GAO identified several aspects of the internal control evaluation process that need to be strengthened including: (1) a better definition of programs and functions being evaluated; (2) coordination to provide a more complete evaluation of activities; (3) more complete information in vulnerability assessments; (4) more complete documentation and monitoring; and (5) better management guidance. Finally, GAO found that GSA needs to establish responsibilities throughout the agency for meeting the annual reporting requirements and expand its evaluation efforts to provide a better basis for determining if its accounting systems comply with the Comptroller General's principles and standards.

124211

Further Improvements Needed in Navy's Oversight of Contracting for Facilities Construction on Diego Garcia. NSIAD-84-62; B-209865. May 23, 1984. 45 pp. plus 4 appendices (8 pp.).

Report to Caspar W. Weinberger, Secretary, Department of Defense; by Frank C. Conahan, Director, GAO National Security and International Affairs Division.

Issue Area: Facilities and Material Management: Improvements in the Acquisition and Management of Federal Design and Construction To Control or Reduce Costs (0724).

Contact: National Security and International Affairs Division.

Budget Function: National Defense: Department of Defense - Military (Except Procurement and Contracting) (051.0).

Organization Concerned: Department of Defense; Department of the Navy.

Congressional Relevance: House Committee on Appropriations: Military Construction Subcommittee; Senate Committee on Appropriations: Defense Subcommittee; Senate Committee on Governmental Affairs.

Authority: NAVFAC Cost Reimbursable Construction Manual.

Abstract: GAO reviewed the Navy's oversight and management of the acquisition of facilities for its base on the island of Diego Garcia in the Indian Ocean. The Navy awarded a cost plus award fee contract for various improvements to the island. **Findings/Conclusions:** GAO believes that, under a cost plus award fee contract, strong contract administration is vital to protect the Government's interests. GAO found that: (1) the Navy did not ensure that the contractor's resources were effectively employed; and (2) ineffective management by the Navy caused problems and weaknesses that affected the contract. The Navy did not ensure that the contractor established effective management information and control systems before the beginning of construction. More than 18 months after contract award, the contractor did not have operational systems to provide: (1) accurate and timely financial information; (2) effective materials management; or (3) effective resource management. In addition, GAO found that: (1) the financial management reports used by the Navy and the contractor were unreliable; (2) accounting system data were sometimes incomplete; (3) there was no analysis of the differences between estimated and actual costs; (4) cost estimates did not always reflect the most current information; and (5) while the Navy expects cost overruns, the magnitude of the overruns is uncertain. GAO believes that the Navy is not able to judge the reasonableness of the costs incurred or the reliability of estimated costs under the contract. **Recommendation To Agencies:** In order to correct existing problems and weaknesses in the administration of the Diego Garcia contract, the Secretary of the Navy should direct the Commander, Naval Facilities Engineering Command, to require the contractor to demonstrate that essential management information and control systems (i.e., materials control and resource leveling) are fully operational and reliable. In order to correct existing problems and weaknesses in the administration of the Diego Garcia contract, the Secretary of the Navy should direct the Commander, Naval Facilities Engineering Command, to require the contractor to develop procedures for filing and processing claims to prevent another backlog of reports for materials missing or damaged. In order to correct existing problems and weaknesses in the administration of the Diego Garcia contract, the Secretary of the Navy should direct the Commander, Naval Facilities Engineering Command, to require the contractor to complete a physical inventory and reconciliation of all materials and supplies periodically. The Secretary of the Navy should direct the Commander, Naval Facilities Engineering Command, to handle future additions to and deletions from the contract consistently. The Secretary of the Navy should direct the Commander, Naval Facilities Engineering Command, to furnish the contractor materials and equipment when doing so is economically advantageous to the Government. The Secretary of the Navy should direct the Commander, Naval Facilities Engineering Command, to incorporate into the contract the understandings concerning fee payments for items the government furnishes to the contractor and for work added to the contract. The Secretary of the Navy should direct the Commander, Naval Facilities Engineering Command, to instruct the Officer in Charge of Construction (OICC) to amend the OICC instruction detailing the award fee evaluation procedures so that it sets forth the range of

percentages to be used in conjunction with each of the seven grading categories. In order to ensure that the Government's interests are adequately protected in future cost plus award fee contracts, the Secretary of the Navy should direct the Commander, Naval Facilities Engineering Command, to require an independent review of the contractor's management information and control systems to verify that they are fully operational during the early stages of the contract and before the contractor is allowed to begin actual construction. In order to ensure that the government's interests are adequately protected in future cost plus award fee contracts, the Secretary of the Navy should direct the Commander, Naval Facilities Engineering Command, to ensure that the amount of award fee allocated to the initial contract periods is commensurate with the importance of preconstruction tasks and thereby provides motivation for the contractor. In order to ensure that the government's interests are adequately protected in future cost plus award fee contracts, the Secretary of the Navy should direct the Commander, Naval Facilities Engineering Command, to ensure that the percentage scores used in the award fee grading process provide the maximum motivational value and preclude the guarantee of a large portion of the award fee. The Secretary of the Navy should direct the Commander, Naval Facilities Engineering Command, to enforce the contract provisions that require the contractor to maintain a viable financial management system. The Secretary of the Navy should direct the Commander, Naval Facilities Engineering Command, to ask the Defense Contract Audit Agency or the Naval Audit Service to review the contractor's cost accounting and cost estimating system to determine whether all necessary corrective action has been taken to make the system accurate and timely. The Secretary of the Navy should direct the Commander, Naval Facilities Engineering Command, to place a greater emphasis on monitoring contractor-generated financial information and substantiating the validity of the reports so that they can be effectively used as management tools.

124232

[Protest of Allegedly Improper IRS Actions in Amending Solicitation]. B-213978. May 22, 1984. 5 pp.

Decision re: Printer Systems Corp.; by Milton J. Socolar, (for Charles A. Bowsher, Comptroller General).

Contact: Office of the General Counsel.

Organization Concerned: Printer Systems Corp.; Internal Revenue Service.

Authority: B-211755 (1984). B-210692 (1983). B-207338 (1983). 41 C.F.R. 1-3.805-1(d). 4 C.F.R. 21.2. 62 Comp. Gen. 50. B-208796 (1983).

Abstract: A firm protested the allegedly improper actions of the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) in connection with solicitation amendments and proposal discussions under a solicitation for data communication equipment. The protester contended that it was not treated fairly and equally because the low evaluated offerer was advised incorrectly of its competitive standing and was then permitted to lower its prices on the basis of changes made through amendments to the solicitation. The protester further stated that it was not permitted to change its own prices. IRS denied that it either advised the low offerer of its competitive position or amended the solicitation for the purpose of giving that bidder a chance to lower its prices. According to IRS, the amendments in question constituted confirmation of an oral request and a clarification of delivery schedules necessitated by a typographical error in the solicitation. GAO stated that the only evidence to support the protester's allegations was its own statement, which conflicted with that of contracting officials; the protester, therefore, did not meet its burden of proof, and GAO could not conclude that the protester was treated unfairly. The protester also complained that IRS failed to reduce oral advice

regarding the procurement to writing. GAO found that this portion of the protest was untimely filed, since it concerned a deficiency apparent on the face of an amendment. Finally, the protester challenged the contracting officer's statement that the contract was awarded before IRS became aware of the protest. GAO concluded that, even if the agency had been aware of the protest at the time of award, this would constitute a procedural deficiency that would not affect the validity of award. Accordingly, the protest was denied in part and dismissed in part.

124235

First-Year Implementation of the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act by the Department of the Treasury. GGD-84-66; B-202205. May 25, 1984. 33 pp. plus 2 appendices (5 pp.).

Report to Donald T. Regan, Secretary, Department of the Treasury; by William J. Anderson, Director, GAO General Government Division.

Issue Area: Accounting and Financial Reporting: Financial Integrity Act Reviews (2815).

Contact: General Government Division.

Budget Function: General Government: Executive Direction and Management (802.0); General Government: Central Fiscal Operations (803.0); Financial Management and Information Systems (998.0).

Organization Concerned: Department of the Treasury; Office of Management and Budget.

Authority: Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act of 1982 (31 U.S.C. 3512). Accounting and Auditing Act. OMB Circular A-123.

Abstract: GAO reviewed the Department of the Treasury's initial efforts to implement the requirements of the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act of 1982 and Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Circular A-123. The review focused on Treasury's evaluation of internal controls, its reviews of accounting systems, and the improvements being made as a result of the identified problems. **Findings/Conclusions:** GAO found that Treasury acted promptly to establish the internal control process required by the act and the circular. However, Treasury differed from the OMB Internal Control Guidelines in the segmentation and vulnerability assessment phases. In the segmentation phase, Treasury divided its assessable units too broadly, which resulted in some activities' and functions' being inadequately considered or inadvertently excluded from assessment. In the vulnerability assessment phase, three weaknesses were identified: (1) the quality of the assessments was questionable, since most were inadequately documented and did not include all three OMB-required steps; (2) most field managers did not participate in the assessments; and (3) most of the automatic data processing assessments were incomplete. GAO found that Treasury's evaluations of its accounting systems were reasonably consistent and generally adequately documented. However, several important accounting operations were not included in the evaluations, and few transactions were tested. Treasury officials plan to rectify these omissions and deficiencies in second-year evaluations. Finally, Treasury did not evaluate the internal controls and accounting systems for the Exchange Stabilization Fund and the Saudi Arabian Deposit Account because it concluded that they were not subject to the act. GAO disagreed with this conclusion in regard to the Exchange Stabilization Fund, since its assets are U.S. Government Funds. Therefore, until the fund is evaluated, Treasury is not in compliance with the act.

124237

[Internal Control Weaknesses at the U.S. Customs Service]. AFMD-84-23; B-214251. May 23, 1984. 3 pp. plus 2 enclosures (27 pp.).

Report to Donald T. Regan, Secretary, Department of the Treasury; by Frederick D. Wolf, Director, GAO Accounting and Financial Management Division.

Issue Area: Accounting and Financial Reporting: Internal Controls Over Receipts and Disbursements (2810).

Contact: Accounting and Financial Management Division.

Budget Function: Financial Management and Information Systems: Accounting Systems in Operation (998.1).

Organization Concerned: Department of the Treasury; United States Customs Service.

Congressional Relevance: *House* Committee on Appropriations: Treasury-Postal Service and General Government Subcommittee; *House* Committee on Banking, Finance and Urban Affairs; *Senate* Committee on Appropriations: Treasury, Postal Service, and General Government Subcommittee; *Senate* Committee on Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs.

Authority: Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act of 1982. Accounting and Auditing Act.

Abstract: GAO reported the results of a survey of internal controls at 12 U.S. Customs Service offices. The survey was conducted during the period of January 1983 to April 1983. **Findings/Conclusions:** The survey identified weaknesses in internal controls which usually resulted because established procedures were not followed. The weaknesses existed in controls over the: (1) deposit, accounting, and safeguarding of collections, including appropriate separation of employees' duties and use of prenumbered receipt forms; (2) accounting for accounts receivable and their collection; (3) review and reconciliation of employee travel advances; (4) procedures and physical security for imprest funds; (5) reconciliation and safeguarding of government transportation requests; (6) recording and review of obligations; and (7) preaudit and certification of disbursement vouchers. GAO also noted that some facilities did not correct the control deficiencies disclosed by internal audits. **Recommendation To Agencies:** The Secretary of the Treasury should instruct the Commissioner of Customs to consider the internal control requirements discussed in this report in future reviews to comply with the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act of 1982 and discuss in the annual statements required by the act whether any weaknesses identified have been corrected.

124258

[ASCS Needs Better Information To Adequately Assess Proposed County and State Office Automation]. IMTEC-84-11; B-214903. May 25, 1984. 9 pp. plus 1 enclosure (3 pp.).

Report to John R. Block, Secretary, Department of Agriculture; by Warren G. Reed, Director, GAO Information Management and Technology Division.

Issue Area: Automatic Data Processing: Improving How Agencies Satisfy Their Software Requirements (0116).

Contact: Information Management and Technology Division.

Budget Function: Automatic Data Processing (990.1).

Organization Concerned: Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service; Department of Agriculture.

Congressional Relevance: *House* Committee on Appropriations: Agriculture, Rural Development, and Related Agencies Subcommittee; *House* Committee on Agriculture; *Senate* Committee on Appropriations: Agriculture and Related Agencies Subcommittee; *Senate* Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

Abstract: GAO examined the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service's (ASCS) cost-benefit analysis to determine whether ASCS adequately justified the automation of its state and county offices. **Findings/Conclusions:** Before automating the state and county offices that administer ASCS commodity and land use programs, ASCS tested the idea in seven county offices.

The ASCS cost-benefit analysis shows greater estimated benefits than costs. GAO determined that the ASCS analysis may be overly optimistic. GAO found that the estimates are uncertain because ASCS relied on judgment rather than historical data to project many costs and benefits, and available evidence does not support some of the projections. Most of the estimated benefits are based on projections of saved staff time and improved accuracy. Further, the accuracy improvement is not substantiated by evidence, and other benefits are overstated. Estimated costs for equipment and maintenance appear to have been understated. Finally, ASCS plans to use untested technology for the implementation phase, which increases the risk of unforeseen expenses. **Recommendation To Agencies:** The Secretary of Agriculture should direct ASCS to proceed with the prototype project in three states and defer the planned nationwide automation of state and county offices until the prototype has provided credible cost-benefit information and tested the technology.

124261

[Interim Observations on FAA's Plans for Major Systems Acquisitions]. IMTEC-84-14; B-206887. May 4, 1984. Released May 24, 1984. 7 pp. plus 2 enclosures (16 pp.).

Report to Rep. William Lehman, Chairman, House Committee on Appropriations: Transportation Subcommittee; by Warren G. Reed, Director, GAO Information Management and Technology Division.

Issue Area: Automatic Data Processing: Effectively Conducting Major ADP Systems Acquisitions (0113); Transportation Systems and Policies: Determining the Effectiveness of FAA's Management of the Air Traffic Control System (2434).

Contact: Information Management and Technology Division.

Budget Function: Transportation: Air Transportation (402.0).

Organization Concerned: Federal Aviation Administration.

Congressional Relevance: *House* Committee on Appropriations: Transportation Subcommittee; *Rep.* William Lehman.

Authority: OMB Circular A-109.

Abstract: Pursuant to a congressional request, GAO provided observations on the Federal Aviation Administration's (FAA) acquisition of computer systems, focusing on: (1) technical risks of the new host computer system and their potential impact on program performance and milestones; (2) the desirability of full-scale acquisition of the Mode S system; and (3) the adequacy of the overall design and acquisition strategy for the Advanced Automation System (AAS). **Findings/Conclusions:** FAA is developing and acquiring a new host computer system to accommodate several long-term functional improvements in its air traffic control (ATC) systems. The project involves transferring existing software to modern computers, which is known as re-hosting software to a host computer. GAO believes that FAA: (1) may have underestimated the technical complexity of re-hosting software; and (2) is not planning to adequately test and evaluate software changes to ensure software reliability. The Mode S system is a secondary surveillance radar and computer-to-cockpit data link that may not become available until the early 1990's. GAO noted: (1) that several promising alternatives may become available before Mode S, and that such alternatives may offer better coverage, accuracy, and capacity than Mode S, at a lower cost to FAA; and (2) concerns that the extent to which Mode S will improve current ATC systems will not justify the investment in Mode S. AAS is intended to provide FAA with the computer capability to handle the expected increase in air traffic in the future. GAO believes that FAA may be proceeding with AAS system design efforts without fully defining the functional requirements for the system and noted certain inadequacies in the solicitation for potential system design contractors that was issued by FAA.

124282

[Information on Relicensing Cases at the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission]. RCED-84-116; B-200490. May 15, 1984. Released May 22, 1984. 5 pp. plus 2 enclosures (2 pp.).

Report to Rep. Richard L. Ottinger, Chairman, House Committee on Energy and Commerce: Energy Conservation and Power Subcommittee; by Ralph V. Carlone, (for J. Dexter Peach, Director), GAO Resources, Community, and Economic Development Division.

Issue Area: Energy: Non-Line-of-Effort Assignments (1697).

Contact: Resources, Community, and Economic Development Division.

Budget Function: Energy: Energy Information, Policy, and Regulation (276.0).

Organization Concerned: Department of Energy; Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

Congressional Relevance: House Committee on Energy and Commerce: Energy Conservation and Power Subcommittee; Rep. Richard L. Ottinger.

Abstract: Pursuant to a congressional request, GAO reviewed the relicensing of existing non-Federal hydroelectric facilities by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), focusing on whether: (1) the public benefits when competing applications are filed for a facility; and (2) FERC can serve as a surrogate for competition when no competing application is filed. To qualify for a hydroelectric project license, an applicant must submit a comprehensive plan to develop and use the water resources for recreational and environmental purposes as well as power generation. **Findings/Conclusions:** GAO reviewed nine competitive relicensing cases and observed that, in five cases, amendments to the original applications were submitted after competing applications had been filed for the same project. GAO noted that, of the cases with amendments, three private utilities proposed to upgrade their power operation plans and two proposed to include major recreational improvements after competing applications had been filed. In a review of 10 uncontested cases, GAO found that FERC required enhancements to the operation of existing facilities during the relicensing process to improve fish and wildlife plans, water quality, irrigation, and recreational facilities. Finally, of the five pending applications reviewed, GAO found that FERC had requested additional information from two of the applicants.

124295

[Topics in Financial Management]. October 25, 1983. 17 pp. Speech before the Association of Government Accountants; by Wilbur D. Campbell, Acting Director, Accounting and Financial Management Division.

Contact: Accounting and Financial Management Division.

Authority: Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act of 1982.

Abstract: GAO discussed financial management in the Federal Government. GAO noted that there is a need for greater Federal involvement in such aspects of financial management as budgetary processes, accounting systems, financial reporting, auditing, and automatic data processing (ADP). GAO believes that: (1) the numerous problems with the budget process include complexity, timing, and duplication; (2) Federal accounting systems need to be integrated into the budget process; (3) accounting systems do not provide sufficient information for Federal managers to make intelligent financial management decisions; and (4) internal controls throughout the Government need improvement. In addition, GAO noted that: (1) Inspectors General have contributed significantly to the improvement of Government financial management; (2) it is in the process of examining and revising financial reporting standards and principles; (3) there should be a trend toward standardization in Government financial reporting in the next

decade; (4) it believes that the Government auditing community will begin to review Government organization as a whole, rather than reviewing programmatic issues and administrative activities; and (5) the widespread use of ADP in the Government has revolutionized Federal financial management. GAO stated that it expects to maintain a high degree of involvement in improving Government financial management over the next two decades.

124299

[Implementation of the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act of 1982]. May 22, 1984. 15 pp. plus 2 enclosures (2 pp.).

Testimony before the House Committee on Government Operations; by Charles A. Bowsher, Comptroller General.

Contact: Office of the Comptroller General.

Organization Concerned: Office of Management and Budget.

Congressional Relevance: House Committee on Government Operations.

Authority: Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act of 1982. Accounting and Auditing Act.

Abstract: GAO discussed first-year efforts to implement the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act. GAO noted that agencies generally made adequate efforts to implement the act by assessing the vulnerability of their internal controls and accounting systems and by submitting the required reports. GAO stated that material weaknesses reported by agencies included problems with: (1) accounting and financial management systems; (2) eligibility and entitlements; (3) grant, loan, and debt collection management; (4) procurement; (5) property management; (6) automatic data processing (ADP); (7) cash management; and (8) personnel and organizational management. GAO suggested improvements for second-year implementation of the act, including the need to: (1) include all agency operations in the evaluation process; (2) prepare adequate documentation; (3) better train managers to implement the evaluation process; (4) more thoroughly consider ADP controls in evaluations; and (5) increase efforts to evaluate accounting systems. In addition, GAO called for an effort to reform Government financial management that would stress four key elements: (1) strengthened accounting, auditing, and reporting; (2) improved planning and programming; (3) a streamlined budget process; and (4) systematic measurement of performance.

124300

[The Leesburg GAO Senior Executive Management Meeting Speeches]. November 8, 1983. 147 pp. plus 1 appendix (11 pp.).

Speech before the GAO Senior Executive Management Meeting; by Charles A. Bowsher, Comptroller General.

This document includes three speeches given at the GAO Senior Executive Management Meeting: the Comptroller General's keynote address; a human resources session; and the wrapup session. A summary and index are also included.

Contact: Office of the Comptroller General.

Organization Concerned: General Accounting Office.

Authority: Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act of 1982.

Abstract: The 1983 GAO Senior Executive Management Meeting stressed the need for understanding, communicating, and building teamwork within the GAO organization. The need for improvement in various management areas was discussed including: planning, the use of report conferences, quality assurance procedures, report responsibility, the issue area system, work with Congress on auditing internal controls and accounting systems, auditing State and local governments, computer use, appraisal of new legislation, and the Senior Executive Service bonus. The need for consistently high quality and timely reports was also described as well as the importance of high quality GAO employees. In

addition, the need to encourage and facilitate coordination and cooperation between divisions and offices was discussed as well as the need for greater commitment to moving into the computer area. Finally, the use of the annual plan to help in budgeting and personnel work was suggested.

124306

[Internal Control Weaknesses at GSA]. AFMD-84-27; B-214995. June 1, 1984. 3 pp. plus 2 enclosures (24 pp.).

Report to Ray Kline, Acting Administrator, General Services Administration; by Frederick D. Wolf, Director, GAO Accounting and Financial Management Division.

Issue Area: Accounting and Financial Reporting: Internal Controls Over Receipts and Disbursements (2810).

Contact: Accounting and Financial Management Division.

Budget Function: Financial Management and Information Systems: Accounting Systems in Operation (998.1).

Organization Concerned: General Services Administration.

Congressional Relevance: *House Committee on Appropriations; Treasury-Postal Service and General Government Subcommittee; House Committee on Government Operations; Senate Committee on Appropriations; Treasury, Postal Service, and General Government Subcommittee; Senate Committee on Government Operations.*

Authority: Accounting and Auditing Act. Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act of 1982.

Abstract: GAO surveyed internal controls over financial and accounting operations at various General Services Administration (GSA) field offices. **Findings/Conclusions:** GAO identified weaknesses in internal controls over collections, accounts receivable, disbursements, imprest funds, and obligations, including weaknesses in controls over the: (1) deposit and safeguarding of collections; (2) recording and collection of accounts receivable; (3) review of travel advances; (4) procedures and security for imprest funds; (5) protection of government transportation requests; (6) documentation of disbursement vouchers; and (7) recording and reconciliation of obligations. GAO found limited internal audit coverage and some weaknesses identified by internal audit coverage were not corrected. GAO believes that the weaknesses are not unique to the offices surveyed and other locations probably have similar weaknesses. **Recommendation To Agencies:** The Administrator of General Services should ensure that adequate followup actions are taken to correct the weaknesses identified by GAO and that all established control procedures are followed. The Administrator of General Services should instruct the Office of the Inspector General to increase audit coverage of financial operations, with particular emphasis on internal controls. The Administrator of General Services should consider the internal control requirements discussed in this report in future reviews to comply with the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act. The Administrator should also discuss in the annual statements required by the act whether any identified weaknesses have been corrected.

124331

The Department of Energy's First-Year Implementation of the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act. RCED-84-134; B-202205. June 7, 1984. 4 pp. plus 3 appendices (28 pp.).

Report to Donald P. Hodel, Secretary, Department of Energy; by J. Dexter Peach, Director, GAO Resources, Community, and Economic Development Division.

Issue Area: Accounting and Financial Reporting: Reporting Systems' Adequacy To Disclose the Results of Government Operations and To Provide Useful Information (2811).

Contact: Resources, Community, and Economic Development Division.

Budget Function: Financial Management and Information Systems: Accounting Systems in Operation (998.1).

Organization Concerned: Department of Energy.

Authority: Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act of 1982.

Abstract: GAO reviewed the Department of Energy's (DOE) implementation of the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act of 1982. **Findings/Conclusions:** GAO found that the December 1983 DOE statement to the President and Congress fairly represented DOE efforts to comply with the act. The statement concluded that: (1) the DOE system of internal controls provides reasonable assurance that overall internal control objectives are met but noted that controls in several areas could be strengthened; and (2) the Comptroller General's accounting principles and standards have been incorporated in the DOE accounting systems but documentation and additional audit coverage are needed. Although GAO found that DOE has made a good start toward compliance with the act, DOE should: (1) develop written procedures to review vulnerability assessments; (2) follow up on internal control review recommendations not currently tracked; (3) formally designate management responsibility to perform automated data processing assessments; (4) expand accounting system compliance instructions to clearly identify departmental components; (5) develop specific review procedures to ensure that accounting systems compliance statements are complete and accurate; (6) complete the documentation of all accounting systems; and (7) incorporate testing requirements into DOE accounting systems compliance procedures.

124355

The Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund's Financial Operations Were Properly Accounted for and Reported. AFMD-84-59; B-215177. May 23, 1984. 69 pp. plus 12 appendices (29 pp.).

Report to Sen. Alan Cranston, Ranking Minority Member, Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs; Rep. Thomas J. Ridge; Rep. John McCain; Rep. Thomas R. Carper; Rep. David O'B. Martin; Rep. G.V. Montgomery; Sen. John W. Warner; Rep. Duncan L. Hunter; Sen. Charles McC. Mathias; by Charles A. Bowsher, Comptroller General.

Issue Area: Accounting and Financial Reporting: Operations, Financial Position, and Changes in Financial Position (2802).

Contact: Accounting and Financial Management Division.

Budget Function: Financial Management and Information Systems: Accounting Systems in Operation (998.1).

Organization Concerned: Vietnam Veterans' Memorial Fund, Inc.

Congressional Relevance: *Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs; Rep. Duncan L. Hunter; Rep. G.V. Montgomery; Rep. John McCain; Rep. Thomas R. Carper; Rep. David O'B. Martin; Rep. Thomas J. Ridge; Sen. Alan Cranston; Sen. Charles McC. Mathias; Sen. John W. Warner.*

Authority: P.L. 96-297.

Abstract: Pursuant to congressional requests and in response to allegations raised by a television station and others, GAO conducted a comprehensive audit of the financial operations of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund. The Fund was authorized to erect the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C. **Findings/Conclusions:** GAO found that: (1) receipts and disbursements were properly accounted for and reported by the Fund; (2) fundraising costs were reasonable in relation to fundraising receipts; (3) disbursements made by the Fund were for goods and services received and were properly documented; (4) disbursements made by the Fund were for activities consistent with its charter and its purposes; (5) prior financial audits of the Fund were properly conducted in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards; (6) the Fund did not attempt to conceal its financial information; and (7) numerous allegations raised by a

television reporter's investigation and by others were unsubstantiated. GAO noted that its investigation did not reveal any improper or illegal actions by the Fund, its officers, or its directors.

124336

The GAO Review, Vol. 18, Issue 3, Summer 1983. 1983. 60 pp.
John D. Heller, Editor; Carol A. Codori, Assistant Editor. Citations to individual articles appear elsewhere in the July 1984 issue of GAO Documents.

Contact: Office of the Comptroller General.

Abstract: This quarterly publication is prepared primarily for use by the staff of the General Accounting Office. Articles in this issue cover such topics as: evaluation design, refugee medical admissions policies, housing industry assessment, Department of Defense productivity, Defense allocation of resources, reverse employment discrimination, child care benefits, internal controls and auditing of electronic data processing systems, computer-assisted research, and legislative developments.

124344

The Modern EDP Environment's Impact on Internal Controls and Auditing. 1983. 3 pp.

by Norman C. Berman, Evaluator, GAO Field Operations Division: Regional Office (Philadelphia).
In *The GAO Review*, Vol. 18, Issue 3, Summer 1983, pp. 38-40.

Contact: Field Operations Division: Regional Office (Philadelphia).

Abstract: The problems associated with internal controls and auditing of electronic data processing systems were discussed in this article. GAO reported on new audit methods that shift emphasis from people and procedures to the software of operating systems and data base management and that require auditors to become involved in systems design and development.

124345

Computer-Assisted Research in GAO. 1983. 4 pp.

by Paula Q. DeRoy, Technical Information Specialist, GAO Field Operations Division: Regional Office (Washington).
In *The GAO Review*, Vol. 18, Issue 3, Summer 1983, pp. 41-42, 50-51.

Contact: Field Operations Division: Regional Office (Washington).

Organization Concerned: General Accounting Office.

Abstract: This article focused on information retrieval systems available to assist GAO personnel in performing their work. GAO noted that there are many commercial and internal data bases available that can be accessed by GAO technical information specialists.

124347

Studies of U.S. Universities' Research Equipment Needs Inconclusive. RCED-84-105; B-214592 April 3, 1984. **Released** May 30, 1984. 4 pp. plus 5 appendices (17 pp.).

Report to Sen. Slade Gorton, Chairman, Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation: Science, Technology, and Space Subcommittee; by J. Dexter Peach, Director, GAO Resources, Community, and Economic Development Division. Refer to Testimony, May 27, 1982, Accession Number 118514.

Issue Area: Science and Technology: Issues Concerning the Administration of Basic Research (2016)

Contact: Resources, Community, and Economic Development Division

Budget Function: General Science, Space, and Technology: General Science and Basic Research (251.0).

Organization Concerned: National Science Foundation; Office of Science and Technology Policy.

Congressional Relevance: Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation: Science, Technology, and Space Subcommittee; Sen. Slade Gorton.

Authority: P.L. 96-44.

Abstract: In response to a congressional request, GAO analyzed studies and other relevant data to determine the factors which influence the nationwide university need for research equipment and identified and evaluated options for equipping university laboratories. **Findings/Conclusions:** GAO determined that none of the studies it examined provided a current estimate of the magnitude of nationwide university research equipment needs. However, GAO noted that five of the studies concluded that the university need for research equipment was significant. GAO suggested that a partial estimate of equipment needs could be obtained from the Department of Defense university research equipment program and that any future studies incorporate a representative sample of universities and a peer review process to validate equipment needs.

124348

Opportunities To Improve the Postal Ratemaking Process. GGD-84-10; B-204264. April 23, 1984. **Released** June 4, 1984. 62 pp. plus 9 appendices (28 pp.).

Report to Sen. Ted Stevens, Chairman, Senate Committee on Governmental Affairs: Civil Service, Post Office and General Services Subcommittee; by Charles A. Bowsher, Comptroller General.

Refer to GGD-77-20, April 7, 1977, Accession Number 100436.

Contact: General Government Division.

Budget Function: Commerce and Housing Credit: Postal Service (372.0).

Organization Concerned: United States Postal Service: Board of Governors; Postal Rate Commission; United States Postal Service.

Congressional Relevance: House Committee on Appropriations: Treasury-Postal Service and General Government Subcommittee; House Committee on Post Office and Civil Service; Senate Committee on Appropriations: Treasury, Postal Service, and General Government Subcommittee; Senate Committee on Governmental Affairs; Senate Committee on Governmental Affairs: Civil Service, Post Office and General Services Subcommittee; Sen. Ted Stevens.

Authority: Postal Reorganization Act (39 U.S.C.). Administrative Procedure Act (5 U.S.C. 551 et seq.). Executive Order 11341. NAGCP v. USPS et al., 51 U.S.L.W. 4877 (1983). 39 U.S.C. 3603. 39 U.S.C. 3624(a).

Abstract: In response to a congressional request, GAO reviewed the postal ratemaking and classification processes to determine whether opportunities exist to improve them. **Findings/Conclusions:** GAO found that, although the current ratemaking process can be lengthy, it works reasonably well. Further, GAO found that current Postal Rate Commission (PRC) procedures are appropriate for resolving mail classification cases. The ratemaking process provides interested parties with an opportunity to participate in the proceedings, develops an evidentiary record upon which rate decisions are based, and normally produces PRC recommendations to the Board of Governors for new postal rates within a reasonable time period. However, if the Board disagrees with a PRC-recommended decision, the reconsideration process may become excessively lengthy since there is no time limit set by law. Although the U.S. Postal Service (USPS), its Board of Governors, and PRC agree that time taken for reconsiderations can be a problem, they disagree on the

remedies, with PRC favoring a flexible time limit. Other problem areas involve cost procedural issues, Board use of technical assistance, USPS and PRC reporting requirements, and the consumer advocate's role. **Recommendation To Congress:** If future reconsiderations raise problems, Congress should consider amending the Postal Reorganization Act to reduce the extent of the reconsideration process by limiting the time for reconsideration and, in addition, should consider limiting the number of reconsiderations prior to the Governors' either approving, allowing under protest with judicial review, or modifying the recommended action. To strengthen the enforcement authority of PRC to obtain necessary information with minimal delay in its proceedings, Congress should consider amending the Postal Reorganization Act, Title 39, U.S. Code, by adding a new section to specifically provide subpoena authority. **Recommendation To Agencies:** In order to clarify the roles of the Governors, the Service, and PRC in the ratemaking process, the Board should amend its bylaws to: (1) define the nature and scope of the Board and USPS participation in considering postal rate proposals; and (2) establish the policies and procedures the Governors will follow when considering modifications to the PRC recommended decision. In order to streamline and clarify the provision and use of cost data in the rate consideration process, the Postmaster General should direct USPS to seek informal PRC comments on proposed changes in cost procedures and special cost studies as they are being completed. If this process proves constructive, the Postmaster General should direct USPS to request periodic rulemaking proceedings from PRC to formalize the agreed upon procedures. The Chairman, PRC, should seek specific legislative authority to compel the production of data in a form consistent with costing procedures which PRC considers acceptable, if the GAO recommendation to the Postmaster General does not result in agreement between USPS and PRC. Given the USPS current position, in order to resolve the current disagreements between PRC and USPS over periodic reporting needs and reporting milestones, the Chairman, PRC, should initiate a rulemaking proceeding to reconsider periodic reporting requirements. If the new periodic reporting requirements are not complied with, the Chairman, PRC, should seek specific legislative authority to enforce realistic periodic reporting requirements. To improve the performance of the Officer of the Commission, the Chairman, PRC, should better define the role of the Officer of the Commission, giving emphasis to validating and critiquing the USPS and other participants' rate proposals and, in addition, emphasis should be given to assisting PRC in developing a complete, accurate, and unbiased record. The Officer of the Commission should identify needed additional data, identify inaccuracies and fallacies in submitted data, and present supporting relevant and material evidence which critiques the record evidence. The generation of alternative proposals should be clearly identified as receiving less emphasis than critiquing other participants' and the USPS rate proposal. Once the role of the Officer of the Commission has been better defined, the Chairman, PRC, should initiate a reexamination of the PRC reduction in the Officer of the Commission's professional staff resources to ensure that the cutback does not restrict the Office's ability to successfully perform its responsibilities.

124351

Status of Internal Audit Capabilities of Federal Agencies Without Statutory Inspectors General. AFMD-84-45; B-214522. May 4, 1984. Released June 4, 1984. 7 pp. plus 12 appendices (26 pp.). Report to Rep. Jack Brooks, Chairman, House Committee on Government Operations: Legislation and National Security Subcommittee; by Frederick D. Wolf, Director, GAO Accounting and Financial Management Division.

Issue Area: Internal Auditing Systems: Audit and Investigative

Coverage to Federal Programs and Operations Provided by Inspector General Offices and Federal Internal Audit Organizations (0207).

Contact: Accounting and Financial Management Division.

Budget Function: Financial Management and Information Systems: Internal Audit (998.3).

Organization Concerned: Government-Wide.

Congressional Relevance: House Committee on Government Operations: Legislation and National Security Subcommittee; Rep. Jack Brooks.

Authority: Inspector General Act of 1978. Legal Services Corporation Act of 1974. OMB Circular A-50. OMB Circular A-73.

Abstract: In response to a congressional request, GAO solicited information on the audit capability of 105 agencies not subject to the Inspector General Act of 1978 or similar legislation. Ninety-nine agencies responded on the topics of audit staff size and independence, coordination of audit functions, followup and implementation of audit recommendations, and compliance with GAO audit standards. **Findings/Conclusions:** Appropriations for 1983 for 23 agencies were greater than \$100 million each, while 41 received less than \$10 million each. Internal audit staff size ranged from one person each at seven organizations to over 550 personnel at one organization. Some agencies are not complying with OMB Circulars A-50 and A-73 or with GAO audit standards. Many of the noncompliant agencies are relatively small, which may affect their ability to comply fully with all of the audit standards.

124360

[Safeguarding of Proprietary Data at Minerals Management Service OCS Regional Offices]. May 24, 1984. 5 pp. plus 2 enclosures (2 pp.).

Report to William Bettenberg, Director, Department of the Interior: Minerals Management Service; by F. Kevin Boland, Senior Associate Director, GAO Resources, Community, and Economic Development Division.

Issue Area: Materials: Interface Issues: Energy, Environment and Worker Health-Safety Factors Affecting Materials Availability (1816); Science and Technology: Improving the Information Provided to Congress To Support Decisionmaking on R&D Priorities (2012).

Contact: Resources, Community, and Economic Development Division.

Budget Function: Energy: Energy Supply (271.0).

Organization Concerned: Department of the Interior: Minerals Management Service.

Authority: Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act of 1982 (P.L. 97-255). Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act. USGS Instructional Memo 78-05-RE.

Abstract: GAO reviewed the Minerals Management Service's (MMS) procedures for ensuring the confidentiality of proprietary data, focusing on both physical and computer security. **Findings/Conclusions:** GAO found that many Department of the Interior requirements for physically safeguarding proprietary data are not being met. Although GAO found no instances where proprietary data have been improperly disclosed, GAO found several instances where access to such data by unauthorized persons is not adequately controlled. In addition, GAO found that MMS regional offices have inadequate internal controls in computer operations using proprietary data. GAO believes that MMS regional offices need to: (1) establish procedures for backing up computerized data; (2) establish proper controls over access to computer systems; (3) properly identify computer tapes and output that contain proprietary data; and (4) protect computer equipment which can be accessed by telephone. GAO also found that MMS regional offices have not completed risk analyses to determine the appropriate levels of security over proprietary data.

124361

[GSA's Telecommunications Procurement Program Requires Comprehensive Planning and Management]. IMTEC-84-10; B-215077. June 11, 1984. 10 pp.

Report to Ray Kline, Acting Administrator, General Services Administration; by Warren G. Reed, Director, GAO Information Management and Technology Division.

Issue Area: Communications: Appropriateness of Communications Regulatory Policies and Methods (3705).

Contact: Information Management and Technology Division.

Budget Function: Multiple Functions: Telecommunications and Radio Frequency Spectrum Use (Civilian-Related) (999.1).

Organization Concerned: General Services Administration; Office of Management and Budget; Federal Communications Commission.

Congressional Relevance: House Committee on Appropriations: Treasury-Postal Service and General Government Subcommittee; House Committee on Government Operations; Senate Committee on Appropriations: Treasury, Postal Service, and General Government Subcommittee.

Authority: F.P.R. 1-26.4. United States v. American Telephone and Telegraph Co., 522 F. Supp. 131 (D.D.C. 1982). FCC 77-384. FCC 83-551. B-178442 (1974).

Abstract: GAO addressed the General Services Administration's (GSA) management and procurement of telecommunications equipment and services under the divestiture of the American Telephone and Telegraph Company (A.T.&T.) and the Federal Communications Commission's Second Computer Inquiry. **Findings/Conclusions:** Traditionally, GSA has ordered telephone services and equipment from A.T.&T. Presently, under divestiture, GSA must estimate future telecommunications needs, design solicitations, and competitively procure large amounts of telecommunications equipment in a cost effective manner. GAO found that GSA has not yet adjusted to the new telecommunications environment. Decisions have resulted in actions that lack sound legal bases. Because GSA did not perform cost analysis lease versus purchase or consider future service options or purchase CPE or arrange for continued maintenance of leased CPE during the years before deregulation actually took place, GSA was forced to engage in questionable last minute procurement practices. Further, GSA has neither given sufficient management attention to the implementation of a multifaceted program nor developed a comprehensive plan to coordinate its actions. GAO found that, as a result, the first of many large procurements is late. **Recommendation To Agencies:** The GSA Administrator should take prompt action to issue a request for proposals to competitively procure the equipment that is currently leased under novation agreements with AT&T Information Systems. The GSA Administrator should take prompt action to identify and define basic requirements to be met in both developing requests for proposals and in awarding contracts for future aggregated switch procurements. The GSA Administrator should delay the issuance of additional requests for proposals for aggregated switch procurements until the requirements for them are developed.

124365

Small Business Administration's First-Year Implementation of the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act. RCED-84-125; B-202205. June 12, 1984. 4 pp. plus 2 appendices (21 pp.).

Report to James C. Sanders, Administrator, Small Business Administration; by J. Dexter Peach, Director, GAO Resources, Community, and Economic Development Division.

Issue Area: Accounting and Financial Reporting: Reporting Systems' Adequacy To Disclose the Results of Government Operations and To Provide Useful Information (2811).

Contact: Resources, Community, and Economic Development Division.

Budget Function: Financial Management and Information Systems: Accounting Systems in Operation (998.1).

Organization Concerned: Small Business Administration.

Authority: Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act of 1982.

Abstract: GAO reviewed the processes used by the Small Business Administration (SBA) to implement the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act. **Findings/Conclusions:** In its first-year efforts to implement the act, SBA issued a directive that assigned responsibilities for its internal control evaluation and improvement process. Further, as required by Office of Management and Budget (OMB) guidelines, SBA reviewed the internal controls for two of its programs during the first year. However, GAO found that SBA: (1) carried out its first-year internal control efforts without a long-range plan or agenda on how it would comply with the act's requirements; (2) did not adequately document the segmentation and vulnerability assessment phases of its internal control review process; (3) does not have a procedures manual for performing vulnerability assessments and internal control reviews; (4) did not adequately evaluate internal controls relating to automated systems, even though SBA is highly dependent on such systems to carry out its mission; and (5) does not have an agencywide system which logs and tracks internal control recommendations and planned corrective actions. In carrying out the act and the OMB guidelines, SBA used the Computerized Internal Control Review (CICR) system which is currently being modified to take on more of the internal control evaluation workload. Because CICR does not currently meet all OMB requirements, GAO believes that SBA should coordinate modifications to the system with OMB and obtain OMB approval of its usage.

124389

[Auditing Using Microtechnology]. June 5, 1984. 1 p. plus 1 enclosure (29 pp.).

by Frederick Gallegos, Manager, Management Science Group, GAO Field Operations Division: Regional Office (Los Angeles).

Contact: Field Operations Division: Regional Office (Los Angeles).

Abstract: This GAO seminar presents an overview of microcomputer-related technology and suggests how GAO auditors can use microcomputers to perform audit functions.

124418

[A Comparative Review of Optical Character Readers Used in Mail Processing]. June 14, 1984. 10 pp. plus 2 enclosures (2 pp.).

Testimony before the House Committee on Post Office and Civil Service: Postal Operations and Services Subcommittee; House Committee on Post Office and Civil Service: Postal Personnel and Modernization Subcommittee; by William J. Anderson, Director, GAO General Government Division.

Contact: General Government Division.

Organization Concerned: United States Postal Service.

Congressional Relevance: House Committee on Post Office and Civil Service: Postal Personnel and Modernization Subcommittee; House Committee on Post Office and Civil Service: Postal Operations and Services Subcommittee.

Abstract: GAO discussed its comparison of the two optical character reading technologies available to the Postal Service for its automated mail system. The single-line optical character reader (OCR) reads the city, state, and ZIP code line of an address and

prints a bar code representing the ZIP code, which is read by other sorting equipment. The multiline OCR reads an entire address and prints a bar code representing the ZIP code. If the address is in the machine's internal directory, the multiline OCR can obtain the ZIP code if none is present. GAO stated that the multiline OCR performs better at all usage levels tested and that use of the multiline OCR would result in greater work-year savings than those obtained by use of the single-line machine. However, the difference in savings is not substantial and GAO believes that it would be less expensive to buy and maintain single-line OCR's. In addition, GAO believes that a switch to multiline OCR's would delay automation by 3 to 4 years and would result in reduced savings. GAO also discussed the feasibility of designing a retrofit kit to convert single-line OCR's to multiline. While such a conversion is technically feasible, the performance level that could be achieved is unknown and could only be determined by designing and testing a retrofit kit.

124423

GAO Observations on the Use of Tax Return Information for Verification in Entitlement Programs. HRD-84-72; B-214780. June 5, 1984. Released June 11, 1984. 3 pp. plus 1 appendix (15 pp.). Report to Sen. William S. Cohen, Chairman, Senate Committee on Governmental Affairs: Oversight of Government Management Subcommittee; by Richard L. Fogel, Director, GAO Human Resources Division.

Issue Area: Income Security and Social Services: Efficient Administration and Quality of Service of Needs-Based Cash Assistance Programs (1332).

Contact: Human Resources Division.

Budget Function: Income Security: Other Income Security (609.0).

Organization Concerned: Internal Revenue Service; Department of Health and Human Services; Social Security Administration.

Congressional Relevance: Senate Committee on Governmental Affairs: Oversight of Government Management Subcommittee; Sen. William S. Cohen.

Abstract: Pursuant to a congressional request, GAO provided information on the transfer of tax return data from the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) and the Social Security Administration (SSA) to Federal and State agencies for their use in entitlement program administration. **Findings/Conclusions:** GAO found that Congress has restricted the disclosure of certain tax return information that would be useful for verifying earnings and assets in entitlement programs. States currently have limited access to SSA earnings and pension data. Congress is considering legislation that would: (1) authorize the disclosure of additional tax return information; (2) require that information related to both earned and unearned income be used for verification purposes; and (3) expand the number of programs in which IRS and SSA data could be used. Because of concerns about personal privacy and the nature of the tax system, GAO has supported only restrictive use of data from third-party sources such as employers and banks, with one exception. GAO believes that the use of tax return data of self-employed individuals should be expanded since, without this information, their eligibility for entitlement programs would be difficult to verify.

124430

Performance Evaluation of the Energy Information Administration. PART-84-1. June 15, 1984. 42 pp. plus 6 appendices (10 pp.). Report to Congress; Executive Office of the President; by F. Kevin Boland, Chairman, Professional Audit Review Team. Refer to PART-82-1, June 25, 1982, Accession Number 118676.

Issue Area: Personnel Management and Compensation (0300).

Contact: Professional Audit Review Team.

Budget Function: Energy: Energy Information, Policy, and Regulation (276.0).

Organization Concerned: Department of Energy; Energy Information Administration; Executive Office of the President.

Congressional Relevance: House Committee on Appropriations: Interior Subcommittee; House Committee on Energy and Commerce; Senate Committee on Appropriations: Interior Subcommittee; Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources; Congress.

Authority: Paperwork Reduction Act of 1980 (P.L. 96-511). Department of Energy Organization Act (P.L. 95-91). P.L. 97-257. OMB Bulletin 81-16. OMB Circular A-3.

Abstract: The Professional Audit Review Team's (PART) report presented its evaluation of the performance of the Energy Information Administration (EIA), as required by law. **Findings/Conclusions:** PART found that EIA: (1) is strengthening internal controls to better ensure its objectivity and independence from political and commercial considerations; (2) is assessing staffing needs; (3) has enhanced its annual planning needs; and (4) has improved its evaluation of the relevancy of its energy data and publications. However, EIA needs to expand and improve its quality control and assessment activities to ensure the accuracy and credibility of the information which it disseminates. **Recommendation To Agencies:** The Administrator, EIA, to control and document the quality of the EIA data, should take actions to develop guidance to ensure that specific quality assessment and quality control activities are clearly understood to be the responsibility of the Office of Statistical Standards or of the program offices. The Administrator, EIA, to control and document the quality of the EIA data, should take action to have the directors of program offices develop broad, office-wide written procedures for performing their quality control functions to guide the further development of detailed quality control procedures for specific data collection forms, systems, and publications. The Administrator, EIA, to control and document the quality of the EIA data, should take action to have the Directors of the Office of Planning and Resources and the Office of Statistical Standards evaluate the comparative effectiveness and efficiency of the various quality control strategies employed by the program offices. The Administrator, EIA, to control and document the quality of the EIA data, should take action, when a report based on an analytical model is issued, to have the directors of the program offices have documentation for the model available to the public which meets the EIA standards for model documentation. The Administrator, EIA, to control and document the quality of the EIA data, should take action to have the Director of the Office of Statistical Standards develop a plan for expediting its audits of the quality of the EIA data and for providing more current and detailed coverage in assessing the quality of EIA major data series. The Administrator, EIA, to control and document the quality of the EIA data, should take action to have the Director of the Office of Statistical Standards continue the development of the concept of quality audits by: (1) issuing guidelines which describe quality audits, including recognition of the quantitative measures that result from the statistical process and can be used to describe the level of quality; and (2) request that an independent statistical professional group, such as the American Statistical Association's Committee on Energy Statistics, evaluate the concept of quality audits and the frequency and scope of coverage of accuracy controls. The Administrator, EIA, should obtain the recommendations of the Director of the Office of Statistical Standards on the findings noted in the "Frames Status Report," dated May 31, 1983, and have the program office directors develop a plan for correcting the problems in the quality of the frames. The Administrator, EIA, should have the Director, Office of Planning and Resources, ensure that a central process and uniform procedures are used to record the assumptions that

requesters want to have incorporated into EIA forecasts and analyses and that the resulting products clearly describe the requesters' specifications. To ensure that each EIA office has the capability to carry out its specialized functions as effectively and efficiently as possible, the Administrator, EIA, should have the Director, Office of Planning and Resources, assess the number and types of skills EIA needs to meet its overall requirements and to determine whether staffing allocations to each office are appropriate. The Administrator, EIA, should have each director of the three program offices develop a plan for conducting a comprehensive data requirements study in his energy topic areas and for periodically updating these studies.

124460

Department of the Interior's First-Year Implementation of the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act. RCED-84-136; B-202205. June 19, 1984. 4 pp. plus 5 appendices (27 pp.).
Report to William P. Clark, Secretary, Department of the Interior; by Ralph V. Carlone, (for J. Dexter Peach, Director), GAO Resources, Community, and Economic Development Division.

Issue Area: Accounting and Financial Reporting: Reporting Systems' Adequacy To Disclose the Results of Government Operations and To Provide Useful Information (2811).

Contact: Resources, Community, and Economic Development Division.

Budget Function: Financial Management and Information Systems: Accounting Systems in Operation (998.1).

Organization Concerned: Department of the Interior.

Authority: Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act of 1982.

Abstract: GAO reviewed the Department of the Interior's efforts to implement the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act of 1982, focusing on the activities of eight major bureaus and offices and coordinating its work closely with a related review being conducted by Interior's Inspector General. **Findings/Conclusions:** GAO found that Interior made progress in carrying out its responsibilities under the act by assigning the responsibility for implementing its requirements, ensuring that the department's internal control evaluation process included all of the elements recommended by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), and developing plans for correcting the material internal control and accounting systems weaknesses which were discovered. However, GAO found several areas where the internal control evaluation process could be improved, and it found that not all programs and functions were subjected to the internal control evaluation process. GAO also found that bureaus and offices did not always develop and maintain documentation to support the results of vulnerability assessments and internal control reviews nor did they test internal control techniques to ascertain whether they were functioning as intended. In addition, GAO found that individuals in five of the eight bureaus reviewed had not received training on how to conduct internal reviews. GAO also found that vulnerability assessments and internal control reviews were not closely monitored to ensure their compliance with OMB and departmental guidelines, and the guidelines developed for evaluating automatic data processing systems were not complete. Finally, GAO found that bureaus and offices did not fully document and test accounting systems in operation.

124463

ADP, IRM & Telecommunications. IMTEC-84-9. April 1984. 205 pp.
by Charles A. Bowsher, Comptroller General.

Contact: Information Management and Technology Division.

Abstract: GAO published its annual bibliography containing information on GAO documents relating to automatic data

processing (ADP), information resource management (IRM), and telecommunications. The documents were either released during 1983 or determined to be related to ADP, IRM, or telecommunications during 1983. The material covered in this bibliography represents all of the material related to ADP, IRM, and telecommunications that was produced by GAO offices and divisions.

124477

Agriculture's First-Year Implementation of the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act. RCED-84-138; B-202205. June 21, 1984. 4 pp. plus 3 appendices (38 pp.).

Report to John R. Block, Secretary, Department of Agriculture; by J. Dexter Peach, Director, GAO Resources, Community, and Economic Development Division.

Issue Area: Accounting and Financial Reporting: Financial Integrity Act Reviews (2815).

Contact: Resources, Community, and Economic Development Division.

Budget Function: Agriculture (350.0).

Organization Concerned: Department of Agriculture.

Authority: Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act of 1982.

Abstract: GAO reviewed the Department of Agriculture's (USDA) implementation of the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act. **Findings/Conclusions:** GAO found that USDA has made progress toward improving its internal controls. Many USDA agencies have completed vulnerability assessments and have taken steps to improve internal controls by correcting weaknesses and conducting internal control reviews. GAO found some weaknesses in the USDA internal control program; agency reports do not always follow Federal guidelines and are not reviewed for compliance with such guidelines. In addition, USDA does not adequately address internal controls for automatic data processing. GAO also found that USDA does not perform in-depth accounting system compliance evaluations or determine whether accounting systems were operating in accordance with Federal standards.

124483

Department of Commerce's First-Year Implementation of the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act. RCED-84-133; B-202205. June 22, 1984. 5 pp. plus 3 appendices (26 pp.).

Report to Malcolm Baldrige, Secretary, Department of Commerce; by J. Dexter Peach, Director, GAO Resources, Community, and Economic Development Division.

Issue Area: Accounting and Financial Reporting: Financial Integrity Act Reviews (2815).

Contact: Resources, Community, and Economic Development Division.

Budget Function: Financial Management and Information Systems (998.0).

Organization Concerned: Department of Commerce.

Authority: Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act of 1982.

Abstract: GAO reviewed the Department of Commerce's implementation of the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act. **Findings/Conclusions:** GAO found that Commerce has made progress in carrying out its responsibilities under the act. However, GAO found that Commerce does not: (1) properly divide its activities into assessable units; (2) adequately document the results of vulnerability assessments; (3) assess certain automatic data processing activities; (4) ensure that internal control reviews were conducted on major program and administrative internal control systems; (5) ensure that all personnel understood the vulnerability assessment process; (6) adequately monitor vulnerability assessments; or (7) have a formal tracking system. In addition, GAO found that Commerce does not perform complete reviews of its accounting systems.

124525

[Bureau of the Census' Planned 1985 Pretests for the 1990 Decennial Census]. June 26, 1984. 8 pp. plus 2 enclosures (2 pp.).

Testimony before the House Committee on Post Office and Civil Service: Census and Population Subcommittee; by Walter L. Anderson, Senior Associate Director, GAO Information Management and Technology Division.

Contact: Information Management and Technology Division.

Organization Concerned: Department of Commerce: Bureau of the Census.

Congressional Relevance: House Committee on Post Office and Civil Service: Census and Population Subcommittee.

Abstract: GAO discussed the Bureau of the Census' planned tests for the 1990 decennial census, focusing on the planned two-stage census and on automation. The Bureau will conduct tests in 1985 of the two-stage census process, in which one questionnaire is distributed to the entire population and a more detailed questionnaire is subsequently distributed to a sample of the population. One test is designed to compare the two-stage system with a one-stage system like that used in 1980. GAO believes that the short form used in the test should be more limited than that planned by the Bureau. GAO also stated that the Bureau may not have allowed sufficient time to implement automation procedures for the next census. Many functions under the 1980 census were performed manually and GAO believes that the Bureau should have these functions automated in time for the 1990 census. GAO expressed concern that the Bureau will not know its information requirements until 1986; GAO was unsure that such a late start would allow time for the Bureau to complete the acquisition process for the necessary automated equipment.

124536

Compilation of GAO's Work on Tax-Related Activities During 1983. GGD-84-81; B-137762. June 27, 1984. 2 pp. plus 7 enclosures (68 pp.).

Report to Rep. Daniel Rostenkowski, Chairman, House Committee on Ways and Means; Sen. Robert J. Dole, Chairman, Senate Committee on Finance; Sen. Robert J. Dole, Chairman, Joint Committee on Taxation; Rep. Jack Brooks, Chairman, House Committee on Government Operations; Sen. William V. Roth, Jr., Chairman, Senate Committee on Governmental Affairs; by William J. Anderson, Director, GAO General Government Division.

Issue Area: Health Programs: Implementation of Health Block Grants (1233).

Contact: General Government Division.

Budget Function: General Government: Tax Administration (803.1).

Organization Concerned: Department of the Treasury; Internal Revenue Service.

Congressional Relevance: House Committee on Government Operations; House Committee on Ways and Means; Senate Committee on Governmental Affairs; Senate Committee on Finance; Joint Committee on Taxation; Rep. Jack Brooks; Rep. Daniel Rostenkowski; Sen. William V. Roth, Jr.; Sen. Robert J. Dole. **Authority:** P.L. 95-125.

Abstract: GAO submitted its 1983 annual report on its work in the tax area. **Findings/Conclusions:** The report includes: (1) open recommendations to Congress from reports issued before and during 1983; (2) recommendations to the Commissioner of Internal Revenue made during 1983 and actions taken or proposed by the Internal Revenue Service; (3) a listing of reports and testimonies on tax matters issued during 1983; (4) the scope and subject matter of tax-related jobs initiated pursuant to Public Law 95-125 during 1983; and (5) a GAO order relating to

safeguarding tax returns and return information and procedures to be followed when undertaking reviews of tax related matters.

124538

Congress Needs Better Information on Forest Service's Below-Cost Timber Sales. RCED-84-96; B-210983. June 28, 1984. 24 pp. plus 5 appendices (22 pp.).

Report to Congress; by Milton J. Socolar, (for Charles A. Bowsher, Comptroller General).

Issue Area: Land Use Planning and Control: Improving the Efficiency, Economy, and Cost Effectiveness of Federal Timber Management Practices (2322).

Contact: Resources, Community, and Economic Development Division.

Budget Function: Natural Resources and Environment: Conservation and Land Management (302.0).

Organization Concerned: Department of Agriculture; Forest Service.

Congressional Relevance: House Committee on Appropriations: Interior Subcommittee; House Committee on Agriculture: Forests, Family Farms and Energy Subcommittee; Senate Committee on Appropriations: Interior Subcommittee; Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry: Soil and Water Conservation, Forestry and Environment Subcommittee; Congress.

Authority: Forest Management Act of 1976 (16 U.S.C. 472a). S. 3091 (94th Cong.). 16 U.S.C. 471.

Abstract: GAO analyzed 3,244 advertised timber sales made in four western Forest Service regions in fiscal years 1981 and 1982 to determine: (1) whether individual sales were being made below cost and, if so the general magnitude of this practice in terms of the number, amount of loss, and geographic location; (2) the justification for it; and (3) whether better data could be given to Congress. **Findings/Conclusions:** GAO found that, overall, Forest Service revenues exceeded its costs by \$712 million. However, although the timber was sold at or above appraised value, some of the sales did not generate enough revenues to cover the costs of making the sales. Below-cost sales had shortfalls of \$64 million in 1981 and \$92 million in 1982. Such sales occurred more frequently in Forest Service regions that had mostly low productivity timberlands, low sales values for predominant tree species, and relatively low volumes of timber sold. Generally, these sales were in areas that had steep terrain, which increased harvesting costs and involved engineering and construction costs. GAO found that, because the Forest Service does not identify and accumulate its costs for individual timber sales, it is hampered from taking timely actions to reduce costs or improve sale economics. GAO found that 47 to 89 percent of total sale costs were incurred after sale award. Limited cost data on individual sales hampered the Forest Service's response to its annual reporting requirement. The Forest Service makes below-cost sales to encourage the use of damaged timber, improve the growth of individual stands, or satisfy the needs of local communities dependent on national forest timber sales. Although the primary reason for selling timber below cost is to remove relatively low valued timber stands and replace them with higher valued timber stands, GAO found that this rationale was not validated by the net present value of the next stand of timber. **Recommendation To Congress:** Congress should require the Secretary of Agriculture to revise the annual reporting to Congress on Forest Service activities to include an estimate of the number and volume of timber sales sold below cost, the amount lost on these sales, and the justification on a summary basis for making such sales. **Recommendation To Agencies:** The Secretary of Agriculture should require the Chief of the Forest Service to develop a capacity to systematically determine the costs to sell timber for all national forest timber sales and on a statistically valid basis compare these costs with the estimated value to be received from the sale.

124565

[Protest of Any Contract Award to Another Firm Under Air Force IFB]. B-213647.2. July 2, 1984. 4 pp.

Decision re: Spectrum Leasing Corp.; by Milton J. Socolar, (for Charles A. Bowsher, Comptroller General).

Contact: Office of the General Counsel.

Organization Concerned: Spectrum Leasing Corp.; Department of the Air Force; Vion Corp.

Abstract: A firm protested any Air Force contract award to another firm to supply and maintain an information retrieval system, contending that the other firm's bid failed to meet solicitation requirements for proven equipment or environmental constraints. GAO found that the equipment in question had been installed and operating for 6 months in Japan; therefore, it met the requirement for proven equipment which operated in a production environment. Since the protester failed to meet its burden of proving that the proposed awardee's equipment was not installed in a production environment for 6 months prior to the issuance of the invitation for bids, the protest was denied.

124591

Examination of the Federal Election Commission's Financial Statements for the Year Ended September 30, 1982. AFMD-84-40; B-192886. June 26, 1984. 2 pp. plus 4 appendices (12 pp.).

Report to Congress; Chairman, Federal Election Commission; by Milton J. Socolar, (for Charles A. Bowsher, Comptroller General).

Issue Area: Accounting and Financial Reporting: Operations, Financial Position, and Changes in Financial Position (2802); Education, Training, and Employment Programs: Impact of Job Creation Programs (1106).

Contact: Accounting and Financial Management Division.

Budget Function: Financial Management and Information Systems: Regulatory Accounting Rules and Financial Reporting (998.6).

Organization Concerned: Federal Election Commission.

Congressional Relevance: Congress.

Authority: Election Campaign Act of 1971 (Federal).

Abstract: In response to a request from the Federal Election Commission, GAO examined its financial statements for the year ended September 30, 1982, in accordance with generally accepted Government auditing standards and evaluated its system of internal accounting controls. **Findings/Conclusions:** GAO found weaknesses in internal controls and noncompliance with fund control laws and regulations which compelled it to withdraw earlier approval of the Commission's accounting system. In view of these weaknesses, GAO expanded the nature and extent of its audit procedures to enable it to render an opinion on the Commission's financial statements. GAO found that the financial statements presented fairly the financial position of the Commission as of September 30, 1982, the results of its operations, and the changes in its financial position and Government equity for the year then ended, in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles applied on a consistent basis.

124605

[HHS Needs To Determine If Massachusetts' AFDC Program Meets Federal Requirements and, If Not, Take Compliance Action]. HRD-84-8; B-215564. July 9, 1984. 6 pp. plus 6 enclosures (21 pp.).

Report to Margaret M. Heckler, Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services; by Richard L. Fogel, Director, GAO Human Resources Division.

Issue Area: Income Security and Social Services: Efficient Administration and Quality of Service of Needs-Based Cash Assistance Programs (1332); Automatic Data Processing: Effectiveness of the Management of Automated Information Resources Used in Support of Agency Missions (0118).

Contact: Human Resources Division.

Budget Function: Income Security: Other Income Security (609.0).

Organization Concerned: Department of Health and Human Services; Massachusetts: Department of Public Welfare.

Congressional Relevance: *House Committee on Appropriations:* Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Subcommittee; *House Committee on Ways and Means;* *Senate Committee on Appropriations:* Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Subcommittee; *Senate Committee on Finance.*

Authority: Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1981 (P.L. 97-35). Refugee Act of 1980 (P.L. 96-212). 45 C.F.R. 201.6(a)(2).

Abstract: GAO discussed its findings regarding the Massachusetts Department of Public Welfare's administration of the Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) program. **Findings/Conclusions:** GAO found that the department made erroneous AFDC payments in 1981, 1982, and 1983 and that the federal share of these payments was over \$3 million. In 1981, the department: (1) made estimated payments of \$168,000 to ineligible AFDC dependents aged 18 through 20 who were not regularly attending school and to refugees for whom reimbursements were claimed under the Refugee Act beyond the act's 3-year payment limit; (2) made estimated AFDC payments of \$240,000 to ineligible dependents aged 21 years or older and took an average of more than 6 months to adjust benefits after these dependents became ineligible; and (3) recorded an estimated 61 percent of the dependents' eligible status incorrectly in the automated welfare files. From February 1982 to August 1983, the department experienced related problems in implementing federal requirements and made erroneous payments of which the federal share was \$2.8 million. GAO found that the department has experienced substantial data problems in its automated welfare files such as erroneous or missing social security numbers and incorrect information about dependents' status. Further, there is no provision for automated cross-referencing between the separate files maintained on recipients and dependents, and there is no tracking system to ensure that caseworkers follow through to update case files. **Recommendation To Agencies:** The Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), should direct the Commissioner of Social Security to ascertain whether the Massachusetts Department of Public Welfare has taken effective action to validate and correct AFDC dependent case information in its automated welfare master files. The Secretary, HHS, should direct the Commissioner of Social Security to ascertain whether the Massachusetts Department of Public Welfare has taken effective action to record U.S. entry dates for all refugee recipients and dependents in its automated welfare master files. The Secretary, HHS, should direct the Commissioner of Social Security to ascertain whether the Massachusetts Department of Public Welfare has taken effective action to develop, for those cases identified as requiring changes, a tracking system to ensure that caseworkers follow through in making the changes. The Secretary, HHS, should direct the Commissioner of Social Security to ascertain whether the Massachusetts Department of Public Welfare has taken effective action to emphasize that field offices act to remove ineligible dependents from cases, adjust benefits accordingly, and otherwise improve case maintenance activities. If it is determined that effective actions have not been taken, the Secretary, HHS, should direct the Commissioner of

Social Security to take compliance action against the Massachusetts Department of Public Welfare to withhold federal financial participation for failure of the state in practice to comply with federal requirements.

124608

[Ways To Improve the Federal/State Tax Information Exchange Program]. June 19, 1984. 12 pp.

Speech before the National Association of Tax Administrators; by Johnny C. Finch, Senior Associate Director, GAO General Government Division.

Contact: General Government Division.

Organization Concerned: National Association of Tax Administrators; Internal Revenue Service.

Abstract: Information was presented on the preliminary results of a GAO study on the Federal-State tax information exchange program which is being made to determine whether recommendations which GAO made in a 1978 report to improve the program are being implemented. GAO found that the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) and the States have made several improvements to the program since 1978. The program now has been delegated to one central office at IRS. In addition, IRS has entered into implementing agreements with 93 State tax agencies. However, GAO found that more needs to be done to enhance program effectiveness. IRS needs to take a more active role in monitoring the program and identifying ways to improve it. In addition, IRS needs to better ensure that: (1) it is aware of all State tax information that is available for its use; (2) it receives only that State tax data that it can and will use; and (3) it provides the States with only that data that the States can and will use. Finally, the program can be enhanced through increased automation of tax data in a more compatible format.

124609

[Exports of Dual-Use, Nuclear-Related Equipment to the People's Republic of China]. NSIAD-84-115; B-204811. May 15, 1984. 2 pp. plus 2 enclosures (2 pp.).

Report to Rep. Allen B. Swift, Chairman, House Committee on Energy and Commerce: Special U.S. Trade With China Subcommittee; by Frank C. Conahan, Director, GAO National Security and International Affairs Division.

Refer to NSIAD-83-28, September 29, 1983, Accession Number 122594.

Issue Area: International Affairs: Impact of Intended and Unintended Barriers on Exporting (0621); Energy: Nuclear Power Development Throughout the World Without Undue Risk of Proliferation (1621).

Contact: National Security and International Affairs Division.

Budget Function: International Affairs: Foreign Information and Exchange Activities (154.0).

Organization Concerned: Department of Commerce; People's Republic of China; Department of State.

Congressional Relevance: House Committee on Energy and Commerce: Special U.S. Trade With China Subcommittee; Rep. Allen B. Swift.

Abstract: Pursuant to a congressional request, GAO provided information on exports of dual-use, nuclear-related equipment to the People's Republic of China. **Findings/Conclusions:** Dual-use, nuclear-related items are equipment which is used in both conventional and nuclear applications. The Department of Commerce regulates the export of such items. GAO found that, from July 1981 through June 1982, Commerce approved 1,080 licenses to export dual-use items to China. This was over 10 percent of the total number of export licenses for dual-use items issued

during that period. About 80 percent of the dual-use items licensed for export to China were computers and related equipment. Other licensed items included test equipment, pressure measuring equipment, communications equipment, and laser systems.

124611

Better Monitoring and Recordkeeping Systems Needed To Accurately Account for Juvenile Justice Practices. GGD-84-85; B-202245. July 9, 1984. 14 pp. plus 2 appendices (8 pp.).

Report to Rep. Ike F. Andrews, Chairman, House Committee on Education and Labor: Human Resources Subcommittee; by William J. Anderson, Director, GAO General Government Division.

Refer to Testimony, March 7, 1984, Accession Number 123580.

Issue Area: Law Enforcement and Crime Prevention: Improving the Availability and Effectiveness of Programs for Juveniles (0526).

Contact: General Government Division.

Budget Function: Administration of Justice: Criminal Justice Assistance (754.0).

Organization Concerned: Department of Justice: Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention.

Congressional Relevance: House Committee on Education and Labor: Human Resources Subcommittee; Rep. Ike F. Andrews.

Authority: Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act of 1974 (42 U.S.C. 5601 et seq.).

Abstract: In response to a congressional request, GAO reported on the manner in which the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention of the Department of Justice is implementing the Juvenile Justice and Prevention Act by discussing the Office's program to evaluate State monitoring reports and making observations concerning progress made under 10 of the act's objectives. **Findings/Conclusions:** On March 7, 1984, GAO testified that State monitoring reports cannot be considered as sufficiently valid and reliable to measure overall progress in meeting the act's objectives and that some progress has been made under 10 of the act's objectives. After completing a more detailed analysis of the questionnaire, responses from juvenile justice officials, and other data which GAO collected, its observations remained the same.

124615

[Protest of Specifications in Interior RFP]. B-213430. July 9, 1984. 6 pp.

Decision re: Memorex Corp.; by Milton J. Socolar, (for Charles A. Bowsher, Comptroller General).

Contact: Office of the General Counsel.

Organization Concerned: Memorex Corp.; Amdahl Corp.; Department of the Interior.

Authority: 4 C.F.R. 21.7. 4 C.F.R. 21.3(d). B-213046 (1983). B-210792 (1983). B-211009.2 (1983). B-202782 (1981).

Abstract: A firm protested specifications contained in a Department of the Interior request for proposals (RFP) for computer equipment, arguing that they unduly restricted competition. The RFP required a certain number of megabytes for each storage device, new equipment to perform the contract, and a limited amount of storage space. GAO acknowledged Interior's need for the requirements but noted that Interior overstated its actual minimum needs. GAO held that, since Interior was not able to justify the stringent requirements, the RFP unduly restricted competition. Accordingly, the protest was sustained. GAO did not recommend termination of the current contract because the delivery schedule called for the equipment to have been delivered at the time of the protest. GAO did advise the Secretary of the Interior of its findings.

124637

Financial Management Profile: Department of Health and Human Services. AFMD-84-15; B-214788. April 9, 1984. Released July 11, 1984. 58 pp. plus 21 appendices (79 pp.).

Report to by Frederick D. Wolf, Director, GAO Accounting and Financial Management Division.

Refer to technical summaries: AFMD-84-15-1, Accession Number 124925; AFMD-84-15-2, Accession Number 124926; AFMD-84-15-3, Accession Number 124927; AFMD-84-15-4, Accession Number 124928; AFMD-84-15-5, Accession Number 124929; AFMD-84-15-6, Accession Number 124930; AFMD-84-15-7, Accession Number 124931; AFMD-84-15-8, Accession Number 124932; AFMD-84-15-9, Accession Number 124933; AFMD-84-15-10, Accession Number 124934; and AFMD-84-15-11, Accession Number 124935.

Issue Area: Accounting and Financial Reporting: Reporting Systems' Adequacy To Disclose the Results of Government Operations and To Provide Useful Information (2811).

Contact: Accounting and Financial Management Division.

Budget Function: Financial Management and Information Systems: Accounting Systems in Operation (998.1).

Organization Concerned: Department of Health and Human Services.

Authority: Insurance Contributions Act Self-Employment Contributions Act of 1954. OMB Circular A-11.

Abstract: GAO conducted a survey to identify: (1) the financial management systems used by the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS); (2) the internal control strengths and weaknesses in these systems; and (3) the interrelationships of the systems. **Findings/Conclusions:** GAO identified 81 HHS financial management systems. GAO found that: (1) HHS budget development systems, except for the Social Security Administration's system, are not directly integrated with its accounting systems; (2) budget development timeframes preclude the use of the actual financial results of the preceding year's program and administrative operations in developing budget requests; (3) Congress can directly control only about 13 percent of HHS budget authority through the appropriation process; (4) accountability for the four trust funds that support major benefit payment programs is divided between three agencies; (5) HHS does not maintain a central accounting system; and (6) HHS maintains eight accounting systems which are supported by 63 subsidiary systems. The eight general ledger systems and the disbursement systems for administrative costs seem adequate, the central personnel/payroll system and the disbursement systems for six benefit payment programs did not appear to be adequate, while the personal property system and the grant and contract systems did appear generally adequate. However, GAO also found that many of the systems are not designed to operate efficiently and do not effectively use electronic data processing resources. GAO ranked, according to risk, 73 of the 81 financial management systems, and found that HHS has 3 high-risk systems, 32 medium-risk systems, and 38 low-risk systems.

124658

Transportation's First-Year Implementation of the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act. RCED-84-141; B-202205. July 13, 1984. 6 pp. plus 3 appendices (23 pp.).

Report to Elizabeth H. Dole, Secretary, Department of Transportation; by J. Dexter Peach, Director, GAO Resources, Community, and Economic Development Division.

Issue Area: Accounting and Financial Reporting: Financial Integrity Act Reviews (2815).

Contact: Resources, Community, and Economic Development Division.

Budget Function: Financial Management and Information Systems: Accounting Systems in Operation (998.1).

Organization Concerned: Department of Transportation.

Authority: Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act of 1982.

Abstract: GAO reviewed the Department of Transportation's (DOT) first-year implementation of the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act. **Findings/Conclusions:** GAO found that DOT has made progress in implementing the act, considering the scope and diversity of its programs and activities. However, GAO also found that: (1) DOT has not developed written procedures for the internal control process; (2) while DOT has acknowledged the need to better document the vulnerability assessment process, it has not determined what documentation is needed; (3) vulnerability assessments could not be readily related to internal control reviews or other corrective actions; (4) training in implementation of the act was not provided until after much of the implementation process was completed; (5) DOT has not established a process for tracking the results of internal control reviews; (6) DOT may not have identified all of its material internal control weaknesses; and (7) DOT did not adequately define the role of its Office of Inspector General in the internal control process. In addition, GAO found that DOT made a good effort to comply with the act's requirements regarding accounting system reviews, but noted that DOT did not: (1) incorporate testing procedures into its systems compliance evaluations; or (2) develop procedures and guidance for consolidating the reports of decentralized units into the overall DOT statement of compliance.

124672

[Protest of GSA Procurement Practices and Contract Award]. B-211803. July 17, 1984. 15 pp.

Decision re: OAO Corp.; by Milton J. Socolar, (for Charles A. Bowsher, Comptroller General).

Contact: Office of the General Counsel.

Organization Concerned: OAO Corp.; General Services Administration.

Authority: Service Contract Act of 1965. 29 C.F.R. 541. 4 C.F.R. 21. 4 C.F.R. 21.2(b)(2). 56 Comp. Gen. 164. 55 Comp. Gen. 1111. B-208237 (1983). B-208148.5 (1983). B-203731 (1982). B-212263 (1983). B-210762 (1983). B-209776 (1983). B-209516 (1983). B-211922 (1984). B-182847 (1975). B-192274 (1978).

Abstract: A firm protested a General Services Administration (GSA) contract award for automated data processing services, contending that GSA: (1) required it to meet the solicitation's wage standards in two determinations while the awardee only met them once and it accepted the awardee's proposal even though it did not meet Service Contract Act requirements; (2) erroneously determined that the act applied to certain solicitation labor categories; (3) improperly adjusted its proposed benchmark prices upward; and (4) improperly issued contract modifications. GAO held that, although the awardee failed to meet the solicitation's minimum wage standards in two wage determinations, a solicitation amendment during negotiations waived that requirement and the awardee's bid was therefore acceptable. The allegations concerning application of the act's requirements and contract modifications were filed more than 10 days after their bases were or should have been known, which rendered them untimely. Further, whether a contractor complies with act requirements is a matter for the Department of Labor. GAO did not consider the protest regarding contract modifications because it was a matter of contract administration. Accordingly, the protest was denied in part and dismissed in part.

124693

Status of the Statistical Community After Sustaining Budget Reductions. IMTEC-84-17. July 18, 1984. 35 pp. plus 2 appendices (26 pp.).

Staff Study by Warren G. Reed, Director, GAO Information Management and Technology Division.

Issue Area: Information Management: Progress Toward Meeting the Mandate of P.L. 96-511 (4217).

Contact: Information Management and Technology Division.

Budget Function: General Government: Other General Government (806.0).

Organization Concerned: Department of Commerce; Department of Health and Human Services; Department of the Treasury; Department of Agriculture; Department of Labor; Department of Commerce: Bureau of the Census; Bureau of Labor Statistics; Department of Commerce: Bureau of Economic Analysis; Department of Agriculture: Statistical Reporting Service; Department of Justice; Department of Education: National Center for Education Statistics; Internal Revenue Service.

Authority: Labor Management Relations Act, 1947. P.L. 94-521. 13 U.S.C. 141(d).

Abstract: GAO reviewed changes made by prominent Federal statistical agencies to accommodate budget reductions initiated in the early 1980's to determine: (1) program and activity changes from 1980 through the budget authorization for fiscal year (FY) 1984; (2) the rationale for the changes; and (3) the effect of the changes on statistical programs and activities. **Findings/Conclusions:** Although program reductions made by the statistical agencies mainly affected FY 1982, the statistical system generally has survived, and funding has been restored for several important data programs and for delayed improvements of other programs. GAO found that the Census Bureau was not permitted to proceed with the legally mandated mid-decade census, and it deleted portions of an agriculture census and temporarily suspended work on two other activities. The Bureau of Labor Statistics eliminated several data series and reduced the sample size of a population survey. The Department of Agriculture's Statistical Reporting Service reduced the geographic coverage of some reports, eliminated others, and reduced the frequency of certain data. The National Center for Health Statistics also revised the frequency of several of its data series. The National Center for Education Statistics reduced its technical assistance to States and its research programs. The Internal Revenue Service reduced the sample sizes of several data series, but retained the sample sizes at a level needed for tax administration. GAO found that, in accommodating budget cuts, the statistical agencies protected their core programs, preserved national level data, and attempted to minimize the difficulties for data users. Some users overcame the changes by financing data series proposed for deletion or reduction, and some private sector users paid for data they formerly received at no cost.

124698

HUD's First-Year Implementation of the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act. RCED-84-140; B-202205. July 20, 1984. 5 pp. plus 3 appendices (38 pp.).

Report to Samuel R. Pierce, Jr., Secretary, Department of Housing and Urban Development; by Ralph V. Carlone. (for J. Dexter Peach, Director), GAO Resources, Community, and Economic Development Division.

Issue Area: Accounting and Financial Reporting: Financial Integrity Act Reviews (2815); Domestic Housing and Community Development: Non-Line-of-Effort Assignments (2151).

Contact: Resources, Community, and Economic Development Division.

Budget Function: Financial Management and Information Systems: Accounting Systems in Operation (998.1).

Organization Concerned: Department of Housing and Urban Development.

ADP Bibliography

Authority: Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act of 1982.

Abstract: GAO summarized the results of its review of the process used by the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to implement the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act. **Findings/Conclusions:** GAO found that HUD has made progress in implementing its internal control evaluation process in accordance with Office of Management and Budget guidelines. In organizing the evaluation process, it: (1) requested top-level support and established a schedule for completing the various steps of the process; (2) developed overall guidance for compliance; (3) made a preliminary review of units which were considered highly vulnerable; and (4) took or plans to take actions to correct weaknesses it identified through the evaluation process. GAO considered the first annual statement to the President and Congress on the adequacy of internal controls and accounting systems to be an accurate representation of HUD progress to date. However, GAO found several areas that can be strengthened as HUD continues its internal control evaluation process: (1) HUD failed to perform sufficient vulnerability assessments; (2) the assessments did not include a separate preliminary evaluation of safeguards and cannot be easily compared; and (3) HUD failed to develop sufficient documentation to clearly indicate the factors considered, procedures followed, or bases for answers to questions concerning its internal control evaluation process. In addition, HUD did not emphasize automatic data processing (ADP) reviews and did not establish organizational responsibility for assessing ADP controls. Finally, HUD did not have specific guidance for performing quality assurance reviews of its internal control process.

124773

[Protest of RFP Issued by HHS]. B-213009. July 26, 1984. 4 pp. *Decision* re: Small Business Systems, Inc.; by Milton J. Socolar, (for Charles A. Bowsher, Comptroller General).

Contact: Office of the General Counsel.

Organization Concerned: Small Business Systems, Inc.; Department of Health and Human Services.

Authority: 4 C.F.R. 21.2(a). 4 C.F.R. 21.2(b)(1). B-197481 (1980). B-200016 (1980). B-205610 (1982). B-208615 (1983). B-208631 (1983). B-212395.2 (1984).

Abstract: A firm protested a request for proposals (RFP) issued by the Department of Health and Human Services for microcomputers, alleging that an RFP requirement overstated the agency's minimum needs and was, therefore, unduly restrictive of competition. GAO will not question a restriction in a solicitation's specifications unless it is shown to be clearly unreasonable. GAO found that the protester failed to prove that this restriction overstated the agency's minimum needs and failed to show that the agency's technical opinion was unreasonable. GAO did not consider an objection to an amended RFP requirement because, even if it decided in the protester's favor, it would be ineligible for award. In addition, since this allegation was protested more than 8 months after the closing date for receipt of proposals, it was untimely. Finally, GAO found that the protester's argument that only one manufacturer produced the required product was false. Accordingly, the protest was denied in part and dismissed in part.

124786

[GAO's Views on the Report of the Congressional Panel on Social Security Organization]. July 30, 1984. 12 pp.

Testimony before the House Committee on Ways and Means: Social Security Subcommittee; by Richard L. Fogel, Director, GAO Human Resources Division.

Contact: Human Resources Division.

Organization Concerned: Social Security Administration; Department of Health and Human Services; Office of Personnel Management; General Services Administration; Congressional Panel on Social Security Organization.

Congressional Relevance: House Committee on Ways and Means; Social Security Subcommittee; Joint Congressional Panel on Social Security Organization.

Authority: OMB Circular A-11.

Abstract: In response to a congressional request, GAO cited some of the key Social Security Administration (SSA) problems which it has identified over the years and addressed the extent to which these problems were caused by SSA or others. In addition, GAO views on recommendations in the report of the Congressional Panel on Social Security Organization were given. During the past 10 years, SSA has had problems in making accurate and timely payments to eligible beneficiaries. These problems have been caused by: (1) increased reliance on manual processing due to the heavy demands for automatic data processing (ADP) resources; (2) outdated ADP equipment and software deficiencies; (3) voluminous and poor quality instructions to field staff; (4) frequent turnover and slow filling of key top-level positions; and (4) frequent reorganizations. In addition, the Department of Health and Human Services has imposed a hiring freeze on SSA, the General Services Administration has been slow in securing adequate office space, and the Office of Personnel Management has been unable to provide a list of qualified personnel for SSA recruitment. GAO found that the Panel did an excellent job attempting to achieve some separation of the policy issues surrounding the social security program from the management of SSA; however, achieving the goal of efficient SSA management is less certain. GAO supported the Panel's recommendations that: (1) SSA be headed by a single administrator with a fixed term; (2) Medicare and Medicaid not be included in the new social security agency; (3) delegations of specific management authorities be given to an independent agency for ADP procurement, personnel management, and administrative services; (4) SSA be allowed to submit its budget biannually; (5) certain long-term projects be funded for the life of the projects, but only after financial controls have been deemed to be adequate; and (6) SSA requests in its budget submissions be based on a work force plan rather than on arbitrary personnel ceilings.

124834

[Social Security Administration's Management of Its Data Communications Contracts With Paradyne Corporation]. August 2, 1984. 10 pp.

Testimony before the House Committee on Government Operations: Legislation and National Security Subcommittee; by Warren G. Reed, Director, GAO Information Management and Technology Division.

Contact: Information Management and Technology Division.

Organization Concerned: Social Security Administration; Paradyne Corp.; Department of Health and Human Services; General Services Administration.

Congressional Relevance: House Committee on Government Operations: Legislation and National Security Subcommittee.

Abstract: Testimony was given on the Social Security Administration's (SSA) efforts to replace its data communications terminals through a contract awarded to Paradyne Corporation in 1981. GAO found numerous inadequacies in the SSA development and management of this and a follow-on contract with the corporation. These management weaknesses, combined with organizational deficiencies, inadequate General Services Administration (GSA) involvement, and insufficient Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) oversight, resulted in SSA acquiring a

system which did not begin to meet contractual system performance requirements on a consistent basis until April 1983 and which still exhibits an above-normal level of equipment failures. These weaknesses jeopardize future systems procurements. In addition, the SSA recommendation to buy leased Paradyne terminals contains questionable assumptions regarding their performance and use. GAO also found that a structural realignment of the SSA Office of Systems has weakened internal controls over the data communications procurement process. GAO has recommended that the Secretary of HHS provide for greater depth and scope in technical reviews of data communications acquisition proposals, review the SSA systems organizational structure, make adjustments to provide for better separation of functions within the procurement process, limit further delegations of procurement authority from GSA until the SSA systems procurement process is sufficiently strengthened, not purchase the remaining Paradyne equipment until equipment failures have been reduced and the agency has a clearer idea of what further use to make of the equipment, and ensure that the poor procurement practices used on the Paradyne acquisitions are not repeated. Finally, GAO recommended that HHS actively monitor all phases of ongoing and future SSA procurement actions requiring HHS approval and the SSA reconsideration of whether to buy the remaining leased Paradyne equipment.

124843

[Information on Forest Service Below-Cost Timber Sales for National Forests in Colorado]. RGED-84-184; B-210983. August 3, 1984. 6 pp. plus 1 enclosure (6 pp.).

Report to Sen. Gary Hart; by J. Dexter Peach, Director, GAO Resources, Community, and Economic Development Division.

Issue Area: Land Use Planning and Control: Improving the Efficiency, Economy, and Cost Effectiveness of Federal Timber Management Practices (2322).

Contact: Resources, Community, and Economic Development Division.

Budget Function: Natural Resources and Environment: Conservation and Land Management (302.0).

Organization Concerned: Forest Service; Department of Agriculture.

Congressional Relevance: Sen. Gary Hart.

Abstract: Pursuant to a congressional request, GAO discussed the Forest Service's timber sales made by the national forests in Colorado for fiscal years (FY's) 1981 and 1982. **Findings/Conclusions:** GAO found that total Forest Service revenues from advertised timber sales in four regions exceeded Service sale costs by \$712 million. Although the timber was sold at or above the Service's appraised values, 27 percent of the sales in FY 1981 and 42 percent in FY 1982 failed to generate sufficient revenues to cover the costs of making the sales. In terms of volume sold, the Rocky Mountain Region, which includes Colorado plus three other states, accounted for about 4 percent of the total timber sold by all Forest Service regions during this period. For the national forests in Colorado, the percentages for below-cost sales were 98 percent in 1981 and 100 percent in 1982. GAO believes that management of federal timber resources could be improved by developing and using financial data in the timber sale planning and decisionmaking process.

124845

The GAO Review, Vol. 19, Issue 3, Summer 1984. 1984. 47 pp. Harry S. Havens, Editor; Carol A. Codori, Assistant Editor. Citations to individual articles appear elsewhere in the September 1984 issue of GAO Documents.

Contact: Office of the Comptroller General.

Abstract: This quarterly publication is prepared primarily for use by the staff of the General Accounting Office. Articles in this issue cover such topics as: program evaluation, careers in automatic data processing, technology transfer in regional operations, computer crimes in the government, the harmful effects of prescription and patent drugs, and legislative developments.

124846

Topics in Evaluation. 1984. 4 pp.

by Carl E. Wisler, Associate Director, GAO Program Evaluation and Methodology Division.

In *The GAO Review*, Vol. 19, Issue 3, Summer 1984, pp. 9-10, 33-34.

Contact: Program Evaluation and Methodology Division.

Abstract: This article is intended to clarify the scope of the inference which can be drawn from audits and evaluations and discusses the criterion-referenced design, which is widely applicable within GAO.

124847

Automatic Data Processing: A Career Challenge. 1984. 4 pp.

by Sanford F. Reigle, Evaluator, GAO Field Operations Division: Regional Office (Cincinnati).

In *The GAO Review*, Vol. 19, Issue 3, Summer 1984, pp. 11-12, 34-35.

Contact: Field Operations Division: Regional Office (Cincinnati).

Authority: Government Corporation Control Act. Budget and Accounting Procedures Act of 1950.

Abstract: This article discusses how the rapid advances in computer technology and the government's increasing reliance on automatic data processing (ADP) are dramatically changing the GAO audit environment. This situation requires evaluators to acquire some basic ADP understanding to gain needed practical knowledge.

124848

Integration of New Technology into Regional Office Operations. 1984. 4 pp.

by Frederick Gallegos, TAG Manager, GAO Field Operations Division: Regional Office (Los Angeles).

In *The GAO Review*, Vol. 19, Issue 3, Summer 1984, pp. 13-15, 35.

Contact: Field Operations Division: Regional Office (Los Angeles).

Abstract: The Los Angeles Regional Office (LARO) discusses its experience in coping with the influx of new technology over the last 3 years. The office has been in a continual planning mode aimed at properly preparing its staff for new technology, meaning those computer-based tools which can increase evaluators' productivity. LARO points out that management support of these improvement efforts is essential for ensuring operational effectiveness.

124849

Crime, Abuse, and the Computer: The Problem and the Federal Experience. 1984. 3 pp.

by James R. Galloway, Senior Evaluator, GAO Human Resources Division.

In *The GAO Review*, Vol. 19, Issue 3, Summer 1984, pp. 16-17, 35.

Contact: Human Resources Division.

Authority: Automatic Data Processing Equipment Act. Paperwork Reduction Act of 1980. Privacy Act of 1974. Freedom of Information Act. Presidential Directive 24. H.R. 1092 (98th Cong.). S. 1733 (98th Cong.). H.R. 3075 (98th Cong.). S. 1920 (98th Cong.). H.R. 3570 (98th Cong.). H.R. 4301 (98th Cong.). H.R. 4384 (98th Cong.).

Abstract: The federal government, with over 16,000 major computer systems, is greatly affected by computer crime. This article addresses the need for increased computer crime awareness through: (1) exploring the concept of computer crime; (2) discussing major problems GAO has found in federal information system security; (3) discussing possible future developments; and (4) presenting lawmakers' responses.

124854

SSA Data Communications Contracts With Paradyne Corporation Demonstrate the Need for Improved Management Controls.

IMTEC-84-15; B-213963. July 9, 1984. Released August 2, 1984. 11 pp. plus 4 appendices (39 pp.).

Report to Rep. Jack Brooks, Chairman, House Committee on Government Operations; by Charles A. Bowsher, Comptroller General.

Refer to IMTEC-84-23, August 27, 1984, Accession Number 125124.

Issue Area: Automatic Data Processing: Effectiveness of the Management of Automated Information Resources Used in Support of Agency Missions (0118); Income Security and Social Services: To Meet Program Demands SSA Must Be Effectively and Efficiently Organized, Staffed, and Equipped (1346).

Contact: Information Management and Technology Division.

Budget Function: Automatic Data Processing (990.1); Procurement - Other Than Defense (990.4).

Organization Concerned: Department of Health and Human Services; Paradyne Corp.; Social Security Administration.

Congressional Relevance: House Committee on the Budget; House Committee on Appropriations: Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Subcommittee; House Committee on Ways and Means: Social Security Subcommittee; House Committee on Government Operations; Senate Committee on Budget; Senate Committee on Appropriations: Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Subcommittee; Senate Committee on Finance: Social Security and Income Maintenance Programs Subcommittee; Rep. Jack Brooks.

Authority: SSA Administrative Directives System Guide 200-5. OMB Circular A-123.

Abstract: In response to a congressional request, GAO reviewed the Social Security Administration's (SSA) two contracts with the Paradyne Corporation for improving the agency's data communications network. **Findings/Conclusions:** The SSA terminal replacement contract with Paradyne was the largest in the agency's history. The first contract, valued at about \$115 million, required Paradyne to install leased terminals in SSA offices nationwide for records management. The second sole-source contract award, valued at more than \$2.5 million, called for Paradyne to enhance the data transmission capabilities of its terminals. This contract was terminated for the convenience of the government. GAO found that management weaknesses caused the acquisition of a data communications system that did not begin to meet contractual performance requirements until 2 years after contract award. Furthermore, the system is still experiencing a high equipment failure rate. A 1982 purchase of some leased terminals and the sole-source award demonstrated inherent flaws in the systems procurement management structure of the agency such as: (1) internal control deficiencies resulting from a realignment of the responsible SSA office; and (2) inadequate oversight of the procurement by the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). Until corrected, these problems will continue to threaten the integrity of the SSA systems procurement process. These

problems will affect a proposed purchase of the remaining leased Paradyne terminals and an upcoming acquisition of new terminals. **Recommendation To Agencies:** The Secretary of HHS should direct the Assistant Secretary for Management and Budget to actively monitor all phases of ongoing and future SSA procurement actions requiring HHS approval. The Assistant Secretary should monitor the SSA reconsideration of whether to buy the remaining leased Paradyne equipment to see that the agency has all the information it needs to make an informed decision. The Secretary of HHS should direct the Commissioner of Social Security to provide for greater depth and scope in technical reviews of ADP and data communications acquisition proposals by reviewing the superseded version of Administrative Directives Systems Guide 200-5 and identifying, for incorporation into the current version, those specific and detailed proposal review instructions needed to achieve thorough technical reviews. The Secretary of HHS should direct the Commissioner of Social Security to review SSA systems organizational structure and make adjustments to provide for separation of functions within the procurement process for systems modernization-related data communications acquisitions, especially with regard to separating the procurement request (specifications development) function from the technical specifications review function. The Secretary of HHS should direct the Commissioner of Social Security to limit requests for further delegations of procurement authority from GSA for acquiring ADP and data communications resources until HHS and GSA agree that the SSA systems procurement process is sufficiently strengthened. Such requests should be restricted to those systems procurements which all three organizations agree cannot be deferred without jeopardizing agency operations. The Secretary of HHS should direct the Commissioner of Social Security to defer further consideration of the agency proposal to spend \$16.2 million to purchase the remaining leased Paradyne terminals until: (1) equipment failures have been reduced to a rate approximately that experienced by similar systems; and (2) the agency has a clearer idea of what further use should be made of the Paradyne equipment at SSA. At that time, all viable alternatives for meeting SSA needs should be carefully considered, including replacement of the Paradyne terminals through the upcoming terminal acquisition effort. The Secretary of HHS should direct the Commissioner of Social Security to ensure that the poor procurement practices used on the Paradyne acquisitions are not repeated on the upcoming 17,000-plus terminal procurement by: (1) closely reviewing the validity of the procurement justification; (2) performing an independent, in-depth review of the technical specifications contained in the pending solicitation to ensure that they include unambiguous and workload-specific criteria for measuring vendor equipment performance during preaward and acceptance testing; and (3) using appropriately stringent performance validation techniques in conducting preaward and acceptance tests.

124860

[Protest of Corps of Engineers Contract Award Alleging Awardee's Proposal Unacceptable]. B-213287. August 6, 1984. 5 pp.
Decision re: Computer Sciences Corp.; by Milton J. Socolar, (for Charles A. Bowsher, Comptroller General).

Contact: Office of the General Counsel.

Organization Concerned: Computer Sciences Corp.; Martin Marietta Corp.; Data Systems; Department of the Army; Corps of Engineers.

Abstract: A firm protested the Army Corps of Engineers' award of a data base management system contract. The solicitation required a system which was "user-friendly" and specified that the vendor's financial modeling and analysis routines had to be capable of handling data covering multiple time periods. The Corps advised vendors that a benchmark test would be required to

determine compliance with the mandatory requirements. The initial evaluation of the awardee's benchmark resulted in a determination that its offered system did not satisfy the user-friendly and multiple time period requirements, and the evaluation team rejected the awardee's proposal. However, a second team reversed this evaluation, and the firm received the award as the low, technically acceptable offerer. The protester contended that: (1) the awardee's system was not user-friendly; and (2) to the extent that the awardee's benchmark programs were designed for the benchmark tasks, the cost evaluation based on the benchmark may not have been an accurate indication of the true cost of using the awardee's system. GAO found that: (1) the different findings of the two evaluation teams resulted from the solicitation's lack of detailed criteria defining user-friendly; (2) the Corps confirmed that the awardee's cost evaluation was in fact based on its system; and (3) the Corps properly determined that the awardee's system met the multiple time period requirement. Accordingly, the protest was denied.

124865

Comparative Review of Single-Line and Multiline Optical Character Readers Used in Mail Processing. GGD-84-78; B-215132. August 7, 1984. 3 pp. plus 3 appendices (23 pp.).

Report to Rep. Mickey Leland, Chairman, House Committee on Post Office and Civil Service: Postal Personnel and Modernization Subcommittee; Rep. Robert Garcia, Chairman, House Committee on Post Office and Civil Service: Postal Operations and Services Subcommittee; Rep. William D. Ford, Chairman, House Committee on Post Office and Civil Service; by William J. Anderson, Director, GAO General Government Division.

Contact: General Government Division.

Budget Function: General Government: Other General Government (806.0).

Organization Concerned: United States Postal Service.

Congressional Relevance: House Committee on Post Office and Civil Service: Postal Personnel and Modernization Subcommittee; House Committee on Post Office and Civil Service: Postal Operations and Services Subcommittee; House Committee on Post Office and Civil Service; Rep. Mickey Leland; Rep. Robert Garcia; Rep. William D. Ford.

Abstract: Pursuant to a congressional request, GAO conducted a comparative analysis of single-line optical character readers (OCR's) and multiline OCR's to evaluate the U.S. Postal Service's decision to use single-line OCR's instead of multiline OCR's. **Findings/Conclusions:** GAO found that the multiline OCR performs better than the single-line OCR at all ZIP-plus-4 usage levels tested. Although both machines produce substantial work-year savings, the multiline OCR performance advantage results in greater work-year savings. However, GAO believes that the single-line machine would cost less to buy and maintain than the multiline machine. GAO concluded that, since the ZIP-plus-4 program was only 8 months old in May 1984, inferences should not be made concerning whether the Postal Service should switch to multiline readers. The eventual level of program usage by mailers will determine whether the Postal Service should change to multiline OCR's.

124866

[Tax Information Safeguard Activity Annual Report]. GGD-84-83; B-215208. June 11, 1984. 13 pp.

Report to Arnold B. Gordon, Acting Director, Disclosure and Security Division, Internal Revenue Service; by Johnny C. Finch, Senior Associate Director, GAO General Government Division.

Issue Area: Tax Administration: Non-Line-of-Effort Assignments (2751).

Contact: General Government Division.

Budget Function: General Government: Tax Administration (803.1).

Organization Concerned: Internal Revenue Service; General Accounting Office.

Authority: Tax Equity and Fiscal Responsibility Act of 1982. Internal Revenue Code (IRC). IRS Pub. 1075. GAO Order 0135.1.

Abstract: GAO reported on the safeguarding of tax returns and return information during the period from January 1, 1982, through December 31, 1983. **Findings/Conclusions:** GAO has been reviewing its procedures in light of changes to access authority included in the Tax Equity and Fiscal Responsibility Act of 1982. After completing the procedural review, GAO will discuss any possible revisions with the Internal Revenue Service (IRS). During continuous monitoring at headquarters and periodic visits to the regional staffs, GAO detected no systemic tax information safeguard problems or staff deviations from prescribed procedures. In general, secure office space and containers for storage are provided by IRS and, when the information is at GAO offices, the information is secured consistent with IRS procedures. Only authorized personnel are given access to the storage areas. GAO procedures are sufficiently detailed to ensure that only authorized persons gain access to the information. Primary responsibility for facility security resides with IRS; however, GAO security is sufficient to prevent unauthorized access to areas where tax information is stored. In addition, procedures prevent the commingling of tax and nontax records. Further, GAO has no safeguard problems attributable to after-hours security and employees are sufficiently informed about the need for security of tax information. Most GAO computer processing relies almost completely on IRS computer systems, however; when other systems are used, the information is controlled according to IRS standards. Finally, the review showed no unauthorized disposal or indications that disposal procedures should be changed.

124868

[Protest of Air Force Rejection of Apparent Low Bid]. B-214040. August 8, 1984. 4 pp.

Decision re: Perkin-Elmer Corp.; by Milton J. Socolar, (for Charles A. Bowsher, Comptroller General).

Contact: Office of the General Counsel.

Organization Concerned: Perkin-Elmer Corp.; Department of the Air Force.

Authority: 4 C.F.R. 21.3(c). 39 Comp. Gen. 83. 51 Comp. Gen. 822. Treasury Circular 570. B-178824 (1973). B-207311 (1983). B-212460 (1983). B-213910 (1983). 31 U.S.C. 3712.

Abstract: A firm protested the Air Force's rejection of its apparent low bid on a solicitation for computer hardware maintenance, contending that the Air Force improperly found its bid bond defective because it used a commercial form rather than the standard form required by the solicitation specifications. The protester argued that, at most, its use of the commercial form was a minor informality that might be waived, since it intended to satisfactorily fill the requirements. It also objected to the fact that the Air Force took 4 months to provide GAO with a report on the protest. GAO found that the defect in the protester's bid bond could not have been waived as a minor informality or corrected after bid opening, regardless of the firm's intent and ability to perform the contract. Where a bidder supplies a defective bond, the bid must be rejected as nonresponsive. Finally, the fact that the Air Force took more than the time specified in bid protest procedures to file its report to GAO, while not excusable, did not provide a basis for sustaining the protest. Accordingly, the protest was denied.

124872

Reductions in Coast Guard Leased Housing Can Achieve Savings. GGD-84-91; B-215674. August 8, 1984. 4 pp. plus 1 appendix (8 pp.).

Report to Elizabeth H. Dole, Secretary, Department of Transportation; by James L. Howard, (for William J. Anderson, Director), GAO General Government Division.

Issue Area: Facilities and Material Management: Improvement of Agency Leasing Procedures and Practices (0727).

Contact: General Government Division.

Budget Function: General Government: General Property and Records Management (804.0).

Organization Concerned: Department of Transportation; United States Coast Guard; Department of Defense.

Congressional Relevance: *House* Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries; *House* Committee on Appropriations: Transportation Subcommittee; *Senate* Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation; *Senate* Committee on Appropriations: Transportation Subcommittee.

Abstract: GAO reviewed the Coast Guard's policies, procedures, and practices for the leasing of housing for its service members and their dependents to determine whether it needs to continue leasing in view of the Variable Housing Allowance (VHA).

Findings/Conclusions: GAO found that the Coast Guard's internal surveys used to determine private housing costs overstated the costs and thereby the need for leasing. Leasing costs were about \$6 million more than the \$20 million of allowances its members would have been entitled to in fiscal year 1982 if they had obtained their own housing. GAO believes that the Coast Guard should discontinue leasing the majority of the units and pay its members Basic Allowance for Quarters and VHA allowances. The Coast Guard also needs to improve its use of leased housing. **Recommendation To Agencies:** The Secretary of Transportation should require the Commandant of the Coast Guard to develop procedures in the three Coast Guard districts reviewed for the prompt identification of vacant leased units so that they can be reassigned or the leases cancelled. If warranted, these procedures should be applied in the other nine districts. The Secretary of Transportation should require the Commandant of the Coast Guard to rely more on allowances and phase out leased housing, except in areas with limited housing.

124873

[Observations on a General Services Administration Report on the National Archives and Records Service]. GGD-84-95; B-215932. July 31, 1984. 6 pp.

Report to Rep. Thomas Kindness, Ranking Minority Member, House Committee on Government Operations: Government Information, Justice, and Agriculture Subcommittee; by James L. Howard, (for William J. Anderson, Director), GAO General Government Division.

Issue Area: Information Management: Effectiveness and Efficiency of Federal Records Management Practices (4220).

Contact: General Government Division.

Budget Function: General Government: General Property and Records Management (804.0).

Organization Concerned: General Services Administration; National Archives and Records Service.

Congressional Relevance: *House* Committee on Government Operations: Government Information, Justice, and Agriculture Subcommittee; *Rep.* Thomas Kindness.

Abstract: Pursuant to a congressional request, GAO reviewed a General Services Administration (GSA) report concerning managerial and programmatic problems existing at the National Archives and Records Service (NARS). The review evaluated major issues cited by the report which caused significant

disagreement between the two agencies. **Findings/Conclusions:** GAO commented on GSA criticism of NARS operations in its report which concerned: (1) problems in organizational planning; (2) failure to support preservation efforts; and (3) poorly planned automated systems and equipment acquisitions. GAO supports the GSA recommendation urging NARS to revise its planning process and management plan to develop a more systematic management approach, but it does not agree that NARS should be reorganized into an independent agency until such a plan is acted upon by Congress. GAO also noted that, although NARS has in the past experienced difficulty in effectively preserving records, the agency appears to be in a better position to address this problem and it is currently carrying out plans for corrective action. Concerning acquisitions, NARS has taken effective actions, with some shortcomings pointed out by GSA, to deal with this challenge. GAO concluded that NARS is already making a serious effort to address many of the problems revealed in the GSA report.

124877

The Federal Government Can Reduce Costs in the Development, Maintenance, and Operation of Civilian Payroll Systems. AFMD-84-49; B-211506. August 2, 1984. Released August 6, 1984. 27 pp. plus 5 appendices (9 pp.).

Report to Sen. Frank R. Lautenberg; by Arthur R. Goldbeck, (for Frederick D. Wolf, Director), GAO Accounting and Financial Management Division.

Issue Area: National Productivity: Productivity for Common Government Functions (2902); Accounting and Financial Reporting: Ensuring That Employees Are Paid Accurately and Promptly (2813).

Contact: Accounting and Financial Management Division.

Budget Function: Financial Management and Information Systems: Accounting Systems in Operation (998.1).

Organization Concerned: Office of Management and Budget.

Congressional Relevance: House Committee on Appropriations; House Committee on Government Operations; Senate Committee on Appropriations; Senate Committee on Government Operations; Sen. Frank R. Lautenberg.

Authority: Privacy Act of 1974. Employees' Compensation Act (Injuries). Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938. Tax Equity and Fiscal Responsibility Act of 1982 (P.L. 97-248). OMB Circular A-76. OMB Bull. 83-18. OMB Circular A-11. OMB Circular A-121.

Abstract: Pursuant to a congressional request, GAO identified ways to reduce the number of civilian payroll systems used in the government and methods to reduce the development, maintenance, and operating costs of the systems. **Findings/Conclusions:** GAO found that 75 payroll systems are used to pay 2 million federal employees, causing the government to spend more money than necessary to process the civilian payroll. If the number of payroll systems were decreased, substantial savings could result from reduced system development and maintenance costs. The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) has announced that it will require all agencies to adhere to more uniform policies. **Recommendation To Agencies:** The Director, OMB, should lead the effort to reduce the costs of civilian payroll systems by developing unit operating cost standards for payroll systems, requiring agencies to identify and report operating costs for their payroll systems, and requiring high-cost systems to meet the standard or convert to or merge with another system. The Director, OMB, for the long-range future, should establish a mechanism with departments and agencies to: (1) determine the appropriate number of civilian payroll systems the government should operate; (2) develop a plan for moving existing systems toward this number; and (3) review, coordinate, and approve all payroll system development proposals in light of the plan for future systems

and the operating cost standard. The Director, OMB, should lead the effort to reduce the costs of civilian payroll systems by ensuring that all departments and agencies can obtain technical advice and assistance regarding the development, maintenance, and operation of payroll systems.

124883

[Protests Under Army RFP]. B-213927, B-213927.2. August 13, 1984. 9 pp.

Decision re: Potomac Scheduling Co.; Axixa Corp.; by Milton J. Socolar, (for Charles A. Bowsher, Comptroller General).

Contact: Office of the General Counsel.

Organization Concerned: Potomac Scheduling Co.; Axixa Corp.; Sperry Rand Corp.; Sperry Univac; Department of the Army: Computer Systems Selection and Acquisition Agency.

Authority: 4 C.F.R. 21.2(b)(1). Essex Electro Engineers, Inc. v. United States, 3 Ct. Cl. 277 (1983). D.A.R. 3-507.2(a). B-214609 (1984). B-212516 (1984). B-211053.3 (1984). B-209188 (1983). B-205722 (1982).

Abstract: Two firms protested under an Army solicitation for data processing equipment. The first protester contended that the Army improperly found its proposal to be technically unacceptable and excluded the proposal from the competitive range. GAO held that the Army properly found that the first protester's proposal was deficient in numerous ways, since the system it offered did not comply with specifications in the request for proposals. Accordingly, the first protest was denied. The second protester contended that: (1) the awardee failed to meet certain solicitation requirements; and (2) a certain requirement was unduly restrictive. GAO held that: (1) the awardee's proposal conformed with the specified requirements; and (2) the portion of the protest relating to the allegedly restrictive specification was untimely filed. Accordingly, the second protest was denied in part and dismissed in part.

124888

[Contracting Out Under OMB Circular A-76 at Selected Army and Navy Activities in Virginia]. NSIAD-84-122; B-214583. August 3, 1984. Released August 8, 1984. 3 pp. plus 2 appendices (6 pp.). Report to Rep. Norman Sisisky; by Frank C. Conahan, Director, GAO National Security and International Affairs Division.

Issue Area: General Procurement: Adequate Consideration by the Executive Branch in Deciding Whether To Contract for Needed Goods and Services (1938).

Contact: National Security and International Affairs Division.

Budget Function: National Defense: Department of Defense - Procurement and Contracts (051.2).

Organization Concerned: Department of the Army; Department of the Navy.

Congressional Relevance: Rep. Norman Sisisky.

Authority: OMB Circular A-76.

Abstract: Pursuant to a congressional request, GAO reviewed the recent increase in the number of Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Circular A-76 cost studies being made at selected Army and Navy facilities in Virginia. **Findings/Conclusions:** GAO found that: (1) the executive branch has been putting increased emphasis on implementing OMB Circular A-76 to obtain goods and services in the most economical manner; (2) the potential impact of outside contracting on military readiness was given consideration before cost studies were initiated, particularly for commercial functions; (3) the agencies' cost studies of in-house functions were organized for the most efficient analysis performance; (4) these studies were performed by personnel assigned full-time to the commercial activities program with assistance from individuals knowledgeable in the functional areas of

study; (5) a majority of employees displaced by outside contracting obtained other federal employment or were hired by the contractor; and (6) Office of Personnel Management regulations did not preclude achievement of efficient staffing patterns.

124890

[Federal Policies and Practices for Acquiring Information Technology Can Be Improved]. June 13, 1984. 11 pp.

Speech before the Interagency Committee on Information Resources Management; by Charles A. Bowsher, Comptroller General.

Contact: Office of the Comptroller General.

Organization Concerned: Interagency Committee on Information Resources Management.

Authority: Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act of 1982. Paperwork Reduction Act of 1980.

Abstract: In an address by the Comptroller General, comments were made regarding potential improvements in the government's efforts to acquire information technology. It was noted that: (1) it is necessary for the government to reform its financial management system; (2) to accomplish reform, a comprehensive, integrated approach will be necessary; (3) proper utilization of information technology resources will increase the success of financial management reform; and (4) while federal acquisition of information technology has improved, problems remain, including a long and often costly procurement process, limited competition, and failure to meet agency mission needs. In addition, it was noted that agency managers can improve the acquisition of information technology by: (1) improving coordination with central management agencies; (2) improving information exchange to facilitate the adoption of good planning and acquisition practices; and (3) putting incentives in Senior Executive Service contracts for rewarding achievement of acquisition goals. GAO has directed substantial resources into oversight of federal acquisition of information technology.

124925

Technical Summary: Financial Management Profile of the Office of the Secretary, HHS. AFMD-84-15-1. August 10, 1984. 31 pp. plus 4 appendices (30 pp.).

by Staff of the U.S. General Accounting Office.

Refer to AFMD-84-15, April 9, 1984, Accession Number 124637.

Contact: Accounting and Financial Management Division.

Organization Concerned: Department of Health and Human Services: Office of the Secretary.

Authority: P.L. 93-400. OMB Circular A-11. OMB Circular A-112.

Abstract: A financial management profile of the Department of Health and Human Services' (HHS) Office of the Secretary is presented. This technical summary is one of several volumes of detailed information that support a GAO report on financial management within HHS, and it provides detailed information on the major organizational components of the Office, its financial management systems, and major internal control strengths and weaknesses in these systems.

124926

Technical Summary: HHS, Budget Development Systems. AFMD-84-15-2. August 10, 1984. 21 pp. plus 3 appendices (13 pp.).

by Staff of the U.S. General Accounting Office.

Refer to AFMD-84-15, April 9, 1984, Accession Number 124637.

Contact: Accounting and Financial Management Division.

Organization Concerned: Department of Health and Human Services.

Authority: Budget and Accounting Procedures Act of 1950 (P.L. 84-863; 31 U.S.C. 24). OMB Circular A-11.

Abstract: A financial management profile of the Department of Health and Human Services' (HHS) budget development systems is presented. This technical summary is one of several volumes of detailed information that support a GAO report on financial management within HHS, and it provides detailed information on the budget development process, the financial management systems used in the process, and major internal control strengths and weaknesses in these systems.

124927

Technical Summary: Financial Management Profile of the HHS Central Personnel/Payroll System. AFMD-84-15-3. August 10, 1984. 37 pp. plus 6 appendices (25 pp.).

by Staff of the U.S. General Accounting Office.

Refer to AFMD-84-15, April 9, 1984, Accession Number 124637.

Contact: Accounting and Financial Management Division.

Organization Concerned: Department of Health and Human Services.

Authority: Civil Service Reform Act of 1978.

Abstract: A financial management profile of the Department of Health and Human Services' (HHS) central personnel/payroll system is presented. This technical summary is one of several volumes of detailed information that support a GAO report on financial management within HHS, and it provides detailed information on the 14 automated application systems which comprise the central system and related internal control strengths and weaknesses in these systems.

124928

Technical Summary: HHS, Regional Accounting System. AFMD-84-15-4. August 10, 1984. 7 pp. plus 4 appendices (27 pp.).

by Staff of the U.S. General Accounting Office.

Refer to AFMD-84-15, April 9, 1984, Accession Number 124637.

Contact: Accounting and Financial Management Division.

Organization Concerned: Department of Health and Human Services.

Abstract: A financial management profile of the Department of Health and Human Services' (HHS) Regional Accounting System (RAS) is presented. This technical summary is one of several volumes of detailed information that support a GAO report on financial management within HHS, and it focuses on documenting RAS, identifying related systems, and determining the major internal control strengths and weaknesses in the system.

124929

Technical Summary: Financial Management Profile of the Social Security Administration. AFMD-84-15-5. August 10, 1984. 22 pp. plus 3 appendices (27 pp.).

by Staff of the U.S. General Accounting Office.

Refer to AFMD-84-15, April 9, 1984, Accession Number 124637.

Contact: Accounting and Financial Management Division.

Organization Concerned: Social Security Administration; Department of Health and Human Services.

Authority: Insurance Contributions Act. Self-Employment Contributions Act of 1954. Social Security Act.

Abstract: A financial management profile of the Social Security Administration (SSA) is presented. This technical summary is one of several volumes of detailed information that support a GAO report on financial management within the Department of Health and Human Services, and it provides detailed information on the major organizational components of SSA, its financial management systems, and major internal control strengths and weaknesses in these systems.

124930

Technical Summary: *Financial Management Profile of the Health Care Financing Administration.* AFMD-84-15-6. August 10, 1984. 31 pp. plus 3 appendices (20 pp.).
by Staff of the U.S. General Accounting Office.
Refer to AFMD-84-15, April 9, 1984, Accession Number 124637.

Contact: Accounting and Financial Management Division.
Organization Concerned: Health Care Financing Administration; Department of Health and Human Services.
Authority: Social Security Act.
Abstract: A financial management profile of the Health Care Financing Administration (HCFA) is presented. This technical summary is one of several volumes of detailed information that support a GAO report on financial management within the Department of Health and Human Services, and it provides detailed information on the major organizational components of HCFA, its financial management systems, and major internal control strengths and weaknesses in these systems.

124931

Technical Summary: *Financial Management Profile of the Office of Human Development Services, HHS.* AFMD-84-15-7. August 10, 1984. 13 pp. plus 4 appendices (16 pp.).
by Staff of the U.S. General Accounting Office.
Refer to AFMD-84-15, April 9, 1984, Accession Number 124637.

Contact: Accounting and Financial Management Division.
Organization Concerned: Department of Health and Human Services; Office of Human Development Services.
Abstract: A financial management profile of the Department of Health and Human Services' (HHS) Office of Human Development Services is presented. This technical summary is one of several volumes of detailed information that support a GAO report on financial management within HHS, and it provides detailed information on the major organizational components of the Office, its financial management systems, and major internal control strengths and weaknesses in these systems.

124932

Technical Summary: *Financial Management Profile of the Health Resources and Services Administration.* AFMD-84-15-8. August 10, 1984. 18 pp. plus 3 appendices (24 pp.).
by Staff of the U.S. General Accounting Office.
Refer to AFMD-84-15, April 9, 1984, Accession Number 124637.

Contact: Accounting and Financial Management Division.
Organization Concerned: Health Resources and Services Administration.
Abstract: A financial management profile of the Health Resources and Services Administration is presented. This technical summary is one of several volumes of detailed information that support a GAO report on financial management within the Department of Health and Human Services, and it provides detailed information on the major organizational components of the Administration, its financial management systems, and major internal control strengths and weaknesses in these systems.

124933

Technical Summary: *Financial Management Profile of the Centers for Disease Control.* AFMD-84-15-9. August 10, 1984. 26 pp. plus 3 appendices (36 pp.).
by Staff of the U.S. General Accounting Office.
Refer to AFMD-84-15, April 9, 1984, Accession Number 124637.

Contact: Accounting and Financial Management Division.
Organization Concerned: Public Health Service: Centers for Disease Control; Department of Health and Human Services.
Authority: Public Health Service Act.
Abstract: A financial management profile of the Department of Health and Human Services' (HHS) Centers for Disease Control (CDC) is presented. This technical summary is one of several volumes of detailed information that support a GAO report on financial management within HHS, and it provides detailed information on the major organizational components of CDC, its financial management systems, and major internal control strengths and weaknesses in these systems.

124934

Technical Summary: *Financial Management Profile of the National Institutes of Health.* AFMD-84-15-10. August 10, 1984. 21 pp. plus 5 appendices (30 pp.).
by Staff of the U.S. General Accounting Office.
Refer to AFMD-84-15, April 9, 1984, Accession Number 124637.

Contact: Accounting and Financial Management Division.
Organization Concerned: National Institutes of Health; Department of Health and Human Services.
Authority: Antideficiency Act.
Abstract: A financial management profile of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) is presented. This technical summary is one of several volumes of detailed information that support a GAO report on financial management within the Department of Health and Human Services, and it provides detailed information on the major organizational components of NIH, its financial management systems, and major internal control strengths and weaknesses in these systems.

124935

Technical Summary: *Financial Management Profile of the Food and Drug Administration.* AFMD-84-15-11. August 10, 1984. 11 pp. plus 4 appendices (22 pp.).
by Staff of the U.S. General Accounting Office.
Refer to AFMD-84-15, April 9, 1984, Accession Number 124637.

Contact: Accounting and Financial Management Division.
Organization Concerned: Food and Drug Administration.
Authority: Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 301 et seq.). Radiation Control for Health and Safety Act of 1968.
Abstract: A financial management profile of the Food and Drug Administration is presented. This technical summary is one of several volumes of detailed information that support a GAO report on financial management within the Department of Health and Human Services, and it provides detailed information on the major organizational components of the Administration, its financial management systems, and major internal control strengths and weaknesses in these systems.

124952

[Protests of Any Contract Award Under VA Solicitation]. B-215336, B-215336.2. August 17, 1984. 7 pp.
Decision re: Storage Technology Corp.; Falcon Systems, Inc.; by Milton J. Socolar, Acting Comptroller General.

Contact: Office of the General Counsel.
Organization Concerned: Veterans Administration; Storage Technology Corp.; Falcon Systems, Inc.
Authority: B-194517 (1980). B-203656 (1982). B-204085 (1982). B-208540.2 (1983). B-208615 (1983). B-212675 (1984).
Abstract: Two firms protested any Veterans Administration (VA) contract award under a request for proposals (RFP) for a

computer system replacement, contending that the RFP did not adequately specify the relative importance of cost and technical factors. In addition, both protesters contended that a VA-proposed reliability survey was arbitrary and did not accurately measure equipment reliability. Finally, one of the protesters argued that the RFP did not comply with the agency's delegation of procurement authority and that it unduly favored one firm's equipment. GAO found that the RFP adequately defined the cost and technical tradeoffs which VA would make in evaluating proposals. Although GAO agreed that the RFP contained no explicit statement of the relative importance of cost and technical factors, the RFP clearly established that cost was of primary importance. Accordingly, GAO found no basis to object to the evaluation scheme in the RFP. The determination of the government's minimum needs and the best method of accommodating those needs are primarily the responsibility of the contracting activities, and GAO will not consider them absent a showing that the conclusions are arbitrary. GAO found that equipment reliability was a proper factor for consideration and failed to find that the survey technique which VA chose was an unreasonable method to determine reliability. Although the protesters suggested that alternatives to the survey were available, GAO does not conduct an independent analysis of the best method available to an agency to accommodate its needs. GAO found no merit to the allegation that the VA evaluation scheme violated the agency's delegation of procurement authority and found the VA decision to award on the basis of cost and other factors consistent with this authority. Finally, the customer survey did not favor any one offerer. The fact that one offerer's equipment had been on the market for a longer period of time and, therefore, might prove more reliable in the survey did not show that the survey was biased. Accordingly, the protests were denied.

124959

[Navy Did Not Adhere to Procurement Regulations in Acquiring a Computer for Its Ships Parts Control Center]. IMTEC-84-16; B-214511. July 16, 1984. Released August 14, 1984. 10 pp. plus 2 enclosures (2 pp.).

Report to Rep. Jack Brooks, Chairman, House Committee on Government Operations; by Charles A. Bowsher, Comptroller General.

Issue Area: Automatic Data Processing: Effectiveness of the Management of Automated Information Resources Used in Support of Agency Missions (0118).

Contact: Information Management and Technology Division.

Budget Function: Automatic Data Processing (990.1); National Defense: Defense-Related Activities (054.0); International Affairs: Military Assistance (152.0).

Organization Concerned: Department of the Navy; International Business Machines Corp.; Saudi Arabia; Department of the Army: Corps of Engineers; General Services Administration.

Congressional Relevance: House Committee on Appropriations: Defense Subcommittee; House Committee on Foreign Affairs; House Committee on Armed Services; House Committee on Government Operations; Senate Committee on Appropriations: Defense Subcommittee; Senate Committee on Foreign Relations; Senate Committee on Armed Services; Rep. Jack Brooks.

Authority: Arms Export Control Act (22 U.S.C. 2751 et seq.). 41 C.F.R. 1-4.11. P.L. 89-306.

Abstract: In response to a congressional request, GAO evaluated the Navy's acquisition and use of a computer installed at the Ships Parts Control Center. In 1979, the Corps of Engineers leased this computer under the foreign military sales program to support the Saudi Arabian Naval Expansion Program. Later the Navy acquired the computer for a project. **Findings/Conclusions:** GAO found that the Corps of Engineers followed established laws, rules, and regulations in leasing the computer for the Saudi

Arabian Naval Expansion Program. However, the Navy did not follow applicable laws, rules, and regulations in acquiring the computer, prompting the unnecessary expenditure of about \$831,000 for a sole-source lease of the computer and the acquisition of a computer that exceeded project needs. Furthermore, the Navy used the computer for its own project needs while the computer was being leased with Saudi foreign military sales funds. Finally, the Navy knew that it had not followed proper procedures in acquiring the computer. **Recommendation To Agencies:** The Secretary of the Navy should ensure that Saudi Arabia is advised of the Navy's use of the computer while it was being leased with Saudi funds.

124971

[Information on Repayment of the Government's Uranium Enrichment Program Costs and Audits of That Program's Financial Statements]. RCED-84-190; B-207463. August 10, 1984. 15 pp. plus 1 enclosure (1 p.).

Report to Rep. Richard L. Ottinger, Chairman, House Committee on Energy and Commerce: Energy Conservation and Power Subcommittee; Rep. John D. Dingell, Chairman, House Committee on Energy and Commerce; by J. Dexter Peach, Director, GAO Resources, Community, and Economic Development Division.

Issue Area: Energy: Nuclear Power (1612).

Contact: Resources, Community, and Economic Development Division.

Budget Function: Energy: Energy Supply (271.0).

Organization Concerned: Department of Energy.

Congressional Relevance: House Committee on Energy and Commerce: Energy Conservation and Power Subcommittee; House Committee on Energy and Commerce; Rep. Richard L. Ottinger; Rep. John D. Dingell.

Authority: Atomic Energy Act of 1954 (42 U.S.C. 2201(v)). Accounting and Auditing Act. 31 U.S.C. 3302.

Abstract: Pursuant to a congressional request, GAO obtained information concerning the Department of Energy's (DOE) repayment of Uranium Enrichment Program costs and audits of the program's financial statements. Authorizing program legislation requires DOE to price uranium enrichment services so that the government's costs will be recovered over a reasonable period of time. **Findings/Conclusions:** GAO found that, to satisfy its cost recovery requirement, DOE has reflected both appropriated program costs and interest in its price for enrichment services. The program's fiscal year (FY) 1983 financial statements reflect total recovered costs of \$12 billion with an unrecovered balance of \$6 billion. The program's operating expenses and capital investments continue to be funded with appropriations. While DOE has not made specific repayments to the Treasury, government costs are being recovered and have been designated as part of actual appropriations or to offset appropriations. Annual financial statements for the program have been prepared since FY 1971 as suggested by GAO during its initial review of the program's accounting methods, and annual audits have been performed since FY 1972 by three different audit groups. GAO stated that, to enhance the stature and quality of its financial statements, they should be audited by independent auditors in accordance with generally accepted government auditing standards. GAO noted that, although it has not audited the program's financial statements in the past, it plans to audit the FY 1984 statements.

124972

Planning EDP Audit Career Development. September 1984. 7 pp. plus 1 enclosure (1 p.).

by Frederick Gallegos, TAG Manager, GAO Field Operations Division: Regional Office (Los Angeles).

Contact: Field Operations Division: Regional Office (Los Angeles).

Abstract: An article was presented that discussed issues pertaining to career development for auditors in the electronic data processing (EDP) field. It was noted that: (1) career planning for EDP auditors benefits both auditors and the auditors' organizations; and (2) career development planning for EDP auditors is frequently hampered by pressure on auditors to maintain ongoing work schedules. The author stated that the important aspects of career development include planning and management support, establishment of performance standards, performance measurement and counseling, training, and professional development. It was concluded that the investment of time and resources necessary for an effective career planning process is small compared to the potential benefits.

124979

[Protest of Air Force Refusal To Consider Late Technical Literature]. B-214704. August 21, 1984. 8 pp.

Decision re: XYZTEK Corp.; by Milton J. Socolar, Acting Comptroller General.

Contact: Office of the General Counsel.

Organization Concerned: Department of the Air Force: Air Force Systems Command: Air Force Computer Acquisition Office; XYZTEK Corp.

Authority: B-187197 (1976). B-190313 (1978). B-190794 (1978). B-203555 (1982). B-213382 (1984). B-198905 (1981).

Abstract: A firm protested its exclusion from the competitive range under a solicitation issued by the Air Force for minicomputers and systems software. During its preaward survey, the Air Force identified numerous deficiencies in the protester's proposal and requested that it be updated. However, the Air Force did not receive the requested information from the protester by the specified response date. The Air Force found that the protester's failure to supply the information was a technical deficiency and eliminated the protester from the competitive range. The protester contended that, since it had guaranteed to meet all mandatory requirements and was the lowest offerer, it was entitled to the award. GAO held that an agency may properly exclude a proposal from the competitive range when: (1) information deficiencies are so material that upgrading the proposal would require major revisions or submission of a new proposal; and (2) it cannot determine whether the proposal is acceptable due to the offerer's failure to provide requested technical literature by the specified deadline. Further, GAO found that: (1) since the system offered by the protester was new, the failure to provide technical information was a material deficiency and the Air Force did not need to consider the protester's low price; (2) a blanket offer to meet requirements will not substitute for a detailed description of offered equipment and services; and (3) when offerers are asked for information needed to evaluate proposals or are given an opportunity to revise proposals, discussions have occurred. Accordingly, the protest was denied.

124996

[GAO Concerns Relating to Additional EQUATE Procurements and Improvements]. NSIAD-84-152; B-216037. August 17, 1984. 2 pp. plus 1 enclosure (4 pp.).

Report to: Gen. Richard Thompson, Commander, Department of the Army: U.S. Army Materiel Command; by Henry W. Connor, Senior Associate Director, GAO National Security and International Affairs Division.

Issue Area: Logistics Management: Equipment Maintenance and Procurement Achieving Optimum Efficiency and Effectiveness (3808).

Contact: National Security and International Affairs Division.

Budget Function: National Defense: Department of Defense - Military (Except Procurement and Contracting) (051.0).

Organization Concerned: Department of the Army: U.S. Army Materiel Command.

Abstract: While GAO has not completed a survey of the Army's Test Measurement and Diagnostic Equipment Program, GAO identified several concerns that should be considered before awarding contracts for additional Electronic Quality Assurance Test Equipment (EQUATE) procurements and improvements.

Findings/Conclusions: GAO believes that additional EQUATE procurements and planned improvements need to be reassessed because: (1) a new generation of automatic test equipment will replace some EQUATE's; (2) EQUATE's in current use could be made available for other uses; (3) alternative systems could replace EQUATE at other maintenance levels, which would eliminate the need for most if not all planned improvements; and (4) some weapon system developers and test equipment users are not satisfied with EQUATE, consequently: (1) several developers have requested to use nonstandard equipment; and (2) one user has requested that the fielding of EQUATE in Europe be halted.

125007

[Proposal To Improve Identification and Collection of Medicare Part B Duplicate Payments]. HRD-84-88. August 17, 1984. 6 pp. plus 3 enclosures (3 pp.).

Report to: Carolyn K. Davis, Administrator, Health Care Financing Administration; by Thomas G. Dowdal, Group Director, GAO Human Resources Division.

Issue Area: Health Programs: Effectiveness of Government Efforts To Reduce Fraud and Abuse in Health Care Programs (1220).

Contact: Human Resources Division.

Budget Function: Health: Health Care Services (551.0).

Organization Concerned: Department of Health and Human Services; Health Care Financing Administration; Blue Shield of Kansas City; Blue Shield of Maryland; Electronic Data Systems Federal Corp.

Congressional Relevance: House Committee on Appropriations: Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Subcommittee; House Committee on Ways and Means; House Committee on Energy and Commerce; Senate Committee on Appropriations: Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Subcommittee; Senate Committee on Finance.

Authority: Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395).

Abstract: GAO reviewed the operations of selected Medicare claims processing contractors to determine whether it would be cost beneficial for the carriers to periodically screen their claims on a postpayment basis to recover duplicate payments. **Findings/Conclusions:** GAO found that screening paid claims to identify duplicate payments could be cost beneficial. For two of the contractors, GAO identified an estimated \$184,700 in duplicate payments on which it believed the carriers should follow up. The carriers estimated that their costs to investigate and take the necessary recovery steps would be about \$77,800. Prior work showed that carriers' programs to identify or recover overpayments for medically unnecessary services on an after-the-fact or postpayment basis had not been cost beneficial at six of nine carriers reviewed and had about broken even at the other three. Although GAO has supported the postpayment utilization review function because of the deterrent effect on program abuse and other nonquantifiable benefits, GAO believes that a postpayment duplicate payment detection effort offers opportunities for substantially more favorable cost benefit results than the carriers' postpayment utilization review activities. Detecting and denying duplicate claims before payment is far better than identifying and attempting to recover an erroneous payment. GAO believes that,

in the long run, the most important benefit of screening paid claims may be that carriers will be better able to identify and correct the billing or processing problems that allowed the duplicate payments to be made. If so, duplicate payments may be reduced to the point that screening paid claims will not be worthwhile. **Recommendation To Agencies:** The Administrator of the Health Care Financing Administration should require Maryland Blue Shield to follow up on the 6,130 potential duplicates GAO identified. The Administrator of the Health Care Financing Administration should require carriers to screen their paid claims computer records at least once a year and to recover the duplicate payments they identify. The Administrator of the Health Care Financing Administration should monitor the results achieved by the carriers so that the screening criteria: (1) can be modified as necessary; and (2) can be discontinued for any carriers that reduce their duplicate payments enough that screening paid claims is no longer cost beneficial.

125024

Federal Agencies' Actions To Implement Section 11 of the Stevenson-Wydler Technology Innovation Act of 1980. RCED-84-60; B-214748. August 24, 1984. 5 pp. plus 13 appendices (58 pp.).

Report to Sen. Charles McC. Mathias, Chairman, Senate Committee on Governmental Affairs: Governmental Efficiency and the District of Columbia Subcommittee; Rep. Doug Walgren, Chairman, House Committee on Science and Technology: Science, Research and Technology Subcommittee; Rep. George E. Brown, Jr., Chairman, House Committee on Agriculture: Department Operations, Research, and Foreign Agriculture Subcommittee; by J. Dexter Peach, Director, GAO Resources, Community, and Economic Development Division.

Issue Area: Science and Technology: Interaction of Federal, State, and Local Governments To Promote the Use of Science and Technology To Address Problems of a National Scope (2019).

Contact: Resources, Community, and Economic Development Division.

Budget Function: General Science, Space, and Technology: Space Science, Applications, and Technology (254.0).

Congressional Relevance: House Committee on Science and Technology: Science, Research and Technology Subcommittee; House Committee on Agriculture: Department Operations, Research, and Foreign Agriculture Subcommittee; Senate Committee on Governmental Affairs: Governmental Efficiency and the District of Columbia Subcommittee; Rep. Doug Walgren; Rep. George E. Brown, Jr.; Sen. Charles McC. Mathias.

Authority: Stevenson-Wydler Technology Innovation Act of 1980. P.L. 96-517.

Abstract: Pursuant to a congressional request, GAO reviewed the implementation of section 11 of the Stevenson-Wydler Technology Innovation Act, which requires federal laboratories to: (1) establish an Office of Research and Technology Applications (ORTA); (2) assign one full-time professional employee to each ORTA in any laboratory with an annual budget over \$20 million; and (3) set aside 0.5 percent of research and development (R&D) budgets for technology transfer activities. **Findings/Conclusions:** GAO found that all of the agencies it reviewed have taken action to implement the act. All of the agencies have issued implementation guidelines and policy statements for their laboratories, and 81 percent of the federal laboratories are covered by an ORTA. Reasons given by laboratories for not establishing such offices included: (1) personnel limitations; (2) uncertainty with regard to agency policies for establishing such offices; and (3) duplication of functions performed by other units. GAO also found that: (1) all of the laboratories with budgets in excess of \$20 million have either assigned personnel to an ORTA

or have appropriately requested waiver of the staffing provisions of the act; (2) all of the agencies indicated that they have devoted more than 0.5 percent of their R&D budgets to technology transfer activities; (3) technological information dissemination is the primary function performed by such offices; and (4) federal laboratories that are covered by an ORTA show a higher level of technological transfer activities than those that are not. In addition, GAO found that technology transfer activities are hampered by: (1) a lack of resources for providing technical assistance to state and local governments; and (2) patent policies at some agencies which prevent such agencies from granting exclusive license for the development of certain technologies. GAO noted that this barrier may have been mitigated by legislation which allows agencies to grant exclusive licenses to small business firms.

125041

[Comments on S. 774, The Freedom of Information Reform Act]. B-214853. August 22, 1984. 1 p.

Letter to Rep. Jack Brooks, Chairman, House Committee on Government Operations; by Milton J. Socolar, Acting Comptroller General.

Contact: Office of the General Counsel.

Organization Concerned: General Accounting Office.

Congressional Relevance: House Committee on Government Operations; Rep. Jack Brooks.

Authority: S. 774 (98th Cong.).

Abstract: In response to a congressional request, GAO commented on certain provisions of proposed legislation which would reform the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA). GAO had no comments on the major provisions of the bill relating to fee schedules and the revision of certain exemptions from disclosure. However, GAO stated that it does not favor provisions of the bill which would expand the GAO role in assessing agency compliance with FOIA requirements.

125049

Implementation of the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act: First Year. OCG-84-3; B-202205. August 24, 1984. 38 pp. plus 6 appendices (18 pp.).

Report to Congress; by Charles A. Bowsher, Comptroller General.

Issue Area: Accounting and Financial Reporting: Financial Integrity Act Reviews (2815).

Contact: Office of the Comptroller General.

Budget Function: Financial Management and Information Systems: Accounting Systems in Operation (998.1).

Organization Concerned: Government-Wide.

Congressional Relevance: House Committee on Government Operations; Congress.

Authority: Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act of 1982. Accounting and Auditing Act. Employees' Compensation Act (Injuries). Prompt Payment Act.

Abstract: GAO summarized the results of its governmentwide review of agencies' efforts to implement the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act which is aimed at strengthening internal control and accounting systems. **Findings/Conclusions:** GAO found that the agencies made a good start in the first year in assessing their internal control and accounting systems, and have demonstrated management commitment to implementing the act. In addition, agencies are establishing a systematic process to evaluate, improve, and report on their systems, and federal managers are more aware of the need for good internal control systems and improved accounting systems. The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) provided guidance and central direction

to the program. Further, most inspectors general played a major role in the program. However, the agencies' reports disclosed material internal control and accounting system problems, many of which have been long standing and the subject of prior GAO and inspector general reports. GAO found that: (1) 16 agencies reported material weaknesses in accounting and financial management systems; (2) 8 agencies reported material weaknesses in eligibility and entitlement determinations; (3) 12 agencies reported weaknesses in grant, loan, and debt collection management; (4) 14 agencies reported procurement weaknesses; (5) 13 agencies reported material weaknesses in property management; (6) 10 agencies reported weaknesses in automatic data processing; (7) 12 agencies reported weaknesses in cash management; and (8) 9 agencies reported problems in personnel and organizational management. **Recommendation To Agencies:** The Director, OMB, should provide additional guidance to agencies to evaluate their ADP resources and systems by defining general and application controls and suggesting factors to be considered in evaluating them. The Director, OMB, should strengthen year end reporting by: (1) further defining what constitutes a material weakness using factors specified in this report; and (2) providing more detail for agencies to use in arriving at judgments on the seriousness of their internal control problems. The Director, OMB, should provide additional guidance to agencies to evaluate their ADP resources and systems by establishing responsibility for making ADP control evaluations. The Director, OMB, should provide additional guidance to agencies to evaluate their ADP resources and systems by identifying sources of more detailed guidance. The Director, OMB, should strengthen year-end reporting by improving sample report language provided to the agencies to disclose more clearly the basis for the overall opinion on reasonable assurance.

125071

[Protest of NASA Negotiated Procurement]. B-212914. September 5, 1984. 4 pp.

Decision re: Sperry Rand Corp.: Sperry Univac; by Milton J. Socolar, (for Charles A. Bowshe, Comptroller General)

Contact: Office of the General Counsel.

Organization Concerned: Sperry Rand Corp.: Sperry Univac; National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

Authority: Automatic Data Processing Equipment Act (40 U.S.C. 759). B-203882.3 (1982). B-213945 (1984). B-207655 (1982)

Abstract: A firm protested a National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) negotiated procurement for two computers, contending that a compatibility requirement contained in the request for proposals unduly restricted competition. In a comparative analysis performed to justify limited procurement, NASA concluded that the cost of converting its software to a noncompatible computer would be three times that of the purchase of the new computers. The protester asserted that NASA: (1) failed to consider its proposal to upgrade the existing system; (2) could have reduced conversion costs by using software written in another language; and (3) failed to consider certain conversion costs during its comparative analysis. GAO has held that an agency can legitimately restrict competition where an item being procured is required to be compatible with existing government-owned equipment, and GAO will not disturb an agency's determination of its minimum needs absent a showing that it is arbitrary or unreasonable. GAO found that: (1) the protester's alleged proposal was inadequate for evaluation; (2) the NASA cost analysis did contemplate the conversion of a substantial portion of existing software; (3) the protester's system would not have permitted the close system integration required by NASA; and (4) there was no basis upon which to question the agency's decision. Accordingly, the protest was denied.

125080

[Better Guidance Would Improve ADP Evaluations in Support of the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act of 1982]. June 21, 1984. 2 pp. plus 3 enclosures (8 pp.).

Letter to: David A. Stockman, Director, Office of Management and Budget; by Warren G. Reed, Director, GAO Information Management and Technology Division.

Contact: Information Management and Technology Division.

Authority: Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act of 1982. OMB Circular A-123. OMB Transmittal Memo No. 1.

Abstract: GAO reviewed the first-year implementation of the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act (FIA) of 1982. GAO found that internal controls in automated data processing (ADP) systems have not been given adequate attention or coverage in FIA evaluations. GAO identified deficiencies in the following areas: (1) major ADP functions are sometimes ignored in the evaluation process, or large portions of the agency are excluded from ADP evaluations; (2) confusion exists in some cases about who is responsible for making ADP evaluations; (3) where ADP controls have been evaluated, the work did not fully address general and application controls; (4) many of the staff knowledgeable in ADP internal controls have only a limited role in the FIA process, and training provided to staff making the evaluations does not cover ADP internal controls. GAO believes that most, if not all, the problems noted can be mitigated by providing additional guidance or modifying existing guidance.

125081

Incomplete Participant Data Affect Reliability of Values Placed by Actuaries on Multiemployer Pension Plans. HRD-84-38; B-214411. September 6, 1984. 41 pp. plus 7 appendices (22 pp.).

Report to Congress; by Charles A. Bowshe, Comptroller General.

Issue Area: Consumer and Worker Protection: Effects of the Multiemployer Pension Plan Amendments Act of 1980 (0932).

Contact: Human Resources Division.

Budget Function: Income Security: General Retirement and Disability Insurance (601.0).

Organization Concerned: Pension Benefit Guaranty Corp.; Department of Labor; Department of the Treasury; Internal Revenue Service.

Congressional Relevance: House Committee on Appropriations: Treasury-Postal Service and General Government Subcommittee; House Committee on Appropriations: Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Subcommittee; House Committee on Ways and Means; House Committee on Education and Labor; Senate Committee on Appropriations: Treasury, Postal Service, and General Government Subcommittee; Senate Committee on Appropriations: Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Subcommittee; Senate Committee on Finance; Senate Committee on Labor and Human Resources; Joint Committee on Taxation; Congress.

Authority: Multiemployer Pension Plan Amendments Act of 1980. Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974.

Abstract: GAO evaluated the effect of the Multiemployer Pension Plan Amendments Act of 1980 (MPPAA) on employers, participants, and others. Specifically, GAO reviewed the development and reporting of actuarial information. **Findings/Conclusions:** GAO found that, although pension plan participant data are crucial in determining the actuarial value of pension plans, many multiemployer plans lack complete participant data, causing liabilities and costs of some plans to be understated or overstated by millions of dollars. Nevertheless, pension plan officials continue to use these data to manage and operate plans. This information is also being reported to government agencies for their use in administering and enforcing MPPAA and the Employee

Retirement Income Security Act (ERISA). Actuaries usually disclose the extent of missing participant data, but few indicate whether such omissions affect the accuracy of the actuarial valuations. **Recommendation To Agencies:** The Secretary of Labor should issue regulations, under its ERISA authority, to provide guidance for the maintenance of participant data by pension plans. The Secretary should also expand the scope of Labor's audits of compliance with fiduciary standards to include a review of actuarial valuation reports so enforcement personnel can ascertain whether participant data on multiemployer pension plans are sufficiently complete to enable the actuaries to make reliable actuarial valuations. The Commissioner of Internal Revenue should expand Internal Revenue Service enforcement efforts to include examinations of actuarial valuation reports to identify multiemployer pension plans lacking sufficient participant data. The Secretaries of Labor and the Treasury should direct the Joint Board for the Enrollment of Actuaries to promote action by and work in cooperation with the actuarial profession to develop appropriate criteria and standards for the disclosure of the potential effect of material amounts for missing participant data on the reliability of actuarial valuations.

125084

[Protest of Exclusion From Competitive Range Under RFP]. B-214562. September 10, 1984. 3 pp.

Decision re: Falcon Systems, Inc.; by Milton J. Socolar, Acting Comptroller General.

Contact: Office of the General Counsel.

Organization Concerned: Falcon Systems, Inc.; Drug Enforcement Administration.

Authority: 53 Comp. Gen. 1. B-206228 (1982). B-195762 (1979).

Abstract: A firm protested the Drug Enforcement Administration's (DEA) exclusion of its proposal from the competitive range under a request for proposals (RFP) for computer equipment. DEA determined that the protester's equipment was technically unacceptable because it did not meet certain RFP requirements. The protester contended that: (1) its failure to respond to the mandatory requirements was due to the omission of a page of its proposal; (2) its proposal contained a blanket offer to comply with all mandatory requirements; and (3) the offered equipment was technically responsive which negotiations would have disclosed to the agency. DEA stated that its determination was based on specifications and technical literature from the manufacturer of the offered equipment. GAO will not disturb an agency's decision to exclude an offer from the competitive range unless that determination is shown to be unreasonable. GAO held that: (1) since the equipment being procured must be operable at all times, DEA evaluators reasonably concluded that the protester's equipment was not acceptable; and (2) a blanket offer of compliance is not an adequate substitute for detailed and complete technical information. Accordingly, the protest was denied.

125103

Better Wage-Matching Systems and Procedures Would Enhance Food Stamp Program Integrity. RCED-84-112; B-206711. September 11, 1984. 37 pp. plus 6 appendices (11 pp.).

Report to John R. Block, Secretary, Department of Agriculture; by J. Dexter Peach, Director, GAO Resources, Community, and Economic Development Division.

Issue Area: Income Security and Social Services: Efficient Administration and Quality of Service of Needs-Based Cash Assistance Programs (1332); Food: Improvements in the Operational Efficiency and Effectiveness of the Food Stamp Program (1744).

Contact: Resources, Community, and Economic Development Division.

Budget Function: Income Security: Housing Assistance and Other Income Supplements (604.0).

Organization Concerned: Department of Agriculture.

Congressional Relevance: House Committee on the Budget; House Committee on Appropriations: Agriculture and Related Agencies Subcommittee; House Committee on Agriculture: Domestic Marketing, Consumer Relations, and Nutrition Subcommittee; Senate Committee on Budget; Senate Committee on Appropriations: Agriculture and Related Agencies Subcommittee; Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

Authority: Food Stamp Act Amendments of 1980 (P.L. 96-249). Internal Revenue Code (IRC). Social Security Act. Food Stamp and Community Distribution Amendments of 1981 (P.L. 97-98). Deficit Reduction Act of 1984 (P.L. 98-369). Social Security Amendments of 1977 (P.L. 95-216). P.L. 98-204. H. Rept. 96-788.

Abstract: GAO reviewed states' wage-matching activities in the Food Stamp Program to determine whether the Department of Agriculture's and states' wage-matching efforts have effectively addressed the benefit overissuance problem. GAO also analyzed the effectiveness of Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) Program matching operations on a smaller scale. **Findings/Conclusions:** GAO found that underreporting of beneficiary earnings is the most significant cause of food stamp overissuances, which currently are about \$1 billion annually. Although congressional requirements to match wages with external sources can be an effective method for improving the program's integrity, GAO found that wage matching could be made more effective and efficient through the use of automated procedures, broader program coverage, and effective tolerances in pursuing wage differences. Active federal involvement in guiding and assisting states to improve their matching systems would benefit not only the Food Stamp Program, but also the AFDC Program. Thorough follow-up actions should ensure that appropriate measures are taken to identify and recover overissuances. GAO noted, however, that follow-up action in most of the cases it reviewed was either not taken, was incomplete, or was inappropriate and the potential benefits from wage matching were not fully achieved. **Recommendation To Agencies:** The Secretary of Agriculture should direct the Administrator of the Food and Nutrition Service to issue policy guidance to improve the efficiency of states' wage-matching systems for identifying and referring for followup specific cases involving potential overpayments. This initiative should: (1) describe the most efficient automated methods for identifying participants who have not reported their total income; (2) require states to obtain and compare earned income information of households for which external wage data is obtained; and (3) establish dollar criteria on the amounts of potential income errors which require local office followup. The Secretary of Agriculture should direct the Administrator of the Food and Nutrition Service to modify Service regulations concerning increased federal participation in states' cost to develop, install new, or upgrade existing computer systems to require that states' systems retain historical data on participant-reported earnings. The Secretary of Agriculture should direct the Administrator of the Food and Nutrition Service to work with states which already have computer capability to establish and implement systems to conduct automated comparisons of external and participant-reported wage information for the same calendar period. The Secretary of Agriculture should direct the Administrator of the Food and Nutrition Service to modify Service regulations and establish policy guidance to set forth specific Service expectations regarding state followup actions. The regulations also should require that states and local offices provide appropriate instructions and training to staff performing followup activities and that states establish controls for monitoring accuracy, timeliness, and completion of local office followup work. The Service should evaluate the adequacy of state followup efforts as

part of its state level operations reviews and its validations of states' management evaluation reviews.

125108

Information on the Status of Postal Service Costs and Mail Delivery Service Under the Postal Reorganization Act. GGD-84-73; B-215064. August 8, 1984. Released September 7, 1984. 33 pp. plus 1 appendix (1 p.).

Report to Sen. Ted Stevens, Chairman, Senate Committee on Governmental Affairs: Civil Service, Post Office and General Services Subcommittee; by William J. Anderson, Director, GAO General Government Division.

Contact: General Government Division.

Budget Function: Commerce and Housing Credit: Postal Service (372.0).

Organization Concerned: United States Postal Service.

Congressional Relevance: Senate Committee on Governmental Affairs: Civil Service, Post Office and General Services Subcommittee; Sen. Ted Stevens.

Authority: Postal Reorganization Act (39 U.S.C. 101 et seq.). Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1981.

Abstract: Pursuant to a congressional request, GAO provided information on the status of U.S. Postal Service costs and mail delivery services under the Postal Reorganization Act. **Findings/Conclusions:** GAO found that, under the act, overall mail volume has increased over 35 percent, from 87 billion pieces of mail to 119 billion. Available data also indicate that the Service's mail delivery goals are consistently being met and that the public generally views mail service favorably, although the Service continues to receive hundreds of thousands of service complaints from individual mailers. The Service is continuing efforts to improve mail service to the general public. Postal Service annual operating expenses have increased 151 percent under the act, from \$9.6 billion to \$24.1 billion. For the past two fiscal years, the Service has generated operating incomes and it continues to make efforts to reduce costs.

125121

[Protest of HUD Purchase]. B-212972. September 10, 1984. 4 pp.

Decision re: Information Management Associates, Inc.; by Milton J. Socolar, Acting Comptroller General.

Contact: Office of the General Counsel.

Organization Concerned: Department of Health and Human Services; Information Management Associates, Inc.

Authority: 41 C.F.R. 1-4.1109-6. B-210154 (1983). B-211981 (1984).

Abstract: A firm protested the Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) purchase of microcomputers and related equipment. The record showed that, after publishing a procurement notice for hard disk computers in the Commerce Business Daily (CBD), HUD decided that it needed floppy disk computers instead. The agency did not advise any of the responding vendors of the changed requirements; rather, it compared the vendors' automatic data processing (ADP) schedule prices and made the award on that basis. The protester contended that: (1) the purchase order was issued for equipment other than that listed in the CBD notice; and (2) HUD failed to publish a notice of its intention to place an order against a nonmandatory ADP schedule contract. HUD argued that no vendors were prejudiced by its actions, the protester could have contacted the contracting officer to learn of the changed requirements, and the equipment purchased met the requirements of the CBD notice. GAO found that: (1) once HUD became aware that the CBD notice did not accurately reflect its needs, it should have published a revised

notice; (2) a contractor is not required to contact a procuring agency to find out whether its public notice is current; and (3) the CBD notice clearly specified the HUD requirement for hard disk storage. Accordingly, the protest was sustained; however, since the awardee's equipment had been delivered and installed, GAO did not recommend corrective action.

125124

[Additional Information on SSA Management of Data Communications Contracts with Paradyne Corporation]. IMTEC-84-23; B-213963. August 27, 1984. Released September 12, 1984. 2 pp. plus 2 enclosures (26 pp.).

Report to Rep. Jack Brooks, Chairman, House Committee on Government Operations; by Charles A. Bowsher, Comptroller General.

Refer to IMTEC-84-15, July 9, 1984, Accession Number 124854.

Issue Area: Automatic Data Processing: Effectiveness of the Management of Automated Information Resources Used in Support of Agency Missions (0118); Income Security and Social Services: To Meet Program Demands SSA Must Be Effectively and Efficiently Organized, Staffed, and Equipped (1346).

Contact: Information Management and Technology Division.

Budget Function: Automatic Data Processing (990.1); Procurement - Other Than Defense (990.4).

Organization Concerned: Department of Health and Human Services; Paradyne Corp.; Social Security Administration.

Congressional Relevance: House Committee on Government Operations; Rep. Jack Brooks.

Abstract: Pursuant to a congressional request, GAO reviewed various aspects of the Social Security Administration's (SSA) management of data communications contracts with Paradyne Corp. **Findings/Conclusions:** GAO found that there were major differences between the computer equipment Paradyne described in its proposal, used at its preaward operational capability demonstration (OCD), delivered for testing, and installed in SSA field offices. SSA experienced persistent performance problems with its Paradyne terminal systems for at least 2 years after they were initially installed, and excessive downtime caused by inoperative Paradyne equipment has been a serious impairment to public service. In 1983, SSA decided not to use the Paradyne terminals to support local office automation, and the agency is currently moving ahead with an alternative technical approach. This approach will cause delays in automating local field office workloads which will cost SSA the anticipated savings in personnel costs for each year that its automation plans are delayed. In May 1984, an independent report was issued on the reliability and maintainability of Paradyne equipment in the SSA data communications system. GAO stated that the credibility of the study's conclusions concerning Paradyne's performance is compromised because SSA did not control or monitor the underlying performance data. SSA officials who observed the OCD may not have been aware that Paradyne had demonstrated controller equipment which it had not proposed. GAO was not able to determine whether Paradyne's alleged cash-flow problems were a significant factor in the SSA determination to purchase the Paradyne equipment rather than to exercise the lease-to-purchase contract option during fiscal year 1982.

125125

Design, Methodology, and Technical Assistance Groups in GAO: A Concept Paper. November 15, 1983. 11 pp.
by , GAO Office of Quality Assurance.

Contact: Office of Quality Assurance.

Organization Concerned: General Accounting Office.

Abstract: GAO commented on a method to improve the quality and timeliness of GAO work through the establishment of

Design, Methodology, and Technical Assistance Groups (DMTAG's) to assist divisions in focusing on quality assurance throughout the life of a job. Each division's DMTAG would be composed of functional specialists with a wide range of skills, and it would report to the division director to ensure allocation of its resources according to division priorities. The DMTAG's would complement rather than replace interdivisional assistance and regional technical assistance groups. While the primary functions of the DMTAG's would be to assist audit/evaluation teams with the planning, development, and execution of projects, GAO noted that DMTAG's could also assist with many other functions such as training, reviewing draft products, and managing technical data.

125164

[Protest of SBA Brand Name Only Purchase Description]. B-215589. September 17, 1984. 3 pp.

Decision re: Wang Laboratories, Inc.; by Milton J. Socolar, (for Charles A. Bowsher, Comptroller General).

Contact: Office of the General Counsel.

Organization Concerned: Wang Laboratories, Inc.; Small Business Administration.

Authority: 41 C.F.R. 1-4.11. 41 C.F.R. 1-4.1109. 48 Fed. Reg. 41. F.A.R. 10.002. F.A.R. 10.004. B-186854 (1977). B-200595 (1981). B-202012 (1982).

Abstract: A firm protested that the brand name only specification used in a Small Business Administration (SBA) solicitation for computer equipment was unduly restrictive of competition and violated Federal Acquisition Regulations. The protester alleged that: (1) a brand name only purchase description may be used only where the procuring agency adequately justifies the brand name procurement; and (2) the procurement should have been issued on a brand name or equal basis. GAO found that the SBA decision to procure the equipment on a brand name basis was reasonable because it was the only equipment fully tested, and SBA did not have the time or money to test other computers. Furthermore, GAO did not find that the protester met its burden of proving that this decision was unreasonable. Accordingly, the protest was denied. However, GAO recommended that SBA proceed as expeditiously as possible to test the equipment of other manufacturers alleging to have equal products so that future requirements can be procured on a brand name or equal basis.

125175

[Social Security Administration's Management of Its Contracts To Modernize Its Data Communications System]. September 13, 1984. 9 pp.

Testimony before the House Committee on Government Operations: Legislation and National Security Subcommittee; by Charles A. Bowsher, Comptroller General.

Contact: Office of the Comptroller General.

Organization Concerned: Social Security Administration; Paradyne Corp.

Congressional Relevance: House Committee on Government Operations: Legislation and National Security Subcommittee.

Abstract: In response to a congressional request, testimony was presented concerning the Social Security Administration's (SSA) communications contracts with Paradyne Corporation. GAO provided information on: (1) the equipment as proposed, demonstrated, and delivered; (2) the system's performance; (3) the accuracy and completeness of an independent study of the contractor's performance; and (4) SSA knowledge of defects in the product. GAO found that while the contractor's proposal represented that certain equipment was in existence and

operational, it had designed and constructed equipment which was not in its product line and available, as required by the solicitation. GAO found that the products offered should have been considered prototypes in the proposal. In addition, GAO found that, during an operational capability demonstration, one of the pieces of equipment was not operational, but SSA accepted a technical presentation as satisfying the requirements. With regard to another piece of equipment, the contractor demonstrated equipment that was substantively different from that which it proposed without informing SSA. Therefore, its proposal should have been eliminated from consideration. Furthermore, the equipment was not functioning until after contract award. The equipment displayed serious defects during testing which carried over into field operations and continued for 2 years. In attempting to correct these problems, numerous modifications were made to the equipment. Because the equipment purchased provided no increase in the processing capability of the system it replaced, the contractor's performance resulted in a more than 3-year delay in field office automation. An independent study did find that the equipment is in compliance with the terms of the contract the majority of the time and when it is not, SSA takes appropriate steps to assess penalties. However, GAO noted that this study was compromised because the contractor used SSA calculations in its report without performing a complete analysis.

125199

Delays in Recomputing Social Security Benefits Cause Underpayments for Extended Periods. HRD-84-71; B-215803. September 13, 1984. *Released* September 20, 1984. 19 pp. plus 2 appendices (7 pp.).

Report to Rep. George Miller; by Richard L. Fogel, Director, GAO Human Resources Division.

Issue Area: Income Security and Social Services: Insuring Proper, Accurate, and Timely Payments With the Benefit Payment Process for Retirees and Survivors (1326).

Contact: Human Resources Division.

Budget Function: Income Security: General Retirement and Disability Insurance (601.0).

Organization Concerned: Department of Health and Human Services; Social Security Administration.

Congressional Relevance: Rep. George Miller.

Authority: Social Security Act. Social Security Disability Amendments of 1980 (P.L. 96-265). Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1981 (P.L. 97-35). P.L. 94-202. P.L. 97-123.

Abstract: GAO discussed the Social Security Administration's (SSA) review of beneficiary earnings records and how these reviews affect the timeliness and amount of benefit payments. **Findings/Conclusions:** GAO found that SSA policy is to review beneficiary earnings records annually because recent earnings not included in previous benefit computations may increase benefits. This review and subsequent payment of corrected benefits is called the Automatic Earnings Reappraisal Operation (AERO). GAO found that the time required for AERO has increased dramatically since 1978. GAO estimated that, based on available 1979 and 1980 reported earnings, SSA underpaid at least 2.5 million beneficiary cases by at least \$1.98 billion. GAO found that difficulties in implementing a newly legislated annual wage reporting system for 1978 earnings, competition from other programs, and the need to implement several new legislative mandates have caused the delays. SSA expects AERO for 1981 and 1982 earnings to be completed within 32 months. Since this process is tied closely to modernization of the SSA data processing systems, it is too early for GAO to predict when systems modernization will influence processing time.

125246

[Privacy Policy Activities of the National Telecommunications and Information Administration]. GGD-84-93; B-215677. August 31, 1984. Released September 24, 1984. 7 pp.

Report to Rep. Glenn L. English, Chairman, House Committee on Government Operations: Government Information, Justice, and Agriculture Subcommittee; by William J. Anderson, Director, GAO General Government Division.

Issue Area: Information Management: Effectiveness and Cost of Federal Efforts To Implement Privacy, Freedom of Information, and Sunshine Legislation (4224).

Contact: General Government Division.

Budget Function: Commerce and Housing Credit: Other Advancement of Commerce (376.0).

Organization Concerned: Department of Commerce: National Telecommunications and Information Administration.

Congressional Relevance: House Committee on Government Operations: Government Information, Justice, and Agriculture Subcommittee; Rep. Glenn L. English.

Authority: Privacy Act of 1974. Privacy Protection Act of 1980 (P.L. 96-440). Executive Order 12046. Reorg. Plan No. 1 of 1977.

Abstract: Pursuant to a congressional request, GAO reviewed the privacy policy activities of the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA). **Findings/Conclusions:** NTIA involvement in privacy policy began after a presidential memorandum recommended that NTIA: (1) coordinate work on a legislative package relating to privacy policy; (2) develop and set forth privacy policy initiatives in the international area; and (3) study the privacy consequences of the growth of information technology. GAO found that: (1) since 1981, when work on the legislative package was completed, NTIA has devoted little staff time to legislative privacy initiatives; (2) NTIA has played a substantial role in developing voluntary international privacy guidelines; and (3) NTIA has published a collection of papers intended to encourage public debate on information and privacy policy. GAO noted that the NTIA budget reflects the decrease in privacy policy activities.

125250

A List of Selected GAO Publications Containing Checklists or Guidance on Computer Software Topics. September 20, 1984. 3 pp. Federal Computer Conference; by Walter L. Anderson, Senior Associate Director, GAO Information Management and Technology Division.

Contact: Information Management and Technology Division.

Abstract: A list was presented of GAO publications which contain guidance on computer software topics.

125265

[Army Has the Opportunity To Re compete DAS3 Purchases and Improve Automated Battlefield Support]. IMTEC-84-20; B-216005. September 28, 1984. 12 pp.

Report to Caspar W. Weinberger, Secretary, Department of Defense; by Warren G. Reed, Director, GAO Information Management and Technology Division.

Issue Area: Automatic Data Processing: Changing ADPE Acquisition Regulations To Meet the Objectives of the Brooks Act (0112).

Contact: Information Management and Technology Division.

Budget Function: Automatic Data Processing (990.1).

Organization Concerned: Department of the Army; General Electric Co.; Management and Technical Services Co.

Congressional Relevance: House Committee on Appropriations: Defense Subcommittee; House Committee on Government

Operations; House Committee on Armed Services; Senate Committee on Appropriations: Defense Subcommittee.

Authority: A.R. 70-1. B-210100 (1983).

Abstract: GAO reviewed the Army's acquisition of the decentralized automated service support system (DAS3), which provides automation to combat service support functions on the battlefield. **Findings/Conclusions:** GAO found that, after deciding to standardize combat service support computers, the Army developed a transition plan to move from old technology to new standardized hardware and software. Before the concept was approved, the Army conducted a competitive procurement and acquired 125 DAS3 systems of two different types, the DAS3-A and the more capable DAS3-B. Before operational testing of the DAS3-A was completed, the Army recommended that it be designated as the standard hardware for combat service support. After initial deliveries of DAS3-A systems, the Army determined that the DAS3-A could not meet mission requirements and needed to be upgraded. Subsequently, the Army, citing an urgent need, contracted on a sole-source basis with the original DAS3-A supplier to provide 260 DAS3-B systems. After a bid protest, the Army agreed to conduct a competitive procurement for the DAS3-B systems, but is it continuing to acquire DAS3-B systems under the sole-source contract pending a competitive contract award. GAO also found that: (1) the Army erred in waiving the operational testing requirements for the DAS3-A and in prematurely declaring the DAS3-A standard; and (2) the Army has experienced delivery delays in application's software to be supported by hardware acquired under the sole-source DAS3-B contract. In addition, GAO found that the Army's plans for conducting a competitive procurement for DAS3-B systems are inadequate because the Army has not: (1) determined how many DAS3-B systems it needs; (2) decided how many DAS3-B systems it will competitively procure; or (3) explored alt **Recommendation To Agencies:** To ensure that the Army achieves established combat service support goals cost-effectively and complies with current hardware standardization policy, the Secretary of Defense should direct the Secretary of the Army to reassess the Army's current contracts and proposed acquisition strategy by identifying units in urgent need of DAS3-B systems and providing these systems under the existing contract, but ordering no more new units under that contract. To ensure that the Army achieves established combat service support goals cost-effectively and complies with current hardware standardization policy, the Secretary of Defense should direct the Secretary of the Army to reassess the Army's current contracts and proposed acquisition strategy by developing and implementing a competitive acquisition strategy for combat administration support systems that: (1) considers a full range of technological alternatives; and (2) comprehensively addresses combat service support and other related mission requirements through 1987 and beyond.

125266

[Better Management Controls and ADP Requirements Analysis Can Help NASA Lewis Research Center]. IMTEC-84-25; B-216267. September 27, 1984. 8 pp. plus 2 enclosures (3 pp.).

Report to James M. Beggs, Administrator, National Aeronautics and Space Administration; by Warren G. Reed, Director, GAO Information Management and Technology Division.

Issue Area: Automatic Data Processing: Effectiveness of the Management of Automated Information Resources Used in Support of Agency Missions (0118).

Contact: Information Management and Technology Division.

Budget Function: General Science, Space, and Technology: Supporting Space Activities (255.0); General Science, Space, and Technology: General Science and Basic Research (251.0).

Organization Concerned: National Aeronautics and Space Administration; National Aeronautics and Space Administration: Lewis Research Center, Cleveland, OH.

Congressional Relevance: House Committee on Appropriations: HUD-Independent Agencies Subcommittee; House Committee on Science and Technology; Senate Committee on Appropriations: HUD-Independent Agencies Subcommittee; Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation.

Authority: F.P.R. 1-4.1102-9. F.P.R. 1-4.1103-1. F.P.R. 1-4.1103-2. OMB Circular A-11.

Abstract: GAO reported on automatic data processing (ADP) equipment acquisition practices at the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), Lewis Research Center. **Findings/Conclusions:** GAO found that a recent ADP solicitation reduced maximum practicable competition and removed competitive cost advantages potentially held by other vendors. Further, the Center could not determine the appropriate size and timing for future computer equipment upgrades. GAO believes that the solicitation could have had a detrimental impact on competition and price. GAO also believes that the Center's management cannot accurately predict future computer equipment needs because it has not developed the cost and performance information necessary for a comprehensive requirements analysis. GAO noted that, although management has taken steps to improve its management controls and its process for analyzing its requirements, it can do more to effectively acquire ADP resources. **Recommendation To Agencies:** The Administrator, NASA, should direct the Director of the Lewis Research Center to implement a comprehensive requirements analysis process that will produce appropriate data for estimating future needs before upgrades or additional equipment is required. As part of this process, the Center should require top management to validate the comprehensive requirements analysis process based on mission needs and available funds. The Administrator, NASA, should direct the Director of the Lewis Research Center to implement a comprehensive requirements analysis process that will produce appropriate data for estimating future needs before upgrades or additional equipment is required. As part of this process the Center should report ADP costs to all computer users so they are aware of the value of ADP resources consumed and can use this data when estimating new requirements. The Administrator, NASA, should direct the Director of the Lewis Research Center to implement a comprehensive requirements analysis process that will produce appropriate data for estimating future needs before upgrades or additional equipment is required. As part of the process the Center should structure costs of computer operations by time of day if Center officials determine that this control would be cost effective. The Administrator, NASA, should direct the Director of the Lewis Research Center to implement a comprehensive requirements analysis process that will produce appropriate data for estimating future needs before upgrades or additional equipment is required. As part of this process the Center should regularly analyze performance on the newly acquired IBM-compatible computers using the acquired hardware monitor and the software tools that will be available with the new operating system software.

125267

Information Value and Cost Measures for Use as Management Tools. July 1984. 21 pp.

by Morey J. Chick, Manager, GAO Information Management and Technology Division.

Contact: Information Management and Technology Division.

Authority: Paperwork Reduction Act of 1980 (P.L. 96-511).

Abstract: This article presented approaches for establishing and measuring the value and cost of information and how this analy-

sis can be used as a management tool in information resource management. Also, some information problems and how they reduce information value and increase its costs were discussed.

125270

[Opportunities for Public Housing Authorities To Develop and Acquire Computer-Based Management Information Systems]. IMTEC-84-13; B-212494. September 28, 1984. 8 pp. plus 1 enclosure (2 pp.).

Report to Samuel R. Pierce, Secretary, Department of Housing and Urban Development; by Warren G. Reed, Director, GAO Information Management and Technology Division.

Issue Area: Automatic Data Processing: Ways To Improve the Effectiveness of Federal Software, Including Better Transferability and Better Guidance to Agencies (0117).

Contact: Information Management and Technology Division.

Budget Function: Community and Regional Development: Community Development (451.0).

Organization Concerned: Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Congressional Relevance: House Committee on Appropriations: HUD-Independent Agencies Subcommittee; House Committee on Banking, Finance and Urban Affairs; Senate Committee on Appropriations: HUD-Independent Agencies Subcommittee; Senate Committee on Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs.

Authority: Paperwork Reduction Act of 1980 (P.L. 96-511). OMB Circular A-102.

Abstract: GAO evaluated the practices followed by Public Housing Authorities (PHA's) in acquiring computer-based management information systems and the Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) role in coordinating these acquisitions. **Findings/Conclusions:** GAO found the present system of allowing PHA's to independently develop and acquire computer-based information systems has resulted in systems that are unique and costly. Such systems do not take advantage of the potential for transferability and sharing of software applications that exists among PHA's. **Recommendation To Agencies:** The Secretary, HUD, to avoid duplicate and costly development and acquisition of computerized systems, should provide central management direction and technical assistance to PHA's for the acquisition and development of computer-based management information systems. The Secretary, HUD, to improve the reporting of financial and management information by PHA's to the Department, should guide and coordinate the development of compatible automated systems to provide for the direct interface and linkage of the PHA's and the Department's computer systems.

125278

[Protest of Proposed Equipment Order by ACTION Against GSA Contract]. B-216405. September 28, 1984. 2 pp.

Decision re: Philips Information Systems, Inc.; by Harry R. Van Cleve, Acting General Counsel.

Contact: Office of the General Counsel.

Organization Concerned: Philips Information Systems, Inc.; ACTION; Sony Corp. of America.

Authority: Small Business Act (P.L. 98-72; 97 Stat 403). 4 C.F.R. 20.2. 41 C.F.R. 1-4.1109-6. B-202703 (1981). B-206349 (1982).

Abstract: A firm protested a proposed ACTION purchase order of word processing systems and accompanying software, contending that a Commerce Business Daily advertisement permitted only a 15-day response period and was in violation of procurement regulations. Bid protest procedures require that protests based upon alleged improprieties apparent in the solicitation be filed prior to the closing date for receipt of proposals. Since this protest was filed after that date, it was untimely. Accordingly, the protest was dismissed.

125312

[Excessive Respiratory Therapy Cost and Utilization Data Used in Setting Medicare's Prospective Payment Rates]. HRD-84-90; B-216611. September 28, 1984. 3 pp. plus 1 enclosure (11 pp.). Report to Margaret M. Heckler, Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services; by Richard L. Fogel, Director, GAO Human Resources Division.

Issue Area: Health Programs: Effectiveness of Health Care Regulations, Reimbursement Policies, and Utilization Control Program (1223).

Contact: Human Resources Division.

Budget Function: Health: Health Care Services (551.0).

Organization Concerned: Department of Health and Human Services.

Authority: Social Security Act.

Abstract: GAO examined the accuracy of the data used by the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to compute Medicare rates paid to hospitals. **Findings/Conclusions:** Because of concern that the Medicare cost reimbursement system did not provide hospitals with incentives to hold down their cost increases, Congress enacted a payment system under which hospitals are paid a predetermined amount for each Medicare discharge based on the patient's diagnosis-related group (DRG). HHS used 1981 data on the costs of treating Medicare patients to establish the DRG payment rates. To get an idea of how accurate the data base was, GAO reviewed cost and utilization data for respiratory therapy services provided by 33 hospitals in 1981. Although the results of the review cannot be projected to the universe of hospitals, the findings indicate that the data base included unallowable costs related to respiratory therapy and the costs of unnecessary services and that the DRG payment rates were set at a level above that envisioned by the prospective payment system's methodology. GAO stated that, for HHS to meet its legal requirements, it will have to use the most current data available when updating DRG payment rates. GAO concluded that it is necessary for HHS to have programs for auditing hospital cost data and the use of services to help ensure that excessive costs included in the initial DRG rates are not perpetuated.

125330

[Protest of OPM Procurement]. B-215224. October 9, 1984. 7 pp.

Decision re: Honeywell Information Systems, Inc.; by Milton J. Socolar, (for Charles A. Bowsher, Comptroller General).

Contact: Office of the General Counsel.

Organization Concerned: Honeywell Information Systems, Inc.; Office of Personnel Management; International Business Machines Corp.

Authority: Automatic Data Processing Equipment Act (40 U.S.C. 759). 4 C.F.R. 21.2(b)(1). 52 Comp. Gen. 47. B-213046 (1983). B-197481 (1980). B-209215 (1983). B-191195 (1978).

Abstract: A firm protested a procurement for a computing utility replacement and its conversion to compatibility with another firm's computers under a request for proposals (RFP) issued by the Office of Personnel Management (OPM). The RFP specified that, along with the conversion, the replacement would provide backup capability for another computer facility. The protester contended that: (1) OPM should have determined the most cost-effective solution to the requirements for the replacement-conversion and the backup capability by conducting two separate procurements; and (2) the RFP specifications for memory capacity and for fully reentrant software unfairly restricted competition. OPM stated that the RFP accurately reflected its minimum needs. GAO found that: (1) the requirements for conversion and backup capability should have been stated as separate line items with vendors free to propose on either, and the RFP structure resulted in significant prejudice to competition; (2) OPM did not

adequately justify the requirement for reentrant software; and (3), since the protester offers systems with the specified memory capacity, it was not prejudiced by this requirement. Accordingly, the protest was sustained in part and denied in part. GAO recommended that OPM invite offers and perform a cost comparison and, if in the best interests of the government, the contract should be terminated and reawarded on an alternative basis.

125333

[Price Markups and Inefficiency in Defense Production]. October 11, 1984. 17 pp.

Testimony before the Joint Economic Committee; by Eleanor Chelimsky, Director, GAO Program Evaluation and Methodology Division.

Contact: Program Analysis Division.

Organization Concerned: Department of Defense; Department of the Army; Department of the Navy; Department of the Air Force.

Congressional Relevance: Joint Economic Committee: International Trade, Finance and Security Economics Subcommittee; Joint Economic Committee.

Abstract: Testimony was given on a draft of a GAO report which was prepared in response to a congressional request to examine the ability of the Defense Industrial Base (DIB) to meet projected defense requirements. Many studies have suggested that the DIB has been experiencing skilled labor and equipment shortages, subcontractor delays, long lead times, high levels of foreign dependency, and problems with proprietary data which have limited the Department of Defense's (DOD) flexibility to adjust to the changing requirements of defense contingency planning. GAO found that current DOD assessment methods are useful for identifying and tracking overall trends; however, data specific to individual weapons systems have been inadequate, despite current DOD initiatives. Therefore, GAO developed a method to study possible production constraints on critical defense items through the levels of suppliers, evaluated the competition for production resources within each firm, and compared the results to future defense production requirements analysis. This method was applied to six high-priority weapons systems currently in production. GAO found that shortages of production machinery present a production constraint on four of the six weapons systems and an increased demand could cause significant production delays. In addition, there is: (1) a serious shortage of special testing equipment, components, and raw materials; (2) a high reliance on foreign sources for many weapon system components and raw materials; (3) a potential shortage of skilled labor; and (4) widespread use of proprietary processes to produce defense components. However, extensive time between ordering and first production did not appear to be a significant constraint on many of the contractors visited. The GAO analysis showed that most current and potential production constraints occur at the lower levels of the DIB. Therefore, GAO found that it is important to: (1) establish a data base that identifies trends in past production problems; (2) improve the accuracy and verification of production data; (3) and encourage data coordination between the military services, defense contingency planners, and defense contractors by implementing a method such as the one developed by GAO or creating a central DIB information management system within DOD.

125337

CARE-Based Audit Methodology To Review and Evaluate Agency Accounting and Financial Management Systems. AFMD-84-75. September 28, 1984. 84 pp. plus 9 appendices (505 pp.).

Report to by Frederick D. Wolf, Director, GAO Accounting and Financial Management Division.

• **Issue Area:** Accounting and Financial Reporting: Accounting Principles and Standards Prescribed by the Comptroller General (2858).

Contact: Accounting and Financial Management Division.

Budget Function: Financial Management and Information Systems: Review and Approval of Accounting Systems (998.2).

Organization Concerned: Government-Wide.

Authority: Budget and Accounting Procedures Act of 1950 (31 U.S.C. 3500). Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act of 1982 (P.L. 97-255). OMB Circular A-123. GAO Standards for Internal Controls in the Federal Government. GAO Policy and Procedures Manual.

Abstract: GAO has developed a Controls and Risk Evaluation (CARE) based audit methodology to be used to: (1) identify agencies' accounting and financial management systems; (2) identify and evaluate the adequacy of controls in these systems; and (3) determine the degree of a system's compliance with GAO accounting principles, standards, and other requirements. **Findings/Conclusions:** The CARE audit methodology includes general risk analysis, transaction flow review, compliance testing, and substantive testing. During general risk analysis, an auditor acquires an overview of an activity, gains an understanding of its general control environment and overall financial management structure, makes a preliminary determination of each identified system's internal control objectives and relevant accounting principles and standards, and applies a number risk ranking factors. For high-risk systems, a transaction flow review is suggested in which the auditor identifies the major types of transactions and refinement of internal control objectives. Through compliance tests and analysis, an auditor can design a set of test transactions to determine whether the processes and controls identified in the transaction flow review actually function as intended. After considering the potential impact of any deviations from requirements, an auditor can form an overall opinion of a system and its internal controls and may decide to perform substantive testing to determine the impact of deviations from standards and other requirements. GAO will usually report these deviations and their impacts to agency heads with recommendations for correction.

125339

[Progress in Improving Program and Budget Information for Congressional Use]. AFMD-85-9; B-200111. October 12, 1984. 2 pp. plus 2 enclosures (6 pp.).

Report to Congress; by Charles A. Bowsher, Comptroller General.

Issue Area: Improving Financial Management: Congressional Budget Legislative Processes (7015).

Contact: Accounting and Financial Management Division.

Budget Function: General Government: Central Fiscal Operations (803.0).

Organization Concerned: Office of Management and Budget; Department of the Treasury.

Congressional Relevance: Congress.

Authority: Congressional Budget and Impoundment Control Act of 1974 (31 U.S.C. 1113(e)(2)). Budget and Accounting Act.

Abstract: A report was submitted on: (1) the progress and results of GAO work to improve program and budget information for congressional use; and (2) executive branch progress in implementing any recommended changes. **Findings/Conclusions:** Over the past year, GAO worked to improve financial management in the federal government, including the congressional budget process and the financial management systems that support policy making in Congress and the executive branch. GAO has communicated the results of its work in reports, testimony, and comments on pending legislation. GAO has also provided program and budget information services and special analyses to congressional committees. The annual joint Office of Management and

Budget (OMB) and Department of the Treasury report discussed a number of executive branch actions during the past year that were directed toward satisfying congressional information needs, including: (1) new and improved budget information; (2) simplified presentation of budget data; (3) automated improvements; (4) cash management; (5) standards and classification; (6) standardizing disbursing officers' checks-issued records; and (6) improvement in the quality and timeliness of data. The report also discussed planned activities by Treasury and OMB for the current year.

125340

[Survey of Actions To Correct Problems With the Navy's Military Pay System]. AFMD-85-5; B-199833. October 12, 1984. 7 pp. plus 3 enclosures (3 pp.).

Report to John F. Lehman, Jr., Secretary, Department of the Navy; by Frederick D. Wolf, Director, GAO Accounting and Financial Management Division.

Issue Area: Improving Financial Management: Federal Accounting Systems' Compliance With GAO and Other Requirements (7004).

Contact: Accounting and Financial Management Division.

Budget Function: Financial Management and Information Systems: Accounting Systems in Operation (998.1).

Organization Concerned: Department of the Navy; Department of the Army; Department of the Air Force.

Abstract: GAO has completed a survey of the actions the Navy has taken or has planned to correct the longstanding problems being experienced with the Navy's Joint Uniform Military Pay System (JUMPS). **Findings/Conclusions:** Based on an analysis of payments of Navy personnel at four sites for two paydays, GAO estimated that the disbursing officers at the sites overrode from 20 to 82 percent of the forecast payments. The reasons for the overrides were the same at each site: (1) members were paid the odd cents that had accumulated because the Navy issues checks only for whole dollars earned; (2) retroactive payments or deductions were not incorporated into the personnel pay forecasts; and (3) there was a long time period between the pay forecast by the Navy Finance Center and the actual payday. Under the Air Force and Army payroll systems, pay is centrally computed and overrides are not permitted. However, the disbursing officers may request and make supplemental payments if needed. The Navy plans to have a central pay computation system for personnel who choose the electronic transfer of pay to their banks; however, personnel not choosing the electronic fund transfer will continue to be paid under the current system. If the Navy adopts central pay computation processing for all personnel, overrides and the manual reconciliation by disbursing officers would be substantially reduced and central control over pay computation would be better ensured. **Recommendation To Agencies:** The Secretary of the Navy at the earliest possible date should adopt for all members the twice-monthly central pay computation that is planned for those members choosing electronic transfer of pay. The Secretary of the Navy at the earliest possible date should eliminate the override policy and adopt a supplemental pay policy similar to the one used by the Army and Air Force.

125387

[OMB Actions Show Progress in Implementing the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1980]. IMTEC-84-24; B-180224. September 7, 1984. **Released** October 15, 1984. 20 pp. plus 2 enclosures (2 pp.).

Report to Rep. Jack Brooks, Chairman, House Committee on Government Operations; by Milton J. Socolar, Acting Comptroller General.

Refer to GGD-83-35, April 20, 1983, Accession Number 121241.

Issue Area: Information Management: Progress Toward Meeting the Mandate of P.L. 96-511 (4217).

Contact: Information Management and Technology Division.

Budget Function: General Government: Executive Direction and Management (802.0).

Organization Concerned: Office of Management and Budget: Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs.

Congressional Relevance: House Committee on Government Operations; *Rep.* Jack Brooks.

Authority: Paperwork Reduction Act of 1980 (P.L. 96-511).

Abstract: In response to a congressional request, GAO provided information on whether: (1) the Office of Management and Budget's (OMB) Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs (OIRA) is making progress in implementing the Paperwork Reduction Act; (2) OIRA should be reauthorized; (3) conflicts exist between a 6-year program to improve the management and administrative systems across the federal government and OIRA activities; (4) claims of reduced paperwork burdens are accurate; (5) OIRA staff time is being diverted to non-paperwork-reduction activities; (6) the annual report to Congress meets the act's annual reporting requirements; and (7) OIRA is making a sincere effort to accomplish the intent of the act. **Findings/Conclusions:** GAO found that, since its April 1983 report, OIRA has initiated guidance on information technology and statistical activities and made progress in the areas of paperwork management and agency reviews. OIRA has provided limited verbal guidance to agencies in four areas of responsibility and written guidance on paperwork management. OIRA has initiated joint reviews of agency management activities. However, these reviews have not resulted in reports to Congress. GAO found no conflict between the 6-year program to improve management and administrative systems across the federal government and OIRA activities. In addition, paperwork burden reductions have been considerable, but not as great as OMB has claimed. Furthermore, OIRA staff has reported that a substantial amount of their time is spent on tasks related to paperwork reduction. GAO found that OIRA actions have met the act's annual report requirements and, since the 1983 report, OIRA has completed 2 of the 13 tasks which Congress considered essential for successful implementation of the act. OIRA issued a 5-year automatic data processing and telecommunications plan and has developed a Federal Information Locator System, audit standards, and a draft information resources management plan. However, much more needs to be done before the act can be considered fully implemented. Based on the results of the review, GAO had no basis to conclude that the OIRA efforts to implement the act are not sincere. **Recommendation To Congress:** Congress should reauthorize funding for the Paperwork Reduction Act and OIRA. Congress and the appropriate congressional committees should explore with the OMB Director whether OIRA progress to date meets congressional expectations and whether additional resources should be approved to speed progress in implementing the act. **Recommendation To Agencies:** The Director of the Office of Management and Budget should direct OIRA to take prompt action to provide clear, updated, written guidance to the agencies for implementing their responsibilities in all areas covered by the act, including the areas of information technology, statistics, privacy, and records management. The Director of the Office of Management and Budget should direct OIRA to establish time frames for limiting further experimentation by agencies in implementing the act and, after a timely evaluation of the initiatives, establish guidance for all agencies to follow. The Director of the Office of Management and Budget should direct OIRA to inform the appropriate congressional committees of how it intends to meet its obligations under the act to report the results of IRM reviews to them. The Director of the Office of Management and Budget should direct OIRA to claim as burden reductions only actual reductions of federal burden imposed on the affected respondent groups.

125388

[OMB Needs To More Fully Consider Government-Wide Implications in Its Telecommunications Initiatives]. IMTEC-84-21; B-215405. September 7, 1984. Released October 12, 1984. 14 pp. plus 1 enclosure (1 p.).

Report to Rep. Jack Brooks, Chairman, House Committee on Government Operations; by Milton J. Socolar, Acting Comptroller General.

Issue Area: Communications: Effectiveness of U.S. Telecommunications Entities in Developing, Coordinating, and Implementing Telecommunications Policy (3714); Communications: Cost Effectiveness of Existing Laws, Policies, and Management in Promoting Timely Progress Consistent With Technological Advancement (3712).

Contact: Information Management and Technology Division.

Budget Function: Automatic Data Processing (990.1).

Organization Concerned: Office of Management and Budget.

Congressional Relevance: House Committee on Appropriations: Treasury-Postal Service and General Government Subcommittee; House Committee on Government Operations; Senate Committee on Appropriations: Treasury, Postal Service, and General Government Subcommittee; *Rep.* Jack Brooks.

Authority: Paperwork Reduction Act of 1980 (P.L. 96-511). H.R. 2718 (98th Cong.). S. 2433 (98th Cong.). OMB Bull. 84-9. OMB Bull. 84-14.

Abstract: Pursuant to a congressional request, GAO determined whether the Office of Management and Budget (OMB): (1) has developed an overall telecommunications plan and policy; and (2) has conducted studies, including cost/benefit analyses, on the impact of the American Telephone and Telegraph divestiture on government telecommunications operations. OMB is planning to permit agencies to acquire long-distance telecommunications service independently instead of using the centralized Federal Telecommunications System (FTS). GAO also ascertained the effect that the OMB initiative would have on H.R. 2718 and S. 2433, proposals to create an Information Technology (IT) Fund. **Findings/Conclusions:** GAO found that, although OMB has made progress in carrying out its telecommunications responsibilities under the Paperwork Reduction Act, it is not placing enough emphasis on the government-wide implications of its actions and the government-wide issues arising from the new telecommunications environment. Regarding the proposed FTS initiative, GAO believes that OMB may not be sufficiently considering: (1) the costs and benefits of the current FTS compared to a decentralized system; (2) the initiative's effect on the proposed IT Fund; and (3) the national security and staffing implications of a decentralized system. GAO also noted that the initiative's effect on the proposed legislation would make additional funds available to cover the cost of equipment and services for the FTS by increasing the General Services Administration's flexibility in raising capital. GAO concluded that the FTS initiative could result in reduced funding for the proposed IT fund. **Recommendation To Agencies:** The Director, OMB, should direct the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs to delay implementation of the FTS initiative until guidance and methodologies are developed to examine such issues as the cost benefits of a centralized versus a decentralized system, various strategies for maximizing federal response to national emergencies, and staffing implications of agency-by-agency telecommunications management versus a consolidated management system. The Director, OMB should direct the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs to design the OMB telecommunications initiatives so that uniform information needed for identifying government-wide telecommunications issues is collected and analyzed and used as the basis for government-wide policies.

125396

Accuracy, Cost, and Users of the Consolidated Federal Funds Report. AFMD-85-1; B-215984. October 1, 1984. 33 pp. plus 9 appendices (52 pp.).

Report to Rep. Jack Brooks, Chairman, House Committee on Government Operations; Sen. William V. Roth, Chairman, Senate Committee on Governmental Affairs; by Charles A. Bowsher, Comptroller General.

Issue Area: Improving Financial Management: Federal Accounting Systems' Compliance With GAO and Other Requirements (7004).

Contact: Accounting and Financial Management Division.

Budget Function: General Government: Executive Direction and Management (802.0).

Organization Concerned: Office of Management and Budget; Department of Defense; General Services Administration; Office of Personnel Management; Department of Commerce: Bureau of the Census.

Congressional Relevance: *House Committee on Government Operations; Senate Committee on Appropriations: Commerce, Justice, State and Judiciary Subcommittee; Senate Committee on Governmental Affairs; Rep. Jack Brooks; Sen. William V. Roth.*

Authority: Consolidated Federal Funds Report Act of 1982 (P.L. 97-326).

Abstract: In accordance with the Consolidated Federal Funds Report Act, GAO examined the accuracy of the data in the Consolidated Federal Funds Report (CFFR), its cost, and its potential users. **Findings/Conclusions:** The CFFR for fiscal year 1983 provided statistical data on the geographic distribution of federal funds to states, counties, and cities in a two-volume document and a computer tape. The estimated cost for the 1983 CFFR was about \$476,000. The 1983 CFFR reflected approximately 85 percent of the domestic budget, with the major exclusion being net interest on the federal debt. GAO found that the visibility of funds reported in the CFFR declined progressively at each lower geographic level, with data at the subcounty level being so limited that their usefulness was questionable. The decline in data availability was due to the fact that the data sources on which the CFFR was based generally did not track dollars to the location of all the actual recipients. In addition, inherent difficulties existed in converting the various geographic coding schemes used by the data sources to the coding scheme used by the Census Bureau. A broad spectrum of user groups expressed a need for the CFFR data. Some users were particularly concerned about the lack of data available on pass-through funds below the state level. Many user groups expect the CFFR to meet some of their needs, but they will probably use it along with other sources. However, user knowledge is limited. **Recommendation To Agencies:** The Director of the Office of Management and Budget should continue efforts to explore the feasibility of various alternatives to increase the visibility of pass-through funds data at the county level and include these data in future reports if such alternatives are cost-effective. The Director of the Office of Management and Budget should continue to work with user groups to identify their data needs and to obtain their input on desired improvements. The Director of the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) should maintain and publish in future CFFR volumes information on organizations through which users can access the computer tape and obtain software.

125400

Observations on the FBI's Interstate Identification Index. GGD-85-4; B-213537. October 16, 1984. 5 pp. plus 3 appendices (20 pp.).

Report to Rep. Don Edwards, Chairman, House Committee on the Judiciary: Civil and Constitutional Rights Subcommittee; by William J. Anderson, Director, GAO General Government Division.

Issue Area: Administration of Justice: Effectiveness, Efficiency, and Economy of Justice Agencies' Acquisition of Information Technology Needed to Support Their Missions (4708).

Contact: General Government Division.

Budget Function: Administration of Justice: Federal Law Enforcement Activities (751.0).

Organization Concerned: Department of Justice; Federal Bureau of Investigation; National Crime Information Center.

Congressional Relevance: *House Committee on the Judiciary: Civil and Constitutional Rights Subcommittee; Rep. Don Edwards.*

Abstract: In response to a congressional request, GAO examined the status and implementation of the Federal Bureau of Investigation's (FBI) Interstate Identification Index (Triple I) which is an automated information system used to exchange criminal history records and related information between federal, state, and local criminal justice agencies. **Findings/Conclusions:** In addition to the Triple I information system, which is managed jointly by federal, state, and local law enforcement officials, FBI operates another criminal history information system which collects and maintains detailed criminal history information on individuals and provides it upon request to authorized agencies. FBI plans to complete the automation of this system by 1988, and it plans to eliminate duplication by merging the two systems by that date. GAO found that, while Triple I is still considered a test program, the system is operational in 16 states. Participating state and federal officials report that the system is useful, effective, and desirable. Startup costs were less than \$1 million for FBI and averaged about \$36,000 for participating states. According to FBI officials, continued automation will be needed to provide better fingerprint identification services and to prepare for the merger. However, GAO found that differences in state laws for disseminating criminal justice records to organizations outside the criminal justice system pose a barrier to fully shifting recordkeeping responsibility from FBI to the states, which may limit the extent to which Triple I can be relied upon for disseminating records for employment and licensing purposes.

125416

Better Use of Available Data Would Improve Mobilization Planning for Inductees. NSIAD-85-11; B-199333. October 22, 1984. 13 pp. plus 2 appendices (5 pp.).

Report to Caspar W. Weinberger, Secretary, Department of Defense; by Frank C. Conahan, Director, GAO National Security and International Affairs Division.

Issue Area: Manpower and Reserve Affairs: Accuracy of the Services' Policy for Manpower Requirements in Identifying the Quantity and Quality of Manpower Needed for National Defense (5803).

Contact: National Security and International Affairs Division.

Budget Function: National Defense: Department of Defense - Military (Except Procurement and Contracting) (051.0).

Organization Concerned: Department of Defense; Department of the Army.

Congressional Relevance: *House Committee on Appropriations: Defense Subcommittee; House Committee on Armed Services; Senate Committee on Appropriations: Defense Subcommittee; Senate Committee on Armed Services.*

Authority: Military Selective Service Act. DOD Directive 1100.18.

Abstract: GAO discussed the accuracy of the current Department of Defense (DOD) request for inductees that the Selective Service System (SSS) would provide after full mobilization. **Findings/Conclusions:** GAO found that, although the data exist, the system that DOD uses for making wartime manpower planning decisions collects insufficiently detailed data on each service's wartime needs and expected manning requirements to enable it to validate the accuracy of the current inductee request schedule. Further, although DOD has acknowledged that a systematic process for identifying needs is necessary, it has not made any systematic analysis either to validate or to change the current inductee schedule. GAO concluded that until a systematic analysis is performed of service needs, SSS may be expending resources preparing to deliver unneeded inductees while neglecting the planning required to meet actual DOD inductee need. **Recommendation To Agencies:** The Secretary of Defense should require the services to submit sufficient occupational data, either through the Wartime Manpower Planning System or another planning system, so that DOD can ensure the accuracy of each service's wartime needs and expected manning shortages and surpluses. The Secretary of Defense should ensure that the requirements for inductees are based on a systematic analysis of the services' wartime needs and their ability to meet these needs with available personnel. The Secretary of Defense should submit to SSS, as necessary, a revised schedule for inductees.

125417

[Governmental Financial Management and Debt Crisis: Some Lessons From Experience]. September 27, 1984. 13 pp.
Speech before the International Financial Management Conference; by Charles A. Bowsher, Comptroller General.

Contact: Office of the Comptroller General.

Organization Concerned: International Financial Management Conference.

Authority: Single Audit Act of 1984.

Abstract: A personal view was presented to an international organization on governmental financial management and debt crisis. The speaker maintained that financial data are only as reliable as the systems which process them and that reported figures often vary as to accuracy and reliability due to weaknesses in internal controls. Further, professional independent auditing stimulates the discipline which all systems need to ensure data integrity. The New York City debt crisis of the 1970's provided a good example of how effective independent auditors can be when dealing with a public sector debt crisis. However, since debt crises are not limited to just one country, there is a need for more international collaboration, exchange of information and ideas, and even training programs. Like many others, the U.S. government does not have an efficient, up-to-date accounting system, resulting in a reliance on a lot of memorandum records that are sometimes less than adequate and not always standardized. The speaker noted that, although better financial information will not solve serious budget problems, it will aid in making better financial decisions and prevent past mistakes from being made.

125435

[Protest of NSF Contract Award]. B-215485. October 22, 1984. 3 pp.
Decision re: CCL, Inc.; by Milton J. Socolar, Acting Comptroller General.

Contact: Office of the General Counsel.

Organization Concerned: CCL, Inc.; National Science Foundation.

Authority: 62 Comp. Gen. 50.

Abstract: A firm protested a contract award under a National Science Foundation (NSF) solicitation for computer software, contending that NSF improperly rejected its bid for failure to

meet a requirement that the protester was never informed of. NSF publicized the procurement in the Commerce Business Daily, but the published synopsis did not mention the requirement. However, GAO held that the protester was constructively informed of the requirement during two demonstrations of its software for NSF because, during each demonstration, NSF informed the protester that the software could not perform the required functions. Accordingly, the protest was denied.

125449

Excessive Air Force Inventories Result From Duplicative Spare Parts Requirements. NSIAD-85-7; B-215989. October 25, 1984. 14 pp. plus 2 appendices (2 pp.).

Report to Verne Orr, Secretary, Department of the Air Force; by Frank C. Conahan, Director, GAO National Security and International Affairs Division.

Issue Area: Air Force: Efficiency and Effectiveness of Air Force Resource Management in Achieving Required Readiness and Sustainability To Optimize War-Fighting Capability (5404); Logistics: Adequacy of DOD Supply Policies and Initiatives To Ensure That DOD Reaches Its Stated Goals for Supply Support and Distribution System Cost Effectiveness (5902).

Contact: National Security and International Affairs Division.

Budget Function: National Defense: Department of Defense - Military (Except Procurement and Contracting) (051.0).

Organization Concerned: Department of Defense; Department of the Air Force: Air Force Logistics Command.

Congressional Relevance: House Committee on Armed Services: Readiness Subcommittee; House Committee on Appropriations: Defense Subcommittee; Senate Committee on Appropriations: Defense Subcommittee; Senate Committee on Armed Services: Preparedness Subcommittee.

Abstract: GAO reviewed the operations of five Air Force logistics centers which support Air Force weapons systems to assess the validity of the factors used to compute maintenance needs and to determine how these needs are included in Air-Force-wide requirements. **Findings/Conclusions:** GAO found that the programming logic used to compute Air-Force-wide requirements resulted in some maintenance requirements' being counted twice. All maintenance requirements are included in Air-Force-wide forecasts of usage. Through the computer logic some of the same requirements, in the form of a depot supply level, are added to compute a systemwide reorder point. Consumable parts are purchased when established reorder levels are reached, and duplicating requirements causes reorder points to be reached prematurely. GAO determined, through analysis of computer tapes, that the Air Force was investing about \$119 million in unnecessary inventory. It costs about \$21.5 million annually to maintain this inventory. As a result of this finding, the air logistics centers took action to reduce requirements by \$3.6 million, resulting in a yearly savings of \$612,000 in holding costs. However, elimination of excesses of about \$115.4 million will require action at the headquarters level or above. GAO also found that depot supply levels were overstated due to: (1) inflated order and shipping time; (2) unwarranted safety levels; and (3) invalid backorders. **Recommendation To Agencies:** The Secretary of the Air Force should direct the Commander of the Air Force Logistics Command to take the following actions to ensure that inventory investment is limited to the level needed to support mission requirements: (1) correct the logic in the interface of the D033 and D062 systems to prevent the duplication of depot requirements; and (2) reduce the overstated inventories by excluding atypical data which unduly impact order and shipping time quantities from actual time required to allocate assets from one depot account to another, eliminating unwarranted safety levels in estimating depot supply level requirements, and eliminating the practice of using backorders to document rob-back actions.

125498

[Protest of Proposed Contract Award Under Navy IFB]. B-215186. October 29, 1984. 4 pp.
Decision re: Singleton Contracting Corp.; by Milton J. Socolar, (for Charles A. Bowsher, Comptroller General).

Contact: Office of the General Counsel.

Organization Concerned: Singleton Contracting Corp.; Department of the Navy: Atlantic Fleet: Naval Air Station, Jacksonville, FL.

Authority: 54 Comp. Gen. 999. B-204445 (1981).

Abstract: A firm protested a proposed Navy contract award, contending that a telegraphic bid modification which made the proposed awardee the low bidder was received after bid opening and should not have been considered because the late receipt was not due to government mishandling after receipt at the agency. The invitation for bids (IFB) instructed offerers who wished to telegraph bids or modifications to use telex equipment which had been removed prior to issuance of the IFB. The Navy stated that the late receipt was due to its error and that, based on the intent of the late bid modification provision, the awardee's modification should be accepted. GAO has held that a literal interpretation of the late bid provision should not be used to reject a bid when to do so would contravene the intent of that provision. GAO held that the proposed awardee's bid should be accepted since: (1) the Navy's removal of the telex equipment without notifying bidders was the paramount reason for the late receipt; (2) the proposed awardee had allowed sufficient time for receipt of its modification if the equipment had been operative; and (3) consideration of the awardee's bid would not result in the type of unfair competition that the late bid regulations are designed to prevent. Accordingly, the protest was denied.

125522

[Protest Alleging Insufficient Time To Respond to Commerce RFP]. B-216899. October 31, 1984. 1 p.
Decision re: NBI, Inc.; by Harry R. Van Cleve, General Counsel.

Contact: Office of the General Counsel.

Organization Concerned: NBI, Inc.; Department of Commerce.

Authority: 4 C.F.R. 21.2. B-214239 (1984).

Abstract: A firm protested the award of any contract under a request for proposals (RFP) issued by the Department of Commerce for a word processing text editing system. The protester contended that the agency allowed insufficient time for responding to the RFP after issuing an amendment. Bid protest procedures require that protests based on alleged solicitation modification improprieties be filed prior to the closing date for receipt of proposals following the incorporation of the modification. Since this protest was not filed prior to that date, it was untimely and not for consideration. Accordingly, the protest was dismissed.

125524

Audit Guides To Review Implementation of the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act: The Second Year. AFMD-84-77 August 21, 1984. 75 pp. plus 1 appendix (1 p.) plus 2 attachments (53 pp.).

Contact: Accounting and Financial Management Division

Organization Concerned: General Accounting Office.

Authority: Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act of 1982.

Abstract: The Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act focused attention on the need to strengthen internal controls and required

agencies to periodically evaluate internal control systems and report annually on their systems' status. GAO prepared audit guidelines for internal use and to apprise the Office of Management and Budget and Inspectors General of the key areas on which it will focus audits and which it believes need to be stressed to achieve compliance with the act. In addition, the audit guides provide for a comprehensive assessment of agencies' progress in implementing the act and improving their internal control and accounting systems.

125541

Strong Internal Controls at Service Delivery Level Will Help Prevent CETA-Type Fraud and Abuse in Job Training Partnership Act Programs. AFMD-84-62; B-215774. September 28, 1984. **Released** November 5, 1984. 18 pp. plus 6 appendices (9 pp.).

Report to Sam Nunn, Ranking Minority Member, Senate Committee on Governmental Affairs: Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations; by Frederick D. Wolf, Director, GAO Accounting and Financial Management Division.

Issue Area: Internal Auditing Systems: Management Control Systems in Federal Agencies for the Prevention of Fraud and Abuse (0206); Federally Sponsored or Assisted Employment and Training Programs: Efficiency and Effectiveness of the Management of Special Target Group Programs (3218).

Contact: Accounting and Financial Management Division.

Budget Function: Education, Training, Employment, and Social Services: Training and Employment (504.0).

Organization Concerned: Employment and Training Administration; Department of Labor: Office of the Inspector General.

Congressional Relevance: Senate Committee on Governmental Affairs: Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations; *Sen.* Sam Nunn.

Authority: Comprehensive Employment and Training Act of 1973. Job Training Partnership Act. Inspector General Act of 1978 (P.L. 95-452).

Abstract: In response to a congressional request, GAO reviewed fraud in the Comprehensive Employment and Training Act (CETA) programs to: (1) determine the patterns and underlying causes of the fraud and abuses; and (2) identify ways new job training programs under the Job Training Partnership Act (JTPA) should be organized and managed to prevent similar problems. **Findings/Conclusions:** GAO analysis of a sample of CETA fraud cases for fiscal years 1981 and 1982 showed that fraud and abuse: (1) was most often detected in the CETA Classroom/On-the-Job Training and Transitional Employment, Public Service Employment, and Youth Programs; (2) most often occurred at the subgrantee level and primarily involved subgrantee personnel or CETA participants; and (3) occurred largely because of the weak internal controls of the organizations providing CETA services. In addition, GAO found that the Department of Labor's inspector general (IG) could better inform Congress and agency heads about fraud and abuse if improvements were made in his fraud data base. Adequate internal controls will be especially important at the service delivery level under JTPA. Therefore, Labor's IG audited JTPA implementation plans of each of the 50 states and 7 other entities. The audit found numerous weaknesses in the states' plans to ensure the adequacy of controls of their service delivery subgrantees. The IG recommended that the Employment and Training Administration (ETA) review all the states' procedures and controls during the first months of JTPA operations. ETA complied with the recommendation and found that nearly all critical systems have been developed but, at the time of the GAO audit, ETA had not yet verified that the procedures were fully implemented and working as recommended by the IG.

125545

Allegations of Contract Buy-In and Substantial Cost Increases in the Navy's Standard Automated Financial System. IMTEC-85-2; B-214403. October 30, 1984. 9 pp. plus 3 appendices (18 pp.). *Report* to John F. Lehman, Jr., Secretary, Department of the Navy; by Warren G. Reed, Director, GAO Information Management and Technology Division.

Issue Area: Improving Financial Management: Other Issue Area Work (7091); Information Management and Technology: Other Issue Area Work (7191).

Contact: Information Management and Technology Division.

Budget Function: National Defense: Department of Defense - Procurement and Contracts (051.2).

Organization Concerned: Department of the Navy; Computer Sciences Corp.

Congressional Relevance: *Sen.* William Proxmire.

Authority: NAVCOMPT Manual para. 074723-3d.

Abstract: In response to a congressional request, GAO reviewed allegations made regarding the Navy's Standard Automated Financial System that: (1) the contractor "bought in" on the contract; (2) the Navy had decided to proceed with the project even though costs have substantially increased; and (3) project costs may increase to \$200 million. **Findings/Conclusions:** GAO did not find sufficient evidence to conclude that the contractor purposely made a low offer knowing that future modifications would be required and could be used to make up the understated amount. However, GAO found that project and contract costs have increased substantially because the original design concept was expanded, certain costs were not included in the original estimates, and the system's complexity was initially underestimated by both the contractor and the Navy. GAO also found that the Navy's decision to proceed with the project was based on mission needs, contractor commitments, and Navy project management improvements. The contracting officer felt that these factors outweighed concern over increased costs. Although GAO could not substantiate the allegation that project costs may rise to \$200 million, GAO believes that the costs are susceptible to future increases because the Navy does not have specific cost containment plans. **Recommendation To Agencies:** The Secretary of the Navy should direct the Assistant Secretary for Financial Management to firmly set the Navy's system requirements and ensure that the contractor provides fully documented design specifications at the end of the design phase as required by the contract. The Secretary of the Navy should direct the Assistant Secretary for Financial Management to prepare an updated economic analysis to compare current benefits, or those of a reduced system, with current project cost estimates, including all costs in accordance with NAVCOMPT manual, paragraph 074723-3d, and an updated cost-to-complete estimate from the contractor. The Secretary of the Navy should direct the Assistant Secretary for Financial Management to develop a contingency plan to identify alternative courses of action for management to contain costs and ensure cost-effective results.

125548

Regional Information Sharing Systems. GGD-85-17; B-199370. November 5, 1984. 23 pp. plus 4 appendices (22 pp.). *Report* to Sen. Paul Laxalt, Chairman, Senate Committee on Appropriations: Commerce, Justice, State and Judiciary Subcommittee; by William J. Anderson, Director, GAO General Government Division.

Issue Area: Administration of Justice: Other Issue Area Work (4791).

Contact: General Government Division.

Budget Function: Administration of Justice: Criminal Justice Assistance (754.0).

Organization Concerned: Department of Justice.

Congressional Relevance: *Senate* Committee on Appropriations: Commerce, Justice, State and Judiciary Subcommittee; *Sen.* Paul Laxalt.

Authority: Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968. Justice System Improvement Act of 1979. 28 C.F.R. 23. Attorney General Order 886-80.

Abstract: In response to a congressional request, GAO conducted a review of three Department of Justice regional information sharing systems projects which provide a central information exchange and other services to member state and local law enforcement agencies to determine: (1) whether audit recommendations for financial management improvements have been made; and (2) the extent to which the projects provide services other than information systems and the value of these services. **Findings/Conclusions:** In response to the audit recommendations, the three projects made financial and administrative management changes, including: (1) establishing better accounting procedures for determining personnel costs; (2) recording advance payments; (3) monitoring travel expenses and vehicle use; and (4) establishing national program guidelines and increasing project monitoring. Each project which GAO reviewed has increased its project monitoring efforts. The projects also provide services to their members, such as loans of equipment, funding for investigative support, analytical services, training, and telecommunications. These services are secondary to the information system in cost and use, and use of the optional services varies among the projects. GAO found that law enforcement agencies using optional services were more apt to contribute to the data base than those not using the services. The use of the other services is not directly related to the information data base; however, they foster interagency communication and interjurisdictional activities.

125557

[Protest Alleging Insufficient Bid Preparation Time]. B-216596.2. November 5, 1984. 1 p.

Decision re: COMSEC Systems Corp.; by Harry R. Van Cleve, General Counsel.

Contact: Office of the General Counsel.

Organization Concerned: Department of the Army: Fort Monmouth, NJ; COMSEC Systems Corp.

Authority: 4 C.F.R. 21.2(b)(1). B-208685 (1983).

Abstract: A firm protested any contract award under an Army request for proposals (RFP) for facsimile transmission systems, contending that the RFP allowed insufficient bid preparation time which restricted competition. Bid protest procedures state that a protest based upon alleged improprieties on the face of a solicitation must be filed prior to the closing date for receipt of proposals. GAO held that, since the alleged deficiency was apparent from the solicitation and the protest was not filed until after the closing date, the protest was untimely and not for consideration. Accordingly, the protest was dismissed.

125581

Planning for Navy Shore Facilities: Improvements Possible. NSIAD-85-6; B-216029. November 5, 1984. 5 pp. plus 2 appendices (20 pp.).

Report to Caspar W. Weinberger, Secretary, Department of Defense; by Bill W. Thurman, (for Frank C. Conahan, Director), GAO National Security and International Affairs Division.

Issue Area: Navy: Other Issue Area Work (5691).

Contact: National Security and International Affairs Division.

Budget Function: National Defense: Department of Defense - Military (Except Procurement and Contracting) (051.0).

Organization Concerned: Department of Defense; Department of

the Navy; Department of the Navy: Naval Facilities Engineering Command; Department of the Navy: Naval Sea Systems Command.

Abstract: GAO reviewed selected Navy activities' use of the Shore Facilities Planning System (SFPS) to determine whether the activities' use of the system resulted in accurate determinations of facility requirements and optimum use of existing facilities. **Findings/Conclusions:** GAO found a number of instances where the use of the SFPS by activities resulted in inaccurate facility requirements causing the construction of some unneeded, or excessively large, projects. The Navy criteria for sizing family services centers provide for centers which are larger than Department of Defense (DOD) criteria allow. As a result, at one facility, GAO found that the Navy was planning a family services center which was larger than DOD criteria allowed, and the Navy had not obtained the waivers necessary for construction in excess of DOD criteria. In addition, the Navy has no assurance that the child care centers it plans to build will be properly sized to meet its needs because DOD and Navy criteria for sizing such centers are inadequate, and DOD plans to revise its criteria. GAO found that Navy criteria for aircraft parking aprons are inaccurate, resulting in a parking apron requirement at one activity which was overstated. GAO also found that outdated and inaccurate data in the industrial planning system resulted in a shipyard overstating its electronics shop space requirements. Finally, because of the improper use of factors for converting net floor areas to gross floor areas, an engineering station overstated its space requirement for a proposed diesel engine test facility. GAO believes that current and accurate data are essential if the SFPS is to be a useful tool in the management of Naval facilities. **Recommendation To Agencies:** The Secretary of Defense should reevaluate DOD criteria for determining the size of family services centers in light of the Navy's plans to construct larger facilities. If DOD criteria are considered reasonable, then the Secretary should direct the Navy to adhere to the criteria or obtain necessary waivers; if not, revise the family services center criteria. The Secretary of Defense should defer planning, programming, and construction of child care center projects not now in progress until DOD child care center criteria are revised, and projects are evaluated using that criteria. The Secretary of the Navy should direct the Commander, Naval Sea Systems Command, to require activities using the industrial planning system to periodically update the SFPS with current industrial planning system data. The Secretary of the Navy should direct the Commander, Naval Facilities Engineering Command, to revise the criteria for sizing aircraft parking aprons to require activities to use the most efficient parking angle when computing requirements. The Secretary of the Navy should direct the Commander, Naval Facilities Engineering Command, to improve the accuracy of the data in the SFPS by requiring engineering field divisions to review facility planning documents to ensure that information in the documents is based on current base loading or industrial system data.

125582

[Opportunities To Improve the DOD Personal Property Shipping Program]. NSIAD-85-10; B-214536. November 9, 1984. 2 pp. plus 2 enclosures (13 pp.).

Report to Caspar W. Weinberger, Secretary, Department of Defense; by Frank C. Conahan, Director, GAO National Security and International Affairs Division.

Issue Area: Army: Other Issue Area Work (5591).

Contact: National Security and International Affairs Division.

Budget Function: National Defense: Department of Defense - Military (Except Procurement and Contracting) (051.0); National Defense: Department of Defense - Procurement and Contracts (051.2).

ADP Bibliography

Organization Concerned: Department of Defense; Department of the Air Force; Department of the Army; Department of the Navy.

Authority: OMB Circular A-76.

Abstract: GAO reviewed the Department of Defense's (DOD) Personal Property Shipping Program to identify opportunities to reduce costs and improve the efficiency of the program. **Findings/Conclusions:** GAO found that DOD has been consolidating its personal property shipping offices and has been planning to automate them. However, due to a lack of coordination, the full potential for consolidation cannot be achieved and money may be spent to automate offices that should be merged with others. In addition, GAO found that, due to the delay in the development of a standardized automated system for use in managing its shipping program, many offices have become frustrated and have developed their own systems which are not compatible and cannot be merged with a standardized system. On November 8, 1983, a DOD memorandum was issued restricting the development of additional new systems. Finally, GAO found that the DOD cost of storing household goods awaiting delivery has increased substantially since 1978. These costs could be reduced significantly if DOD leased storage space and provided the service in-house or used government-owned space where available, rather than having moving companies arrange space. **Recommendation To Agencies:** The Secretary of Defense should direct the Assistant Secretary for Defense (Manpower, Installations and Logistics) to expedite development of a standard automated system for processing personal property shipments, while closely monitoring compliance with the November 8, 1983, memorandum restricting independent development of shipments. The Secretary of Defense should direct the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Manpower, Installations and Logistics) to integrate plans to automate the personal property shipping offices with plans to consolidate them. The Secretary of Defense should direct the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Manpower, Installations and Logistics) to explore ways of reducing the cost of storage in transit. If the moving industry cannot offer storage rates that are competitive with the cost of providing the service in-house, the military services should lease storage space directly or use government-owned space in accordance with OMB Circular A-76.

125613

[Navy Material in Suspended, Not Ready for Issue, Condition Needs More Management Attention]. NSIAD-85-23; B-216913. November 19, 1984. 3 pp. plus 2 enclosures (19 pp.).

Report to John Lehman, Secretary, Department of the Navy; by Frank C. Conahan, Director, GAO National Security and International Affairs Division.

Issue Area: Navy: Navy Planning and Management of Logistics Functions To Maximize Fleet Capabilities (5602); Logistics: Adequacy of DOD Supply Policies and Initiatives To Ensure That DOD Reaches Its Stated Goals for Supply Support and Distribution System Cost Effectiveness (5902).

Contact: National Security and International Affairs Division.

Budget Function: National Defense: Department of Defense - Military (Except Procurement and Contracting) (051.0).

Organization Concerned: Department of the Navy; Department of Defense.

Abstract: GAO reviewed the Navy's management of materiel in suspended, not-ready-for-issue status. **Findings/Conclusions:** Materiel is assigned a suspended condition code when there is a question regarding its true condition and additional testing is required before it can be considered ready for use. The value of Navy materiel having a suspended status was reported to be about \$200 million. The policy of the Department of Defense (DOD) and the Navy emphasizes the importance of removing materiel from a suspense category in a timely manner; however,

GAO found that this policy was not being followed. GAO believes that lengthy suspension times have adversely affected supply operations, because the materiel in a suspended status has not been considered in filling requisitions and making procurement decisions. **Recommendation To Agencies:** To improve the management of suspended materiel, the Secretary of the Navy should initiate a one-time special project to have inventory control points and stockpoints determine the true condition of suspended materiel, make issuable all materiel that is needed, and purge from the supply system all materiel that cannot economically be made issuable or is no longer needed. To improve the management of suspended materiel, the Secretary of the Navy should: (1) modify the management information system used by the Naval Supply Systems Command, inventory control points and stockpoints, so that it will receive summary data on the amount, age, and reasons materiel is suspended; and (2) monitor this data to ensure compliance with DOD and Navy requirements. To improve the management of suspended materiel, the Secretary of the Navy should assess personnel resource allocations for the purpose of establishing a central control group at each inventory control point to provide oversight of suspended materiel. This group should receive and record discrepancy report data, monitor suspension times and the status of efforts to resolve discrepancies, keep item managers informed of the status of suspended items, and serve as a focus for questions from stockpoints. To improve the management of suspended materiel, the Secretary of the Navy should provide more explicit guidance on whether the inventory control point or stockpoint is responsible for resolving suspended materiel discrepancies so that the materiel can be made issuable or disposed of in a timely manner.

125654

[Outlook for Expanding the Federal Research in Progress System]. RCED-85-15; B-215212. October 22, 1984. Released November 21, 1984. 9 pp. plus 8 enclosures (14 pp.).

Report to Sen. Lloyd Bentsen, Vice Chairman, Joint Economic Committee: Economic Goals and Intergovernmental Policy Subcommittee; by Ralph V. Carlone, (for J. Dexter Peach, Director), GAO Resources, Community, and Economic Development Division.

Issue Area: Science and Technology Policy and Programs: Other Issue Area Work (9391).

Contact: Resources, Community, and Economic Development Division.

Budget Function: General Science, Space, and Technology: General Science and Basic Research (251.0).

Organization Concerned: Department of Commerce: National Technical Information Service.

Congressional Relevance: Joint Economic Committee: Economic Goals and Intergovernmental Policy Subcommittee; *Sen.* Lloyd Bentsen.

Authority: National Science and Technology Policy, Organization, and Priorities Act of 1976 (42 U.S.C. 6602(a)(5)(c)). 15 U.S.C. 1151 et seq.

Abstract: In response to a congressional request, GAO conducted a study of the National Technical Information Service's (NTIS) Federal Research In Progress System (FEDRIP) to determine how the information systems of major federal research and development (R&D) agencies related to FEDRIP, and to provide information on how the Japanese and European governments promote the availability of this type of information. **Findings/Conclusions:** GAO found that policies for what data to collect, how to classify R&D projects, and how to disseminate such information are the responsibility of each R&D funding agency. FEDRIP is a voluntary reporting system to allow these agencies a public information outlet on research-in-progress. Currently, 28 of the 36 R&D funding agencies do not report to FEDRIP. Both

the National Science Foundation and the Department of Defense do not report. Agencies that elect to use FEDRIP are not required to report funding data on individual research projects. Consequently, the four major R&D agencies that report to FEDRIP do not include funding data in their reports. Further, contributing agencies incur most of the costs for FEDRIP. GAO found that the need for agency-level manipulation and interpretation of data about ongoing research projects would be eliminated by a central, comprehensive technical data base. However, two previous studies had conflicting views on the need for and benefits of a centralized data base versus an alternative network of decentralized data bases. Adequate information does not exist to determine whether one of those alternatives or a combination of the two is preferable. To make FEDRIP a comprehensive R&D data base, all applicable agencies would have to report both project and funding information to NTIS. GAO found that England, France, and West Germany do not have central data bases of ongoing, government-funded R&D. However, the Japanese government operates a central data base which is administered by a corporation which reports to the government.

125673

[Protest of Provisions in Air Force RFP]. B-215877. November 26, 1984. 2 pp.

Decision re: Compucorp; by Harry R. Van Cleve, General Counsel.

Contact: Office of the General Counsel.

Organization Concerned: Compucorp; Department of the Air Force: Lindsey AFS, Germany.

Authority: 4 C.F.R. 21.2(a). 4 C.F.R. 21.2(b)(1). B-211889 (1983). B-190573 (1977). B-208982.2 (1983). B-207346 (1982).

Abstract: A firm protested certain provisions of a request for proposals (RFP) issued by the Air Force for word processors. The protester contended that certain RFP provisions were unduly restrictive and that the RFP should have been rewritten to clarify that the procurement was being negotiated under the Federal Acquisition Regulation. GAO agreed with the Air Force's contention that, since the protest was received more than 10 days after the initial adverse agency action, it was untimely filed under bid protest procedures. Accordingly, the protest was dismissed.

125697

[Protest of Rejection of Proposal Under Navy RFTP]. B-216719. November 28, 1984. 4 pp.

Decision re: Storage Technology Corp.; by Harry R. Van Cleve, General Counsel.

Contact: Office of the General Counsel.

Organization Concerned: Storage Technology Corp.; Federal Data Corp.; Department of the Navy.

Authority: 4 C.F.R. 21. 4 C.F.R. 21.1(a). B-208557.3 (1982). B-210252 (1983). B-212867 (1984).

Abstract: A firm protested the Navy's rejection of a proposal submitted by a prime contractor under a request for technical proposals (RFTP). The protester alleged that the requirement for a memory feature was arbitrary and unduly restrictive. In the alternative, the potential subcontractor argued that its equipment complied with specifications and such rejection of the proposal was improper. Although the protest was untimely, the protester contends that the RFTP was defective. With respect to the protest, the Navy asserted that the protester was in the position of being a prospective subcontractor and does not have a sufficient direct interest to protest under bid protest procedures. The protester stated that descriptive data were submitted to the agency prior to the closing date and it was led to believe that the requirement was met. GAO noted that, once the time for

submitting a proposal lapses, the field of competition is set; in addition, concern over the propriety of the specifications usually is incidental to the selection of an awardee, and the role of potential subcontractor is reduced to supporting the prime contractor. GAO did not consider the protester to be an interested party for this procurement. Finally, GAO did not agree that the subcontractor's challenge of restrictive specifications should be considered, because the protest was filed after the bid opening date. Accordingly, the protest was dismissed.

125730

[Request for Modification of Decision Sustaining Protest of Army Issuance of Delivery Order]. B-214409.3. December 3, 1984. 3 pp. *Decision re:* Comdisco, Inc.; by Milton J. Socolar, (for Charles A. Bowsher, Comptroller General).

Contact: Office of the General Counsel.

Organization Concerned: Comdisco, Inc.; Department of the Army; International Business Machines Corp.

Authority: 4 C.F.R. 21.2(c). B-214409.2 (1984). B-207423 (1982). B-213273 (1983).

Abstract: A firm requested that GAO modify a decision sustaining its protest against the Army's issuance of a delivery order to another firm for the lease, installation, maintenance, and technical support of automatic data processing equipment. The protester requested that GAO recommend corrective action, which it declined to do because the protester had failed to file its protest in a timely manner and because it understood that a termination of the lease would subject the government to significant termination costs. The protester attempted to demonstrate extenuating circumstances for the untimely filing of the protest and suggested that a recompetition would result in an actual savings to the government. A determination as to whether an improperly awarded contract should be terminated involves, among other factors, the extent of performance and the impact of a termination on the procuring agency's mission. Despite being aware of these factors, the firm did not file a protest until more than 4 months after the award. As a result of the delayed filing, GAO did not issue a decision until a substantial period of the lease had been performed. GAO believed that the firm's failure to timely and diligently pursue its protest militates against disrupting the contracting agency's mission with a recommendation that the contract be terminated and recompeted. Accordingly, GAO declined to modify its decision.

125760

[Protest of EPA Request for Proposals]. B-214652. December 4, 1984. 2 pp.

Decision re: Fein-Marquart Associates, Inc.; by Milton J. Socolar, (for Charles A. Bowsher, Comptroller General).

Contact: Office of the General Counsel.

Organization Concerned: Fein-Marquart Associates, Inc.; Environmental Protection Agency.

Authority: B-210216 (1983). B-186319 (1976).

Abstract: A firm protested the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) issuance of a request for proposals for a commercially available, off-the-shelf software package for chemical data base management. The firm contended that it had already developed a similar system under another contract with EPA that could be converted to satisfy EPA needs for cost, delivery schedule, and government rights in software data. The protester argued that EPA should satisfy its needs through the existing contract and not a competitive solicitation. EPA stated that it carefully considered the alternative of satisfying its needs through the existing contract with the protester, but the alternative was rejected because the system developed under that contract would have

required conversion. In addition, software documentation would have to be developed to maintain the system. According to EPA, these factors would have resulted in a higher-risk system that would cost substantially more and would take longer to deliver than an off-the-shelf system. GAO will not overturn an agency's determination of its minimum needs unless there is a clear showing that the determination had no reasonable basis. EPA has provided substantial reasons for procuring a commercially available, off-the-shelf system, instead of modifying the system provided under the protester current contract. These reasons have been supported with a conversion cost analysis and a requirements analysis. The protester declined to rebut the rationale and supporting documentation. Accordingly, GAO denied the protest.

125801

[Request for Reconsideration of Protest of SBA Requirement]. B-215589.2. December 10, 1984. 3 pp.

Decision re: Wang Laboratories, Inc.; by Milton J. Socolar, (for Charles A. Bowsher, Comptroller General).

Contact: Office of the General Counsel.

Organization Concerned: Wang Laboratories, Inc.; Small Business Administration.

Authority: 4 C.F.R. 21.9(a). 41 C.F.R. 1-4.11. 41 C.F.R. 1-4.1109.1. 41 C.F.R. 1-4.1102.17. 39 Comp. Gen. 101. 49 Fed. Reg. 20993. B-215589 (1984). B-182202 (1974).

Abstract: A firm requested that GAO reconsider its decision denying a protest against the Small Business Administration (SBA). The firm contended that GAO erroneously concluded that the Federal Information Resources Management Regulations (FIRMR) rather than the Federal Procurement Regulations (FPR) applied to the procurement for automatic data processing equipment. The protester stated that the FIRMR is silent on the standards which justify issuing a brand name solicitation and, therefore, the standards of the FPR applied. GAO found that the agency's decision to limit offers was reasonable because SBA needed a computer that was compatible and fully tested to meet the agency's needs, even though SBA did not have the time or money to test other equipment. The firm argued that the agency's lack of time and money was not a sufficient justification to procure on a brand name only basis; it contended that this justification did not demonstrate that the needs could only be met by the awardee. In this regard, GAO noted that, at the time the solicitation was issued, SBA was in the process of testing the computers of other manufacturers, including the computer offered by the protester; only the awardee passed all of the tests. The firm did not prove that SBA was unreasonable in its conclusion or that the prior decision was legally incorrect. Accordingly, the prior decision was affirmed.

125821

[Status of OMB Implementation of Paperwork Reduction Act]. June 13, 1984. 1 p. plus 1 enclosure (24 pp.).

Letter to John C. Danforth, Chairman, Senate Committee on Governmental Affairs: Information Management and Regulatory Affairs Subcommittee; by Warren G. Reed, Director, GAO Information Management and Technology Division.

Refer to GGD-85-35, April 20, 1983, Accession Number 121241.

Contact: Information Management and Technology Division.

Organization Concerned: Office of Management and Budget.

Congressional Relevance: Senate Committee on Governmental Affairs: Information Management and Regulatory Affairs Subcommittee; *Sen.* John C. Danforth.

Authority: Paperwork Reduction Act of 1980.

Abstract: GAO submitted for the record a status report of the Office of Management and Budget's implementation of the 39 key tasks listed in a previous report.

125831

The Nine-Digit ZIP Code: Is the Postal Service Doing a Number on Us? 1984. 8 pp.

by Robert E. Price, Senior Evaluator, GAO General Government Division.

In *The GAO Review*, Vol. 19, Issue 4, Fall 1984, pp. 35-40, 46-47.

Contact: General Government Division.

Organization Concerned: United States Postal Service.

Abstract: This article discussed the Postal Service's use of a new nine-digit ZIP code. New computer-driven mail sorting equipment has been introduced which optically locates and reads ZIP codes, then sorts the mail. This new equipment will cost approximately \$700 million through 1988. The Postal Service expects that the combined use of this automation and the nine-digit ZIP code will reduce personnel costs through greater productivity, and GAO has projected that the program can save as much as \$6.8 billion over the first 16 years. The program is expected to help stabilize postage rates and reduce mail sorting errors. The Service expects the program to have the most effect on cutting the costs of large-volume business mailers of first-class mail; however, the household mailer should not be concerned about memorizing four more digits because mail with handwritten addresses will still be hand sorted.

125853

Government Printing Office's Depository Library Program. AFMD-85-19; B-214852. December 17, 1984. 3 pp. plus 4 appendices (23 pp.).

Report to Rep. Frank Annunzio, Chairman, Joint Committee on Printing; by Frederick D. Wolf, Director, GAO Accounting and Financial Management Division.

Refer to AFMD-83-89, September 30, 1983, Accession Number 122545; and AFMD-84-50, April 9, 1984, Accession Number 123921.

Issue Area: Improving Financial Management: Audit Agency, Corporation, Legislative Branch, and Pension Fund Financial Statements (7014).

Contact: Accounting and Financial Management Division.

Budget Function: Financial Management and Information Systems (998.0).

Organization Concerned: Government Printing Office.

Congressional Relevance: Joint Committee on Printing; Rep. Frank Annunzio.

Authority: 44 U.S.C. 1902.

Abstract: In response to a congressional request, GAO reviewed the Government Printing Office's (GPO) Depository Library Program which makes federal agency publications accessible to the public free of charge at designated libraries throughout the country. **Findings/Conclusions:** GAO found that, with a budget of \$24.7 million in 1983, GPO distributed 32 million copies of 62,000 publications to depository libraries. Some of the depositories received all publications, while others selected the types of publications that they wanted. GAO found that GPO has made a significant improvement in the operation of the program by reducing the backlog of documents to be classified and cataloged. GPO has also expended substantial effort to distribute documents as microfiche instead of in hardcopy form. GAO also found that program personnel were generally dedicated to providing a high level of service, and the services provided generally met user needs. However, GAO also found a number of activities where program efficiency and effectiveness could be further improved. GAO believes that: (1) more attention should be given to

identifying agency publications for inclusion in the program; (2) GPO needs to further reduce its backlog of publications awaiting classification and cataloging; and (3) steps should be taken to improve the timeliness and accuracy of the GPO processes for distributing publications to libraries.

125865

Better Management of Information Resources at the Bureau of Indian Affairs Could Reduce Waste and Improve Productivity. IMTEC-85-1; B-209876. December 21, 1984. 38 pp. plus 2 appendices (17 pp.).

Report to Congress; by Charles A. Bowsheer, Comptroller General.

Issue Area: Information Management and Technology: Other Issue Area Work (7191).

Contact: Information Management and Technology Division.

Budget Function: General Government: General Property and Records Management (804.0).

Organization Concerned: Bureau of Indian Affairs; Department of the Interior.

Congressional Relevance: Congress.

Authority: Snyder Act (Bureau of Indian Affairs) (25 U.S.C. 13). Paperwork Reduction Act of 1980 (P.L. 96-511). Education Amendments of 1978 (P.L. 95-561). 5 C.F.R. 1320.8(a). 48 Fed. Reg. 13666. OMB Circular A-11. OMB Bull. 81-21. H. Rept. 96-835. 40 U.S.C. 759.

Abstract: GAO reviewed the Bureau of Indian Affairs' (BIA) information resources management (IRM) program to determine: (1) the extent to which BIA was using modern technology to help employees reduce costs and improve productivity; and (2) how effectively BIA managed its automatic data processing (ADP) equipment, information systems, and forms. **Findings/Conclusions:** GAO found that, although Office of Management and Budget (OMB) and BIA internal directives require that ADP equipment be inventoried periodically and that equipment not be installed until needed, BIA has no effective means for carrying out these requirements. As a result, BIA does not always know what ADP equipment it has, where it is located, and how it is being used. In addition, GAO found that the BIA coordination of information systems and oversight of information collection activities is not effectively managed, resulting in: (1) ADP equipment not being used; (2) the development and maintenance of duplicative or overlapping information systems; (3) noncompliance with forms approval directives; and (4) the use of unapproved forms. Although the Department of the Interior has established an Office of Data Systems in BIA, additional actions are needed to improve the management of information resources. BIA has not given the office the responsibility for: (1) overseeing funds used in developing and maintaining information system software; or (2) reviewing and approving information collection instruments that do not affect automated processing. **Recommendation To Agencies:** The Secretary of the Interior should direct the Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs, BIA, to establish better controls over ADP equipment, systems development efforts, and paperwork management activities. The Secretary of the Interior should direct Interior's Assistant Secretary for Policy, Budget and Administration to do the following to preclude a recurrence of the types of management problems described in this report: (1) prohibit BIA from acquiring any additional ADP equipment and related software without the Assistant Secretary's approval until it demonstrates that it has established effective management controls over these resources; (2) alert BIA program and local offices to the consequences of using forms that do not take appropriate steps to get OMB approval on unapproved forms; (3) review, on a cyclical basis, BIA information resources management activities, providing broad audit coverage, particularly of the ADP equipment, systems development, and forms

management areas; and (4) work with BIA to ensure that it develops and implements effective controls for managing its information resources. The Secretary of the Interior should direct the Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs, BIA, to either expand the responsibilities of the director of the Office of Data Systems or appoint a senior official to serve as the BIA IRM manager. This person, who should report to the Assistant Secretary or the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs, would be responsible and accountable for managing all BIA ADP equipment, information systems development, and forms. BIA should reassign, hire, or otherwise appoint professionals to assist this manager in carrying out the assigned responsibilities.

125892

[Protest of Marine Corps Issuance of Delivery Order]. B-215048. December 26, 1984. 7 pp.
Decision re: NCR Corp.; by Milton J. Socolar, (for Charles A. Bowsher, Comptroller General).

Contact: Office of the General Counsel.

Organization Concerned: NCR Corp.; United States Marine Corps.

Authority: D.A.R. 4-1104.4. D.A.R. 4-1102.10. B-209610 (1983). B-209425 (1983). B-210154 (1983). B-215046 (1984). B-213122 (1984).

Abstract: A firm protested the issuance of a delivery order to another firm pursuant to a notice placed in the Commerce Business Daily (CBD) by the Marine Corps, inviting firms to offer a computer output microfilm system equivalent to that ordered. The Corps placed the notice after discussing available systems with both the protester and the awardee and determining that replacing its old system, which was manufactured by the awardee, with the awardee's new system would best meet its requirements. The protester contended that the Corps: (1) improperly determined that its system was technically inferior; (2) improperly added the cost of software conversion to its offer, and noted that the Corps did not mention conversion costs in the CBD notice; and (3) failed to consider maintenance and supply costs when comparing offers. In addition, the protester questioned the Corps' need for a system that was compatible with its other equipment, noting that other military activities involved in similar work were able to perform effectively with equipment of different manufacture. GAO held that: (1) the Corps reasonably determined that the protester's system was technically inferior, based on the initial discussions and on the protester's response to the CBD notice; (2) the Corps' consideration of software conversion costs was proper because the Corps had a responsibility to meet its requirements at the lowest total cost to the government; (3) the Corps was not required to disclose evaluation factors in the CBD notice, since the notice was not a solicitation; (4) the Corps stated that it would procure system maintenance and supplies separately; and (5) the Corps had adequately justified the need for equipment compatibility. Accordingly, the protest was denied.

125907

[Improvements Needed in the Department of the Interior's Acquisition of Geophysical Data]. RCED-85-9; B-215060. November 20, 1984. Released December 20, 1984. 14 pp.

Report to Rep. John D. Dingell, Chairman, House Committee on Energy and Commerce: Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee; by Charles A. Bowsher, Comptroller General.

Issue Area: Natural Resources Management: Interior's Effectiveness in Managing Mineral Resources, Including Ensuring Fair Prices for Minerals Sold and Providing an Adequate Mineral Supply (6901).

ADP Bibliography

Contact: Resources, Community, and Economic Development Division.

Budget Function: Energy: Energy Supply (271.0).

Organization Concerned: Department of the Interior; Department of the Interior: Minerals Management Service.

Congressional Relevance: House Committee on Energy and Commerce: Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee; Congress; Rep. John D. Dingell.

Authority: Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act Amendments of 1978 (P.L. 95-372).

Abstract: In response to a congressional request, GAO reviewed the Department of the Interior's policies and practices for acquiring geophysical data which are important to the Minerals Management Service (MMS) in its evaluation of the petroleum potential of offshore lands. **Findings/Conclusions:** Companies which conduct exploration and development of offshore oil and gas are required to provide geophysical data to Interior upon request, and Interior pays companies for the reasonable costs of processing and reproducing, but not for acquiring, such data. GAO found that, in 2 of the 95 contracts which MMS issued for acquiring geophysical data from 1981 through 1983, MMS paid companies for acquisition costs which were not allowed by the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act Amendments or Interior regulations. GAO also found that MMS paid widely varying prices for similarly processed geophysical data and could not explain the variations. Although MMS adopted the Federal Procurement Regulations as a basis for contracting for geophysical data, these regulations were not always followed. For example, contracting officers often did not require cost or pricing information and rarely requested audits of proposed contracts. GAO also found that contracting officers did not separately identify acquisition and processing costs as required by regulations. Implementation of a new policy and procedures memorandum may help ensure that payments for data are reasonable and comply with applicable regulations; however, the memorandum does not provide guidance in paying reproduction costs. **Recommendation To Congress:** Congress should amend the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act to require that, whenever any data or information are provided to the Secretary of the Interior, both permittees and lessees be reimbursed only for the reasonable cost of reproducing such data and information if it is in the form and manner normally used by the company. If the Secretary requests the data in another form or manner than used by the lessee or permittee in its normal course of business, the Secretary must pay the reasonable costs attributable to this processing and reproduction. **Recommendation To Agencies:** The Secretary of the Interior should require the Director, MMS, to monitor the implementation of the April 1984 Policies and Procedures Memorandum governing the acquisition of geological and geophysical data. In addition, MMS should establish guidelines for reproduction costs based on the cost per square foot in various regions as a standard for future purchases of data. The Secretary of the Interior should direct the Director, MMS, to take whatever actions are necessary to recover the nonallowable costs attributable to those contracts discussed earlier in this report and as otherwise appropriate.

125935

[Protest of RFP Provisions Issued by Department of Energy]. B-215092. December 31, 1984. 9 pp.

Decision re: Analytics Inc.; by Milton J. Socolar, (for Charles A. Bowsher, Comptroller General).

Contact: Office of the General Counsel.

Organization Concerned: Analytics Inc.; Department of Energy.

Authority: F.A.R. 15.413-1. F.P.R. 1-1.1003-6(b). F.P.R. 1-2.202-1(c). F.P.R. 1-3.103. 48 Fed. Reg. 48462. B-209986 (1983). B-200399 (1981). B-199366 (1981). B-198738 (1982). B-206489 (1982). B-213046 (1983). B-212641 (1984). 15 U.S.C. 637(e)(2)(B).

Abstract: A firm protested the provisions of a Department of Energy (DOE) solicitation for telecommunications equipment, contending that: (1) DOE did not allow sufficient time for offerers to prepare initial proposals; (2) the solicitation contained insufficient information pertaining to equipment to be used with the units being procured; (3) DOE imposed an unreasonably short delivery schedule; (4) DOE improperly disclosed the protester's interest in the procurement to other firms; and (5) DOE improperly included a patent indemnity clause in the solicitation. GAO held that: (1) DOE allowed more than the statutorily required minimum proposal preparation time; (2) the solicitation provided adequate information for offerers to compete intelligently and on equal terms; (3) while the reasons cited by DOE for the short delivery period were classified, its in camera review of the classified DOE report on the procurement showed that the delivery terms were justified; (4) while DOE did include the protester's name in a letter to all offerers, the disclosure was not improper because agencies are only prohibited from disclosing information about bidders after the receipt of proposals; and (5) while DOE should have removed the improper patent indemnity clause, it did inform offerers that they could take exception to the provision. Accordingly, the protest was denied.

125938

EPA Could Benefit From Comprehensive Management Information on Superfund Enforcement Actions. RCED-85-3; B-211463. December 28, 1984. 15 pp.

Report to Rep. Elliott H. Levitas, Chairman, House Committee on Public Works and Transportation: Investigations and Oversight Subcommittee; by J. Dexter Peach, Director, GAO Resources, Community, and Economic Development Division.

Issue Area: Environment: Assessing EPA's Initial Efforts To Address Problems Posed by Past Hazardous Waste Disposal Practices (6801).

Contact: Resources, Community, and Economic Development Division.

Budget Function: Natural Resources and Environment: Pollution Control and Abatement (304.0).

Organization Concerned: Environmental Protection Agency.

Congressional Relevance: House Committee on Public Works and Transportation: Investigations and Oversight Subcommittee; Rep. Elliott H. Levitas.

Authority: Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980.

Abstract: Pursuant to a congressional request, GAO reviewed the extent of management information available to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in carrying out its enforcement responsibilities under the Superfund program. **Findings/Conclusions:** GAO found that, while EPA headquarters and regional offices have individual management information systems for tracking Superfund enforcement actions, there is no such system that covers the entire agency. Most such systems were developed in recent years as the growing Superfund caseload prompted program managers to develop systematic ways of tracking enforcement actions. Many EPA officials believe that, if the Superfund enforcement caseload continues to increase as expected, an agencywide information system could enable program managers to better address comprehensive Superfund issues such as the length of the enforcement process, whether enforcement milestones are met, and resource allocation. However, EPA has not assessed the feasibility of implementing a comprehensive Superfund enforcement tracking system. **Recommendation To Agencies:** In view of the growing enforcement workload, the Administrator of EPA should assess the feasibility of developing and maintaining a comprehensive Superfund enforcement management information system and, if cost effective, implement

such a system. In making this assessment, the Administrator should consider the needs of EPA program managers and Congress.

125941

[Accurate and Complete Subcontract Data Needed To Assess International Agreements on Defense Procurement]. NSIAD-85-30; B-208826. December 13, 1984. 7 pp. plus 1 enclosure (6 pp.).

Report to Caspar W. Weinberger, Secretary, Department of Defense; by Bill W. Thurman, (for Frank C. Conahan, Director), GAO National Security and International Affairs Division.

Refer to ID-82-30, May 5, 1982, Accession Number 118427; ID-83-30, January 21, 1983, Accession Number 120641.

Issue Area: International Affairs: Management of Foreign Affairs (0614).

Contact: National Security and International Affairs Division.

Budget Function: International Affairs: Conduct of Foreign Affairs (153.0); National Defense: Department of Defense - Procurement and Contracts (051.2).

Organization Concerned: Department of Defense.

Congressional Relevance: Senate Committee on Appropriations: Defense Subcommittee.

Authority: D.A.R. 1-340. D.A.R. 7-104.78.

Abstract: In response to a congressional request, GAO reported on improvements needed in the Department of Defense's (DOD) subcontract-level reporting system, a data collection system which requires prime contractors and subcontractors to report foreign-source purchases valued at more than \$10,000. **Findings/Conclusions:** The DOD International Acquisitions staff has reported that, at present, one person works on the system as a collateral duty, and at least one full-time person is needed to properly operate the system. Furthermore, the use of computers would reduce the time needed to compile the information and the potential for error. GAO found that: (1) efforts to encourage compliance with the reporting system have not been fully successful; (2) because contractors have not submitted required reports, the validity of the data developed by the system may have been lessened; (3) the International Acquisitions staff has not instituted a method for assessing compliance with the system; (4) the system's method for indicating whether a procurement is domestic or foreign-source can result in incomplete information; (5) by excluding contracts for commercial items, the reporting system overstates the U.S. trade surplus because it collects no information on a significant and growing category of procurements; and (6) many firms are not using the reporting form required by the system but are supplying the information through letters. **Recommendation To Agencies:** The Secretary of Defense should make available the required personnel to maintain and operate the subcontract-level reporting system consistent with DOD overall staffing needs and priorities. The Secretary of Defense should revise the DOD supplement to the Federal Acquisition Regulations and, when necessary, form DD2139 to institute a method for assessing compliance with the subcontract-level reporting system, such as a negative reporting requirement. The Secretary of Defense should revise the DOD supplement to the Federal Acquisition Regulations and, when necessary, form DD2139 to require that the subcontract-level reporting system use "country of origin" rather than "principal place of performance" to indicate foreign source procurements. The Secretary of Defense should revise the DOD supplement to the Federal Acquisition Regulations and, when necessary, form DD2139 to require that contractors receiving contracts for commercial items report on subcontracts meeting the value threshold for reporting, except procurements of ores, natural gas, utilities, petroleum products and crudes, timber, and subsistence items.

125958

Information on Aliens Admitted into the United States as Nonimmigrant Workers. GGD-85-27; B-217417. December 26, 1984. 2 pp. plus 2 appendices (16 pp.).

Report to Rep. Peter W. Rodino, Jr., Chairman, House Committee on the Judiciary; by James L. Howard, (for William J. Anderson, Director), GAO General Government Division.

Issue Area: Administration of Justice: Other Issue Area Work (4791).

Contact: General Government Division.

Budget Function: Administration of Justice: Federal Law Enforcement Activities (751.0).

Organization Concerned: Department of Justice; Department of Justice: Immigration and Naturalization Service.

Congressional Relevance: House Committee on the Judiciary; *Rep.* Peter W. Rodino, Jr.

Authority: Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101 et seq.).

Abstract: Pursuant to a congressional request, GAO reviewed the use of certain nonimmigrant visa categories that cover aliens who are admitted to the United States to work at the request of their prospective employers. **Findings/Conclusions:** GAO noted that the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) has not published data on nonimmigrant worker admissions since fiscal year (FY) 1978 because of management information systems problems. GAO developed estimates of selected characteristics of nonimmigrant workers who entered the country in FY's 1979, 1981, and 1983. INS plans to resume publication of such statistical data in FY 1985.

amount of crude oil after the cutoff date, they had no information on whether their company's experience was typical. Furthermore, GAO found that the documentation which DOE used to identify the reporting errors which produced the negative crude oil receipts was not adequate, and no evidence was provided that the reporting errors were widespread among refiners. Because DOE decided not to publish the final entitlements lists, DOE plans to take no further action to resolve the data problems.

125989

[Information on Data Problems Identified by the Department of Energy With Its Final Entitlements Lists]. RCED-85-45; B-214185. November 29, 1984. 8 pp. plus 1 enclosure (1 p.).

Report to Rep. John D. Dingell, Chairman, House Committee on Energy and Commerce: Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee; by J. Dexter Peach, Director, GAO Resources, Community, and Economic Development Division.

Issue Area: Energy: Effectiveness and Management of the Regulation of Coal, Crude Oil, and Petroleum Products (1671).

Contact: Resources, Community, and Economic Development Division.

Budget Function: Energy: Energy Information, Policy, and Regulation (276.0).

Organization Concerned: Department of Energy.

Congressional Relevance: House Committee on Energy and Commerce: Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee; *Rep.* John D. Dingell.

Authority: Emergency Petroleum Allocation Act of 1973 (P.L. 93-159). Executive Order 12287.

Abstract: In response to a congressional request, GAO provided information on data problems identified by the Department of Energy (DOE) which led to its decision not to publish final entitlements lists used in equalizing U.S. refiners' crude oil costs. **Findings/Conclusions:** In November 1983, DOE proposed not publishing the final entitlements lists since it believed that the data supporting the lists were unreliable because: (1) some refiners' suppliers reclassified crude oil from uncontrolled to price-controlled status after the reporting cutoff date; and (2) some refiners' reports showed negative numbers of barrels of crude oil being received. Therefore, DOE believed that, if the lists were published, refiners would receive entitlements benefits that were not appropriate. However, GAO found that DOE had no documentation on the oil reclassifications prior to identifying them as a problem, and while representatives of one firm reported that their company's suppliers had reclassified a substantial

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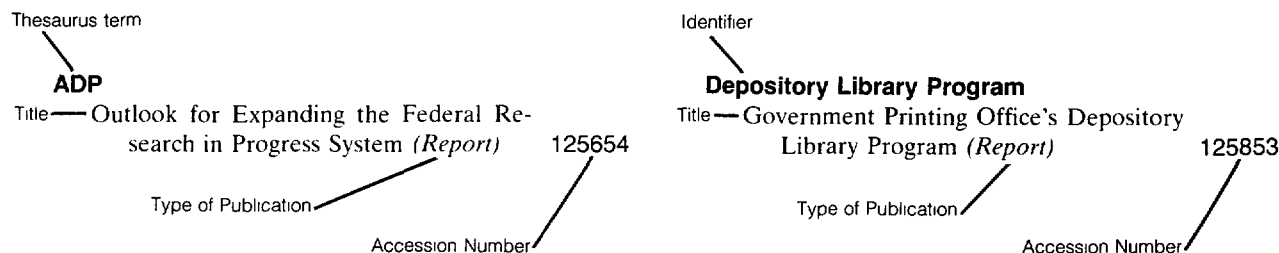
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INDEX SECTION

SUBJECT INDEX

Documents are indexed under approved GAO Thesaurus terms as well as freely assigned identifiers including geographic locations, programs, and other proper names.

SAMPLE ENTRY



Accounting

- Summary of Records Retention Requirements Relating to the Activities of the GAO (*Letter*) 100469
- Evaluation of System Design of the Department of the Navy's Armed Forces Health Professions Scholarship Program Pay System (*Letter*) 103078

Accounting errors

- Review of Leave Resulting From Delay Enroute Incident to Permanent Change of Duty Station (*Report*) 089125
- Control Improvements Needed in Accounting for Treasury Securities at the Federal Reserve Bank of New York (*Report*) 124060

Accounting procedures

- Survey of the Small Business Administration's Accounting for Loan Guaranty Fees (*Report*) 089255
- Review of the Audit of the National Consumer Cooperative Bank's Financial Statements for the Year Ended December 31, 1982 (*Report*) 122615
- The Assets, Liabilities, and Vulnerabilities of Information (*Speech*) 124059
- Examination of the Financial Statements of the Export-Import Bank of the United States for the Fiscal Year Ended September 30, 1983 (*Report*) 124124
- Internal Control Weaknesses at the U.S. Customs Service (*Report*) 124237
- Survey of Actions To Correct Problems With the Navy's Military Pay System (*Report*) 125340

Accounting systems

- Approval of Revised Design of Accounting System for U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (*Letter*) 102825

- Approval of Statement of Accounting Principles and Standards (*Letter*) 106255
- Withdrawal of Approval of the Federal Election Commission Accounting System (*Report*) 123202
- Summaries of Conclusions and Recommendations on Department of Defense Operations (*Report*) 123710
- First-Year Implementation of the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act in VA (*Report*) 124023
- Department of State's First-Year Implementation of the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act (*Report*) 124029
- Defense Logistics Agency's First-Year Implementation of the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act (*Report*) 124030
- Department of Defense's First-Year Implementation of the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act (*Report*) 124031
- Department of the Air Force's First-Year Implementation of the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act (*Report*) 124033
- Defense Mapping Agency's First-Year Implementation of the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act (*Report*) 124035
- National Aeronautics and Space Administration's First-Year Implementation of the Federal Manager's Financial Integrity Act (*Report*) 124038
- Control Improvements Needed in Accounting for Treasury Securities at the Federal Reserve Bank of New York (*Report*) 124060
- First-Year Implementation of the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act in the Department of Labor (*Report*) 124061
- Department of the Army's First-Year Implementation of the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act (*Report*) 124074

- First Year Implementation of the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act by the Department of Justice (*Report*) 124097
- First-Year Implementation of the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act in the Department of Education (*Report*) 124112
- The Department of Health and Human Services' First-Year Implementation of the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act (*Report*) 124123
- Department of the Navy's First-Year Implementation of the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act (*Report*) 124150
- First Year Implementation of the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act by the GSA (*Report*) 124210
- First-Year Implementation of the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act by the Department of the Treasury (*Report*) 124235
- ASCS Needs Better Information To Adequately Assess Proposed County and State Office Automation (*Report*) 124258
- Topics in Financial Management (*Speech*) 124295
- Implementation of the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act of 1982 (*Testimony*) 124299
- Internal Control Weaknesses at GSA (*Report*) 124306
- The Department of Energy's First-Year Implementation of the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act (*Report*) 124331
- Small Business Administration's First-Year Implementation of the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act (*Report*) 124365
- Department of the Interior's First-Year Implementation of the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act (*Report*) 124460

- Agriculture's First-Year Implementation of the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act (*Report*) 124477
- Department of Commerce's First-Year Implementation of the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act (*Report*) 124483
- Examination of the Federal Election Commission's Financial Statements for the Year Ended September 30, 1982 (*Report*) 124591
- Financial Management Profile: Department of Health and Human Services (*Report*) 124637
- Transportation's First-Year Implementation of the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act (*Report*) 124658
- HUD's First-Year Implementation of the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act (*Report*) 124698
- Federal Policies and Practices for Acquiring Information Technology Can Be Improved (*Speech*) 124890
- Implementation of the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act: First Year (*Report*) 125049
- Accounts receivable**
- Internal Control Weaknesses at GSA (*Report*) 124306
- Actuarial tables**
- Incomplete Participant Data Affect Reliability of Values Placed by Actuaries on Multiemployer Pension Plans (*Report*) 125081
- Administrative costs**
- Federal and State Initiatives Needed To Improve Productivity and Reduce Administrative Costs of the Aid to Families With Dependent Children and Food Stamp Programs (*Report*) 123347
- ADP**
- Activities of Washington Data Processing Center Statistical Research Service (*Report*) 088933
- Report of the ADP Task Force (*Memorandum*) 088965
- Review of Crimes in Computer-Based Data Processing Systems (*Report*) 089059
- Need for Computer Program Modifications To Show a Correct Organizational History of Employees' Earnings in the Civilian Payroll System of the U.S. Army Military District of Washington (*Report*) 089108
- Review of Crimes in Computer-Based Data Processing System (*Report*) 089122
- Air Force Decision Not To Purchase Certain Automatic Data Processing Equipment Located at Its Environmental Technical Applications Center, Washington, D.C. (*Report*) 089229
- Use of ADP Equipment Operated by Three or Four Typical Government Contractors (*Report*) 089247
- Approval of Revised Design of Accounting System for U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (*Letter*) 102825
- Evaluation of System Design of the Department of the Navy's Armed Forces Health Professions Scholarship Program Pay System (*Letter*) 103078
- Proposed Regulation Prescribing New "Fixed-Price Options" Provisions for Use in Automatic Data Processing Systems Procurement (*Letter*) 103353
- Policy and Procedures Pertaining to Procurement of ADP Equipment (*Letter*) 107007
- The Energy Information Administration Needs To Strengthen Its Computer Systems Development Procedures (*Report*) 123180
- Air Force Progress in Implementing the Phase IV Base Level Computer Replacement Program (*Report*) 123225
- An Improved Automated System Would Better Identify Small Businesses Seeking Federal Contracting Opportunities (*Report*) 123228
- Protest of Air Force Contract Award to Higher Priced Offerer (*Decision*) 123240
- Ask the Experts: Getting Through the Information Maze (*Other*) 123327
- Examination of Alleged Waste and Mismanagement in Army Test, Measurement, and Diagnostic Equipment Support Group (*Report*) 123556
- Summaries of Conclusions and Recommendations on Department of Defense Operations (*Report*) 123710
- Protest of Contract Award by the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts (*Decision*) 123949
- The Assets, Liabilities, and Vulnerabilities of Information (*Speech*) 124059
- Control Improvements Needed in Accounting for Treasury Securities at the Federal Reserve Bank of New York (*Report*) 124060
- The GAO Review, Vol. 19, Issue 2, Spring 1984 (*Other*) 124062
- Frontiers of Automated Analyses: From Frustration to Comfort (*Other*) 124069
- The Department of Health and Human Services' First-Year Implementation of the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act (*Report*) 124123
- ASCS Needs Better Information To Adequately Assess Proposed County and State Office Automation (*Report*) 124258
- Interim Observations on FAA's Plans for Major Systems Acquisitions (*Report*) 124281
- Topics in Financial Management (*Speech*) 124295
- The Leesburg GAO Senior Executive Management Meeting Speeches (*Speech*) 124300
- The Modern EDP Environment's Impact on Internal Controls and Auditing (*Other*) 124344
- Computer-Assisted Research in GAO (*Other*) 124345
- Auditing Using Microtechnology (*Other*) 124389
- ADP, IRM & Telecommunications (*Other*) 124463
- Agriculture's First-Year Implementation of the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act (*Report*) 124477
- Ways To Improve the Federal/State Tax Information Exchange Program (*Speech*) 124608
- Financial Management Profile: Department of Health and Human Services (*Report*) 124637
- GAO's Views on the Report of the Congressional Panel on Social Security Organization (*Testimony*) 124786
- The GAO Review, Vol. 19, Issue 3, Summer 1984 (*Other*) 124845
- Automatic Data Processing: A Career Challenge (*Other*) 124847
- Integration of New Technology into Regional Office Operations (*Other*) 124848
- Crime, Abuse, and the Computer: The Problem and the Federal Experience (*Other*) 124849
- Tax Information Safeguard Activity Annual Report (*Report*) 124866
- Federal Policies and Practices for Acquiring Information Technology Can Be Improved (*Speech*) 124890
- Technical Summary: Financial Management Profile of the Office of the Secretary, HHS (*Other*) 124925
- Technical Summary: HHS, Budget Development Systems (*Other*) 124926
- Technical Summary: Financial Management Profile of the HHS Central Personnel/Payroll System (*Other*) 124927
- Technical Summary: HHS, Regional Accounting System (*Other*) 124928
- Technical Summary: Financial Management Profile of the Social Security Administration (*Other*) 124929
- Technical Summary: Financial Management Profile of the Health Care Financing Administration (*Other*) 124930
- Technical Summary: Financial Management Profile of the Office of Human Development Services, HHS (*Other*) 124931
- Technical Summary: Financial Management Profile of the Health Resources and Services Administration (*Other*) 124932
- Technical Summary: Financial Management Profile of the Centers for Disease Control (*Other*) 124933
- Technical Summary: Financial Management Profile of the National Institutes of Health (*Other*) 124934
- Technical Summary: Financial Management Profile of the Food and Drug Administration (*Other*) 124935

- Planning EDP Audit Career Development (*Other*) 124972
- Proposal To Improve Identification and Collection of Medicare Part B Duplicate Payments (*Report*) 125007
- Better Guidance Would Improve ADP Evaluations in Support of the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act of 1982 (*Letter*) 125080
- A List of Selected GAO Publications Containing Checklists or Guidance on Computer Software Topics (*Other*) 125250
- Better Management Controls and ADP Requirements Analysis Can Help NASA Lewis Research Center (*Report*) 125266
- Information Value and Cost Measures for Use as Management Tools (*Other*) 125267
- Opportunities for Public Housing Authorities To Develop and Acquire Computer-Based Management Information Systems (*Report*) 125270
- Protest of Proposed Equipment Order by ACTION Against GSA Contract (*Decision*) 125278
- Audit Guides To Review Implementation of the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act: The Second Year (*Other*) 125524
- Outlook for Expanding the Federal Research in Progress System (*Report*) 125654
- Request for Modification of Decision Sustaining Protest of Army Issuance of Delivery Order (*Decision*) 125730
- Better Management of Information Resources at the Bureau of Indian Affairs Could Reduce Waste and Improve Productivity (*Report*) 125865
- ADP procurement**
- Air Force Decision Not To Purchase Certain Automatic Data Processing Equipment Located at Its Environmental Technical Applications Center, Washington, D.C. (*Report*) 089229
- Use of ADP Equipment Operated by Three or Four Typical Government Contractors (*Report*) 089247
- The Department of Agriculture's Allegation Concerning the General Services Administration's Mandatory Requirements Contract for ITTEL Disk Drives (*Report*) 102434
- Proposed Regulation Prescribing New "Fixed-Price Options" Provisions for Use in Automatic Data Processing Systems Procurement (*Letter*) 103353
- Policy and Procedures Pertaining to Procurement of ADP Equipment (*Letter*) 107007
- Protest of Certain Requirements Under D.C. Solicitation (*Decision*) 123165
- Air Force Progress in Implementing the Phase IV Base Level Computer Replacement Program (*Report*) 123225
- Protest of Cancellation and Unrestricted Resolicitation of Commerce RFP (*Decision*) 123230
- Protest of Air Force Contract Award to Higher Priced Offerer (*Decision*) 123240
- Protest of Issuance of Air Force Delivery Order (*Decision*) 123305
- Protest of USDA Solicitation (*Decision*) 123335
- Request for Reconsideration of Protest Under Navy RFP (*Decision*) 123416
- Protest of SBA Contract Award (*Decision*) 123475
- Examination of Alleged Waste and Mismanagement in Army Test, Measurement, and Diagnostic Equipment Support Group (*Report*) 123556
- Protest of USGS Proposed Contract Award (*Decision*) 123762
- Protest of Contract Award by the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts (*Decision*) 123949
- ASCS Needs Better Information To Adequately Assess Proposed County and State Office Automation (*Report*) 124258
- Interim Observations on FAA's Plans for Major Systems Acquisitions (*Report*) 124281
- Protest of Any Contract Award to Another Firm Under Air Force IFB (*Decision*) 124565
- Protest of GSA Procurement Practices and Contract Award (*Decision*) 124672
- Protest of RFP Issued by HHS (*Decision*) 124773
- SSA Data Communications Contracts With Paradyne Corporation Demonstrate the Need for Improved Management Controls (*Report*) 124854
- Protest of Corps of Engineers Contract Award Alleging Awardee's Proposal Unacceptable (*Decision*) 124860
- Comparative Review of Single-Line and Multiline Optical Character Readers Used in Mail Processing (*Report*) 124865
- Observations on a General Services Administration Report on the National Archives and Records Service (*Report*) 124873
- Protests Under Army RFP (*Decision*) 124883
- Federal Policies and Practices for Acquiring Information Technology Can Be Improved (*Speech*) 124890
- Protests of Any Contract Award Under VA Solicitation (*Decision*) 124952
- Navy Did Not Adhere to Procurement Regulations in Acquiring a Computer for Its Ships Parts Control Center (*Report*) 124959
- Protest of Exclusion From Competitive Range Under RFP (*Decision*) 125084
- Additional Information on SSA Management of Data Communications Contracts with Paradyne Corporation (*Report*) 125124
- Protest of SBA Brand Name Only Purchase Description (*Decision*) 125164
- Social Security Administration's Management of Its Contracts To Modernize Its Data Communications System (*Testimony*) 125175
- A List of Selected GAO Publications Containing Checklists or Guidance on Computer Software Topics (*Other*) 125250
- Army Has the Opportunity To Recompete DAS3 Purchases and Improve Automated Battlefield Support (*Report*) 125265
- Better Management Controls and ADP Requirements Analysis Can Help NASA Lewis Research Center (*Report*) 125266
- Opportunities for Public Housing Authorities To Develop and Acquire Computer-Based Management Information Systems (*Report*) 125270
- Protest of Proposed Equipment Order by ACTION Against GSA Contract (*Decision*) 125278
- Protest of OPM Procurement (*Decision*) 125330
- Protest of NSF Contract Award (*Decision*) 125435
- Allegations of Contract Buy-In and Substantial Cost Increases in the Navy's Standard Automated Financial System (*Report*) 125545
- Protest of Rejection of Proposal Under Navy RFTP (*Decision*) 125697
- Request for Modification of Decision Sustaining Protest of Army Issuance of Delivery Order (*Decision*) 125730
- Request for Reconsideration of Protest of SBA Requirement (*Decision*) 125801
- Protest of Marine Corps Issuance of Delivery Order (*Decision*) 125892
- Advertised procurement**
- Protest of Forest Service Contract Award (*Decision*) 123534
- Aerospace research**
- Better Management Controls and ADP Requirements Analysis Can Help NASA Lewis Research Center (*Report*) 125266
- Agency evaluation**
- FERC Can Improve Its Operational Performance by Broadening and Deepening Current Management Efforts (*Report*) 123309
- Activities of the Energy Information Administration (*Testimony*) 123708
- The Audit and Inspection Functions at the United States Information Agency Need Management Attention (*Report*) 123829

Observations on a General Services Administration Report on the National Archives and Records Service (*Report*) 124873

Information on the Status of Postal Service Costs and Mail Delivery Service Under the Postal Reorganization Act (*Report*) 125108

Status of OMB Implementation of Paperwork Reduction Act (*Letter*) 125821

Agency missions

Summary of Records Retention Requirements Relating to the Activities of the GAO (*Letter*) 100469

Increasing HUD Effectiveness Through Improved Management (*Report*) 123198

FERC Can Improve Its Operational Performance by Broadening and Deepening Current Management Efforts (*Report*) 123309

Federal Evaluations (*Other*) 123685

Activities of the Energy Information Administration (*Testimony*) 123708

Summaries of Conclusions and Recommendations on the Operations of Civil Departments and Agencies (*Report*) 123713

The Assets, Liabilities, and Vulnerabilities of Information (*Speech*) 124059

The Leesburg GAO Senior Executive Management Meeting Speeches (*Speech*) 124300

Status of Internal Audit Capabilities of Federal Agencies Without Statutory Inspectors General (*Report*) 124351

GSA's Telecommunications Procurement Program Requires Comprehensive Planning and Management (*Report*) 124361

Performance Evaluation of the Energy Information Administration (*Report*) 124430

Ways To Improve the Federal/State Tax Information Exchange Program (*Speech*) 124608

Better Monitoring and Recordkeeping Systems Needed To Accurately Account for Juvenile Justice Practices (*Report*) 124611

Financial Management Profile: Department of Health and Human Services (*Report*) 124637

Status of the Statistical Community After Sustaining Budget Reductions (*Staff Study*) 124693

The GAO Review, Vol. 19, Issue 3, Summer 1984 (*Other*) 124845

Technical Summary: Financial Management Profile of the Office of the Secretary, HHS (*Other*) 124925

Technical Summary: HHS, Budget Development Systems (*Other*) 124926

Technical Summary: Financial Management Profile of the HHS Central Personnel/Payroll System (*Other*) 124927

Technical Summary: HHS, Regional Accounting System (*Other*) 124928

Technical Summary: Financial Management Profile of the Social Security Administration (*Other*) 124929

Technical Summary: Financial Management Profile of the Health Care Financing Administration (*Other*) 124930

Technical Summary: Financial Management Profile of the Office of Human Development Services, HHS (*Other*) 124931

Technical Summary: Financial Management Profile of the Health Resources and Services Administration (*Other*) 124932

Technical Summary: Financial Management Profile of the Centers for Disease Control (*Other*) 124933

Technical Summary: Financial Management Profile of the National Institutes of Health (*Other*) 124934

Technical Summary: Financial Management Profile of the Food and Drug Administration (*Other*) 124935

Privacy Policy Activities of the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (*Report*) 125246

Progress in Improving Program and Budget Information for Congressional Use (*Report*) 125339

OMB Actions Show Progress in Implementing the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1980 (*Report*) 125387

Audit Guides To Review Implementation of the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act: The Second Year (*Other*) 125524

Outlook for Expanding the Federal Research in Progress System (*Report*) 125654

Improvements Needed in the Department of the Interior's Acquisition of Geophysical Data (*Report*) 125907

Agency proceedings

The Audit and Inspection Functions at the United States Information Agency Need Management Attention (*Report*) 123829

Agency reports

Federal Agency Compliance with Indexing and Publishing Requirements of the Freedom of Information Act (*Letter*) 107421

Summaries of Conclusions and Recommendations on the Operations of Civil Departments and Agencies (*Report*) 123713

ADP, IRM & Telecommunications (*Other*) 124463

Compilation of GAO's Work on Tax-Related Activities During 1983 (*Report*) 124536

Observations on a General Services Administration Report on the National Archives and Records Service (*Report*) 124873

Agricultural products

Electronic Marketing of Agricultural Commodities: An Evolutionary Trend (*Report*) 123647

Agricultural programs

Electronic Marketing of Agricultural Commodities: An Evolutionary Trend (*Report*) 123647

ASCS Needs Better Information To Adequately Assess Proposed County and State Office Automation (*Report*) 124258

Agricultural research

Electronic Marketing of Agricultural Commodities: An Evolutionary Trend (*Report*) 123647

Aid to families w dependent children

Federal and State Initiatives Needed To Improve Productivity and Reduce Administrative Costs of the Aid to Families With Dependent Children and Food Stamp Programs (*Report*) 123347

Federal and State Liability for Inaccurate Payments of Food Stamp, AFDC, and SSI Program Benefits (*Report*) 124028

HHS Needs To Determine If Massachusetts' AFDC Program Meets Federal Requirements and, If Not, Take Compliance Action (*Report*) 124605

Better Wage-Matching Systems and Procedures Would Enhance Food Stamp Program Integrity (*Report*) 125103

Air Force bases

Air Force Progress in Implementing the Phase IV Base Level Computer Replacement Program (*Report*) 123225

Air Force personnel

Army Could Do More To Reduce Imbalances in Military Occupational Specialties (*Report*) 123439

Air Force procurement

Air Force Decision Not To Purchase Certain Automatic Data Processing Equipment Located at Its Environmental Technical Applications Center, Washington, D.C. (*Report*) 089229

Air Force Progress in Implementing the Phase IV Base Level Computer Replacement Program (*Report*) 123225

Protest of Air Force Contract Award to Higher Priced Offerer (*Decision*) 123240

Protest of Issuance of Air Force Delivery Order (*Decision*) 123305

GAO Examination of Air Force's Proposed Multiyear Procurement for DSCS III (*Report*) 123312

Protest of Air Force Issuance of Delivery Orders (<i>Decision</i>)	123560	Federal Aviation Administration's System for Prioritizing Airport Grants (<i>Report</i>)	124121	Army Has the Opportunity To Recompete DAS3 Purchases and Improve Automated Battlefield Support (<i>Report</i>)	125265
Protest of Any Contract Award to Another Firm Under Air Force IFB (<i>Decision</i>)	124565	Financial Management Profile: Department of Health and Human Services (<i>Report</i>)	124637	Protest Alleging Insufficient Bid Preparation Time (<i>Decision</i>)	125557
Protest of Air Force Rejection of Apparent Low Bid (<i>Decision</i>)	124868	Information on Repayment of the Government's Uranium Enrichment Program Costs and Audits of That Program's Financial Statements (<i>Report</i>)	124971	Army supplies	
Excessive Air Force Inventories Result From Duplicative Spare Parts Requirements (<i>Report</i>)	125449	Appropriations		The Army Can Do More To Assure War Reserve Funds Are Spent Effectively (<i>Report</i>)	123440
Protest of Provisions in Air Force RFP (<i>Decision</i>)	125673	Use of Public Funds by the National Technical Information Service To Compete With Private Industry (<i>Letter</i>)	102824	Army Test Measurement and Diagnostic Equipment Program	
Air transportation operations		Summaries of Conclusions and Recommendations on the Operations of Civil Departments and Agencies (<i>Report</i>)	123713	GAO Concerns Relating to Additional EQUATE Procurements and Improvements (<i>Report</i>)	124996
The FAA Process of Selecting Locations for Automated Flight Service Stations (<i>Report</i>)	123550	Archives		Audit reports	
Aircraft		Summary of Records Retention Requirements Relating to the Activities of the GAO (<i>Letter</i>)	100469	Examination of the Federal Election Commission's Financial Statements for the Year Ended September 30, 1982 (<i>Report</i>)	124591
Actions Taken To Improve Management and Reduce Costs of Interior's Aircraft Operations (<i>Report</i>)	123974	Army		Auditing procedures	
Aircraft components		Approval of Revised Design of Accounting System for U S Army Corps of Engineers (<i>Letter</i>)	102825	Improving Generalists' Capabilities in Assessing Output Reliability and Internal Controls in Computer-Based Systems (<i>Other</i>)	088865
Control of Aircraft Parts at Maintenance Depots (<i>Report</i>)	124182	Army personnel		The Audit and Inspection Functions at the United States Information Agency Need Management Attention (<i>Report</i>)	123829
Aircraft maintenance		Army Could Do More To Reduce Imbalances in Military Occupational Specialties (<i>Report</i>)	123439	The Assets, Liabilities, and Vulnerabilities of Information (<i>Speech</i>)	124059
Actions Taken To Improve Management and Reduce Costs of Interior's Aircraft Operations (<i>Report</i>)	123974	Observations on the Army's Manpower Requirements Criteria Program (<i>Report</i>)	124183	The Modern EDP Environment's Impact on Internal Controls and Auditing (<i>Other</i>)	124344
Control of Aircraft Parts at Maintenance Depots (<i>Report</i>)	124182	Army procurement		Status of Internal Audit Capabilities of Federal Agencies Without Statutory Inspectors General (<i>Report</i>)	124351
Airports		Examination of Alleged Waste and Mismanagement in Army Test, Measurement, and Diagnostic Equipment Support Group (<i>Report</i>)	123556	Auditing Using Microtechnology (<i>Other</i>)	124389
The FAA Process of Selecting Locations for Automated Flight Service Stations (<i>Report</i>)	123550	Protest Alleging Unduly Restrictive Specifications in Army RFP (<i>Decision</i>)	123611	A List of Selected GAO Publications Containing Checklists or Guidance on Computer Software Topics (<i>Other</i>)	125250
Federal Aviation Administration's System for Prioritizing Airport Grants (<i>Report</i>)	124121	Protest of Rejection of Offer by Army (<i>Decision</i>)	123820	Governmental Financial Management and Debt Crisis: Some Lessons From Experience (<i>Speech</i>)	125417
Aliens		Protest of Rejection of Bid as Nonresponsive by Army (<i>Decision</i>)	123863	Audit Guides To Review Implementation of the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act: The Second Year (<i>Other</i>)	125524
Information on Aliens Admitted into the United States as Nonimmigrant Workers (<i>Report</i>)	125958	Protests of Army, Defense, and Coast Guard Procurements (<i>Decision</i>)	124000	Auditing standards	
Amortization		Protest of Corps of Engineers Contract Award Alleging Awardee's Proposal Unacceptable (<i>Decision</i>)	124860	The Audit Survey (<i>Other</i>)	088868
Information on Repayment of the Government's Uranium Enrichment Program Costs and Audits of That Program's Financial Statements (<i>Report</i>)	124971	Protests Under Army RFP (<i>Decision</i>)	124883	Review of the Audit of the National Consumer Cooperative Bank's Financial Statements for the Year Ended December 31, 1982 (<i>Report</i>)	122615
Appropriated funds		Contracting Out Under OMB Circular A-76 at Selected Army and Navy Activities in Virginia (<i>Report</i>)	124888	Withdrawal of Approval of the Federal Election Commission Accounting System (<i>Report</i>)	123202
Corps of Engineers Request for Decision Concerning Legality of Expending Appropriated Funds (<i>Decision</i>)	123808	GAO Concerns Relating to Additional EQUATE Procurements and Improvements (<i>Report</i>)	124996		

Sole-Source Versus Competitive Contracting: Why a GAO Audit Guide Is Needed (*Other*) 123791

The Audit and Inspection Functions at the United States Information Agency Need Management Attention (*Report*) 123829

The Modern EDP Environment's Impact on Internal Controls and Auditing (*Other*) 124344

Status of Internal Audit Capabilities of Federal Agencies Without Statutory Inspectors General (*Report*) 124351

Examination of the Federal Election Commission's Financial Statements for the Year Ended September 30, 1982 (*Report*) 124591

Audit Guides To Review Implementation of the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act: The Second Year (*Other*) 125524

Improvements Needed in the Department of the Interior's Acquisition of Geophysical Data (*Report*) 125907

Auditing systems

An Assessment of Random Audit--A New Department of Labor Program To Improve the Accuracy of Unemployment Insurance Benefit Payments (*Report*) 123788

Topics in Evaluation (*Other*) 123790

Auditing Using Microtechnology (*Other*) 124389

Topics in Evaluation (*Other*) 124846

CARE-Based Audit Methodology To Review and Evaluate Agency Accounting and Financial Management Systems (*Report*) 125337

Auditors

The Modern EDP Environment's Impact on Internal Controls and Auditing (*Other*) 124344

Status of Internal Audit Capabilities of Federal Agencies Without Statutory Inspectors General (*Report*) 124351

Planning EDP Audit Career Development (*Other*) 124972

Design, Methodology, and Technical Assistance Groups in GAO: A Concept Paper (*Other*) 125125

Audits

Comments on the Adequacy of the Audit Trail Within GPO's Automated Publication Receipt and Control System (*Report*) 089124

Summary of Records Retention Requirements Relating to the Activities of the GAO (*Letter*) 100469

Proposed Procedure for Access by GAO to Records of Students in the Murphy School District (*Letter*) 106776

Audit of the Interstate Organized Crime Index (*Letter*) 106870

Summaries of Conclusions and Recommendations on the Operations of Civil Departments and Agencies (*Report*) 123713

The Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund's Financial Operations Were Properly Accounted for and Reported (*Report*) 124335

Automatic Data Processing: A Career Challenge (*Other*) 124847

Information on Repayment of the Government's Uranium Enrichment Program Costs and Audits of That Program's Financial Statements (*Report*) 124971

Governmental Financial Management and Debt Crisis: Some Lessons From Experience (*Speech*) 125417

Automated systems

Review of Crimes in Computer-Based Data Processing Systems (*Report*) 089059

Need for Computer Program Modifications To Show a Correct Organizational History of Employees' Earnings in the Civilian Payroll System of the U.S. Army Military District of Washington (*Report*) 089108

Review of Crimes in Computer-Based Data Processing System (*Report*) 089122

Advanced, Computer-Oriented, Design System (*Report*) 089218

Survey of the Small Business Administration's Accounting for Loan Guaranty Fees (*Report*) 089255

Proposed Regulation Prescribing New "Fixed-Price Options" Provisions for Use in Automatic Data Processing Systems Procurement (*Letter*) 103353

Protest of SBA Contract Award (*Decision*) 123475

ASCS Needs Better Information To Adequately Assess Proposed County and State Office Automation (*Report*) 124258

Auditing Using Microtechnology (*Other*) 124389

A Comparative Review of Optical Character Readers Used in Mail Processing (*Testimony*) 124418

Bureau of the Census' Planned 1985 Pretests for the 1990 Decennial Census (*Testimony*) 124525

Comparative Review of Single-Line and Multiline Optical Character Readers Used in Mail Processing (*Report*) 124865

Army Has the Opportunity To Recompete DAS3 Purchases and Improve Automated Battlefield Support (*Report*) 125265

Opportunities for Public Housing Authorities To Develop and Acquire Computer-Based Management Information Systems (*Report*) 125270

Allegations of Contract Buy-In and Substantial Cost Increases in the Navy's Standard Automated Financial System (*Report*) 125545

Opportunities To Improve the DOD Personal Property Shipping Program (*Report*) 125582

The Nine-Digit ZIP Code: Is the Postal Service Doing a Number on Us? (*Other*) 125831

Automatic Earnings Reappraisal Operation

Delays in Recomputing Social Security Benefits Cause Underpayments for Extended Periods (*Report*) 125199

Automation

Comments on the Adequacy of the Audit Trail Within GPO's Automated Publication Receipt and Control System (*Report*) 089124

Review of Leave Resulting From Delay Enroute Incident to Permanent Change of Duty Station (*Report*) 089125

Bank loans

Examination of the Financial Statements of the Export-Import Bank of the United States for the Fiscal Year Ended September 30, 1983 (*Report*) 124124

Bank reserves

Examination of the Financial Statements of the Export-Import Bank of the United States for the Fiscal Year Ended September 30, 1983 (*Report*) 124124

Banking regulation

Bank Liability Pursuant to Electronic Transfer of Reoccurring Federal Payments (*Decision*) 123881

Benchmark testing

Protest of IRS Elimination of Proposal From Competitive Range (*Decision*) 123141

Protest of Corps of Engineers Contract Award Alleging Awardee's Proposal Unacceptable (*Decision*) 124860

A List of Selected GAO Publications Containing Checklists or Guidance on Computer Software Topics (*Other*) 125250

Best and final offers

Protest of USGS Proposed Contract Award (*Decision*) 123762

Protest of FBI Contract Award (*Decision*) 123955

Protest of Allegedly Improper IRS Actions in Amending Solicitation (*Decision*) 124232

Bid errors

Protest of IRS Elimination of Proposal From Competitive Range (*Decision*) 123141

Bid evaluation

- Evaluation of Two Proposals for Design of a New Financial Management System for the District Government (*Letter*) 105972
- The FAA Process of Selecting Locations for Automated Flight Service Stations (*Report*) 123550

Bid evaluation protests

- Protest of IRS Elimination of Proposal From Competitive Range (*Decision*) 123141
- Protest of Cancellation and Unrestricted Resolicitation of Commerce RFP (*Decision*) 123230
- Protest of HHS Rejection of Offer and Issuance of Delivery Order to Another Firm (*Decision*) 123270
- Protest of Issuance of Air Force Delivery Order (*Decision*) 123305
- Protest of Rejection of Offer by Army (*Decision*) 123820
- Protest of FBI Contract Award (*Decision*) 123955
- Protests Concerning Bidder Responsiveness Pursuant to Department of Education Contract Award (*Decision*) 124142
- Protest of GSA Procurement Practices and Contract Award (*Decision*) 124672
- Protests Under Army RFP (*Decision*) 124883

Bid modifications

- Protest of Proposed Contract Award Under Navy IFB (*Decision*) 125498

Bid preparation costs

- GAO Views on H R. 5184 (*Testimony*) 123751
- Protest of FBI Contract Award (*Decision*) 123955

Bid preparation time

- Protest Alleging Insufficient Bid Preparation Time (*Decision*) 125557
- Protest of RFP Provisions Issued by Department of Energy (*Decision*) 125935

Bid protests

- Protest of HHS Rejection of Offer and Issuance of Delivery Order to Another Firm (*Decision*) 123270
- GAO Views on H R. 5184 (*Testimony*) 123751

Bid protests reconsiderations

- Request for Reconsideration of Protest Under Navy RFP (*Decision*) 123416

- Request for Reconsideration of Protest of SBA Requirement (*Decision*) 125801

Bid rejection protests

- Protest of HHS Rejection of Offer and Issuance of Delivery Order to Another Firm (*Decision*) 123270
- Protests of Bid Rejections by SSA (*Decision*) 123433
- Protest of Rejection of Offer by Army (*Decision*) 123820
- Protest of Rejection of Bid as Nonresponsive by Army (*Decision*) 123863
- Protest of Forest Service Rejection of Bid (*Decision*) 123931
- Protest of Air Force Rejection of Apparent Low Bid (*Decision*) 124868
- Protest of Exclusion From Competitive Range Under RFP (*Decision*) 125084

Bidder eligibility

- Protest of Air Force Issuance of Delivery Orders (*Decision*) 123560
- Protest of Proposed Army Contract Award (*Decision*) 123603

Bidder responsibility

- Protest of Defense Mapping Agency Contract Award (*Decision*) 123693
- Protest of FBI Contract Award (*Decision*) 123955

Bidder responsiveness

- Evaluation of Two Proposals for Design of a New Financial Management System for the District Government (*Letter*) 105972
- Protest of Rejection of Bid as Nonresponsive by Army (*Decision*) 123863
- Protest of Forest Service Rejection of Bid (*Decision*) 123931
- Protests Concerning Bidder Responsiveness Pursuant to Department of Education Contract Award (*Decision*) 124142
- Protest of Any Contract Award to Another Firm Under Air Force IFB (*Decision*) 124565
- Protest of Corps of Engineers Contract Award Alleging Awardee's Proposal Unacceptable (*Decision*) 124860
- Protest of Air Force Rejection of Apparent Low Bid (*Decision*) 124868

Bids

- Survey of the District of Columbia Procurement System (*Report*) 089046

Billing procedures

- Survey of the Small Business Administration's Accounting for Loan Guaranty Fees (*Report*) 089255

Brand name specifications

- Protest of SBA Brand Name Only Purchase Description (*Decision*) 125164

Budget administration

- Activities of Washington Data Processing Center Statistical Research Service (*Report*) 088933
- Increasing HUD Effectiveness Through Improved Management (*Report*) 123198

Budget cuts

- Status of the Statistical Community After Sustaining Budget Reductions (*Staff Study*) 124693

Budget outlays

- Accuracy, Cost, and Users of the Consolidated Federal Funds Report (*Report*) 125396

Budget receipts

- The Grace Commission's Major Proposals To Control Federal Costs (*Testimony*) 123530
- Ways To Improve the Federal/State Tax Information Exchange Program (*Speech*) 124608
- Information on Repayment of the Government's Uranium Enrichment Program Costs and Audits of That Program's Financial Statements (*Report*) 124971

Budget Reform Act of 1982

- Topics in Financial Management (*Speech*) 124295

Budgeting

- The Grace Commission's Major Proposals To Control Federal Costs (*Testimony*) 123530
- Analysis of the Grace Commission's Major Proposals for Cost Control (*Other*) 123531
- Financial Management Profile: Department of Health and Human Services (*Report*) 124637
- Technical Summary: Financial Management Profile of the Office of the Secretary, HHS (*Other*) 124925
- Technical Summary: HHS, Budget Development Systems (*Other*) 124926
- Technical Summary: Financial Management Profile of the HHS Central Personnel/Payroll System (*Other*) 124927
- Technical Summary: HHS, Regional Accounting System (*Other*) 124928
- Technical Summary: Financial Management Profile of the Social Security Administration (*Other*) 124929

- Technical Summary: Financial Management Profile of the Health Care Financing Administration (*Other*) 124930
- Technical Summary: Financial Management Profile of the Office of Human Development Services, HHS (*Other*) 124931
- Technical Summary: Financial Management Profile of the Health Resources and Services Administration (*Other*) 124932
- Technical Summary: Financial Management Profile of the Centers for Disease Control (*Other*) 124933
- Technical Summary: Financial Management Profile of the National Institutes of Health (*Other*) 124934
- Technical Summary: Financial Management Profile of the Food and Drug Administration (*Other*) 124935
- Budgets**
- National Public Radio (*Testimony*) 123385
- Federal Evaluations (*Other*) 123685
- Summaries of Conclusions and Recommendations on the Operations of Civil Departments and Agencies (*Report*) 123713
- Topics in Financial Management (*Speech*) 124295
- Career planning**
- Army Could Do More To Reduce Imbalances in Military Occupational Specialties (*Report*) 123439
- The Leesburg GAO Senior Executive Management Meeting Speeches (*Speech*) 124300
- Planning EDP Audit Career Development (*Other*) 124972
- Census**
- Bureau of the Census' Planned 1985 Pretests for the 1990 Decennial Census (*Testimony*) 124525
- Centralization**
- Survey of the District of Columbia Procurement System (*Report*) 089046
- Establishment of a Central Focal Point for Telecommunications Matters (*Letter*) 106777
- Examination of Alleged Waste and Mismanagement in Army Test, Measurement, and Diagnostic Equipment Support Group (*Report*) 123556
- Charitable organizations**
- The Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund's Financial Operations Were Properly Accounted for and Reported (*Report*) 124335
- Check disbursement or control**
- Survey of Actions To Correct Problems With the Navy's Military Pay System (*Report*) 125340
- Child care programs**
- The GAO Review, Vol 18, Issue 3, Summer 1983 (*Other*) 124336
- Civil liberties**
- Request for Opportunity To Inspect Certain GAO Records Relating to Contracts (*Letter*) 100463
- Civilian employees**
- The Federal Government Can Reduce Costs in the Development, Maintenance, and Operation of Civilian Payroll Systems (*Report*) 124877
- Claims**
- Survey of States' Utilization Review Programs for Noninstitutional Services Under Medicaid (*Report*) 102509
- Information on Shortages in Stamp Stock at the Main Post Office and the Carl Range Station in Irving, Texas (*Report*) 124041
- Claims processing**
- Proposal To Improve Identification and Collection of Medicare Part B Duplicate Payments (*Report*) 125007
- Claims settlement**
- Bank Liability Pursuant to Electronic Transfer of Reoccurring Federal Payments (*Decision*) 123881
- Tax Court Can Reduce Growing Case Backlog and Expenses Through Administrative Improvements (*Report*) 124125
- GAO's Views on the Report of the Congressional Panel on Social Security Organization (*Testimony*) 124786
- Classified communications**
- Views and Comments on H.R. 15353, 94th Congress, Second Session (*Letter*) 100566
- Classroom/On-the-Job Training and Transitional Employment Program**
- Strong Internal Controls at Service Delivery Level Will Help Prevent CETA-Type Fraud and Abuse in Job Training Partnership Act Programs (*Report*) 125541
- Clearinghouses**
- Use of Public Funds by the National Technical Information Service To Compete With Private Industry (*Letter*) 102824
- Ways To Improve the Federal/State Tax Information Exchange Program (*Speech*) 124608
- Government Printing Office's Depository Library Program (*Report*) 125853
- Coast Guard personnel**
- Reductions in Coast Guard Leased Housing Can Achieve Savings (*Report*) 124872
- Collection procedures**
- Improved Collections Can Reduce Federal and District Government Food Stamp Program Costs (*Report*) 114830
- Information on the Department of Energy's Budgets for Enforcing Its Petroleum Allocation and Pricing Regulations and Its Process for Distributing Oil Company Overcharge Refunds (*Report*) 124143
- Office of Workers' Compensation Programs Needs To Improve Procedures To Help Reduce Payment Errors and Identify Dual Payments (*Report*) 124193
- Internal Control Weaknesses at the U.S. Customs Service (*Report*) 124237
- Colleges/universities**
- Studies of U.S. Universities' Research Equipment Needs Inconclusive (*Report*) 124347
- Colorado**
- Information on Forest Service Below-Cost Timber Sales for National Forests in Colorado (*Report*) 124843
- Combat readiness**
- The Army Can Do More To Assure War Reserve Funds Are Spent Effectively (*Report*) 123440
- Commercial aviation**
- Interim Observations on FAA's Plans for Major Systems Acquisitions (*Report*) 124281
- Commercial television broadcasting**
- The Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund's Financial Operations Were Properly Accounted for and Reported (*Report*) 124335
- Commodity marketing**
- Electronic Marketing of Agricultural Commodities: An Evolutionary Trend (*Report*) 123647
- Communications equipment**
- Protests of Army, Defense, and Coast Guard Procurements (*Decision*) 124000
- Communications operations**
- Report of the ADP Task Force (*Memorandum*) 088965

Right To Make Public a Library of Congress Written Work Product (<i>Letter</i>)	103489	Information on Data Problems Identified by the Department of Energy With Its Final Entitlements Lists (<i>Report</i>)	125989	Department of State's First-Year Implementation of the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act (<i>Report</i>)	124029
Communications satellites		Competition in Contracting Act		Defense Logistics Agency's First-Year Implementation of the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act (<i>Report</i>)	124030
GAO Examination of Air Force's Proposed Multiyear Procurement for DSCS III (<i>Report</i>)	123312	GAO Views on H.R. 5184 (<i>Testimony</i>)	123751	Department of Defense's First-Year Implementation of the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act (<i>Report</i>)	124031
Protest of GSA Decision To Exclude Carriers From Competition (<i>Decision</i>)	123947	Sole-Source Versus Competitive Contracting: Why a GAO Audit Guide Is Needed (<i>Other</i>)	123791	Department of the Air Force's First-Year Implementation of the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act (<i>Report</i>)	124033
Community development programs		Competition limitation		Defense Mapping Agency's First-Year Implementation of the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act (<i>Report</i>)	124035
District Could Get More for Urban Renewal Property, but HUD Debt Will Be Repaid (<i>Report</i>)	117731	Protest of Certain Requirements Under D.C. Solicitation (<i>Decision</i>)	123165	National Aeronautics and Space Administration's First-Year Implementation of the Federal Manager's Financial Integrity Act (<i>Report</i>)	124038
Increasing HUD Effectiveness Through Improved Management (<i>Report</i>)	123198	Request for Reconsideration of Protest Under Navy RFP (<i>Decision</i>)	123416	First-Year Implementation of the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act in the Department of Labor (<i>Report</i>)	124061
Insights Into Major Urban Development Action Grant Issues (<i>Report</i>)	123557	The FAA Process of Selecting Locations for Automated Flight Service Stations (<i>Report</i>)	123550	Department of the Army's First-Year Implementation of the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act (<i>Report</i>)	124074
Comparative analysis		Protest Alleging Unduly Restrictive Specifications in Army RFP (<i>Decision</i>)	123611	First Year Implementation of the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act by the Department of Justice (<i>Report</i>)	124097
A Comparative Review of Optical Character Readers Used in Mail Processing (<i>Testimony</i>)	124418	Protest of GSA Decision To Exclude Carriers From Competition (<i>Decision</i>)	123947	First-Year Implementation of the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act in the Department of Education (<i>Report</i>)	124112
Comparative Review of Single-Line and Multiline Optical Character Readers Used in Mail Processing (<i>Report</i>)	124865	Protests of Army, Defense, and Coast Guard Procurements (<i>Decision</i>)	124000	The Department of Health and Human Services' First-Year Implementation of the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act (<i>Report</i>)	124123
Compensation		Protest of RFP Issued by HHS (<i>Decision</i>)	124773	Department of the Navy's First-Year Implementation of the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act (<i>Report</i>)	124150
Need for Improved Controls at VA Regional Offices To Ensure Timely Correction of Rejected Transactions in the Automated Compensation and Pension System (<i>Report</i>)	089117	Protest of NASA Negotiated Procurement (<i>Decision</i>)	125071	First Year Implementation of the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act by the GSA (<i>Report</i>)	124210
Compensation claims		Protest of SBA Brand Name Only Purchase Description (<i>Decision</i>)	125164	First-Year Implementation of the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act by the Department of the Treasury (<i>Report</i>)	124235
Bank Liability Pursuant to Electronic Transfer of Reoccurring Federal Payments (<i>Decision</i>)	123881	Better Management Controls and ADP Requirements Analysis Can Help NASA Lewis Research Center (<i>Report</i>)	125266	Implementation of the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act of 1982 (<i>Testimony</i>)	124299
Competition		Protest of OPM Procurement (<i>Decision</i>)	125330	The Department of Energy's First-Year Implementation of the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act (<i>Report</i>)	124331
Use of Public Funds by the National Technical Information Service To Compete With Private Industry (<i>Letter</i>)	102824	Competitive procurement		GSA's Telecommunications Procurement Program Requires Comprehensive Planning and Management (<i>Report</i>)	124361
Protest of USDA Solicitation (<i>Decision</i>)	123335	Protest of USGS Proposed Contract Award (<i>Decision</i>)	123762	Small Business Administration's First-Year Implementation of the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act (<i>Report</i>)	124365
Protest of Forest Service Contract Award (<i>Decision</i>)	123534	Protest of EPA Request for Proposals (<i>Decision</i>)	125760		
Protest of EPA Contract Award Under Oral Solicitation (<i>Decision</i>)	123565	Compliance			
GAO Views on H.R. 5184 (<i>Testimony</i>)	123751	Legality of Contract Award to Kentron Hawaii, Ltd. by the Department of Transportation (<i>Letter</i>)	106189		
Sole-Source Versus Competitive Contracting: Why a GAO Audit Guide Is Needed (<i>Other</i>)	123791	Federal Agency Compliance with Indexing and Publishing Requirements of the Freedom of Information Act (<i>Letter</i>)	107421		
GSA's Telecommunications Procurement Program Requires Comprehensive Planning and Management (<i>Report</i>)	124361	Review of the Activities of the House Office Equipment Service for the Year Ended June 30, 1983 (<i>Report</i>)	123463		
		The Audit and Inspection Functions at the United States Information Agency Need Management Attention (<i>Report</i>)	123829		
		First-Year Implementation of the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act in VA (<i>Report</i>)	124023		

Department of the Interior's First-Year Implementation of the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act (<i>Report</i>)	124460	Protest of Issuance of Air Force Delivery Order (<i>Decision</i>)	123305	ADP, IRM & Telecommunications (<i>Other</i>)	124463
Agriculture's First-Year Implementation of the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act (<i>Report</i>)	124477	Protest of USDA Solicitation (<i>Decision</i>)	123335	The GAO Review, Vol. 19, Issue 3, Summer 1984 (<i>Other</i>)	124845
Department of Commerce's First-Year Implementation of the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act (<i>Report</i>)	124483	Protest of Air Force Issuance of Delivery Orders (<i>Decision</i>)	123560	Navy Did Not Adhere to Procurement Regulations in Acquiring a Computer for Its Ships Parts Control Center (<i>Report</i>)	124959
Examination of the Federal Election Commission's Financial Statements for the Year Ended September 30, 1982 (<i>Report</i>)	124591	Protest of USGS Proposed Contract Award (<i>Decision</i>)	123762	Army Has the Opportunity To Recompete DAS3 Purchases and Improve Automated Battlefield Support (<i>Report</i>)	125265
Transportation's First-Year Implementation of the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act (<i>Report</i>)	124658	Protest of FBI Contract Award (<i>Decision</i>)	123955		
Protest of GSA Procurement Practices and Contract Award (<i>Decision</i>)	124672	Protest of RFP Issued by HHS (<i>Decision</i>)	124773	Computer modeling	
HUD's First-Year Implementation of the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act (<i>Report</i>)	124698	Protests Under Army RFP (<i>Decision</i>)	124883	Need for Computer Program Modifications To Show a Correct Organizational History of Employees' Earnings in the Civilian Payroll System of the U.S. Army Military District of Washington (<i>Report</i>)	089108
Federal Agencies' Actions To Implement Section 11 of the Stevenson-Wydler Technology Innovation Act of 1980 (<i>Report</i>)	125024	Protests of Any Contract Award Under VA Solicitation (<i>Decision</i>)	124952		
Comments on S. 774, The Freedom of Information Reform Act (<i>Letter</i>)	125041	Navy Did Not Adhere to Procurement Regulations in Acquiring a Computer for Its Ships Parts Control Center (<i>Report</i>)	124959	Computer networks	
Implementation of the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act: First Year (<i>Report</i>)	125049	Protest of NASA Negotiated Procurement (<i>Decision</i>)	125071	Internal Controls of the Transportation Computer Center and Pollution Reporting Incident Reporting System (<i>Report</i>)	089018
CARE-Based Audit Methodology To Review and Evaluate Agency Accounting and Financial Management Systems (<i>Report</i>)	125337	Protest of Exclusion From Competitive Range Under RFP (<i>Decision</i>)	125084		
EPA Could Benefit From Comprehensive Management Information on Superfund Enforcement Actions (<i>Report</i>)	125938	Protest of HUD Purchase (<i>Decision</i>)	125121	Computer output microforms	
		Protest of SBA Brand Name Only Purchase Description (<i>Decision</i>)	125164	Protest of Marine Corps Issuance of Delivery Order (<i>Decision</i>)	125892
		Social Security Administration's Management of Its Contracts To Modernize Its Data Communications System (<i>Testimony</i>)	125175		
		Better Management Controls and ADP Requirements Analysis Can Help NASA Lewis Research Center (<i>Report</i>)	125266	Computer security	
		Protest of OPM Procurement (<i>Decision</i>)	125330	Safeguarding of Proprietary Data at Minerals Management Service OCS Regional Offices (<i>Report</i>)	124360
		Allegations of Contract Buy-In and Substantial Cost Increases in the Navy's Standard Automated Financial System (<i>Report</i>)	125545		
		Protest of Rejection of Proposal Under Navy RFTP (<i>Decision</i>)	125697	Computer services contracts	
		Request for Reconsideration of Protest of SBA Requirement (<i>Decision</i>)	125801	Activities of Washington Data Processing Center Statistical Research Service (<i>Report</i>)	088933
				Request for Reconsideration of Protest Under Navy RFP (<i>Decision</i>)	123416
				Protest of GSA Procurement Practices and Contract Award (<i>Decision</i>)	124672
				Protest of Corps of Engineers Contract Award Alleging Awardee's Proposal Unacceptable (<i>Decision</i>)	124860
				Protest of EPA Request for Proposals (<i>Decision</i>)	125760
Computer crimes		Computer equipment industry		Computer software	
Review of Crimes in Computer-Based Data Processing System (<i>Report</i>)	089122	The Department of Agriculture's Allegation Concerning the General Services Administration's Mandatory Requirements Contract for ITDL Disk Drives (<i>Report</i>)	102434	Protest of Air Force Contract Award to Higher Priced Offerer (<i>Decision</i>)	123240
The GAO Review, Vol. 19, Issue 3, Summer 1984 (<i>Other</i>)	124845			Auditing Using Microtechnology (<i>Other</i>)	124389
Crime, Abuse, and the Computer: The Problem and the Federal Experience (<i>Other</i>)	124849			GAO's Views on the Report of the Congressional Panel on Social Security Organization (<i>Testimony</i>)	124786
				Protest of NSF Contract Award (<i>Decision</i>)	125435
Computer equipment contracts		Computer equipment management		Computer software documentation	
Use of ADP Equipment Operated by Three or Four Typical Government Contractors (<i>Report</i>)	089247	Air Force Decision Not To Purchase Certain Automatic Data Processing Equipment Located at Its Environmental Technical Applications Center, Washington, D.C. (<i>Report</i>)	089229	Use of Public Funds by the National Technical Information Service To Compete With Private Industry (<i>Letter</i>)	102824
The Department of Agriculture's Allegation Concerning the General Services Administration's Mandatory Requirements Contract for ITDL Disk Drives (<i>Report</i>)	102434	Use of ADP Equipment Operated by Three or Four Typical Government Contractors (<i>Report</i>)	089247		
Protest of Certain Requirements Under D.C. Solicitation (<i>Decision</i>)	123165	Air Force Progress in Implementing the Phase IV Base Level Computer Replacement Program (<i>Report</i>)	123225		
The Energy Information Administration Needs To Strengthen Its Computer Systems Development Procedures (<i>Report</i>)	123180				

Legality of Contract Award to Ken-
tron Hawaii, Ltd. by the Depart-
ment of Transportation (*Letter*) 106189

Protest of Rejection of Offer by
Army (*Decision*) 123820

A List of Selected GAO Publications
Containing Checklists or Guidance
on Computer Software Topics
(*Other*) 125250

Protest of Proposed Equipment Order
by ACTION Against GSA Con-
tract (*Decision*) 125278

Protest of EPA Request for Proposals
(*Decision*) 125760

Computerized information systems

Improving Generalists' Capabilities in
Assessing Output Reliability and
Internal Controls in Computer-
Based Systems (*Other*) 088865

Report of the ADP Task Force
(*Memorandum*) 088965

Need for Improved Controls at VA
Regional Offices To Ensure Timely
Correction of Rejected Transac-
tions in the Automated Compensa-
tion and Pension System (*Report*) 089117

The Energy Information Administra-
tion Needs To Strengthen Its Com-
puter Systems Development Pro-
cedures (*Report*) 123180

An Improved Automated System
Would Better Identify Small
Businesses Seeking Federal Con-
tracting Opportunities (*Report*) 123228

Office of Federal Contract Compli-
ance Programs' Actions To Im-
prove Processing of Handicapped
Employment Discrimination Com-
plaints (*Report*) 123311

Interim Observations on FAA's Plans
for Major Systems Acquisitions
(*Report*) 124281

Auditing Using Microtechnology
(*Other*) 124389

GAO Observations on the Use of
Tax Return Information for Veri-
fication in Entitlement Programs
(*Report*) 124423

ADP, IRM & Telecommunications
(*Other*) 124463

Opportunities for Public Housing
Authorities To Develop and
Acquire Computer-Based Manage-
ment Information Systems (*Report*) 125270

Observations on the FBI's Interstate
Identification Index (*Report*) 125400

**Computerized internal control
review system**

Small Business Administration's
First-Year Implementation of the
Federal Managers' Financial Integ-
rity Act (*Report*) 124365

Computers

Policy and Procedures Pertaining to
Procurement of ADP Equipment
(*Letter*) 107007

ADP Bibliography

Corps of Engineers Request for Deci-
sion Concerning Legality of Ex-
pending Appropriated Funds (*Deci-
sion*) 123808

ADP, IRM & Telecommunications
(*Other*) 124463

Exports of Dual-Use, Nuclear-
Related Equipment to the People's
Republic of China (*Report*) 124609

Confidential records

GAO's Policies and Practices To
Prevent Misuse of Access and Dis-
closure Authority (*Letter*) 104823

Proposed Procedure for Access by
GAO to Records of Students in the
Murphy School District (*Letter*) 106776

Compilation of GAO's Work on
Tax-Related Activities During 1983
(*Report*) 124536

Tax Information Safeguard Activity
Annual Report (*Report*) 124866

Congressional budgets

Reform of the Federal Budget Pro-
cess (*Testimony*) 123358

Progress in Improving Program and
Budget Information for Congres-
sional Use (*Report*) 125339

Congressional investigations

Availability of GAO Records to the
Public (*Letter*) 106221

Construction contracts

Protest of Forest Service Contract
Award (*Decision*) 123534

Further Improvements Needed in
Navy's Oversight of Contracting for
Facilities Construction on Diego
Garcia (*Report*) 124211

Contract administration

Use of ADP Equipment Operated by
Three or Four Typical Government
Contractors (*Report*) 089247

Further Improvements Needed in
Navy's Oversight of Contracting for
Facilities Construction on Diego
Garcia (*Report*) 124211

Social Security Administration's Man-
agement of Its Data Communica-
tions Contracts With Paradyne Cor-
poration (*Testimony*) 124834

SSA Data Communications Contracts
With Paradyne Corporation Dem-
onstrate the Need for Improved
Management Controls (*Report*) 124854

Additional Information on SSA Man-
agement of Data Communications
Contracts with Paradyne Corpora-
tion (*Report*) 125124

Social Security Administration's Man-
agement of Its Contracts To Mod-
ernize Its Data Communications
System (*Testimony*) 125175

Contract award

Legality of Contract Award to Ken-
tron Hawaii, Ltd. by the Depart-
ment of Transportation (*Letter*) 106189

Social Security Administration's Man-
agement of Its Data Communica-
tions Contracts With Paradyne Cor-
poration (*Testimony*) 124834

SSA Data Communications Contracts
With Paradyne Corporation Dem-
onstrate the Need for Improved
Management Controls (*Report*) 124854

Additional Information on SSA Man-
agement of Data Communications
Contracts with Paradyne Corpora-
tion (*Report*) 125124

Contract award protests

Protest of Air Force Contract Award
to Higher Priced Offerer (*Decision*) 123240

Protest of Issuance of Air Force
Delivery Order (*Decision*) 123305

Protest of SBA Contract Award (*De-
cision*) 123475

Protest of Forest Service Contract
Award (*Decision*) 123534

Protest of EPA Contract Award Un-
der Oral Solicitation (*Decision*) 123565

Protest of Proposed Army Contract
Award (*Decision*) 123603

Protest of HHS Issuance of Delivery
Order (*Decision*) 123651

Protest of Defense Mapping Agency
Contract Award (*Decision*) 123693

Protest of Proposed Subcontract
Award by EPA Contractor (*Deci-
sion*) 123826

Protest of Forest Service Rejection of
Bid (*Decision*) 123931

Protest of Contract Award by the Ad-
ministrative Office of the U.S.
Courts (*Decision*) 123949

Protest of FBI Contract Award (*Deci-
sion*) 123955

Request for Reconsideration of Sus-
tained Protest Under FBI Solicita-
tion (*Decision*) 124078

Protests Concerning Bidder Respon-
siveness Pursuant to Department of
Education Contract Award (*Deci-
sion*) 124142

Protest of Any Contract Award to
Another Firm Under Air Force
IFB (*Decision*) 124565

Protest of GSA Procurement Prac-
tices and Contract Award (*Deci-
sion*) 124672

Protest of Corps of Engineers Con-
tract Award Alleging Awardee's
Proposal Unacceptable (*Decision*) 124860

Protests Under Army RFP (*Decision*) 124883

Protests of Any Contract Award Un-
der VA Solicitation (*Decision*) 124952

Protest of NSF Contract Award (*De-
cision*) 125435

Protest of Proposed Contract Award
Under Navy IFB (*Decision*) 125498

- Protest Alleging Insufficient Time To Respond to Commerce RFP (*Decision*) 125522
- Protest Alleging Insufficient Bid Preparation Time (*Decision*) 125557
- Request for Modification of Decision Sustaining Protest of Army Issuance of Delivery Order (*Decision*) 125730
- Contract costs**
- Protest of Air Force Contract Award to Higher Priced Offerer (*Decision*) 123240
- Protest of Issuance of Air Force Delivery Order (*Decision*) 123305
- The FAA Process of Selecting Locations for Automated Flight Service Stations (*Report*) 123550
- Protest of EPA Contract Award Under Oral Solicitation (*Decision*) 123565
- Protest of Contract Award by the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts (*Decision*) 123949
- Protests Concerning Bidder Responsiveness Pursuant to Department of Education Contract Award (*Decision*) 124142
- Protest of Corps of Engineers Contract Award Alleging Awardee's Proposal Unacceptable (*Decision*) 124860
- Protests of Any Contract Award Under VA Solicitation (*Decision*) 124952
- Allegations of Contract Buy-In and Substantial Cost Increases in the Navy's Standard Automated Financial System (*Report*) 125545
- Contract law**
- Navy Did Not Adhere to Procurement Regulations in Acquiring a Computer for Its Ships Parts Control Center (*Report*) 124959
- Contract negotiations**
- Protest of Air Force Refusal To Consider Late Technical Literature (*Decision*) 124979
- Contract options**
- Protest of Air Force Issuance of Delivery Orders (*Decision*) 123560
- Contract specifications**
- Irregularities in the Performance of a Painting Contract at Fort Ord, California (*Report*) 089225
- Contract termination**
- Request for Modification of Decision Sustaining Protest of Army Issuance of Delivery Order (*Decision*) 125730
- Contract termination costs**
- Request for Modification of Decision Sustaining Protest of Army Issuance of Delivery Order (*Decision*) 125730
- Contract violations**
- The Department of Agriculture's Allegation Concerning the General Services Administration's Mandatory Requirements Contract for ITEL Disk Drives (*Report*) 102434
- Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs' Actions To Improve Processing of Handicapped Employment Discrimination Complaints (*Report*) 123311
- Protest of Air Force Issuance of Delivery Orders (*Decision*) 123560
- Contracting procedures**
- Survey of the District of Columbia Procurement System (*Report*) 089046
- Contractor payments**
- Irregularities in the Performance of a Painting Contract at Fort Ord, California (*Report*) 089225
- Contractor performance**
- Social Security Administration's Management of Its Contracts To Modernize Its Data Communications System (*Testimony*) 125175
- Contractor personnel**
- Legality of Contract Award to Kentron Hawaii, Ltd. by the Department of Transportation (*Letter*) 106189
- Contractor selection**
- Protest of Proposed Subcontract Award by EPA Contractor (*Decision*) 123826
- Social Security Administration's Management of Its Contracts To Modernize Its Data Communications System (*Testimony*) 125175
- Contractors**
- The Department of Agriculture's Allegation Concerning the General Services Administration's Mandatory Requirements Contract for ITEL Disk Drives (*Report*) 102434
- Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs' Actions To Improve Processing of Handicapped Employment Discrimination Complaints (*Report*) 123311
- Proposal To Improve Identification and Collection of Medicare Part B Duplicate Payments (*Report*) 125007
- Contracts**
- Survey of the District of Columbia Procurement System (*Report*) 089046
- Request for Opportunity To Inspect Certain GAO Records Relating to Contracts (*Letter*) 100463
- Summary of Records Retention Requirements Relating to the Activities of the GAO (*Letter*) 100469
- Availability of GAO Records to the Public (*Letter*) 106221
- Contract/Relationship Between the City of Boston and Health and Hospitals, Inc. (*Letter*) 107059
- Cost analysis**
- Survey of the Billing and Collection System for Foreign Military Sales (*Report*) 100113
- Reissuing Tamper-Resistant Cards Will Not Eliminate Misuse of Social Security Numbers (*Report*) 114062
- Air Force Progress in Implementing the Phase IV Base Level Computer Replacement Program (*Report*) 123225
- An Improved Automated System Would Better Identify Small Businesses Seeking Federal Contracting Opportunities (*Report*) 123228
- The FAA Process of Selecting Locations for Automated Flight Service Stations (*Report*) 123550
- Protest of GSA Decision To Exclude Carriers From Competition (*Decision*) 123947
- The Assets, Liabilities, and Vulnerabilities of Information (*Speech*) 124059
- ASCS Needs Better Information To Adequately Assess Proposed County and State Office Automation (*Report*) 124258
- Comparative Review of Single-Line and Multiline Optical Character Readers Used in Mail Processing (*Report*) 124865
- Reductions in Coast Guard Leased Housing Can Achieve Savings (*Report*) 124872
- Contracting Out Under OMB Circular A-76 at Selected Army and Navy Activities in Virginia (*Report*) 124888
- Protest of NASA Negotiated Procurement (*Decision*) 125071
- Incomplete Participant Data Affect Reliability of Values Placed by Actuaries on Multiemployer Pension Plans (*Report*) 125081
- Better Wage-Matching Systems and Procedures Would Enhance Food Stamp Program Integrity (*Report*) 125103
- Information on the Status of Postal Service Costs and Mail Delivery Service Under the Postal Reorganization Act (*Report*) 125108
- Better Management Controls and ADP Requirements Analysis Can Help NASA Lewis Research Center (*Report*) 125266
- Information Value and Cost Measures for Use as Management Tools (*Other*) 125267
- Opportunities for Public Housing Authorities To Develop and Acquire Computer-Based Management Information Systems (*Report*) 125270

- OMB Needs To More Fully Consider Government-Wide Implications in Its Telecommunications Initiatives (*Report*) 125388
- Allegations of Contract Buy-In and Substantial Cost Increases in the Navy's Standard Automated Financial System (*Report*) 125545
- Outlook for Expanding the Federal Research in Progress System (*Report*) 125654

Cost control

- Advanced, Computer-Oriented, Design System (*Report*) 089218
- Survey of States' Utilization Review Programs for Noninstitutional Services Under Medicaid (*Report*) 102509
- Improved Collections Can Reduce Federal and District Government Food Stamp Program Costs (*Report*) 114830
- GAO Examination of Air Force's Proposed Multiyear Procurement for DSCS III (*Report*) 123312
- Reform of the Federal Budget Process (*Testimony*) 123358
- The Grace Commission's Major Proposals To Control Federal Costs (*Testimony*) 123530
- Analysis of the Grace Commission's Major Proposals for Cost Control (*Other*) 123531
- Tax Court Can Reduce Growing Case Backlog and Expenses Through Administrative Improvements (*Report*) 124125
- ASCS Needs Better Information To Adequately Assess Proposed County and State Office Automation (*Report*) 124258
- The Federal Government Can Reduce Costs in the Development, Maintenance, and Operation of Civilian Payroll Systems (*Report*) 124877
- Contracting Out Under OMB Circular A-76 at Selected Army and Navy Activities in Virginia (*Report*) 124888
- Proposal To Improve Identification and Collection of Medicare Part B Duplicate Payments (*Report*) 125007
- Information on the Status of Postal Service Costs and Mail Delivery Service Under the Postal Reorganization Act (*Report*) 125108
- Excessive Respiratory Therapy Cost and Utilization Data Used in Setting Medicare's Prospective Payment Rates (*Report*) 125312
- Status of OMB Implementation of Paperwork Reduction Act (*Letter*) 125821
- The Nine-Digit ZIP Code: Is the Postal Service Doing a Number on Us? (*Other*) 125831

Cost effectiveness analysis

- Congress Needs Better Information on Forest Service's Below-Cost Timber Sales (*Report*) 124538

ADP Bibliography

- The Federal Government Can Reduce Costs in the Development, Maintenance, and Operation of Civilian Payroll Systems (*Report*) 124877

Cost overruns

- Further Improvements Needed in Navy's Oversight of Contracting for Facilities Construction on Diego Garcia (*Report*) 124211

Cost plus incentive fee contracts

- Further Improvements Needed in Navy's Oversight of Contracting for Facilities Construction on Diego Garcia (*Report*) 124211

Costs

- Alleged Violation of the General Services Administration Regulations by the Navy in the Purchase of IBM Optical Character Recognition (OCR) Typewriters (*Report*) 089196

Court costs

- Tax Court Can Reduce Growing Case Backlog and Expenses Through Administrative Improvements (*Report*) 124125

Crime prevention

- Information on Aliens Admitted into the United States as Nonimmigrant Workers (*Report*) 125958

Crimes or offenses

- Expanded Federal Authority Needed To Protect Medicare and Medicaid Patients From Health Practitioners Who Lose Their Licenses (*Report*) 124032
- SEC's Efforts To Find Lost and Stolen Securities (*Report*) 124186

Crude oil

- Information on Data Problems Identified by the Department of Energy With Its Final Entitlements Lists (*Report*) 125989

Data banks

- The Evaluation Synthesis (*Other*) 088890
- The GAO Review, Vol. 18, Issue 3, Summer 1983 (*Other*) 124336
- HHS Needs To Determine If Massachusetts' AFDC Program Meets Federal Requirements and, If Not, Take Compliance Action (*Report*) 124605
- Excessive Respiratory Therapy Cost and Utilization Data Used in Setting Medicare's Prospective Payment Rates (*Report*) 125312
- Planning for Navy Shore Facilities: Improvements Possible (*Report*) 125581

Data collection operations

- Audit of the Interstate Organized Crime Index (*Letter*) 106870
- Social Security Could Improve Its Management and Detection of Postentitlement Changes by Using Postadjudicative Appraisal Data (*Report*) 123594
- Protest of Defense Mapping Agency Contract Award (*Decision*) 123693
- Activities of the Energy Information Administration (*Testimony*) 123708
- Observations on the Army's Manpower Requirements Criteria Program (*Report*) 124183
- ADP, IRM & Telecommunications (*Other*) 124463
- Bureau of the Census' Planned 1985 Pretests for the 1990 Decennial Census (*Testimony*) 124525
- Incomplete Participant Data Affect Reliability of Values Placed by Actuaries on Multiemployer Pension Plans (*Report*) 125081
- Delays in Recomputing Social Security Benefits Cause Underpayments for Extended Periods (*Report*) 125199
- Price Markups and Inefficiency in Defense Production (*Testimony*) 125333
- Progress in Improving Program and Budget Information for Congressional Use (*Report*) 125339
- Accuracy, Cost, and Users of the Consolidated Federal Funds Report (*Report*) 125396
- Better Use of Available Data Would Improve Mobilization Planning for Inductees (*Report*) 125416
- Better Management of Information Resources at the Bureau of Indian Affairs Could Reduce Waste and Improve Productivity (*Report*) 125865
- Improvements Needed in the Department of the Interior's Acquisition of Geophysical Data (*Report*) 125907
- Accurate and Complete Subcontract Data Needed To Assess International Agreements on Defense Procurement (*Report*) 125941
- Information on Aliens Admitted into the United States as Nonimmigrant Workers (*Report*) 125958
- Information on Data Problems Identified by the Department of Energy With Its Final Entitlements Lists (*Report*) 125989

Data transmission operations

- Accuracy, Cost, and Users of the Consolidated Federal Funds Report (*Report*) 125396

Debt collection

- The Grace Commission's Major Proposals To Control Federal Costs (*Testimony*) 123530

Implementation of the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act of 1982 (<i>Testimony</i>)	124299	Allegations of Contract Buy-In and Substantial Cost Increases in the Navy's Standard Automated Financial System (<i>Report</i>)	125545	Depository libraries	
Proposal To Improve Identification and Collection of Medicare Part B Duplicate Payments (<i>Report</i>)	125007			Depository Librarians' Views on GPO's Administration of the Depository Library Program (<i>Report</i>)	123921
				Government Printing Office's Depository Library Program (<i>Report</i>)	125853
Decentralization		Defense procurement		Depository Library Program	
Survey of the District of Columbia Procurement System (<i>Report</i>)	089046	Policy and Procedures Pertaining to Procurement of ADP Equipment (<i>Letter</i>)	107007	Government Printing Office's Depository Library Program (<i>Report</i>)	125853
Decentralized Automated Service Support System		Protest of Defense Mapping Agency Contract Award (<i>Decision</i>)	123693		
Army Has the Opportunity To Recompete DAS3 Purchases and Improve Automated Battlefield Support (<i>Report</i>)	125265	Summaries of Conclusions and Recommendations on Department of Defense Operations (<i>Report</i>)	123710	Diego Garcia	
		Protests of Army, Defense, and Coast Guard Procurements (<i>Decision</i>)	124000	Further Improvements Needed in Navy's Oversight of Contracting for Facilities Construction on Diego Garcia (<i>Report</i>)	124211
Defective specifications		Protest of Marine Corps Issuance of Delivery Order (<i>Decision</i>)	125892		
Protest of OPM Procurement (<i>Decision</i>)	125330	Accurate and Complete Subcontract Data Needed To Assess International Agreements on Defense Procurement (<i>Report</i>)	125941	Direct Deposit Electronic Deposit Program	
				Bank Liability Pursuant to Electronic Transfer of Reoccurring Federal Payments (<i>Decision</i>)	123881
Defense budgets		Defense Satellite Communications System III		Disability benefits	
Summaries of Conclusions and Recommendations on Department of Defense Operations (<i>Report</i>)	123710	GAO Examination of Air Force's Proposed Multiyear Procurement for DSCS III (<i>Report</i>)	123312	Office of Workers' Compensation Programs Needs To Improve Procedures To Help Reduce Payment Errors and Identify Dual Payments (<i>Report</i>)	124193
The GAO Review, Vol. 18, Issue 3, Summer 1983 (<i>Other</i>)	124336				
Defense capabilities		Deficit financing		Disbursing officers	
Better Use of Available Data Would Improve Mobilization Planning for Inductees (<i>Report</i>)	125416	National Public Radio (<i>Testimony</i>)	123385	Review of Leave Resulting From Delay Enroute Incident to Permanent Change of Duty Station (<i>Report</i>)	089125
		Governmental Financial Management and Debt Crisis: Some Lessons From Experience (<i>Speech</i>)	125417		
Defense contingency planning		Delivery terms		Disclosure law	
The Unit Status and Identity Report (UNITREP) System--What It Does and Does Not Measure (<i>Staff Study</i>)	123595	Need for Improved Controls at VA Regional Offices To Ensure Timely Correction of Rejected Transactions in the Automated Compensation and Pension System (<i>Report</i>)	089117	Right To Make Public a Library of Congress Written Work Product (<i>Letter</i>)	103489
Price Markups and Inefficiency in Defense Production (<i>Testimony</i>)	125333	Protest of RFP Provisions Issued by Department of Energy (<i>Decision</i>)	125935	GAO's Policies and Practices To Prevent Misuse of Access and Disclosure Authority (<i>Letter</i>)	104823
Better Use of Available Data Would Improve Mobilization Planning for Inductees (<i>Report</i>)	125416			Freedom of Information Act Request for Records (<i>Letter</i>)	106476
		Demographic data		Contract/Relationship Between the City of Boston and Health and Hospitals, Inc. (<i>Letter</i>)	107059
Defense contracts		Bureau of the Census' Planned 1985 Pretests for the 1990 Decennial Census (<i>Testimony</i>)	124525		
Summaries of Conclusions and Recommendations on Department of Defense Operations (<i>Report</i>)	123710	Incomplete Participant Data Affect Reliability of Values Placed by Actuaries on Multiemployer Pension Plans (<i>Report</i>)	125081	Documentation	
Further Improvements Needed in Navy's Oversight of Contracting for Facilities Construction on Diego Garcia (<i>Report</i>)	124211			Request for Opportunity To Inspect Certain GAO Records Relating to Contracts (<i>Letter</i>)	100463
Price Markups and Inefficiency in Defense Production (<i>Testimony</i>)	125333	Demurrage charges		Availability of GAO Records to the Public (<i>Letter</i>)	106221
		Opportunities To Improve the DOD Personal Property Shipping Program (<i>Report</i>)	125582	Withdrawal of Approval of the Federal Election Commission Accounting System (<i>Report</i>)	123202
Defense cost control		Department of Defense University Research Equipment Program		Social Security Could Improve Its Management and Detection of Post-tittlement Changes by Using Post-judicative Appraisal Data (<i>Report</i>)	123594
Defense Logistics Agency Could Better Identify and Cancel Unneeded On-Order Material (<i>Report</i>)	123199	Studies of U.S. Universities' Research Equipment Needs Inconclusive (<i>Report</i>)	124347		
Examination of Alleged Waste and Mismanagement in Army Test, Measurement, and Diagnostic Equipment Support Group (<i>Report</i>)	123556				

- Information on Data Problems Identified by the Department of Energy With Its Final Entitlements Lists (*Report*) 125989
- Drugs**
The GAO Review, Vol. 19, Issue 3, Summer 1984 (*Other*) 124845
- Dual compensation**
Office of Workers' Compensation Programs Needs To Improve Procedures To Help Reduce Payment Errors and Identify Dual Payments (*Report*) 124193
- Earth resources satellites**
Earth Resources Information Satellite System Act (*Letter*) 100002
- Earth sciences**
Earth Resources Information Satellite System Act (*Letter*) 100002
- Economic analysis**
Reform of the Federal Budget Process (*Testimony*) 123358
Congress Needs Better Information on Forest Service's Below-Cost Timber Sales (*Report*) 124538
- Economic development**
Insights Into Major Urban Development Action Grant Issues (*Report*) 123557
- Education or training**
Frontiers of Automated Analyses: From Frustration to Comfort (*Other*) 124069
GAO's Views on the Report of the Congressional Panel on Social Security Organization (*Testimony*) 124786
Integration of New Technology into Regional Office Operations (*Other*) 124848
Planning EDP Audit Career Development (*Other*) 124972
- Electronic equipment**
Alleged Violation of the General Services Administration Regulations by the Navy in the Purchase of IBM Optical Character Recognition (OCR) Typewriters (*Report*) 089196
Electronic Marketing of Agricultural Commodities: An Evolutionary Trend (*Report*) 123647
Protest of HHS Issuance of Delivery Order (*Decision*) 123651
GAO Views on H.R. 5184 (*Testimony*) 123751
Request for Reconsideration of Sustained Protest Under FBI Solicitation (*Decision*) 124078
- Protests Concerning Bidder Responsiveness Pursuant to Department of Education Contract Award (*Decision*) 124142
Auditing Using Microtechnology (*Other*) 124389
GAO's Views on the Report of the Congressional Panel on Social Security Organization (*Testimony*) 124786
Social Security Administration's Management of Its Data Communications Contracts With Paradyne Corporation (*Testimony*) 124834
SSA Data Communications Contracts With Paradyne Corporation Demonstrate the Need for Improved Management Controls (*Report*) 124854
Comparative Review of Single-Line and Multiline Optical Character Readers Used in Mail Processing (*Report*) 124865
GAO Concerns Relating to Additional EQUATE Procurements and Improvements (*Report*) 124996
Additional Information on SSA Management of Data Communications Contracts with Paradyne Corporation (*Report*) 125124
Better Management of Information Resources at the Bureau of Indian Affairs Could Reduce Waste and Improve Productivity (*Report*) 125865
- Electronic funds transfer**
Bank Liability Pursuant to Electronic Transfer of Reoccurring Federal Payments (*Decision*) 123881
- Eligibility criteria**
Proposed Procedure for Access by GAO to Records of Students in the Murphy School District (*Letter*) 106776
Internal Controls Can Be Improved To Help Ensure Proper and Correct Military Retirement Payments (*Report*) 123527
- Eligibility determinations**
GAO Observations on the Use of Tax Return Information for Verification in Entitlement Programs (*Report*) 124423
HHS Needs To Determine If Massachusetts' AFDC Program Meets Federal Requirements and, If Not, Take Compliance Action (*Report*) 124605
Better Wage-Matching Systems and Procedures Would Enhance Food Stamp Program Integrity (*Report*) 125103
Delays in Recomputing Social Security Benefits Cause Underpayments for Extended Periods (*Report*) 125199
- Employee medical benefits**
Corps of Engineers Request for Decision Concerning Legality of Expending Appropriated Funds (*Decision*) 123808
- Employee survivors benefits**
Internal Controls Can Be Improved To Help Ensure Proper and Correct Military Retirement Payments (*Report*) 123527
- Employment discrimination**
Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs' Actions To Improve Processing of Handicapped Employment Discrimination Complaints (*Report*) 123311
The GAO Review, Vol. 18, Issue 3, Summer 1983 (*Other*) 124336
- Employment of foreign nationals**
Irregularities in the Performance of a Painting Contract at Fort Ord, California (*Report*) 089225
- Employment of the handicapped**
Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs' Actions To Improve Processing of Handicapped Employment Discrimination Complaints (*Report*) 123311
- Employment or training programs**
The GAO Review, Vol. 19, Issue 2, Spring 1984 (*Other*) 124062
Strong Internal Controls at Service Delivery Level Will Help Prevent CETA-Type Fraud and Abuse in Job Training Partnership Act Programs (*Report*) 125541
- Energy**
Activities of the Energy Information Administration (*Testimony*) 123708
- Energy costs**
Information on Repayment of the Government's Uranium Enrichment Program Costs and Audits of That Program's Financial Statements (*Report*) 124971
- Energy legislation**
Information on Data Problems Identified by the Department of Energy With Its Final Entitlements Lists (*Report*) 125989
- Energy research**
Performance Evaluation of the Energy Information Administration (*Report*) 124430
- Energy supplies**
Information on the Department of Energy's Budgets for Enforcing Its Petroleum Allocation and Pricing Regulations and Its Process for Distributing Oil Company Overcharge Refunds (*Report*) 124143

- Improvements Needed in the Department of the Interior's Acquisition of Geophysical Data (*Report*) 125907
- Entitlement programs**
- GAO Observations on the Use of Tax Return Information for Verification in Entitlement Programs (*Report*) 124423
- Information on Data Problems Identified by the Department of Energy With Its Final Entitlements Lists (*Report*) 125989
- Entitlements**
- The Grace Commission's Major Proposals To Control Federal Costs (*Testimony*) 123530
- Environmental law**
- EPA Could Benefit From Comprehensive Management Information on Superfund Enforcement Actions (*Report*) 125938
- Equipment**
- Survey of the District of Columbia Procurement System (*Report*) 089046
- Policy and Procedures Pertaining to Procurement of ADP Equipment (*Letter*) 107007
- Equipment contracts**
- Protest of Specifications in Interior RFP (*Decision*) 124615
- Equipment inventories**
- The Army Can Do More To Assure War Reserve Funds Are Spent Effectively (*Report*) 123440
- Equipment leases**
- Request for Modification of Decision Sustaining Protest of Army Issuance of Delivery Order (*Decision*) 125730
- Equipment management**
- The Army Can Do More To Assure War Reserve Funds Are Spent Effectively (*Report*) 123440
- Review of the Activities of the House Office Equipment Service for the Year Ended June 30, 1983 (*Report*) 123463
- Actions Taken To Improve Management and Reduce Costs of Interior's Aircraft Operations (*Report*) 123974
- Erroneous payments**
- Bank Liability Pursuant to Electronic Transfer of Reoccurring Federal Payments (*Decision*) 123881
- Federal and State Liability for Inaccurate Payments of Food Stamp, AFDC, and SSI Program Benefits (*Report*) 124028
- Office of Workers' Compensation Programs Needs To Improve Procedures To Help Reduce Payment Errors and Identify Dual Payments (*Report*) 124193
- HHS Needs To Determine If Massachusetts' AFDC Program Meets Federal Requirements and, If Not, Take Compliance Action (*Report*) 124605
- Survey of Actions To Correct Problems With the Navy's Military Pay System (*Report*) 125340
- Errors**
- Protest of Certain Requirements Under D.C. Solicitation (*Decision*) 123165
- Evaluation**
- Comments on the Adequacy of the Audit Trail Within GPO's Automated Publication Receipt and Control System (*Report*) 089124
- The Department of Agriculture's Allegation Concerning the General Services Administration's Mandatory Requirements Contract for ITDL Disk Drives (*Report*) 102434
- Studies of U.S. Universities' Research Equipment Needs Inconclusive (*Report*) 124347
- Evaluation criteria**
- Alleged Violation of the General Services Administration Regulations by the Navy in the Purchase of IBM Optical Character Recognition (OCR) Typewriters (*Report*) 089196
- Protest of Air Force Contract Award to Higher Priced Offerer (*Decision*) 123240
- Protest of HHS Rejection of Offer and Issuance of Delivery Order to Another Firm (*Decision*) 123270
- Protest of USDA Solicitation (*Decision*) 123335
- Protest of SBA Contract Award (*Decision*) 123475
- Protest of Rejection of Offer by Army (*Decision*) 123820
- Protests of Any Contract Award Under VA Solicitation (*Decision*) 124952
- Planning for Navy Shore Facilities: Improvements Possible (*Report*) 125581
- Evaluation methods**
- Improving Generalists' Capabilities in Assessing Output Reliability and Internal Controls in Computer-Based Systems (*Other*) 088865
- The Evaluation Synthesis (*Other*) 088890
- The Assets, Liabilities, and Vulnerabilities of Information (*Speech*) 124059
- The GAO Review, Vol. 18, Issue 3, Summer 1983 (*Other*) 124336
- Better Guidance Would Improve ADP Evaluations in Support of the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act of 1982 (*Letter*) 125080
- Design, Methodology, and Technical Assistance Groups in GAO: A Concept Paper (*Other*) 125125
- CARE-Based Audit Methodology To Review and Evaluate Agency Accounting and Financial Management Systems (*Report*) 125337
- Exchange Stabilization Fund**
- First-Year Implementation of the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act by the Department of the Treasury (*Report*) 124235
- Export regulation**
- Licensing Data for Exports to Non-Communist Countries (*Report*) 124107
- Exports of Dual-Use, Nuclear-Related Equipment to the People's Republic of China (*Report*) 124609
- F-100 Turbofan Engine**
- Price Markups and Inefficiency in Defense Production (*Testimony*) 125333
- Facility security**
- Safeguarding of Proprietary Data at Minerals Management Service OCS Regional Offices (*Report*) 124360
- Tax Information Safeguard Activity Annual Report (*Report*) 124866
- Federal agencies**
- Activities of Washington Data Processing Center Statistical Research Service (*Report*) 088933
- Relation of Independent Regulatory Agencies to Paperwork Reduction Program (*Letter*) 105644
- Federal Agency Compliance with Indexing and Publishing Requirements of the Freedom of Information Act (*Letter*) 107421
- H.R. 13955, the Paperwork and Redtape Reduction Act of 1978 (*Letter*) 107974
- Federal Evaluations (*Other*) 123685
- Federal agency accounting systems**
- Survey of the Small Business Administration's Accounting for Loan Guaranty Fees (*Report*) 089255
- Approval of Statement of Accounting Principles and Standards (*Letter*) 106255
- Increasing HUD Effectiveness Through Improved Management (*Report*) 123198
- Auditing Using Microtechnology (*Other*) 124389
- Technical Summary: Financial Management Profile of the Office of the Secretary, HHS (*Other*) 124925
- Technical Summary: HHS, Budget Development Systems (*Other*) 124926
- Technical Summary: Financial Management Profile of the HHS Central Personnel/Payroll System (*Other*) 124927

- Technical Summary: HHS, Regional Accounting System (*Other*) 124928
- Technical Summary: Financial Management Profile of the Social Security Administration (*Other*) 124929
- Technical Summary: Financial Management Profile of the Health Care Financing Administration (*Other*) 124930
- Technical Summary: Financial Management Profile of the Office of Human Development Services, HHS (*Other*) 124931
- Technical Summary: Financial Management Profile of the Health Resources and Services Administration (*Other*) 124932
- Technical Summary: Financial Management Profile of the Centers for Disease Control (*Other*) 124933
- Technical Summary: Financial Management Profile of the National Institutes of Health (*Other*) 124934
- Technical Summary: Financial Management Profile of the Food and Drug Administration (*Other*) 124935
- CARE-Based Audit Methodology To Review and Evaluate Agency Accounting and Financial Management Systems (*Report*) 125337
- Survey of Actions To Correct Problems With the Navy's Military Pay System (*Report*) 125340
- Allegations of Contract Buy-In and Substantial Cost Increases in the Navy's Standard Automated Financial System (*Report*) 125545
- Federal agency reorganization**
- Establishment of a Central Focal Point for Telecommunications Matters (*Letter*) 106777
- GAO's Views on the Report of the Congressional Panel on Social Security Organization (*Testimony*) 124786
- Information on the Status of Postal Service Costs and Mail Delivery Service Under the Postal Reorganization Act (*Report*) 125108
- Federal aid for criminal justice**
- Better Monitoring and Recordkeeping Systems Needed To Accurately Account for Juvenile Justice Practices (*Report*) 124611
- Observations on the FBI's Interstate Identification Index (*Report*) 125400
- Federal aid programs**
- Survey of States' Utilization Review Programs for Noninstitutional Services Under Medicaid (*Report*) 102509
- Improved Collections Can Reduce Federal and District Government Food Stamp Program Costs (*Report*) 114830
- Federal aid to cities**
- Insights Into Major Urban Development Action Grant Issues (*Report*) 123557
- Federal aid to localities**
- Accuracy, Cost, and Users of the Consolidated Federal Funds Report (*Report*) 125396
- Strong Internal Controls at Service Delivery Level Will Help Prevent CETA-Type Fraud and Abuse in Job Training Partnership Act Programs (*Report*) 125541
- Regional Information Sharing Systems (*Report*) 125548
- Federal aid to states**
- Better Monitoring and Recordkeeping Systems Needed To Accurately Account for Juvenile Justice Practices (*Report*) 124611
- Accuracy, Cost, and Users of the Consolidated Federal Funds Report (*Report*) 125396
- Federal debt**
- The GAO Review, Vol. 19, Issue 2, Spring 1984 (*Other*) 124062
- Governmental Financial Management and Debt Crisis: Some Lessons From Experience (*Speech*) 125417
- Federal funds**
- HHS Needs To Determine If Massachusetts' AFDC Program Meets Federal Requirements and, If Not, Take Compliance Action (*Report*) 124605
- Federal grants**
- Legal Requirements for Retention of Grant-Related Records (*Letter*) 100065
- National Public Radio (*Testimony*) 123385
- Federal office buildings**
- GAO's Views on the Report of the Congressional Panel on Social Security Organization (*Testimony*) 124786
- Federal procurement**
- An Improved Automated System Would Better Identify Small Businesses Seeking Federal Contracting Opportunities (*Report*) 123228
- GAO Views on H.R. 5184 (*Testimony*) 123751
- GSA's Telecommunications Procurement Program Requires Comprehensive Planning and Management (*Report*) 124361
- Federal programs**
- The Evaluation Synthesis (*Other*) 088890
- Relation of Independent Regulatory Agencies to Paperwork Reduction Program (*Letter*) 105644
- Federal records management**
- Summary of Records Retention Requirements Relating to the Activities of the GAO (*Letter*) 100469
- Tax Information Safeguard Activity Annual Report (*Report*) 124866
- Federal regulations**
- Proposed Regulation Prescribing New "Fixed-Price Options" Provisions for Use in Automatic Data Processing Systems Procurement (*Letter*) 103353
- Navy Did Not Adhere to Procurement Regulations in Acquiring a Computer for Its Ships Parts Control Center (*Report*) 124959
- Federal reports**
- Internal Controls of the Transportation Computer Center and Pollution Reporting Incident Reporting System (*Report*) 089018
- Contract/Relationship Between the City of Boston and Health and Hospitals, Inc. (*Letter*) 107059
- Summaries of Conclusions and Recommendations on the Operations of Civil Departments and Agencies (*Report*) 123713
- ADP, IRM & Telecommunications (*Other*) 124463
- Federal Research in Progress System**
- Outlook for Expanding the Federal Research in Progress System (*Report*) 125654
- Federal social security programs**
- Reissuing Tamper-Resistant Cards Will Not Eliminate Misuse of Social Security Numbers (*Report*) 114062
- Federal supply systems**
- Protest of Issuance of Air Force Delivery Order (*Decision*) 123305
- Protest of HHS Issuance of Delivery Order (*Decision*) 123651
- Federal/state relations**
- Survey of States' Utilization Review Programs for Noninstitutional Services Under Medicaid (*Report*) 102509
- An Assessment of Random Audit--A New Department of Labor Program To Improve the Accuracy of Unemployment Insurance Benefit Payments (*Report*) 123788
- Expanded Federal Authority Needed To Protect Medicare and Medicaid Patients From Health Practitioners Who Lose Their Licenses (*Report*) 124032
- Ways To Improve the Federal/State Tax Information Exchange Program (*Speech*) 124608
- Better Monitoring and Recordkeeping Systems Needed To Accurately Account for Juvenile Justice Practices (*Report*) 124611

- Observations on the FBI's Interstate Identification Index (*Report*) 125400
- Strong Internal Controls at Service Delivery Level Will Help Prevent CETA-Type Fraud and Abuse in Job Training Partnership Act Programs (*Report*) 125541
- Regional Information Sharing Systems (*Report*) 125548
- Fees**
- Survey of the Small Business Administration's Accounting for Loan Guaranty Fees (*Report*) 089255
- Improving Controls Over Rent and Management Fees at Multifamily Housing Projects (*Report*) 123943
- Financial aid programs**
- Evaluation of System Design of the Department of the Navy's Armed Forces Health Professions Scholarship Program Pay System (*Letter*) 103078
- Financial analysis**
- Review of the Audit of the National Consumer Cooperative Bank's Financial Statements for the Year Ended December 31, 1982 (*Report*) 122615
- Information on Forest Service Below-Cost Timber Sales for National Forests in Colorado (*Report*) 124843
- The Federal Government Can Reduce Costs in the Development, Maintenance, and Operation of Civilian Payroll Systems (*Report*) 124877
- Financial disclosure reporting**
- Review of the Audit of the National Consumer Cooperative Bank's Financial Statements for the Year Ended December 31, 1982 (*Report*) 122615
- Better Wage-Matching Systems and Procedures Would Enhance Food Stamp Program Integrity (*Report*) 125103
- Governmental Financial Management and Debt Crisis: Some Lessons From Experience (*Speech*) 125417
- Financial institutions**
- Control Improvements Needed in Accounting for Treasury Securities at the Federal Reserve Bank of New York (*Report*) 124060
- SEC's Efforts To Find Lost and Stolen Securities (*Report*) 124186
- Financial management**
- Survey of the Small Business Administration's Accounting for Loan Guaranty Fees (*Report*) 089255
- Survey of the Billing and Collection System for Foreign Military Sales (*Report*) 100113
- Evaluation of System Design of the Department of the Navy's Armed Forces Health Professions Scholarship Program Pay System (*Letter*) 103078
- Evaluation of Two Proposals for Design of a New Financial Management System for the District Government (*Letter*) 105972
- Increasing HUD Effectiveness Through Improved Management (*Report*) 123198
- Withdrawal of Approval of the Federal Election Commission Accounting System (*Report*) 123202
- National Public Radio (*Testimony*) 123385
- The Grace Commission's Major Proposals To Control Federal Costs (*Testimony*) 123530
- Analysis of the Grace Commission's Major Proposals for Cost Control (*Other*) 123531
- Improving Controls Over Rent and Management Fees at Multifamily Housing Projects (*Report*) 123943
- Examination of the Financial Statements of the Export-Import Bank of the United States for the Fiscal Year Ended September 30, 1983 (*Report*) 124124
- Department of the Navy's First-Year Implementation of the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act (*Report*) 124150
- Internal Control Weaknesses at the U.S. Customs Service (*Report*) 124237
- ASCS Needs Better Information To Adequately Assess Proposed County and State Office Automation (*Report*) 124258
- Topics in Financial Management (*Speech*) 124295
- Internal Control Weaknesses at GSA (*Report*) 124306
- The Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund's Financial Operations Were Properly Accounted for and Reported (*Report*) 124335
- Status of Internal Audit Capabilities of Federal Agencies Without Statutory Inspectors General (*Report*) 124351
- Small Business Administration's First-Year Implementation of the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act (*Report*) 124365
- Federal Policies and Practices for Acquiring Information Technology Can Be Improved (*Speech*) 124890
- Progress in Improving Program and Budget Information for Congressional Use (*Report*) 125339
- Audit Guides To Review Implementation of the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act: The Second Year (*Other*) 125524
- Regional Information Sharing Systems (*Report*) 125548
- Financial management systems**
- Reform of the Federal Budget Process (*Testimony*) 123358
- First-Year Implementation of the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act in VA (*Report*) 124023
- Department of State's First-Year Implementation of the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act (*Report*) 124029
- Defense Logistics Agency's First-Year Implementation of the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act (*Report*) 124030
- Department of Defense's First-Year Implementation of the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act (*Report*) 124031
- Department of the Air Force's First-Year Implementation of the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act (*Report*) 124033
- Defense Mapping Agency's First-Year Implementation of the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act (*Report*) 124035
- National Aeronautics and Space Administration's First-Year Implementation of the Federal Manager's Financial Integrity Act (*Report*) 124038
- First-Year Implementation of the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act in the Department of Labor (*Report*) 124061
- Department of the Army's First-Year Implementation of the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act (*Report*) 124074
- First Year Implementation of the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act by the Department of Justice (*Report*) 124097
- First-Year Implementation of the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act in the Department of Education (*Report*) 124112
- The Department of Health and Human Services' First-Year Implementation of the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act (*Report*) 124123
- First Year Implementation of the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act by the GSA (*Report*) 124210
- Further Improvements Needed in Navy's Oversight of Contracting for Facilities Construction on Diego Garcia (*Report*) 124211
- First-Year Implementation of the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act by the Department of the Treasury (*Report*) 124235
- Implementation of the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act of 1982 (*Testimony*) 124299
- The Department of Energy's First-Year Implementation of the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act (*Report*) 124331
- Department of the Interior's First-Year Implementation of the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act (*Report*) 124460

- Agriculture's First-Year Implementation of the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act (*Report*) 124477
- Department of Commerce's First-Year Implementation of the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act (*Report*) 124483
- Financial Management Profile: Department of Health and Human Services (*Report*) 124637
- Transportation's First-Year Implementation of the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act (*Report*) 124658
- HUD's First-Year Implementation of the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act (*Report*) 124698
- Technical Summary: Financial Management Profile of the Office of the Secretary, HHS (*Other*) 124925
- Technical Summary: HHS, Budget Development Systems (*Other*) 124926
- Technical Summary: Financial Management Profile of the HHS Central Personnel/Payroll System (*Other*) 124927
- Technical Summary: HHS, Regional Accounting System (*Other*) 124928
- Technical Summary: Financial Management Profile of the Social Security Administration (*Other*) 124929
- Technical Summary: Financial Management Profile of the Health Care Financing Administration (*Other*) 124930
- Technical Summary: Financial Management Profile of the Office of Human Development Services, HHS (*Other*) 124931
- Technical Summary: Financial Management Profile of the Health Resources and Services Administration (*Other*) 124932
- Technical Summary: Financial Management Profile of the Centers for Disease Control (*Other*) 124933
- Technical Summary: Financial Management Profile of the National Institutes of Health (*Other*) 124934
- Technical Summary: Financial Management Profile of the Food and Drug Administration (*Other*) 124935
- Implementation of the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act: First Year (*Report*) 125049
- CARE-Based Audit Methodology To Review and Evaluate Agency Accounting and Financial Management Systems (*Report*) 125337
- Survey of Actions To Correct Problems With the Navy's Military Pay System (*Report*) 125340
- Governmental Financial Management and Debt Crisis. Some Lessons From Experience (*Speech*) 125417
- Allegations of Contract Buy-In and Substantial Cost Increases in the Navy's Standard Automated Financial System (*Report*) 125545
- Financial records**
- Legal Requirements for Retention of Grant-Related Records (*Letter*) 100065
- Review of the Audit of the National Consumer Cooperative Bank's Financial Statements for the Year Ended December 31, 1982 (*Report*) 122615
- Examination of the Financial Statements of the Export-Import Bank of the United States for the Fiscal Year Ended September 30, 1983 (*Report*) 124124
- The Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund's Financial Operations Were Properly Accounted for and Reported (*Report*) 124335
- Examination of the Federal Election Commission's Financial Statements for the Year Ended September 30, 1982 (*Report*) 124591
- Information on Repayment of the Government's Uranium Enrichment Program Costs and Audits of That Program's Financial Statements (*Report*) 124971
- Food relief programs**
- Better Wage-Matching Systems and Procedures Would Enhance Food Stamp Program Integrity (*Report*) 125103
- Food stamp programs**
- Review of Crimes in Computer-Based Data Processing Systems (*Report*) 089059
- Review of Crimes in Computer-Based Data Processing System (*Report*) 089122
- Improved Collections Can Reduce Federal and District Government Food Stamp Program Costs (*Report*) 114830
- Federal and State Liability for Inaccurate Payments of Food Stamp, AFDC, and SSI Program Benefits (*Report*) 124028
- Better Wage-Matching Systems and Procedures Would Enhance Food Stamp Program Integrity (*Report*) 125103
- Federal and State Initiatives Needed To Improve Productivity and Reduce Administrative Costs of the Aid to Families With Dependent Children and Food Stamp Programs (*Report*) 123347
- Foreign military arms sales**
- Survey of the Billing and Collection System for Foreign Military Sales (*Report*) 100113
- Foreign military sales**
- Summaries of Conclusions and Recommendations on Department of Defense Operations (*Report*) 123710
- Navy Did Not Adhere to Procurement Regulations in Acquiring a Computer for Its Ships Parts Control Center (*Report*) 124959
- Foreign military sales costs**
- Survey of the Billing and Collection System for Foreign Military Sales (*Report*) 100113
- Foreign military sales policies**
- Survey of the Billing and Collection System for Foreign Military Sales (*Report*) 100113
- Foreign trade agreements**
- Accurate and Complete Subcontract Data Needed To Assess International Agreements on Defense Procurement (*Report*) 125941
- Foreign trade policies**
- Accurate and Complete Subcontract Data Needed To Assess International Agreements on Defense Procurement (*Report*) 125941
- Forest conservation**
- Congress Needs Better Information on Forest Service's Below-Cost Timber Sales (*Report*) 124538
- Forest management**
- Congress Needs Better Information on Forest Service's Below-Cost Timber Sales (*Report*) 124538
- Information on Forest Service Below-Cost Timber Sales for National Forests in Colorado (*Report*) 124843
- Forgery**
- Reissuing Tamper-Resistant Cards Will Not Eliminate Misuse of Social Security Numbers (*Report*) 114062
- Fraud**
- Reissuing Tamper-Resistant Cards Will Not Eliminate Misuse of Social Security Numbers (*Report*) 114062
- Improved Collections Can Reduce Federal and District Government Food Stamp Program Costs (*Report*) 114830
- Protest of Air Force Issuance of Delivery Orders (*Decision*) 123560
- Expanded Federal Authority Needed To Protect Medicare and Medicaid Patients From Health Practitioners Who Lose Their Licenses (*Report*) 124032
- Crime, Abuse, and the Computer: The Problem and the Federal Experience (*Other*) 124849
- Strong Internal Controls at Service Delivery Level Will Help Prevent CETA-Type Fraud and Abuse in Job Training Partnership Act Programs (*Report*) 125541
- Freedom of Information**
- Request for Opportunity To Inspect Certain GAO Records Relating to Contracts (*Letter*) 100463

- Views and Comments on H R. 15353, 94th Congress, Second Session (*Letter*) 100566
- Right To Make Public a Library of Congress Written Work Product (*Letter*) 103489
- Availability of GAO Records to the Public (*Letter*) 106221
- Freedom of Information Act Request for Records (*Letter*) 106476
- Contract/Relationship Between the City of Boston and Health and Hospitals, Inc. (*Letter*) 107059
- Federal Agency Compliance with Indexing and Publishing Requirements of the Freedom of Information Act (*Letter*) 107421
- Department of Energy's Activities To Limit Distribution of Certain Unclassified Scientific and Technical Information (*Report*) 124076
- Freedom of Information Reform Act**
Comments on S. 774, The Freedom of Information Reform Act (*Letter*) 125041
- Fuel sales**
Information on Repayment of the Government's Uranium Enrichment Program Costs and Audits of That Program's Financial Statements (*Report*) 124971
- Funds management**
GAO Examination of Air Force's Proposed Multiyear Procurement for DSCS III (*Report*) 123312
- Insights Into Major Urban Development Action Grant Issues (*Report*) 123557
- Federal Aviation Administration's System for Prioritizing Airport Grants (*Report*) 124121
- Examination of the Federal Election Commission's Financial Statements for the Year Ended September 30, 1982 (*Report*) 124591
- Financial Management Profile: Department of Health and Human Services (*Report*) 124637
- The Federal Government Can Reduce Costs in the Development, Maintenance, and Operation of Civilian Payroll Systems (*Report*) 124877
- Information on Repayment of the Government's Uranium Enrichment Program Costs and Audits of That Program's Financial Statements (*Report*) 124971
- Accuracy, Cost, and Users of the Consolidated Federal Funds Report (*Report*) 125396
- Outlook for Expanding the Federal Research in Progress System (*Report*) 125654
- Government Printing Office's Depository Library Program (*Report*) 125853
- Future budget projections**
Analysis of the Grace Commission's Major Proposals for Cost Control (*Other*) 123531
- Information on the Department of Energy's Budgets for Enforcing Its Petroleum Allocation and Pricing Regulations and Its Process for Distributing Oil Company Overcharge Refunds (*Report*) 124143
- Global Positioning System**
Price Markups and Inefficiency in Defense Production (*Testimony*) 125333
- Government collections**
Survey of the Small Business Administration's Accounting for Loan Guaranty Fees (*Report*) 089255
- Bank Liability Pursuant to Electronic Transfer of Reoccurring Federal Payments (*Decision*) 123881
- Internal Control Weaknesses at GSA (*Report*) 124306
- Government facilities**
The FAA Process of Selecting Locations for Automated Flight Service Stations (*Report*) 123550
- Government guaranteed loans**
Survey of the Small Business Administration's Accounting for Loan Guaranty Fees (*Report*) 089255
- Government owned equipment**
Use of ADP Equipment Operated by Three or Four Typical Government Contractors (*Report*) 089247
- Adequacy of the DOD Response to Its Inspector General's Report on the Use of Vehicles Assigned to the Office of the Secretary of Defense Executive Motor Pool (*Report*) 122883
- Review of the Activities of the House Office Equipment Service for the Year Ended June 30, 1983 (*Report*) 123463
- Actions Taken To Improve Management and Reduce Costs of Interior's Aircraft Operations (*Report*) 123974
- Government procurement**
Proposed Regulation Prescribing New "Fixed-Price Options" Provisions for Use in Automatic Data Processing Systems Procurement (*Letter*) 103353
- Government Small Purchase Procedures (*Letter*) 105024
- Legality of Contract Award to Kentron Hawaii, Ltd. by the Department of Transportation (*Letter*) 106189
- Government publications**
Summary of Records Retention Requirements Relating to the Activities of the GAO (*Letter*) 100469
- Department of Energy's Activities To Limit Distribution of Certain Unclassified Scientific and Technical Information (*Report*) 124076
- Grant administration**
National Public Radio (*Testimony*) 123385
- Insights Into Major Urban Development Action Grant Issues (*Report*) 123557
- Federal Aviation Administration's System for Prioritizing Airport Grants (*Report*) 124121
- Implementation of the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act of 1982 (*Testimony*) 124299
- Strong Internal Controls at Service Delivery Level Will Help Prevent CETA-Type Fraud and Abuse in Job Training Partnership Act Programs (*Report*) 125541
- Harpoon Missile**
Price Markups and Inefficiency in Defense Production (*Testimony*) 125333
- Hazardous substances**
EPA Could Benefit From Comprehensive Management Information on Superfund Enforcement Actions (*Report*) 125938
- Health care costs**
Excessive Respiratory Therapy Cost and Utilization Data Used in Setting Medicare's Prospective Payment Rates (*Report*) 125312
- Health care personnel**
Evaluation of System Design of the Department of the Navy's Armed Forces Health Professions Scholarship Program Pay System (*Letter*) 103078
- Health Care Program Violation Information System**
Expanded Federal Authority Needed To Protect Medicare and Medicaid Patients From Health Practitioners Who Lose Their Licenses (*Report*) 124032

Subject Index

Health care services

Expanded Federal Authority Needed To Protect Medicare and Medicaid Patients From Health Practitioners Who Lose Their Licenses (*Report*) 124032

The Department of Health and Human Services' First-Year Implementation of the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act (*Report*) 124123

Proposal To Improve Identification and Collection of Medicare Part B Duplicate Payments (*Report*) 125007

Health hazards

EPA Could Benefit From Comprehensive Management Information on Superfund Enforcement Actions (*Report*) 125938

Health services administration

Survey of States' Utilization Review Programs for Noninstitutional Services Under Medicaid (*Report*) 102509

Hearings

Proposed Procedure for Access by GAO to Records of Students in the Murphy School District (*Letter*) 106776

Household goods

Opportunities To Improve the DOD Personal Property Shipping Program (*Report*) 125582

Housing allowances

Reductions in Coast Guard Leased Housing Can Achieve Savings (*Report*) 124872

Housing construction

The GAO Review, Vol. 18, Issue 3, Summer 1983 (*Other*) 124336

Housing programs

Increasing HUD Effectiveness Through Improved Management (*Report*) 123198

Improving Controls Over Rent and Management Fees at Multifamily Housing Projects (*Report*) 123943

ADP Bibliography

Human resources training

Design, Methodology, and Technical Assistance Groups in GAO: A Concept Paper (*Other*) 125125

Human resources utilization

Report of the ADP Task Force (*Memorandum*) 088965

The GAO Review, Vol. 19, Issue 2, Spring 1984 (*Other*) 124062

Observations on the Army's Manpower Requirements Criteria Program (*Report*) 124183

Status of Internal Audit Capabilities of Federal Agencies Without Statutory Inspectors General (*Report*) 124351

Better Use of Available Data Would Improve Mobilization Planning for Inductees (*Report*) 125416

Hydroelectric powerplants

Information on Relicensing Cases at the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (*Report*) 124282

Identification codes

Reissuing Tamper-Resistant Cards Will Not Eliminate Misuse of Social Security Numbers (*Report*) 114062

Imprest funds

Internal Control Weaknesses at GSA (*Report*) 124306

Improper award of contract

Protest of HUD Purchase (*Decision*) 125121

Request for Modification of Decision Sustaining Protest of Army Issuance of Delivery Order (*Decision*) 125730

Income statistics

Need for Computer Program Modifications To Show a Correct Organizational History of Employees' Earnings in the Civilian Payroll System of the U.S. Army Military District of Washington (*Report*) 089108

GAO Observations on the Use of Tax Return Information for Verification in Entitlement Programs (*Report*) 124423

Better Wage-Matching Systems and Procedures Would Enhance Food Stamp Program Integrity (*Report*) 125103

Delays in Recomputing Social Security Benefits Cause Underpayments for Extended Periods (*Report*) 125199

Industrial engineering

Planning for Navy Shore Facilities: Improvements Possible (*Report*) 125581

Infectious diseases

The GAO Review, Vol. 19, Issue 2, Spring 1984 (*Other*) 124062

Information dissemination operations

Information analysis operations

The Evaluation Synthesis (*Other*) 088890

Federal Agency Compliance with Indexing and Publishing Requirements of the Freedom of Information Act (*Letter*) 107421

Ask the Experts: Getting Through the Information Maze (*Other*) 123327

Federal Evaluations (*Other*) 123685

The GAO Review, Vol. 19, Issue 2, Spring 1984 (*Other*) 124062

Frontiers of Automated Analyses: From Frustration to Comfort (*Other*) 124069

Performance Evaluation of the Energy Information Administration (*Report*) 124430

Information disclosure

Request for Opportunity To Inspect Certain GAO Records Relating to Contracts (*Letter*) 100463

Views and Comments on H.R. 15353, 94th Congress, Second Session (*Letter*) 100566

Availability of GAO Records to the Public (*Letter*) 106221

Freedom of Information Act Request for Records (*Letter*) 106476

Proposed Procedure for Access by GAO to Records of Students in the Murphy School District (*Letter*) 106776

Audit of the Interstate Organized Crime Index (*Letter*) 106870

Federal Agency Compliance with Indexing and Publishing Requirements of the Freedom of Information Act (*Letter*) 107421

GAO Views on H.R. 5184 (*Testimony*) 123751

Control Improvements Needed in Accounting for Treasury Securities at the Federal Reserve Bank of New York (*Report*) 124060

Department of Energy's Activities To Limit Distribution of Certain Unclassified Scientific and Technical Information (*Report*) 124076

GAO Observations on the Use of Tax Return Information for Verification in Entitlement Programs (*Report*) 124423

Tax Information Safeguard Activity Annual Report (*Report*) 124866

Comments on S. 774, The Freedom of Information Reform Act (*Letter*) 125041

Protest of RFP Provisions Issued by Department of Energy (*Decision*) 125935

Information dissemination operations

Survey of States' Utilization Review Programs for Noninstitutional Services Under Medicaid (*Report*) 102509

GAO's Policies and Practices To Prevent Misuse of Access and Disclosure Authority (*Letter*) 104823

Government Small Purchase Procedures (*Letter*) 105024

An Improved Automated System Would Better Identify Small Businesses Seeking Federal Contracting Opportunities (*Report*) 123228

Use of Investigative Information by Inspectors General To Identify and Report Internal Control Weaknesses (*Report*) 123496

Activities of the Energy Information Administration (*Testimony*) 123708

Department of Energy's Activities To Limit Distribution of Certain Unclassified Scientific and Technical Information (*Report*) 124076

Information Value and Cost Measures for Use as Management Tools (*Other*) 125267

Government Printing Office's Depository Library Program (*Report*) 125853

Information gathering operations

The Audit Survey (*Other*) 088868

Earth Resources Information Satellite System Act (*Letter*) 100002

Ways To Improve the Federal/State Tax Information Exchange Program (*Speech*) 124608

Status of OMB Implementation of Paperwork Reduction Act (*Letter*) 125821

Information operations

Use of Public Funds by the National Technical Information Service To Compete With Private Industry (*Letter*) 102824

Extending the Authorization of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1980 (*Testimony*) 123816

ADP, IRM & Telecommunications (*Other*) 124463

Privacy Policy Activities of the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (*Report*) 125246

Progress in Improving Program and Budget Information for Congressional Use (*Report*) 125339

Information processing operations

Protest of Cancellation and Unrestricted Resolicitation of Commerce RFP (*Decision*) 123230

Defense Logistics Agency's First-Year Implementation of the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act (*Report*) 124030

HHS Needs To Determine If Massachusetts' AFDC Program Meets Federal Requirements and, If Not, Take Compliance Action (*Report*) 124605

Information Value and Cost Measures for Use as Management Tools (*Other*) 125267

Information retrieval systems

Computer-Assisted Research in GAO (*Other*) 124345

Protest of Any Contract Award to Another Firm Under Air Force IFB (*Decision*) 124565

Information systems

Use of Public Funds by the National Technical Information Service To Compete With Private Industry (*Letter*) 102824

Government Small Purchase Procedures (*Letter*) 105024

H.R. 13955, the Paperwork and Redtape Reduction Act of 1978 (*Letter*) 107974

Insights Into Major Urban Development Action Grant Issues (*Report*) 123557

Expanded Federal Authority Needed To Protect Medicare and Medicaid Patients From Health Practitioners Who Lose Their Licenses (*Report*) 124032

Technical Summary: HHS, Budget Development Systems (*Other*) 124926

OMB Actions Show Progress in Implementing the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1980 (*Report*) 125387

Accuracy, Cost, and Users of the Consolidated Federal Funds Report (*Report*) 125396

Regional Information Sharing Systems (*Report*) 125548

Outlook for Expanding the Federal Research in Progress System (*Report*) 125654

Information systems analysis

Improving Generalists' Capabilities in Assessing Output Reliability and Internal Controls in Computer-Based Systems (*Other*) 088865

Use of Investigative Information by Inspectors General To Identify and Report Internal Control Weaknesses (*Report*) 123496

Observations on the FBI's Interstate Identification Index (*Report*) 125400

Accurate and Complete Subcontract Data Needed To Assess International Agreements on Defense Procurement (*Report*) 125941

Inspection

The Audit and Inspection Functions at the United States Information Agency Need Management Attention (*Report*) 123829

Inspectors General

Use of Investigative Information by Inspectors General To Identify and Report Internal Control Weaknesses (*Report*) 123496

The Audit and Inspection Functions at the United States Information Agency Need Management Attention (*Report*) 123829

Topics in Financial Management (*Speech*) 124295

Intelligence gathering operations

Audit of the Interstate Organized Crime Index (*Letter*) 106870

Interagency relations

Establishment of a Central Focal Point for Telecommunications Matters (*Letter*) 106777

Use of Investigative Information by Inspectors General To Identify and Report Internal Control Weaknesses (*Report*) 123496

Actions Taken To Improve Management and Reduce Costs of Interior's Aircraft Operations (*Report*) 123974

Federal Policies and Practices for Acquiring Information Technology Can Be Improved (*Speech*) 124890

Opportunities for Public Housing Authorities To Develop and Acquire Computer-Based Management Information Systems (*Report*) 125270

Outlook for Expanding the Federal Research in Progress System (*Report*) 125654

Intergovernmental fiscal relations

Progress in Improving Program and Budget Information for Congressional Use (*Report*) 125339

Accuracy, Cost, and Users of the Consolidated Federal Funds Report (*Report*) 125396

Intergovernmental relations

GAO Observations on the Use of Tax Return Information for Verification in Entitlement Programs (*Report*) 124423

Observations on the FBI's Interstate Identification Index (*Report*) 125400

Government Printing Office's Depository Library Program (*Report*) 125853

Internal audits

Internal Controls of the Transportation Computer Center and Pollution Reporting Incident Reporting System (*Report*) 089018

Review of Crimes in Computer-Based Data Processing Systems (*Report*) 089059

The Audit and Inspection Functions at the United States Information Agency Need Management Attention (*Report*) 123829

Internal Control Weaknesses at GSA (*Report*) 124306

Performance Evaluation of the Energy Information Administration (*Report*) 124430

Internal controls

Improving Generalists' Capabilities in Assessing Output Reliability and

Internal Controls in Computer-Based Systems (*Other*) 088865

The Energy Information Administration Needs To Strengthen Its Computer Systems Development Procedures (*Report*) 123180

Increasing HUD Effectiveness Through Improved Management (*Report*) 123198

Defense Logistics Agency Could Better Identify and Cancel Unneeded On-Order Material (*Report*) 123199

Withdrawal of Approval of the Federal Election Commission Accounting System (*Report*) 123202

An Improved Automated System Would Better Identify Small Businesses Seeking Federal Contracting Opportunities (*Report*) 123228

FERC Can Improve Its Operational Performance by Broadening and Deepening Current Management Efforts (*Report*) 123309

National Public Radio (*Testimony*) 123385

Review of the Activities of the House Office Equipment Service for the Year Ended June 30, 1983 (*Report*) 123463

Use of Investigative Information by Inspectors General To Identify and Report Internal Control Weaknesses (*Report*) 123496

Internal Controls Can Be Improved To Help Ensure Proper and Correct Military Retirement Payments (*Report*) 123527

Activities of the Energy Information Administration (*Testimony*) 123708

The Audit and Inspection Functions at the United States Information Agency Need Management Attention (*Report*) 123829

Improving Controls Over Rent and Management Fees at Multifamily Housing Projects (*Report*) 123943

First-Year Implementation of the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act in VA (*Report*) 124023

Department of State's First-Year Implementation of the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act (*Report*) 124029

Department of Defense's First-Year Implementation of the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act (*Report*) 124031

Department of the Air Force's First-Year Implementation of the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act (*Report*) 124033

Defense Mapping Agency's First-Year Implementation of the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act (*Report*) 124035

National Aeronautics and Space Administration's First-Year Implementation of the Federal Manager's Financial Integrity Act (*Report*) 124038

Control Improvements Needed in Accounting for Treasury Securities at the Federal Reserve Bank of New York (*Report*) 124060

First-Year Implementation of the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act in the Department of Labor (*Report*) 124061

Department of the Army's First-Year Implementation of the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act (*Report*) 124074

First Year Implementation of the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act by the Department of Justice (*Report*) 124097

First-Year Implementation of the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act in the Department of Education (*Report*) 124112

The Department of Health and Human Services' First-Year Implementation of the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act (*Report*) 124123

Department of the Navy's First-Year Implementation of the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act (*Report*) 124150

First Year Implementation of the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act by the GSA (*Report*) 124210

First-Year Implementation of the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act by the Department of the Treasury (*Report*) 124235

Internal Control Weaknesses at the U.S. Customs Service (*Report*) 124237

Topics in Financial Management (*Speech*) 124295

Implementation of the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act of 1982 (*Testimony*) 124299

Internal Control Weaknesses at GSA (*Report*) 124306

The Department of Energy's First-Year Implementation of the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act (*Report*) 124331

The Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund's Financial Operations Were Properly Accounted for and Reported (*Report*) 124335

The GAO Review, Vol. 18, Issue 3, Summer 1983 (*Other*) 124336

The Modern EDP Environment's Impact on Internal Controls and Auditing (*Other*) 124344

Status of Internal Audit Capabilities of Federal Agencies Without Statutory Inspectors General (*Report*) 124351

Safeguarding of Proprietary Data at Minerals Management Service OCS Regional Offices (*Report*) 124360

Small Business Administration's First-Year Implementation of the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act (*Report*) 124365

Department of the Interior's First-Year Implementation of the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act (*Report*) 124460

ADP, IRM & Telecommunications (*Other*) 124463

Agriculture's First-Year Implementation of the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act (*Report*) 124477

Department of Commerce's First-Year Implementation of the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act (*Report*) 124483

Examination of the Federal Election Commission's Financial Statements for the Year Ended September 30, 1982 (*Report*) 124591

Financial Management Profile: Department of Health and Human Services (*Report*) 124637

Transportation's First-Year Implementation of the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act (*Report*) 124658

HUD's First-Year Implementation of the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act (*Report*) 124698

Social Security Administration's Management of Its Data Communications Contracts With Paradyne Corporation (*Testimony*) 124834

Crime, Abuse, and the Computer: The Problem and the Federal Experience (*Other*) 124849

SSA Data Communications Contracts With Paradyne Corporation Demonstrate the Need for Improved Management Controls (*Report*) 124854

Observations on a General Services Administration Report on the National Archives and Records Service (*Report*) 124873

Federal Policies and Practices for Acquiring Information Technology Can Be Improved (*Speech*) 124890

Technical Summary: Financial Management Profile of the Office of the Secretary, HHS (*Other*) 124925

Technical Summary: HHS, Budget Development Systems (*Other*) 124926

Technical Summary: Financial Management Profile of the HHS Central Personnel/Payroll System (*Other*) 124927

Technical Summary: HHS, Regional Accounting System (*Other*) 124928

Technical Summary: Financial Management Profile of the Social Security Administration (*Other*) 124929

Technical Summary: Financial Management Profile of the Health Care Financing Administration (*Other*) 124930

Technical Summary: Financial Management Profile of the Office of Human Development Services, HHS (*Other*) 124931

Technical Summary: Financial Management Profile of the Health Resources and Services Administration (*Other*) 124932

Technical Summary: Financial Management Profile of the Centers for Disease Control (*Other*) 124933

Technical Summary: Financial Management Profile of the National Institutes of Health (*Other*) 124934

Technical Summary: Financial Management Profile of the Food and Drug Administration (*Other*) 124935

Implementation of the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act: First Year (*Report*) 125049

Better Guidance Would Improve ADP Evaluations in Support of the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act of 1982 (*Letter*) 125080

Additional Information on SSA Management of Data Communications Contracts with Paradyne Corporation (*Report*) 125124

A List of Selected GAO Publications Containing Checklists or Guidance on Computer Software Topics (*Other*) 125250

Better Management Controls and ADP Requirements Analysis Can Help NASA Lewis Research Center (*Report*) 125266

CARE-Based Audit Methodology To Review and Evaluate Agency Accounting and Financial Management Systems (*Report*) 125337

Governmental Financial Management and Debt Crisis: Some Lessons From Experience (*Speech*) 125417

Audit Guides To Review Implementation of the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act: The Second Year (*Other*) 125524

Strong Internal Controls at Service Delivery Level Will Help Prevent CETA-Type Fraud and Abuse in Job Training Partnership Act Programs (*Report*) 125541

Regional Information Sharing Systems (*Report*) 125548

International cooperation

Governmental Financial Management and Debt Crisis: Some Lessons From Experience (*Speech*) 125417

International economic relations

Examination of the Financial Statements of the Export-Import Bank of the United States for the Fiscal Year Ended September 30, 1983 (*Report*) 124124

Governmental Financial Management and Debt Crisis: Some Lessons From Experience (*Speech*) 125417

International relations

Exports of Dual-Use, Nuclear-Related Equipment to the People's Republic of China (*Report*) 124609

International trade

Survey of the Billing and Collection System for Foreign Military Sales (*Report*) 100113

Accurate and Complete Subcontract Data Needed To Assess International Agreements on Defense Procurement (*Report*) 125941

International trade restriction

Department of Energy's Activities To Limit Distribution of Certain Unclassified Scientific and Technical Information (*Report*) 124076

Licensing Data for Exports to Non-Communist Countries (*Report*) 124107

Interstate Identification Index

Observations on the FBI's Interstate Identification Index (*Report*) 125400

Inventories

First-Year Implementation of the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act in VA (*Report*) 124023

First-Year Implementation of the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act in the Department of Labor (*Report*) 124061

Inventory control

Comments on the Adequacy of the Audit Trail Within GPO's Automated Publication Receipt and Control System (*Report*) 089124

Defense Logistics Agency Could Better Identify and Cancel Unneeded On-Order Material (*Report*) 123199

The Army Can Do More To Assure War Reserve Funds Are Spent Effectively (*Report*) 123440

Examination of Alleged Waste and Mismanagement in Army Test, Measurement, and Diagnostic Equipment Support Group (*Report*) 123556

Excessive Air Force Inventories Result From Duplicative Spare Parts Requirements (*Report*) 125449

Navy Material in Suspended, Not Ready for Issue, Condition Needs More Management Attention (*Report*) 125613

Better Management of Information Resources at the Bureau of Indian Affairs Could Reduce Waste and Improve Productivity (*Report*) 125865

Inventory control systems

Control of Aircraft Parts at Maintenance Depots (*Report*) 124182

Investigations by federal agencies

Information on Shortages in Stamp Stock at the Main Post Office and the Carl Range Station in Irving, Texas (*Report*) 124041

Comments on S. 774, The Freedom of Information Reform Act (*Letter*) 125041

Investigations into federal agencies

Use of Investigative Information by Inspectors General To Identify and Report Internal Control Weaknesses (*Report*) 123496

Irregular procurement practices

Protest of Specifications in Interior RFP (*Decision*) 124615

Joint Uniform Military Pay System

Survey of Actions To Correct Problems With the Navy's Military Pay System (*Report*) 125340

Judicial procedure

Tax Court Can Reduce Growing Case Backlog and Expenses Through Administrative Improvements (*Report*) 124125

Jurisdictional authority

Opportunities To Improve the Postal Ratemaking Process (*Report*) 124348

Juvenile delinquency

Better Monitoring and Recordkeeping Systems Needed To Accurately Account for Juvenile Justice Practices (*Report*) 124611

Juvenile status offenders

Better Monitoring and Recordkeeping Systems Needed To Accurately Account for Juvenile Justice Practices (*Report*) 124611

Labor law

Strong Internal Controls at Service Delivery Level Will Help Prevent CETA-Type Fraud and Abuse in Job Training Partnership Act Programs (*Report*) 125541

Labor negotiations

Corps of Engineers Request for Decision Concerning Legality of Expending Appropriated Funds (*Decision*) 123808

Labor statistics

The FAA Process of Selecting Locations for Automated Flight Service Stations (*Report*) 123550

Information on Aliens Admitted into the United States as Nonimmigrant Workers (*Report*) 125958

Labor supply

Price Markups and Inefficiency in Defense Production (*Testimony*) 125333

- Information on Aliens Admitted into the United States as Nonimmigrant Workers (*Report*) 125958
- Labor unions**
- Irregularities in the Performance of a Painting Contract at Fort Ord, California (*Report*) 089225
- Laboratories**
- Examination of Alleged Waste and Mismanagement in Army Test, Measurement, and Diagnostic Equipment Support Group (*Report*) 123556
- Studies of U.S. Universities' Research Equipment Needs Inconclusive (*Report*) 124347
- Late bids**
- Protest of Proposed Contract Award Under Navy IFB (*Decision*) 125498
- Law enforcement**
- Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs' Actions To Improve Processing of Handicapped Employment Discrimination Complaints (*Report*) 123311
- SEC's Efforts To Find Lost and Stolen Securities (*Report*) 124186
- Better Monitoring and Recordkeeping Systems Needed To Accurately Account for Juvenile Justice Practices (*Report*) 124611
- Observations on the FBI's Interstate Identification Index (*Report*) 125400
- Regional Information Sharing Systems (*Report*) 125548
- EPA Could Benefit From Comprehensive Management Information on Superfund Enforcement Actions (*Report*) 125938
- Information on Aliens Admitted into the United States as Nonimmigrant Workers (*Report*) 125958
- Leases**
- The FAA Process of Selecting Locations for Automated Flight Service Stations (*Report*) 123550
- Tax Court Can Reduce Growing Case Backlog and Expenses Through Administrative Improvements (*Report*) 124125
- Social Security Administration's Management of Its Data Communications Contracts With Paradyne Corporation (*Testimony*) 124834
- SSA Data Communications Contracts With Paradyne Corporation Demonstrate the Need for Improved Management Controls (*Report*) 124854
- Navy Did Not Adhere to Procurement Regulations in Acquiring a Computer for Its Ships Parts Control Center (*Report*) 124959
- Additional Information on SSA Management of Data Communications Contracts with Paradyne Corporation (*Report*) 125124
- Leasing policies**
- Use of ADP Equipment Operated by Three or Four Typical Government Contractors (*Report*) 089247
- Review of the Activities of the House Office Equipment Service for the Year Ended June 30, 1983 (*Report*) 123463
- Reductions in Coast Guard Leased Housing Can Achieve Savings (*Report*) 124872
- Leave**
- Review of Leave Resulting From Delay Enroute Incident to Permanent Change of Duty Station (*Report*) 089125
- Legislation**
- Organization of Issues Involved in Establishing Machinery and Processes for Handling the Paperwork Problem (*Letter*) 103488
- H.R. 13955, the Paperwork and Redtape Reduction Act of 1978 (*Letter*) 107974
- The GAO Review, Vol. 19, Issue 2, Spring 1984 (*Other*) 124062
- The GAO Review, Vol. 18, Issue 3, Summer 1983 (*Other*) 124336
- Legislative reference operations**
- The Evaluation Synthesis (*Other*) 088890
- Computer-Assisted Research in GAO (*Other*) 124345
- Lending institutions**
- Bank Liability Pursuant to Electronic Transfer of Reoccurring Federal Payments (*Decision*) 123881
- Liability (legal)**
- Legality of Contract Award to Ken-tron Hawaii, Ltd. by the Department of Transportation (*Letter*) 106189
- Bank Liability Pursuant to Electronic Transfer of Reoccurring Federal Payments (*Decision*) 123881
- Federal and State Liability for Inaccurate Payments of Food Stamp, AFDC, and SSI Program Benefits (*Report*) 124028
- EPA Could Benefit From Comprehensive Management Information on Superfund Enforcement Actions (*Report*) 125938
- Licenses**
- Expanded Federal Authority Needed To Protect Medicare and Medicaid Patients From Health Practitioners Who Lose Their Licenses (*Report*) 124032
- Licensing Data for Exports to Non-Communist Countries (*Report*) 124107
- Information on Relicensing Cases at the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (*Report*) 124282
- Litigation**
- Request for Opportunity To Inspect Certain GAO Records Relating to Contracts (*Letter*) 100463
- Protest of FBI Contract Award (*Decision*) 123955
- Request for Reconsideration of Sustained Protest Under FBI Solicitation (*Decision*) 124078
- Information on the Department of Energy's Budgets for Enforcing Its Petroleum Allocation and Pricing Regulations and Its Process for Distributing Oil Company Overcharge Refunds (*Report*) 124143
- Loan repayments**
- Insights Into Major Urban Development Action Grant Issues (*Report*) 123557
- Loans**
- National Public Radio (*Testimony*) 123385
- Loans to localities**
- Insights Into Major Urban Development Action Grant Issues (*Report*) 123557
- Local governments**
- Protest of Contract Award by the Administrative Office of the U S Courts (*Decision*) 123949
- LOGAIR-QUICKTRANS**
- Availability of GAO Records to the Public (*Letter*) 106221
- Logistics**
- Army Has the Opportunity To Recompete DAS3 Purchases and Improve Automated Battlefield Support (*Report*) 125265
- Better Use of Available Data Would Improve Mobilization Planning for Inductees (*Report*) 125416
- Excessive Air Force Inventories Result From Duplicative Spare Parts Requirements (*Report*) 125449
- Planning for Navy Shore Facilities: Improvements Possible (*Report*) 125581
- Opportunities To Improve the DOD Personal Property Shipping Program (*Report*) 125582
- Losses**
- Information on Shortages in Stamp Stock at the Main Post Office and the Carl Range Station in Irving, Texas (*Report*) 124041

SEC's Efforts To Find Lost and Stolen Securities (<i>Report</i>)	124186	Design, Methodology, and Technical Assistance Groups in GAO: A Concept Paper (<i>Other</i>)	125125	Medical services rates	
Low income housing		Status of OMB Implementation of Paperwork Reduction Act (<i>Letter</i>)	125821	Excessive Respiratory Therapy Cost and Utilization Data Used in Setting Medicare's Prospective Payment Rates (<i>Report</i>)	125312
Improving Controls Over Rent and Management Fees at Multifamily Housing Projects (<i>Report</i>)	123943	Better Management of Information Resources at the Bureau of Indian Affairs Could Reduce Waste and Improve Productivity (<i>Report</i>)	125865	Medicare programs	
M1 Tank		EPA Could Benefit From Comprehensive Management Information on Superfund Enforcement Actions (<i>Report</i>)	125938	Expanded Federal Authority Needed To Protect Medicare and Medicaid Patients From Health Practitioners Who Lose Their Licenses (<i>Report</i>)	124032
Price Markups and Inefficiency in Defense Production (<i>Testimony</i>)	125333	Manpower Authorization Criteria Program		Technical Summary: Financial Management Profile of the Health Care Financing Administration (<i>Other</i>)	124930
M60 Tank		Observations on the Army's Manpower Requirements Criteria Program (<i>Report</i>)	124183	Proposal To Improve Identification and Collection of Medicare Part B Duplicate Payments (<i>Report</i>)	125007
Survey of the Billing and Collection System for Foreign Military Sales (<i>Report</i>)	100113	Manpower Requirements Criteria Program		Excessive Respiratory Therapy Cost and Utilization Data Used in Setting Medicare's Prospective Payment Rates (<i>Report</i>)	125312
Mail transportation operations		Observations on the Army's Manpower Requirements Criteria Program (<i>Report</i>)	124183	Microforms	
Information on the Status of Postal Service Costs and Mail Delivery Service Under the Postal Reorganization Act (<i>Report</i>)	125108	Marine mineral resources development		Legal Requirements for Retention of Grant-Related Records (<i>Letter</i>)	100065
Maintenance (upkeep)		Improvements Needed in the Department of the Interior's Acquisition of Geophysical Data (<i>Report</i>)	125907	Use of Microfilm for Record Keeping Purposes (<i>Letter</i>)	100067
Excessive Air Force Inventories Result From Duplicative Spare Parts Requirements (<i>Report</i>)	125449	Materials handling		Government Printing Office's Depository Library Program (<i>Report</i>)	125853
Management information systems		The Army Can Do More To Assure War Reserve Funds Are Spent Effectively (<i>Report</i>)	123440	Military cost control	
Report of the ADP Task Force (<i>Memorandum</i>)	088965	Defense Logistics Agency's First-Year Implementation of the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act (<i>Report</i>)	124030	Observations on the Army's Manpower Requirements Criteria Program (<i>Report</i>)	124183
Survey of the District of Columbia Procurement System (<i>Report</i>)	089046	Mathematical analysis		Reductions in Coast Guard Leased Housing Can Achieve Savings (<i>Report</i>)	124872
Earth Resources Information Satellite System Act (<i>Letter</i>)	100002	Ask the Experts: Getting Through the Information Maze (<i>Other</i>)	123327	Opportunities To Improve the DOD Personal Property Shipping Program (<i>Report</i>)	125582
Increasing HUD Effectiveness Through Improved Management (<i>Report</i>)	123198	Status of the Statistical Community After Sustaining Budget Reductions (<i>Staff Study</i>)	124693	Military facilities	
National Public Radio (<i>Testimony</i>)	123385	Accuracy, Cost, and Users of the Consolidated Federal Funds Report (<i>Report</i>)	125396	Opportunities To Improve the DOD Personal Property Shipping Program (<i>Report</i>)	125582
The Unit Status and Identity Report (UNITREP) System--What It Does and Does Not Measure (<i>Staff Study</i>)	123595	Medicaid programs		Military facility construction	
The Assets, Liabilities, and Vulnerabilities of Information (<i>Speech</i>)	124059	Survey of States' Utilization Review Programs for Noninstitutional Services Under Medicaid (<i>Report</i>)	102509	Further Improvements Needed in Navy's Oversight of Contracting for Facilities Construction on Diego Garcia (<i>Report</i>)	124211
Tax Court Can Reduce Growing Case Backlog and Expenses Through Administrative Improvements (<i>Report</i>)	124125	Expanded Federal Authority Needed To Protect Medicare and Medicaid Patients From Health Practitioners Who Lose Their Licenses (<i>Report</i>)	124032	Planning for Navy Shore Facilities: Improvements Possible (<i>Report</i>)	125581
Further Improvements Needed in Navy's Oversight of Contracting for Facilities Construction on Diego Garcia (<i>Report</i>)	124211	Medical research		Military forces	
Topics in Financial Management (<i>Speech</i>)	124295	Technical Summary: Financial Management Profile of the National Institutes of Health (<i>Other</i>)	124934	The Unit Status and Identity Report (UNITREP) System--What It Does and Does Not Measure (<i>Staff Study</i>)	123595
Status of Internal Audit Capabilities of Federal Agencies Without Statutory Inspectors General (<i>Report</i>)	124351			Military housing	
Observations on a General Services Administration Report on the National Archives and Records Service (<i>Report</i>)	124873			Reductions in Coast Guard Leased Housing Can Achieve Savings (<i>Report</i>)	124872
Federal Policies and Practices for Acquiring Information Technology Can Be Improved (<i>Speech</i>)	124890				

Military materiel

- Defense Logistics Agency Could Better Identify and Cancel Unneeded On-Order Material (*Report*) 123199
- Examination of Alleged Waste and Mismanagement in Army Test, Measurement, and Diagnostic Equipment Support Group (*Report*) 123556
- Army Has the Opportunity To Recompete DAS3 Purchases and Improve Automated Battlefield Support (*Report*) 125265
- Navy Material in Suspended, Not Ready for Issue, Condition Needs More Management Attention (*Report*) 125613

Military pay

- Summaries of Conclusions and Recommendations on Department of Defense Operations (*Report*) 123710
- Survey of Actions To Correct Problems With the Navy's Military Pay System (*Report*) 125340

Military personnel

- Need for Computer Program Modifications To Show a Correct Organizational History of Employees' Earnings in the Civilian Payroll System of the U.S. Army Military District of Washington (*Report*) 089108
- Adequacy of the DOD Response to Its Inspector General's Report on the Use of Vehicles Assigned to the Office of the Secretary of Defense Executive Motor Pool (*Report*) 122883
- Summaries of Conclusions and Recommendations on Department of Defense Operations (*Report*) 123710
- Better Use of Available Data Would Improve Mobilization Planning for Inductees (*Report*) 125416

Military procurement

- Use of Microfilm for Record Keeping Purposes (*Letter*) 100067

Military recruiting

- Army Could Do More To Reduce Imbalances in Military Occupational Specialties (*Report*) 123439

Mineral leases

- Improvements Needed in the Department of the Interior's Acquisition of Geophysical Data (*Report*) 125907

Minimum wage rates

- Protest of GSA Procurement Practices and Contract Award (*Decision*) 124672

Mobilization

- The Army Can Do More To Assure War Reserve Funds Are Spent Effectively (*Report*) 123440
- Better Use of Available Data Would Improve Mobilization Planning for Inductees (*Report*) 125416

Modifications

- Need for Computer Program Modifications To Show a Correct Organizational History of Employees' Earnings in the Civilian Payroll System of the U.S. Army Military District of Washington (*Report*) 089108
- Social Security Administration's Management of Its Contracts To Modernize Its Data Communications System (*Testimony*) 125175

Monitoring

- Electronic Marketing of Agricultural Commodities: An Evolutionary Trend (*Report*) 123647
- Office of Workers' Compensation Programs Needs To Improve Procedures To Help Reduce Payment Errors and Identify Dual Payments (*Report*) 124193
- Better Monitoring and Recordkeeping Systems Needed To Accurately Account for Juvenile Justice Practices (*Report*) 124611
- Strong Internal Controls at Service Delivery Level Will Help Prevent CETA-Type Fraud and Abuse in Job Training Partnership Act Programs (*Report*) 125541
- Navy Material in Suspended, Not Ready for Issue, Condition Needs More Management Attention (*Report*) 125613
- Information on Aliens Admitted into the United States as Nonimmigrant Workers (*Report*) 125958

Motor vehicles

- Adequacy of the DOD Response to Its Inspector General's Report on the Use of Vehicles Assigned to the Office of the Secretary of Defense Executive Motor Pool (*Report*) 122883

Multi-year procurement

- GAO Examination of Air Force's Proposed Multiyear Procurement for DSCS III (*Report*) 123312

National defense operations

- Views and Comments on H.R. 15353, 94th Congress, Second Session (*Letter*) 100566
- GAO Examination of Air Force's Proposed Multiyear Procurement for DSCS III (*Report*) 123312

- Army Could Do More To Reduce Imbalances in Military Occupational Specialties (*Report*) 123439
- The Grace Commission's Major Proposals To Control Federal Costs (*Testimony*) 123530
- The Unit Status and Identity Report (UNITREP) System--What It Does and Does Not Measure (*Staff Study*) 123595
- Summaries of Conclusions and Recommendations on Department of Defense Operations (*Report*) 123710
- Further Improvements Needed in Navy's Oversight of Contracting for Facilities Construction on Diego Garcia (*Report*) 124211
- Navy Did Not Adhere to Procurement Regulations in Acquiring a Computer for Its Ships Parts Control Center (*Report*) 124959

National forests

- Information on Forest Service Below-Cost Timber Sales for National Forests in Colorado (*Report*) 124843

Native Americans

- Better Management of Information Resources at the Bureau of Indian Affairs Could Reduce Waste and Improve Productivity (*Report*) 125865

NATO military agreements

- Accurate and Complete Subcontract Data Needed To Assess International Agreements on Defense Procurement (*Report*) 125941

Naval facilities

- Further Improvements Needed in Navy's Oversight of Contracting for Facilities Construction on Diego Garcia (*Report*) 124211
- Planning for Navy Shore Facilities: Improvements Possible (*Report*) 125581

Naval personnel

- Survey of Actions To Correct Problems With the Navy's Military Pay System (*Report*) 125340

Naval supplies

- Survey of the Billing and Collection System for Foreign Military Sales (*Report*) 100113

Navigation aids

- Establishment of a Central Focal Point for Telecommunications Matters (*Letter*) 106777

Navy procurement

- Alleged Violation of the General Services Administration Regulations by the Navy in the Purchase

- of IBM Optical Character Recognition (OCR) Typewriters (*Report*) 089196
- Request for Reconsideration of Protest Under Navy RFP (*Decision*) 123416
- Contracting Out Under OMB Circular A-76 at Selected Army and Navy Activities in Virginia (*Report*) 124888
- Navy Did Not Adhere to Procurement Regulations in Acquiring a Computer for Its Ships Parts Control Center (*Report*) 124959
- Protest of Proposed Contract Award Under Navy IFB (*Decision*) 125498
- Allegations of Contract Buy-In and Substantial Cost Increases in the Navy's Standard Automated Financial System (*Report*) 125545
- Navy Material in Suspended, Not Ready for Issue, Condition Needs More Management Attention (*Report*) 125613
- Protest of Rejection of Proposal Under Navy RFTP (*Decision*) 125697
- Negotiable instruments**
- SEC's Efforts To Find Lost and Stolen Securities (*Report*) 124186
- Negotiated procurement**
- Protest of USGS Proposed Contract Award (*Decision*) 123762
- Protest of FBI Contract Award (*Decision*) 123955
- Protest of NASA Negotiated Procurement (*Decision*) 125071
- Protest of RFP Provisions Issued by Department of Energy (*Decision*) 125935
- Non-government enterprises**
- Use of Public Funds by the National Technical Information Service To Compete With Private Industry (*Letter*) 102824
- Insights Into Major Urban Development Action Grant Issues (*Report*) 123557
- Non-profit organizations**
- The Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund's Financial Operations Were Properly Accounted for and Reported (*Report*) 124335
- Noncompliance**
- SEC's Efforts To Find Lost and Stolen Securities (*Report*) 124186
- HHS Needs To Determine If Massachusetts' AFDC Program Meets Federal Requirements and, If Not, Take Compliance Action (*Report*) 124605
- Nuclear facilities**
- Information on Repayment of the Government's Uranium Enrichment Program Costs and Audits of That Program's Financial Statements (*Report*) 124971
- Nuclear proliferation**
- Exports of Dual-Use, Nuclear-Related Equipment to the People's Republic of China (*Report*) 124609
- Occupational health/safety programs**
- Corps of Engineers Request for Decision Concerning Legality of Expending Appropriated Funds (*Decision*) 123808
- Oceanographic research**
- Improvements Needed in the Department of the Interior's Acquisition of Geophysical Data (*Report*) 125907
- Office equipment**
- Alleged Violation of the General Services Administration Regulations by the Navy in the Purchase of IBM Optical Character Recognition (OCR) Typewriters (*Report*) 089196
- Protest Alleging Insufficient Time To Respond to Commerce RFP (*Decision*) 125522
- Official secrets**
- Views and Comments on H.R. 15353, 94th Congress, Second Session (*Letter*) 100566
- Offshore oil resources**
- Improvements Needed in the Department of the Interior's Acquisition of Geophysical Data (*Report*) 125907
- Oil resources**
- Information on Data Problems Identified by the Department of Energy With Its Final Entitlements Lists (*Report*) 125989
- Operations analysis**
- FERC Can Improve Its Operational Performance by Broadening and Deepening Current Management Efforts (*Report*) 123309
- Opportunities To Improve the Postal Ratemaking Process (*Report*) 124348
- Comparative Review of Single-Line and Multiline Optical Character Readers Used in Mail Processing (*Report*) 124865
- Optical equipment**
- A Comparative Review of Optical Character Readers Used in Mail Processing (*Testimony*) 124418
- Comparative Review of Single-Line and Multiline Optical Character Readers Used in Mail Processing (*Report*) 124865
- Organized crime**
- Audit of the Interstate Organized Crime Index (*Letter*) 106870
- Overpayments**
- Social Security Could Improve Its Management and Detection of Postentitlement Changes by Using Postadjudicative Appraisal Data (*Report*) 123594
- An Assessment of Random Audit--A New Department of Labor Program To Improve the Accuracy of Unemployment Insurance Benefit Payments (*Report*) 123788
- Control Improvements Needed in Accounting for Treasury Securities at the Federal Reserve Bank of New York (*Report*) 124060
- Office of Workers' Compensation Programs Needs To Improve Procedures To Help Reduce Payment Errors and Identify Dual Payments (*Report*) 124193
- Proposal To Improve Identification and Collection of Medicare Part B Duplicate Payments (*Report*) 125007
- Better Wage-Matching Systems and Procedures Would Enhance Food Stamp Program Integrity (*Report*) 125103
- Oversight by Congress**
- Federal Evaluations (*Other*) 123685
- Progress in Improving Program and Budget Information for Congressional Use (*Report*) 125339
- Paperwork**
- Extending the Authorization of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1980 (*Testimony*) 123816
- OMB Actions Show Progress in Implementing the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1980 (*Report*) 125387
- Status of OMB Implementation of Paperwork Reduction Act (*Letter*) 125821
- Better Management of Information Resources at the Bureau of Indian Affairs Could Reduce Waste and Improve Productivity (*Report*) 125865
- Paperwork Reduction Program**
- Relation of Independent Regulatory Agencies to Paperwork Reduction Program (*Letter*) 105644
- Parents**
- Proposed Procedure for Access by GAO to Records of Students in the Murphy School District (*Letter*) 106776
- Payroll systems**
- Need for Computer Program Modifications To Show a Correct Organizational History of Employees' Earnings in the Civilian Payroll System of the U.S. Army Military District of Washington (*Report*) 089108
- Financial Management Profile: Department of Health and Human Services (*Report*) 124637

- The Federal Government Can Reduce Costs in the Development, Maintenance, and Operation of Civilian Payroll Systems (*Report*) 124877
- Technical Summary: Financial Management Profile of the HHS Central Personnel/Payroll System (*Other*) 124927
- Quality of Actions To Correct Problems With the Navy's Military Pay System (*Report*) 125340
- Need for Improved Controls at VA Regional Offices To Ensure Timely Correction of Rejected Transactions in the Automated Compensation and Pension System (*Report*) 089117
- Participant Data Affect Reliability of Values Placed by Actuaries on Multiemployer Pension Plans (*Report*) 125081
- Liability (legal)**
- Information on Shortages in Stamp Stock at the Main Post Office and the Carl Range Station in Irving, Texas (*Report*) 124041
- Personal Property Shipping Program**
- Opportunities To Improve the DOD Personal Property Shipping Program (*Report*) 125582
- Personnel management**
- Report of the ADP Task Force (*Memorandum*) 088965
- Withdrawal of Approval of the Federal Election Commission Accounting System (*Report*) 123202
- Army Could Do More To Reduce Imbalances in Military Occupational Specialties (*Report*) 123439
- The Audit and Inspection Functions at the United States Information Agency Need Management Attention (*Report*) 123829
- The GAO Review, Vol. 19, Issue 2, Spring 1984 (*Other*) 124062
- Tax Court Can Reduce Growing Case Backlog and Expenses Through Administrative Improvements (*Report*) 124125
- The Leesburg GAO Senior Executive Management Meeting Speeches (*Speech*) 124300
- Performance Evaluation of the Energy Information Administration (*Report*) 124430
- GAO's Views on the Report of the Congressional Panel on Social Security Organization (*Testimony*) 124786
- Automatic Data Processing: A Career Challenge (*Other*) 124847
- Observations on a General Services Administration Report on the National Archives and Records Service (*Report*) 124873
- Planning EDP Audit Career Development (*Other*) 124972
- Design, Methodology, and Technical Assistance Groups in GAO: A Concept Paper (*Other*) 125125
- Better Use of Available Data Would Improve Mobilization Planning for Inductees (*Report*) 125416
- Accurate and Complete Subcontract Data Needed To Assess International Agreements on Defense Procurement (*Report*) 125941
- Petroleum industry**
- Information on the Department of Energy's Budgets for Enforcing Its Petroleum Allocation and Pricing Regulations and Its Process for Distributing Oil Company Overcharge Refunds (*Report*) 124143
- Phase IV Base Level Computer Replacement Program**
- Air Force Progress in Implementing the Phase IV Base Level Computer Replacement Program (*Report*) 123225
- PHOENIX Missile**
- Price Markups and Inefficiency in Defense Production (*Testimony*) 125333
- Physicians**
- Expanded Federal Authority Needed To Protect Medicare and Medicaid Patients From Health Practitioners Who Lose Their Licenses (*Report*) 124032
- Planning**
- Ask the Experts: Getting Through the Information Maze (*Other*) 123327
- Federal Aviation Administration's System for Prioritizing Airport Grants (*Report*) 124121
- Observations on the Army's Manpower Requirements Criteria Program (*Report*) 124183
- Integration of New Technology into Regional Office Operations (*Other*) 124848
- Observations on a General Services Administration Report on the National Archives and Records Service (*Report*) 124873
- Design, Methodology, and Technical Assistance Groups in GAO: A Concept Paper (*Other*) 125125
- OMB Needs To More Fully Consider Government-Wide Implications in Its Telecommunications Initiatives (*Report*) 125388
- Allegations of Contract Buy-In and Substantial Cost Increases in the Navy's Standard Automated Financial System (*Report*) 125545
- Planning programming budgeting**
- Reform of the Federal Budget Process (*Testimony*) 123358
- The Grace Commission's Major Proposals To Control Federal Costs (*Testimony*) 123530
- Analysis of the Grace Commission's Major Proposals for Cost Control (*Other*) 123531
- Federal Evaluations (*Other*) 123685
- Planning for Navy Shore Facilities: Improvements Possible (*Report*) 125581
- Policy evaluation**
- Review of the Activities of the House Office Equipment Service for the Year Ended June 30, 1983 (*Report*) 123463
- Information on Forest Service Below-Cost Timber Sales for National Forests in Colorado (*Report*) 124843
- Reductions in Coast Guard Leased Housing Can Achieve Savings (*Report*) 124872
- Contracting Out Under OMB Circular A-76 at Selected Army and Navy Activities in Virginia (*Report*) 124888
- OMB Needs To More Fully Consider Government-Wide Implications in Its Telecommunications Initiatives (*Report*) 125388
- Pollution control**
- Internal Controls of the Transportation Computer Center and Pollution Reporting Incident Reporting System (*Report*) 089018
- Postal law**
- Information on the Status of Postal Service Costs and Mail Delivery Service Under the Postal Reorganization Act (*Report*) 125108
- Postal rates**
- Opportunities To Improve the Postal Ratemaking Process (*Report*) 124348
- The Nine-Digit ZIP Code: Is the Postal Service Doing a Number on Us? (*Other*) 125831
- Postal service**
- Opportunities To Improve the Postal Ratemaking Process (*Report*) 124348
- A Comparative Review of Optical Character Readers Used in Mail Processing (*Testimony*) 124418
- Comparative Review of Single-Line and Multiline Optical Character Readers Used in Mail Processing (*Report*) 124865
- Information on the Status of Postal Service Costs and Mail Delivery Service Under the Postal Reorganization Act (*Report*) 125108
- The Nine-Digit ZIP Code: Is the Postal Service Doing a Number on Us? (*Other*) 125831

Postal service employees

Information on Shortages in Stamp Stock at the Main Post Office and the Carl Range Station in Irving, Texas (*Report*) 124041

Presidential Election Campaign Fund

Examination of the Federal Election Commission's Financial Statements for the Year Ended September 30, 1982 (*Report*) 124591

Price regulation

Information on the Department of Energy's Budgets for Enforcing Its Petroleum Allocation and Pricing Regulations and Its Process for Distributing Oil Company Overcharge Refunds (*Report*) 124143

Information on Data Problems Identified by the Department of Energy With Its Final Entitlements Lists (*Report*) 125989

Prime contractors

Protest of Proposed Subcontract Award by EPA Contractor (*Decision*) 123826

Printing costs

Comments on the Adequacy of the Audit Trail Within GPO's Automated Publication Receipt and Control System (*Report*) 089124

Improvements Needed in the Department of the Interior's Acquisition of Geophysical Data (*Report*) 125907

Prioritizing

Federal Aviation Administration's System for Prioritizing Airport Grants (*Report*) 124121

Privacy law

GAO's Policies and Practices To Prevent Misuse of Access and Disclosure Authority (*Letter*) 104823

Proposed Procedure for Access by GAO to Records of Students in the Murphy School District (*Letter*) 106776

Privacy Policy Activities of the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (*Report*) 125246

Procedures or practices evaluation

Improving Generalists' Capabilities in Assessing Output Reliability and Internal Controls in Computer-Based Systems (*Other*) 088865

Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs' Actions To Improve Processing of Handicapped Employment Discrimination Complaints (*Report*) 123311

Reform of the Federal Budget Process (*Testimony*) 123358

GSA's Telecommunications Procurement Program Requires Comprehensive Planning and Management (*Report*) 124361

GAO Observations on the Use of Tax Return Information for Verification in Entitlement Programs (*Report*) 124423

Tax Information Safeguard Activity Annual Report (*Report*) 124866

Reductions in Coast Guard Leased Housing Can Achieve Savings (*Report*) 124872

Better Guidance Would Improve ADP Evaluations in Support of the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act of 1982 (*Letter*) 125080

Navy Material in Suspended, Not Ready for Issue, Condition Needs More Management Attention (*Report*) 125613

Procurement

Implementation of the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act of 1982 (*Testimony*) 124299

Studies of U.S. Universities' Research Equipment Needs Inconclusive (*Report*) 124347

Procurement Automated Source System

An Improved Automated System Would Better Identify Small Businesses Seeking Federal Contracting Opportunities (*Report*) 123228

Procurement evaluation

Better Management Controls and ADP Requirements Analysis Can Help NASA Lewis Research Center (*Report*) 125266

Opportunities for Public Housing Authorities To Develop and Acquire Computer-Based Management Information Systems (*Report*) 125270

Procurement policies

Policy and Procedures Pertaining to Procurement of ADP Equipment (*Letter*) 107007

Federal Policies and Practices for Acquiring Information Technology Can Be Improved (*Speech*) 124890

Opportunities for Public Housing Authorities To Develop and Acquire Computer-Based Management Information Systems (*Report*) 125270

Procurement practices

Social Security Administration's Management of Its Data Communications Contracts With Paradyne Corporation (*Testimony*) 124041

SSA Data Communications Contracts With Paradyne Corporation Demonstrate the Need for Improved Management Controls (*Report*) 124041

Federal Policies and Practices for Acquiring Information Technology Can Be Improved (*Speech*) 124041

Additional Information on SSA Management of Data Communications Contracts with Paradyne Corporation (*Report*) 125

Social Security Administration's Management of Its Contracts To Modernize Its Data Communications System (*Testimony*) 125

A List of Selected GAO Publications Containing Checklists or Guidance on Computer Software Topics (*Other*) 125080

Procurement practices protests

Protest of Certain Requirements Under D.C. Solicitation (*Decision*) 123826

Protest of USDA Solicitation (*Decision*) 1

Request for Reconsideration of Protest Under Navy RFP (*Decision*) 12341

Protest of SBA Contract Award (*Decision*) 12347

Protest of Forest Service Contract Award (*Decision*) 123000

Protest of Air Force Issuance of Delivery Orders (*Decision*) 123000

Protest of EPA Contract Award Under Oral Solicitation (*Decision*) 123565

Protest of Proposed Army Contract Award (*Decision*) 123603

Protest Alleging Unduly Restrictive Specifications in Army RFP (*Decision*) 123611

Protest of Specifications in RFQ (*Decision*) 123641

Protest of USGS Proposed Contract Award (*Decision*) 123762

Protest of Proposed Subcontract Award by EPA Contractor (*Decision*) 123826

Protest of GSA Decision To Exclude Carriers From Competition (*Decision*) 123947

Protest of Contract Award by the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts (*Decision*) 123949

Protests of Army, Defense, and Coast Guard Procurements (*Decision*) 124000

Protest of Allegedly Improper IRS Actions in Amending Solicitation (*Decision*) 124232

Protest of Specifications in Interior RFP (*Decision*) 124615

Protest of RFP Issued by HHS (*Decision*) 124773

Protest of Air Force Rejection of Apparent Low Bid (*Decision*) 124868

Protests Under Army RFP (*Decision*) 124883

Protests of Any Contract Award Under VA Solicitation (<i>Decision</i>)	124952
Protest of Air Force Refusal To Consider Late Technical Literature (<i>Decision</i>)	124979
Protest of NASA Negotiated Procurement (<i>Decision</i>)	125071
Protest of HUD Purchase (<i>Decision</i>)	125121
Protest of SBA Brand Name Only Purchase Description (<i>Decision</i>)	125164
Protest of Proposed Equipment Order by ACTION Against GSA Contract (<i>Decision</i>)	125278
Protest of OPM Procurement (<i>Decision</i>)	125330
Protest of NSF Contract Award (<i>Decision</i>)	125435
Protest Alleging Insufficient Time To Respond to Commerce RFP (<i>Decision</i>)	125522
Protest Alleging Insufficient Bid Preparation Time (<i>Decision</i>)	125557
Protest of Provisions in Air Force RFP (<i>Decision</i>)	125673
Protest of EPA Request for Proposals (<i>Decision</i>)	125760
Request for Reconsideration of Protest of SBA Requirement (<i>Decision</i>)	125801
Protest of Marine Corps Issuance of Delivery Order (<i>Decision</i>)	125892
Protest of RFP Provisions Issued by Department of Energy (<i>Decision</i>)	125935

Procurement procedures

Survey of the District of Columbia Procurement System (<i>Report</i>)	089046
Use of Microfilm for Record Keeping Purposes (<i>Letter</i>)	100067
Proposed Regulation Prescribing New "Fixed-Price Options" Provisions for Use in Automatic Data Processing Systems Procurement (<i>Letter</i>)	103353
Government Small Purchase Procedures (<i>Letter</i>)	105024
Policy and Procedures Pertaining to Procurement of ADP Equipment (<i>Letter</i>)	107007
GAO Views on H.R. 5184 (<i>Testimony</i>)	123751
Sole-Source Versus Competitive Contracting: Why a GAO Audit Guide Is Needed (<i>Other</i>)	123791
Improvements Needed in the Department of the Interior's Acquisition of Geophysical Data (<i>Report</i>)	125907

Procurement procedures protests

Protests of Bid Rejections by SSA (<i>Decision</i>)	123433
---	--------

Procurement records

Use of Microfilm for Record Keeping Purposes (<i>Letter</i>)	100067
--	--------

ADP Bibliography

Procurement regulation

Use of Microfilm for Record Keeping Purposes (<i>Letter</i>)	100067
Legality of Contract Award to Kentron Hawaii, Ltd. by the Department of Transportation (<i>Letter</i>)	106189
Policy and Procedures Pertaining to Procurement of ADP Equipment (<i>Letter</i>)	107007

Product performance evaluation

Air Force Progress in Implementing the Phase IV Base Level Computer Replacement Program (<i>Report</i>)	123225
A Comparative Review of Optical Character Readers Used in Mail Processing (<i>Testimony</i>)	124418
Social Security Administration's Management of Its Data Communications Contracts With Paradyne Corporation (<i>Testimony</i>)	124834
SSA Data Communications Contracts With Paradyne Corporation Demonstrate the Need for Improved Management Controls (<i>Report</i>)	124854
Additional Information on SSA Management of Data Communications Contracts with Paradyne Corporation (<i>Report</i>)	125124

Production engineering

Price Markups and Inefficiency in Defense Production (<i>Testimony</i>)	125333
---	--------

Productivity

FERC Can Improve Its Operational Performance by Broadening and Deepening Current Management Efforts (<i>Report</i>)	123309
Federal and State Initiatives Needed To Improve Productivity and Reduce Administrative Costs of the Aid to Families With Dependent Children and Food Stamp Programs (<i>Report</i>)	123347
ASCS Needs Better Information To Adequately Assess Proposed County and State Office Automation (<i>Report</i>)	124258
The GAO Review, Vol. 18, Issue 3, Summer 1983 (<i>Other</i>)	124336
The Nine-Digit ZIP Code: Is the Postal Service Doing a Number on Us? (<i>Other</i>)	125831
Better Management of Information Resources at the Bureau of Indian Affairs Could Reduce Waste and Improve Productivity (<i>Report</i>)	125865

Profits

Information on Forest Service Below-Cost Timber Sales for National Forests in Colorado (<i>Report</i>)	124843
--	--------

Program abuses

Review of Crimes in Computer-Based Data Processing Systems (<i>Report</i>)	089059
--	--------

Improved Collections Can Reduce Federal and District Government Food Stamp Program Costs (<i>Report</i>)	114830
--	--------

Program evaluation

The Evaluation Synthesis (<i>Other</i>)	088890
Relation of Independent Regulatory Agencies to Paperwork Reduction Program (<i>Letter</i>)	105644
Air Force Progress in Implementing the Phase IV Base Level Computer Replacement Program (<i>Report</i>)	123225
An Improved Automated System Would Better Identify Small Businesses Seeking Federal Contracting Opportunities (<i>Report</i>)	123228
GAO Examination of Air Force's Proposed Multiyear Procurement for DSCS III (<i>Report</i>)	123312
Insights Into Major Urban Development Action Grant Issues (<i>Report</i>)	123557
Federal Evaluations (<i>Other</i>)	123685
Topics in Evaluation (<i>Other</i>)	123790
Depository Librarians' Views on GPO's Administration of the Depository Library Program (<i>Report</i>)	123921
First-Year Implementation of the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act in VA (<i>Report</i>)	124023
Federal and State Liability for Inaccurate Payments of Food Stamp, AFDC, and SSI Program Benefits (<i>Report</i>)	124028
Department of State's First-Year Implementation of the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act (<i>Report</i>)	124029
Defense Logistics Agency's First-Year Implementation of the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act (<i>Report</i>)	124030
Department of Defense's First-Year Implementation of the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act (<i>Report</i>)	124031
Department of the Air Force's First-Year Implementation of the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act (<i>Report</i>)	124033
Defense Mapping Agency's First-Year Implementation of the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act (<i>Report</i>)	124035
National Aeronautics and Space Administration's First-Year Implementation of the Federal Manager's Financial Integrity Act (<i>Report</i>)	124038
First-Year Implementation of the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act in the Department of Labor (<i>Report</i>)	124061
The GAO Review, Vol. 19, Issue 2, Spring 1984 (<i>Other</i>)	124062
Department of the Army's First-Year Implementation of the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act (<i>Report</i>)	124074

First Year Implementation of the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act by the Department of Justice (*Report*) 124097

First-Year Implementation of the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act in the Department of Education (*Report*) 124112

The Department of Health and Human Services' First-Year Implementation of the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act (*Report*) 124123

Department of the Navy's First-Year Implementation of the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act (*Report*) 124150

Observations on the Army's Manpower Requirements Criteria Program (*Report*) 124183

Office of Workers' Compensation Programs Needs To Improve Procedures To Help Reduce Payment Errors and Identify Dual Payments (*Report*) 124193

First Year Implementation of the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act by the GSA (*Report*) 124210

First-Year Implementation of the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act by the Department of the Treasury (*Report*) 124235

Implementation of the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act of 1982 (*Testimony*) 124299

The Department of Energy's First-Year Implementation of the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act (*Report*) 124331

Department of the Interior's First-Year Implementation of the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act (*Report*) 124460

Agriculture's First-Year Implementation of the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act (*Report*) 124477

Department of Commerce's First-Year Implementation of the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act (*Report*) 124483

Ways To Improve the Federal/State Tax Information Exchange Program (*Speech*) 124608

Transportation's First-Year Implementation of the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act (*Report*) 124658

HUD's First-Year Implementation of the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act (*Report*) 124698

GAO's Views on the Report of the Congressional Panel on Social Security Organization (*Testimony*) 124786

The GAO Review, Vol. 19, Issue 3, Summer 1984 (*Other*) 124845

Topics in Evaluation (*Other*) 124846

GAO Concerns Relating to Additional EQUATE Procurements and Improvements (*Report*) 124996

Implementation of the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act: First Year (*Report*) 125049

OMB Actions Show Progress in Implementing the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1980 (*Report*) 125387

Observations on the FBI's Interstate Identification Index (*Report*) 125400

Better Use of Available Data Would Improve Mobilization Planning for Inductees (*Report*) 125416

Strong Internal Controls at Service Delivery Level Will Help Prevent CETA-Type Fraud and Abuse in Job Training Partnership Act Programs (*Report*) 125541

Government Printing Office's Depository Library Program (*Report*) 125853

Program management

Report of the ADP Task Force (*Memorandum*) 088965

Need for Computer Program Modifications To Show a Correct Organizational History of Employees' Earnings in the Civilian Payroll System of the U.S. Army Military District of Washington (*Report*) 089108

Improved Collections Can Reduce Federal and District Government Food Stamp Program Costs (*Report*) 114830

Increasing HUD Effectiveness Through Improved Management (*Report*) 123198

FERC Can Improve Its Operational Performance by Broadening and Deepening Current Management Efforts (*Report*) 123309

Federal and State Initiatives Needed To Improve Productivity and Reduce Administrative Costs of the Aid to Families With Dependent Children and Food Stamp Programs (*Report*) 123347

Examination of Alleged Waste and Mismanagement in Army Test, Measurement, and Diagnostic Equipment Support Group (*Report*) 123556

Actions Taken To Improve Management and Reduce Costs of Interior's Aircraft Operations (*Report*) 123974

Federal and State Liability for Inaccurate Payments of Food Stamp, AFDC, and SSI Program Benefits (*Report*) 124028

The GAO Review, Vol. 19, Issue 2, Spring 1984 (*Other*) 124062

Tax Court Can Reduce Growing Case Backlog and Expenses Through Administrative Improvements (*Report*) 124125

The Leesburg GAO Senior Executive Management Meeting Speeches (*Speech*) 124300

Performance Evaluation of the Energy Information Administration (*Report*) 124430

Observations on a General Services Administration Report on the National Archives and Records Service (*Report*) 124873

Better Wage-Matching Systems and Procedures Would Enhance Food Stamp Program Integrity (*Report*) 125

Delays in Recomputing Social Security Benefits Cause Underpayments for Extended Periods (*Report*) 125

Privacy Policy Activities of the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (*Report*) 125

Regional Information Sharing Systems (*Report*) 125

Government Printing Office's Depository Library Program (*Report*) 125

Better Management of Information Resources at the Bureau of Indian Affairs Could Reduce Waste and Improve Productivity (*Report*) 125

EPA Could Benefit From Comprehensive Management Information on Superfund Enforcement Actions (*Report*) 125

Project monitoring

Information on Relicensing Cases at the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (*Report*) 124

Design, Methodology, and Technical Assistance Groups in GAO: A Concept Paper (*Other*) 12512

Property and supply management

Survey of the District of Columbia Procurement System (*Report*) 0855

Defense Logistics Agency Could Better Identify and Cancel Unneeded On-Order Material (*Report*) 1251

Withdrawal of Approval of the Federal Election Commission Accounting System (*Report*) 12522

Review of the Activities of the House Office Equipment Service for the Year Ended June 30, 1983 (*Report*) 1251

Control of Aircraft Parts at Maintenance Depots (*Report*) 124182

Implementation of the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act of 1982 (*Testimony*) 12429C

Price Markups and Inefficiency in Defense Production (*Testimony*) 125333

Opportunities To Improve the DOD Personal Property Shipping Program (*Report*) 125582

Navy Material in Suspended, Not Ready for Issue, Condition Needs More Management Attention (*Report*) 125613

Property disposal

District Could Get More for Urban Renewal Property, but HUD Debt Will Be Repaid (*Report*) 117731

Proposed legislation

Establishment of a Central Focal Point for Telecommunications Matters (*Letter*) 106777

Extending the Authorization of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1980 (<i>Testimony</i>)	123816	Public records	Use of Microfilm for Record Keeping Purposes (<i>Letter</i>)	100067	Reconsideration requests denied	Request for Reconsideration of Sustained Protest Under FBI Solicitation (<i>Decision</i>)	124078	
Topics in Financial Management (<i>Speech</i>)	124295		Summary of Records Retention Requirements Relating to the Activities of the GAO (<i>Letter</i>)	100469				
The GAO Review, Vol. 19, Issue 3, Summer 1984 (<i>Other</i>)	124845		Availability of GAO Records to the Public (<i>Letter</i>)	106221	Reconsiderations	Request for Modification of Decision Sustaining Protest of Army Issuance of Delivery Order (<i>Decision</i>)	125730	
Crime, Abuse, and the Computer: The Problem and the Federal Experience (<i>Other</i>)	124849							
Comments on S. 774, The Freedom of Information Reform Act (<i>Letter</i>)	125041	Public Service Employment Program	Strong Internal Controls at Service Delivery Level Will Help Prevent CETA-Type Fraud and Abuse in Job Training Partnership Act Programs (<i>Report</i>)	125541	Records (documents)	Relation of Independent Regulatory Agencies to Paperwork Reduction Program (<i>Letter</i>)	105644	
OMB Needs To More Fully Consider Government-Wide Implications in Its Telecommunications Initiatives (<i>Report</i>)	125388					Proposed Procedure for Access by GAO to Records of Students in the Murphy School District (<i>Letter</i>)	106776	
Proprietary data		Publications	Comments on the Adequacy of the Audit Trail Within GPO's Automated Publication Receipt and Control System (<i>Report</i>)	089124	Records management	Legal Requirements for Retention of Grant-Related Records (<i>Letter</i>)	100065	
The Assets, Liabilities, and Vulnerabilities of Information (<i>Speech</i>)	124059		Federal Agency Compliance with Indexing and Publishing Requirements of the Freedom of Information Act (<i>Letter</i>)	107421		Use of Microfilm for Record Keeping Purposes (<i>Letter</i>)	100067	
Department of Energy's Activities To Limit Distribution of Certain Unclassified Scientific and Technical Information (<i>Report</i>)	124076	Publishing operations	Right To Make Public a Library of Congress Written Work Product (<i>Letter</i>)	103489		Request for Opportunity To Inspect Certain GAO Records Relating to Contracts (<i>Letter</i>)	100463	
Safeguarding of Proprietary Data at Minerals Management Service OCS Regional Offices (<i>Report</i>)	124360					Summary of Records Retention Requirements Relating to the Activities of the GAO (<i>Letter</i>)	100469	
GAO Observations on the Use of Tax Return Information for Verification in Entitlement Programs (<i>Report</i>)	124423	Quality assurance	Design, Methodology, and Technical Assistance Groups in GAO: A Concept Paper (<i>Other</i>)	125125		Organization of Issues Involved in Establishing Machinery and Processes for Handling the Paperwork Problem (<i>Letter</i>)	103488	
Price Markups and Inefficiency in Defense Production (<i>Testimony</i>)	125333		Social Security Administration's Management of Its Contracts To Modernize Its Data Communications System (<i>Testimony</i>)	125175		Right To Make Public a Library of Congress Written Work Product (<i>Letter</i>)	103489	
Protest procedures		Quality control	Activities of the Energy Information Administration (<i>Testimony</i>)	123708		GAO's Policies and Practices To Prevent Misuse of Access and Disclosure Authority (<i>Letter</i>)	104823	
Availability of GAO Records to the Public (<i>Letter</i>)	106221		Office of Workers' Compensation Programs Needs To Improve Procedures To Help Reduce Payment Errors and Identify Dual Payments (<i>Report</i>)	124193		Relation of Independent Regulatory Agencies to Paperwork Reduction Program (<i>Letter</i>)	105644	
GAO Views on H.R. 5184 (<i>Testimony</i>)	123751		Performance Evaluation of the Energy Information Administration (<i>Report</i>)	124430		Availability of GAO Records to the Public (<i>Letter</i>)	106221	
Public administration		Radio communications operations	National Public Radio (<i>Testimony</i>)	123385		Freedom of Information Act Request for Records (<i>Letter</i>)	106476	
Summaries of Conclusions and Recommendations on the Operations of Civil Departments and Agencies (<i>Report</i>)	123713					Contract/Relationship Between the City of Boston and Health and Hospitals, Inc. (<i>Letter</i>)	107059	
Public assistance programs		Real estate sales	District Could Get More for Urban Renewal Property, but HUD Debt Will Be Repaid (<i>Report</i>)	117731		H.R. 13955, the Paperwork and Redtape Reduction Act of 1978 (<i>Letter</i>)	107974	
Federal and State Initiatives Needed To Improve Productivity and Reduce Administrative Costs of the Aid to Families With Dependent Children and Food Stamp Programs (<i>Report</i>)	123347					Department of Energy's Activities To Limit Distribution of Certain Unclassified Scientific and Technical Information (<i>Report</i>)	124076	
HHS Needs To Determine If Massachusetts' AFDC Program Meets Federal Requirements and, If Not, Take Compliance Action (<i>Report</i>)	124605					Examination of the Financial Statements of the Export-Import Bank of the United States for the Fiscal Year Ended September 30, 1983 (<i>Report</i>)	124124	
Public housing						OMB Actions Show Progress in Implementing the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1980 (<i>Report</i>)	125387	
Opportunities for Public Housing Authorities To Develop and Acquire Computer-Based Management Information Systems (<i>Report</i>)	125270							
Public libraries						Records retention	Legal Requirements for Retention of Grant-Related Records (<i>Letter</i>)	100065
Right To Make Public a Library of Congress Written Work Product (<i>Letter</i>)	103489							

Availability of GAO Records to the Public (*Letter*) 106221
H.R. 13955, the Paperwork and Redtape Reduction Act of 1978 (*Letter*) 107974

Reference service operations

Computer-Assisted Research in GAO (*Other*) 124345

Refugees

The GAO Review, Vol. 18, Issue 3, Summer 1983 (*Other*) 124336
HHS Needs To Determine If Massachusetts' AFDC Program Meets Federal Requirements and, If Not, Take Compliance Action (*Report*) 124605

Regional Accounting System

Technical Summary: HHS, Regional Accounting System (*Other*) 124928

Regional Information Sharing Systems

Regional Information Sharing Systems (*Report*) 125548

Regional Organized Crime Center

Regional Information Sharing Systems (*Report*) 125548

Regulation

Freedom of Information Act Request for Records (*Letter*) 106476

Regulatory agencies

Relation of Independent Regulatory Agencies to Paperwork Reduction Program (*Letter*) 105644
Information on Relicensing Cases at the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (*Report*) 124282

Reimbursements to government

Adequacy of the DOD Response to Its Inspector General's Report on the Use of Vehicles Assigned to the Office of the Secretary of Defense Executive Motor Pool (*Report*) 122883

Rent subsidies

Improving Controls Over Rent and Management Fees at Multifamily Housing Projects (*Report*) 123943

Rental housing

Reductions in Coast Guard Leased Housing Can Achieve Savings (*Report*) 124872

Rental rates

Improving Controls Over Rent and Management Fees at Multifamily Housing Projects (*Report*) 123943

Reporting requirements

First-Year Implementation of the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act in VA (*Report*) 124023

Department of State's First-Year Implementation of the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act (*Report*) 124029

Defense Logistics Agency's First-Year Implementation of the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act (*Report*) 124030

Department of Defense's First-Year Implementation of the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act (*Report*) 124031

Department of the Air Force's First-Year Implementation of the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act (*Report*) 124033

Defense Mapping Agency's First-Year Implementation of the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act (*Report*) 124035

National Aeronautics and Space Administration's First-Year Implementation of the Federal Manager's Financial Integrity Act (*Report*) 124038

First-Year Implementation of the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act in the Department of Labor (*Report*) 124061

Department of the Army's First-Year Implementation of the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act (*Report*) 124074

First Year Implementation of the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act by the Department of Justice (*Report*) 124097

First-Year Implementation of the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act in the Department of Education (*Report*) 124112

The Department of Health and Human Services' First-Year Implementation of the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act (*Report*) 124123

Department of the Navy's First-Year Implementation of the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act (*Report*) 124150

SEC's Efforts To Find Lost and Stolen Securities (*Report*) 124186

First Year Implementation of the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act by the GSA (*Report*) 124210

First-Year Implementation of the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act by the Department of the Treasury (*Report*) 124235

Topics in Financial Management (*Speech*) 124295

Implementation of the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act of 1982 (*Testimony*) 124299

The Department of Energy's First-Year Implementation of the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act (*Report*) 124331

Department of the Interior's First-Year Implementation of the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act (*Report*) 124460

Agriculture's First-Year Implementation of the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act (*Report*) 124477

Department of Commerce's First-Year Implementation of the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act (*Report*) 124483

Congress Needs Better Information on Forest Service's Below-Cost Timber Sales (*Report*) 124538

Transportation's First-Year Implementation of the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act (*Report*) 124658

HUD's First-Year Implementation of the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act (*Report*) 124698

Implementation of the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act: First Year (*Report*) 125049

OMB Actions Show Progress in Implementing the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1980 (*Report*) 125387

Accurate and Complete Subcontract Data Needed To Assess International Agreements on Defense Procurement (*Report*) 125941

Reports management

Internal Controls of the Transportation Computer Center and Pollution Reporting Incident Reporting System (*Report*) 089018

Federal Agency Compliance with Indexing and Publishing Requirements of the Freedom of Information Act (*Letter*) 107421

GAO Views on H.R. 5184 (*Testimony*) 123751

Status of Internal Audit Capabilities of Federal Agencies Without Statutory Inspectors General (*Report*) 124351

Outlook for Expanding the Federal Research in Progress System (*Report*) 125654

Requests for proposals

Protest of EPA Request for Proposals (*Decision*) 125760

Research and development

Federal Agencies' Actions To Implement Section 11 of the Stevenson-Wydler Technology Innovation Act of 1980 (*Report*) 125024

Outlook for Expanding the Federal Research in Progress System (*Report*) 125654

Research and development facilities

Studies of U.S. Universities' Research Equipment Needs Inconclusive (*Report*) 124347

program management

Federal Agencies' Actions To Implement Section 11 of the Stevenson-Wydler Technology Innovation Act of 1980 (*Report*) 125024

reports

Right To Make Public a Library of Congress Written Work Product (*Letter*) 103489

resolutions

Protest of Cancellation and Unrestricted Resolicitation of Commerce RFP (*Decision*) 123230

Retired military personnel

Internal Controls Can Be Improved To Help Ensure Proper and Correct Military Retirement Payments (*Report*) 123527

Retirement benefits

Internal Controls Can Be Improved To Help Ensure Proper and Correct Military Retirement Payments (*Report*) 123527

The Grace Commission's Major Proposals To Control Federal Costs (*Testimony*) 123530

Office of Workers' Compensation Programs Needs To Improve Procedures To Help Reduce Payment Errors and Identify Dual Payments (*Report*) 124193

Right of privacy

Proposed Procedure for Access by GAO to Records of Students in the Murphy School District (*Letter*) 106776

Rocky Mountain Information Network

Regional Information Sharing Systems (*Report*) 125548

Sanctions

Federal and State Liability for Inaccurate Payments of Food Stamp, AFDC, and SSI Program Benefits (*Report*) 124028

Saudi Arabia

Navy Did Not Adhere to Procurement Regulations in Acquiring a Computer for Its Ships'Parts Control Center (*Report*) 124959

Saudi Arabian Deposit Account

First-Year Implementation of the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act by the Department of the Treasury (*Report*) 124235

Scientific research

Use of Public Funds by the National Technical Information Service To

Compete With Private Industry (*Letter*) 102824

Studies of U.S. Universities' Research Equipment Needs Inconclusive (*Report*) 124347

Securities

Control Improvements Needed in Accounting for Treasury Securities at the Federal Reserve Bank of New York (*Report*) 124060

SEC's Efforts To Find Lost and Stolen Securities (*Report*) 124186

Securities regulation

SEC's Efforts To Find Lost and Stolen Securities (*Report*) 124186

Selective Service System

Better Use of Available Data Would Improve Mobilization Planning for Inductees (*Report*) 125416

Service contracts

Legality of Contract Award to Kentron Hawaii, Ltd. by the Department of Transportation (*Letter*) 106189

Protest of Cancellation and Unrestricted Resolicitation of Commerce RFP (*Decision*) 123230

Protest of SBA Contract Award (*Decision*) 123475

Shipbuilding industry

Advanced, Computer-Oriented, Design System (*Report*) 089218

Shore Facilities Planning System

Planning for Navy Shore Facilities: Improvements Possible (*Report*) 125581

Site selection

The FAA Process of Selecting Locations for Automated Flight Service Stations (*Report*) 123550

Small business contractors

An Improved Automated System Would Better Identify Small Businesses Seeking Federal Contracting Opportunities (*Report*) 123228

Protests of Bid Rejections by SSA (*Decision*) 123433

Protest of Air Force Issuance of Delivery Orders (*Decision*) 123560

Small business loans

Survey of the Small Business Administration's Accounting for Loan Guaranty Fees (*Report*) 089255

Small business set-asides

Protest of Cancellation and Unrestricted Resolicitation of Commerce RFP (*Decision*) 123230

Protest of SBA Contract Award (*Decision*) 123475

Social security benefits

Reissuing Tamper-Resistant Cards Will Not Eliminate Misuse of Social Security Numbers (*Report*) 114062

Social Security Could Improve Its Management and Detection of Postentitlement Changes by Using Postadjudicative Appraisal Data (*Report*) 123594

GAO's Views on the Report of the Congressional Panel on Social Security Organization (*Testimony*) 124786

Technical Summary: Financial Management Profile of the Social Security Administration (*Other*) 124929

Delays in Recomputing Social Security Benefits Cause Underpayments for Extended Periods (*Report*) 125199

Sole source procurement

Legality of Contract Award to Kentron Hawaii, Ltd. by the Department of Transportation (*Letter*) 106189

Protest of Proposed Army Contract Award (*Decision*) 123603

GAO Views on H.R. 5184 (*Testimony*) 123751

Sole-Source Versus Competitive Contracting: Why a GAO Audit Guide Is Needed (*Other*) 123791

Social Security Administration's Management of Its Data Communications Contracts With Paradyne Corporation (*Testimony*) 124834

SSA Data Communications Contracts With Paradyne Corporation Demonstrate the Need for Improved Management Controls (*Report*) 124854

Navy Did Not Adhere to Procurement Regulations in Acquiring a Computer for Its Ships Parts Control Center (*Report*) 124959

Additional Information on SSA Management of Data Communications Contracts with Paradyne Corporation (*Report*) 125124

Army Has the Opportunity To Recompete DAS3 Purchases and Improve Automated Battlefield Support (*Report*) 125265

Solicitation cancellation

Protest Alleging Unduly Restrictive Specifications in Army RFP (*Decision*) 123611

Solicitation cancellation protests

Protest of Cancellation and Unrestricted Resolicitation of Commerce RFP (*Decision*) 123230

Protest of Contract Award by the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts (*Decision*) 123949

Solicitation modifications

- Protest of Forest Service Contract Award (*Decision*) 123534
- Protest of Allegedly Improper IRS Actions in Amending Solicitation (*Decision*) 124232
- Protest of HUD Purchase (*Decision*) 125121
- Protest Alleging Insufficient Time To Respond to Commerce RFP (*Decision*) 125522

Solicitation specifications

- Protest of IRS Elimination of Proposal From Competitive Range (*Decision*) 123141
- Protest of Certain Requirements Under D.C. Solicitation (*Decision*) 123165
- Protest of HHS Rejection of Offer and Issuance of Delivery Order to Another Firm (*Decision*) 123270
- Protest of USDA Solicitation (*Decision*) 123335
- Protests of Bid Rejections by SSA (*Decision*) 123433
- Protest Alleging Unduly Restrictive Specifications in Army RFP (*Decision*) 123611
- Protest of Specifications in RFQ (*Decision*) 123641
- Protest of FBI Contract Award (*Decision*) 123955
- Protests of Army, Defense, and Coast Guard Procurements (*Decision*) 124000
- Protest of Allegedly Improper IRS Actions in Amending Solicitation (*Decision*) 124232
- Protest of Any Contract Award to Another Firm Under Air Force IFB (*Decision*) 124565
- Protest of Specifications in Interior RFP (*Decision*) 124615
- Protest of GSA Procurement Practices and Contract Award (*Decision*) 124672
- Protest of RFP Issued by HHS (*Decision*) 124773
- Protest of Corps of Engineers Contract Award Alleging Awardee's Proposal Unacceptable (*Decision*) 124860
- Protests Under Army RFP (*Decision*) 124883
- Protests of Any Contract Award Under VA Solicitation (*Decision*) 124952
- Protest of NASA Negotiated Procurement (*Decision*) 125071
- Protest of Exclusion From Competitive Range Under RFP (*Decision*) 125084
- Protest of Proposed Equipment Order by ACTION Against GSA Contract (*Decision*) 125278
- Protest of NSF Contract Award (*Decision*) 125435
- Protest of Provisions in Air Force RFP (*Decision*) 125673
- Request for Reconsideration of Protest of SBA Requirement (*Decision*) 125801
- Protest of RFP Provisions Issued by Department of Energy (*Decision*) 125935

Standard Automated Financial System

- Allegations of Contract Buy-In and Substantial Cost Increases in the Navy's Standard Automated Financial System (*Report*) 125545

Standards evaluation

- Approval of Statement of Accounting Principles and Standards (*Letter*) 106255
- Incomplete Participant Data Affect Reliability of Values Placed by Actuaries on Multiemployer Pension Plans (*Report*) 125081
- Opportunities for Public Housing Authorities To Develop and Acquire Computer-Based Management Information Systems (*Report*) 125270

State-administered programs

- Federal and State Initiatives Needed To Improve Productivity and Reduce Administrative Costs of the Aid to Families With Dependent Children and Food Stamp Programs (*Report*) 123347
- HHS Needs To Determine If Massachusetts' AFDC Program Meets Federal Requirements and, If Not, Take Compliance Action (*Report*) 124605
- Better Wage-Matching Systems and Procedures Would Enhance Food Stamp Program Integrity (*Report*) 125103

Statistical data

- Licensing Data for Exports to Non-Communist Countries (*Report*) 124107
- Better Monitoring and Recordkeeping Systems Needed To Accurately Account for Juvenile Justice Practices (*Report*) 124611
- Status of the Statistical Community After Sustaining Budget Reductions (*Staff Study*) 124693
- Incomplete Participant Data Affect Reliability of Values Placed by Actuaries on Multiemployer Pension Plans (*Report*) 125081
- OMB Actions Show Progress in Implementing the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1980 (*Report*) 125387

Student financial aid

- Evaluation of System Design of the Department of the Navy's Armed Forces Health Professions Scholarship Program Pay System (*Letter*) 103078

Students

- Proposed Procedure for Access by GAO to Records of Students in the Murphy School District (*Letter*) 106776

Subcontractors

- Protest of Air Force Issuance of Delivery Orders (*Decision*) 125
- Protest of Rejection of Proposal Under Navy RFTP (*Decision*) 125
- Accurate and Complete Subcontract Data Needed To Assess International Agreements on Defense Procurement (*Report*) 125941

Subcontracts

- Protest of Proposed Subcontract Award by EPA Contractor (*Decision*) 125

Subpoena power

- Opportunities To Improve the Postal Ratemaking Process (*Report*) 124348

Superfund Program

- EPA Could Benefit From Comprehensive Management Information on Superfund Enforcement Actions (*Report*) 125938

Supplemental security income

- Reissuing Tamper-Resistant Cards Will Not Eliminate Misuse of Social Security Numbers (*Report*) 114062
- Federal and State Liability for Inaccurate Payments of Food Stamp, AFDC, and SSI Program Benefits (*Report*) 124028
- The Department of Health and Human Services' First-Year Implementation of the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act (*Report*) 124123

Surety bonds

- Protest of Air Force Rejection of Apparent Low Bid (*Decision*) 124868

Surveys

- The Audit Survey (*Other*) 088868
- Survey of the District of Columbia Procurement System (*Report*) 089046
- Survey of States' Utilization Review Programs for Noninstitutional Services Under Medicaid (*Report*) 102509
- Depository Librarians' Views on GPO's Administration of the Depository Library Program (*Report*) 123921
- Internal Control Weaknesses at the U.S. Customs Service (*Report*) 124237
- Status of Internal Audit Capabilities of Federal Agencies Without Statutory Inspectors General (*Report*) 124351
- Protests of Any Contract Award Under VA Solicitation (*Decision*) 124952
- Government Printing Office's Depository Library Program (*Report*) 125853

Systems analysis

- Evaluation of System Design of the Department of the Navy's Armed Forces Health Professions

Scholarship Program Pay System (Letter)	103078	Technical Summary: Financial Management Profile of the Office of the Secretary, HHS (Other)	124925	Tax information confidentiality GAO Observations on the Use of Tax Return Information for Verification in Entitlement Programs (Report)	124423
design		Technical Summary: HHS, Budget Development Systems (Other)	124926	Tax law Compilation of GAO's Work on Tax-Related Activities During 1983 (Report)	124536
Comments on the Adequacy of the Audit Trail Within GPO's Automated Publication Receipt and Control System (Report)	089124	Technical Summary: Financial Management Profile of the HHS Central Personnel/Payroll System (Other)	124927	Tax returns Compilation of GAO's Work on Tax-Related Activities During 1983 (Report)	124536
Approval of Revised Design of Accounting System for U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Letter)	102825	Technical Summary: HHS, Regional Accounting System (Other)	124928	Tax Information Safeguard Activity Annual Report (Report)	124866
Evaluation of Two Proposals for Design of a New Financial Management System for the District Government (Letter)	105972	Technical Summary: Financial Management Profile of the Social Security Administration (Other)	124929	Technical assistance Federal Agencies' Actions To Implement Section 11 of the Stevenson-Wydler Technology Innovation Act of 1980 (Report)	125024
Approval of Statement of Accounting Principles and Standards (Letter)	106255	Technical Summary: Financial Management Profile of the Health Care Financing Administration (Other)	124930	Design, Methodology, and Technical Assistance Groups in GAO: A Concept Paper (Other)	125125
The Energy Information Administration Needs To Strengthen Its Computer Systems Development Procedures (Report)	123180	Technical Summary: Financial Management Profile of the Office of Human Development Services, HHS (Other)	124931	Technical proposal evaluation Protest of Cancellation and Unrestricted Resolicitation of Commerce RFP (Decision)	123230
Withdrawal of Approval of the Federal Election Commission Accounting System (Report)	123202	Technical Summary: Financial Management Profile of the Health Resources and Services Administration (Other)	124932	Protest of Air Force Contract Award to Higher Priced Offerer (Decision)	123240
Air Force Progress in Implementing the Phase IV Base Level Computer Replacement Program (Report)	123225	Technical Summary: Financial Management Profile of the Centers for Disease Control (Other)	124933	Protest of SBA Contract Award (Decision)	123475
GAO Examination of Air Force's Proposed Multiyear Procurement for DSCS III (Report)	123312	Technical Summary: Financial Management Profile of the National Institutes of Health (Other)	124934	Protest of Rejection of Offer by Army (Decision)	123820
Ask the Experts: Getting Through the Information Maze (Other)	123327	Technical Summary: Financial Management Profile of the Food and Drug Administration (Other)	124935	Protest of Forest Service Rejection of Bid (Decision)	123931
Use of Investigative Information by Inspectors General To Identify and Report Internal Control Weaknesses (Report)	123496	CARE-Based Audit Methodology To Review and Evaluate Agency Accounting and Financial Management Systems (Report)	125337	Protest of Contract Award by the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts (Decision)	123949
Topics in Evaluation (Other)	123790	Systems management Need for Improved Controls at VA Regional Offices To Ensure Timely Correction of Rejected Transactions in the Automated Compensation and Pension System (Report)	089117	Protest of FBI Contract Award (Decision)	123955
Topics in Evaluation (Other)	124846	Information Value and Cost Measures for Use as Management Tools (Other)	125267	Protest of Corps of Engineers Contract Award Alleging Awardee's Proposal Unacceptable (Decision)	124860
Design, Methodology, and Technical Assistance Groups in GAO: A Concept Paper (Other)	125125	Tax administration Tax Court Can Reduce Growing Case Backlog and Expenses Through Administrative Improvements (Report)	124125	Protests Under Army RFP (Decision)	124883
Systems evaluation		Compilation of GAO's Work on Tax-Related Activities During 1983 (Report)	124536	Protests of Any Contract Award Under VA Solicitation (Decision)	124952
Need for Improved Controls at VA Regional Offices To Ensure Timely Correction of Rejected Transactions in the Automated Compensation and Pension System (Report)	089117	Ways To Improve the Federal/State Tax Information Exchange Program (Speech)	124608	Protest of Air Force Refusal To Consider Late Technical Literature (Decision)	124979
Review of Crimes in Computer-Based Data Processing System (Report)	089122	Tax exempt organizations The Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund's Financial Operations Were Properly Accounted for and Reported (Report)	124335	Protest of Exclusion From Competitive Range Under RFP (Decision)	125084
Survey of the Small Business Administration's Accounting for Loan Guaranty Fees (Report)	089255			Protest of Marine Corps Issuance of Delivery Order (Decision)	125892
Survey of the Billing and Collection System for Foreign Military Sales (Report)	100113			Technical proposals Protest of Rejection of Proposal Under Navy RFTP (Decision)	125697
Approval of Revised Design of Accounting System for U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Letter)	102825			Technology transfer Department of Energy's Activities To Limit Distribution of Certain Unclassified Scientific and Technical Information (Report)	124076
The Energy Information Administration Needs To Strengthen Its Computer Systems Development Procedures (Report)	123180				
Small Business Administration's First-Year Implementation of the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act (Report)	124365				

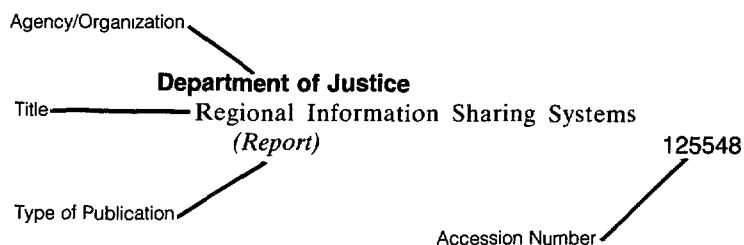
- Licensing Data for Exports to Non-Communist Countries (*Report*) 124107
- Exports of Dual-Use, Nuclear-Related Equipment to the People's Republic of China (*Report*) 124609
- The GAO Review, Vol. 19, Issue 3, Summer 1984 (*Other*) 124845
- Automatic Data Processing: A Career Challenge (*Other*) 124847
- Integration of New Technology into Regional Office Operations (*Other*) 124848
- Federal Agencies' Actions To Implement Section 11 of the Stevenson-Wylder Technology Innovation Act of 1980 (*Report*) 125024
- OMB Needs To More Fully Consider Government-Wide Implications in Its Telecommunications Initiatives (*Report*) 125388
- Telecommunications equipment**
- Protest of Rejection of Bid as Nonresponsive by Army (*Decision*) 123863
- Protest of Forest Service Rejection of Bid (*Decision*) 123931
- GSA's Telecommunications Procurement Program Requires Comprehensive Planning and Management (*Report*) 124361
- Protest of Proposed Contract Award Under Navy IFB (*Decision*) 125498
- Protest of RFP Provisions Issued by Department of Energy (*Decision*) 125935
- Telecommunications operations**
- Establishment of a Central Focal Point for Telecommunications Matters (*Letter*) 106777
- Protest of Proposed Army Contract Award (*Decision*) 123603
- Protest of GSA Decision To Exclude Carriers From Competition (*Decision*) 123947
- ADP, IRM & Telecommunications (*Other*) 124463
- Social Security Administration's Management of Its Contracts To Modernize Its Data Communications System (*Testimony*) 125175
- OMB Needs To More Fully Consider Government-Wide Implications in Its Telecommunications Initiatives (*Report*) 125388
- Temporary employment**
- Information on Aliens Admitted into the United States as Nonimmigrant Workers (*Report*) 125958
- Test equipment**
- Protest of HHS Rejection of Offer and Issuance of Delivery Order to Another Firm (*Decision*) 123270
- Studies of U.S. Universities' Research Equipment Needs Inconclusive (*Report*) 124347
- Testing**
- The Department of Agriculture's Allegation Concerning the General Services Administration's Mandatory Requirements Contract for ITTEL Disk Drives (*Report*) 102434
- Air Force Progress in Implementing the Phase IV Base Level Computer Replacement Program (*Report*) 123225
- Protest of Air Force Contract Award to Higher Priced Offerer (*Decision*) 123240
- Ask the Experts: Getting Through the Information Maze (*Other*) 123327
- Examination of Alleged Waste and Mismanagement in Army Test, Measurement, and Diagnostic Equipment Support Group (*Report*) 123556
- ASCS Needs Better Information To Adequately Assess Proposed County and State Office Automation (*Report*) 124258
- Social Security Administration's Management of Its Data Communications Contracts With Paradyne Corporation (*Testimony*) 124834
- SSA Data Communications Contracts With Paradyne Corporation Demonstrate the Need for Improved Management Controls (*Report*) 124854
- GAO Concerns Relating to Additional EQUATE Procurements and Improvements (*Report*) 124996
- Additional Information on SSA Management of Data Communications Contracts with Paradyne Corporation (*Report*) 125124
- Protest of SBA Brand Name Only Purchase Description (*Decision*) 125164
- CARE-Based Audit Methodology To Review and Evaluate Agency Accounting and Financial Management Systems (*Report*) 125337
- Observations on the FBI's Interstate Identification Index (*Report*) 125400
- Timber sales**
- Congress Needs Better Information on Forest Service's Below-Cost Timber Sales (*Report*) 124538
- Information on Forest Service Below-Cost Timber Sales for National Forests in Colorado (*Report*) 124843
- TOW Missile**
- Price Markups and Inefficiency in Defense Production (*Testimony*) 125333
- Toxic substances**
- EPA Could Benefit From Comprehensive Management Information on Superfund Enforcement Actions (*Report*) 125938
- Trade regulation**
- GSA's Telecommunications Procurement Program Requires Comprehensive Planning and Management (*Report*) 124361
- Trade secrets**
- Department of Energy's Activities To Limit Distribution of Certain Unclassified Scientific and Technical Information (*Report*) 124107
- Training utilization**
- Army Could Do More To Reduce Imbalances in Military Occupational Specialties (*Report*) 123101
- Transportation operations**
- Internal Controls of the Transportation Computer Center and Pollution Reporting Incident Reporting System (*Report*) 050000
- Transportation safety**
- Actions Taken To Improve Management and Reduce Costs of Interior's Aircraft Operations (*Report*) 123974
- Federal Aviation Administration's System for Prioritizing Airport Grants (*Report*) 124121
- Interim Observations on FAA's Plans for Major Systems Acquisitions (*Report*) 124281
- Trust funds**
- Reissuing Tamper-Resistant Cards Will Not Eliminate Misuse of Social Security Numbers (*Report*) 114062
- Underpayments**
- Delays in Recomputing Social Security Benefits Cause Underpayments for Extended Periods (*Report*) 125199
- Unemployment insurance benefits**
- An Assessment of Random Audit—A New Department of Labor Program To Improve the Accuracy of Unemployment Insurance Benefit Payments (*Report*) 123788
- Unfair competition**
- Activities of Washington Data Processing Center Statistical Research Service (*Report*) 088933
- Protest of Specifications in Interior RFP (*Decision*) 124615
- Untimely bid-protests**
- Protest of HHS Rejection of Offer and Issuance of Delivery Order to Another Firm (*Decision*) 123270
- Protests of Bid Rejections by SSA (*Decision*) 123433
- Protest of Specifications in RFQ (*Decision*) 123641
- Protest of HHS Issuance of Delivery Order (*Decision*) 123651

- Protest of Allegedly Improper IRS Actions in Amending Solicitation (*Decision*) 124232
- Protest of RFP Issued by HHS (*Decision*) 124773
- Protests Under Army RFP (*Decision*) 124883
- Protest of Proposed Equipment Order by ACTION Against GSA Contract (*Decision*) 125278
- Protest Alleging Insufficient Time To Respond to Commerce RFP (*Decision*) 125522
- Protest Alleging Insufficient Bid Preparation Time (*Decision*) 125557
- Protest of Provisions in Air Force RFP (*Decision*) 125673
- Protest of Rejection of Proposal Under Navy RFTP (*Decision*) 125697
- Uranium**
- Information on Repayment of the Government's Uranium Enrichment Program Costs and Audits of That Program's Financial Statements (*Report*) 124971
- Uranium Enrichment Program**
- Information on Repayment of the Government's Uranium Enrichment Program Costs and Audits of That Program's Financial Statements (*Report*) 124971
- Urban Development Action Grant Program**
- Insights Into Major Urban Development Action Grant Issues (*Report*) 123557
- Urban development programs**
- District Could Get More for Urban Renewal Property, but HUD Debt Will Be Repaid (*Report*) 117731
- Urban planning**
- District Could Get More for Urban Renewal Property, but HUD Debt Will Be Repaid (*Report*) 117731
- Veterans benefits**
- Need for Improved Controls at VA Regional Offices To Ensure Timely Correction of Rejected Transactions in the Automated Compensation and Pension System (*Report*) 089117
- Warning systems**
- Interim Observations on FAA's Plans for Major Systems Acquisitions (*Report*) 124281
- Warlike Manpower Planning System**
- Better Use of Available Data Would Improve Mobilization Planning for Inductees (*Report*) 125416
- Waste disposal**
- EPA Could Benefit From Comprehensive Management Information on Superfund Enforcement Actions (*Report*) 125938
- Water resources development**
- Information on Relicensing Cases at the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (*Report*) 124282
- Water supply management**
- Information on Relicensing Cases at the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (*Report*) 124282
- Weapons industry**
- Price Markups and Inefficiency in Defense Production (*Testimony*) 125333
- Weapons systems**
- The Grace Commission's Major Proposals To Control Federal Costs (*Testimony*) 123530
- Summaries of Conclusions and Recommendations on Department of Defense Operations (*Report*) 123710
- Price Markups and Inefficiency in Defense Production (*Testimony*) 125333
- Excessive Air Force Inventories Result From Duplicative Spare Parts Requirements (*Report*) 125449
- Welfare benefits**
- Reissuing Tamper-Resistant Cards Will Not Eliminate Misuse of Social Security Numbers (*Report*) 114062
- Welfare recipients**
- Review of Crimes in Computer-Based Data Processing Systems (*Report*) 089059
- Welfare services**
- Improved Collections Can Reduce Federal and District Government Food Stamp Program Costs (*Report*) 114830
- Western States Information Network**
- Regional Information Sharing Systems (*Report*) 125548
- Workers compensation**
- Office of Workers' Compensation Programs Needs To Improve Procedures To Help Reduce Payment Errors and Identify Dual Payments (*Report*) 124193
- Working conditions**
- Corps of Engineers Request for Decision Concerning Legality of Expending Appropriated Funds (*Decision*) 123808
- Youth Program**
- Strong Internal Controls at Service Delivery Level Will Help Prevent CETA-Type Fraud and Abuse in Job Training Partnership Act Programs (*Report*) 125541
- ZIP-Plus-4**
- Comparative Review of Single-Line and Multiline Optical Character Readers Used in Mail Processing (*Report*) 124865

AGENCY/ORGANIZATION INDEX

The entries in this index include both Federal agencies and nongovernmental corporate bodies with which the document is concerned, in one alphabetic sequence. The Federal departments and agencies standing alone are those which appear in bold face type in the **United States Government Manual**. Other Federal entities are listed under their respective departments and agencies, e.g. documents related to the National Park Service will be listed under National Park Service, but documents related to VISTA will be listed under ACTION.

SAMPLE ENTRY



- | | | | | | |
|---|--------|--|--------|--|--------|
| B. Dick Co.
Protest of Issuance of Air Force
Delivery Order (<i>Decision</i>) | 123305 | American Sterilizer Co.
Protest of HHS Rejection of Offer
and Issuance of Delivery Order to
Another Firm (<i>Decision</i>) | 123270 | Boston, MA
Contract/Relationship Between the
City of Boston and Health and
Hospitals, Inc. (<i>Letter</i>) | 107059 |
| ACTION
Protest of Proposed Equipment Order
by ACTION Against GSA Contract
(<i>Decision</i>) | 125278 | Analytics Inc.
Protest of RFP Provisions Issued by
Department of Energy (<i>Decision</i>) | 125935 | Bureau of Indian Affairs
Better Management of Information
Resources at the Bureau of Indian
Affairs Could Reduce Waste and
Improve Productivity (<i>Report</i>) | 125865 |
| Administrative Office of the United
States Courts
Protest of Contract Award by the Ad-
ministrative Office of the U.S.
Courts (<i>Decision</i>) | 123949 | Applied Systems Institute
Protest of SBA Contract Award (<i>De-
cision</i>) | 123475 | Bureau of Labor Statistics
Status of the Statistical Community
After Sustaining Budget Reduc-
tions (<i>Staff Study</i>) | 124693 |
| Tax Court Can Reduce Growing Case
Backlog and Expenses Through
Administrative Improvements (<i>Re-
port</i>) | 124125 | Arizona
Murphy School District
Proposed Procedure for Access by
GAO to Records of Students in the
Murphy School District (<i>Letter</i>) | 106776 | Bureau of Land Management
Actions Taken To Improve Manage-
ment and Reduce Costs of Interi-
or's Aircraft Operations (<i>Report</i>) | 123974 |
| Advance, Inc.
Protest of SBA Contract Award (<i>De-
cision</i>) | 123475 | Atomic Energy Commission
Use of ADP Equipment Operated by
Three or Four Typical Government
Contractors (<i>Report</i>) | 089247 | Burroughs Corp
Systems Development Corp.
Protest of FBI Contract Award (<i>Deci-
sion</i>) | 123955 |
| Agricultural Stabilization and Conser-
vation Service
ASCS Needs Better Information To
Adequately Assess Proposed
County and State Office Automa-
tion (<i>Report</i>) | 124258 | Axxa Corp.
Protests Under Army RFP (<i>Decision</i>) | 124883 | Request for Reconsideration of Sus-
tained Protest Under FBI Solicita-
tion (<i>Decision</i>) | 124078 |
| Amdahl Corp.
Protest of Certain Requirements Under
D.C. Solicitation (<i>Decision</i>) | 123165 | Beehive Telephone Co.
Protest of Proposed Army Contract
Award (<i>Decision</i>) | 123603 | Canberra Industries, Inc.
Protest of HHS Issuance of Delivery
Order (<i>Decision</i>) | 123651 |
| Protest of Specifications in Interior
RFP (<i>Decision</i>) | 124615 | Blue Shield of Kansas City
Proposal To Improve Identification
and Collection of Medicare Part B
Duplicate Payments (<i>Report</i>) | 125007 | CCL, Inc.
Protest of NSF Contract Award (<i>De-
cision</i>) | 125435 |
| American Management Systems, Inc.
Evaluation of Two Proposals for
Design of a New Financial Manage-
ment System for the District Gov-
ernment (<i>Letter</i>) | 105972 | Blue Shield of Maryland
Proposal To Improve Identification
and Collection of Medicare Part B
Duplicate Payments (<i>Report</i>) | 125007 | Comdisco, Inc.
Request for Modification of Decision
Sustaining Protest of Army Issu-
ance of Delivery Order (<i>Decision</i>) | 125730 |

Commission on Federal Paperwork
Relation of Independent Regulatory
Agencies to Paperwork Reduction
Program (*Letter*) 105644

Compucorp
Protests Concerning Bidder Respon-
siveness Pursuant to Department of
Education Contract Award (*Deci-
sion*) 124142
Protest of Provisions in Air Force
RFP (*Decision*) 125673

Computer Sciences Corp.
Protest of Corps of Engineers Con-
tract Award Alleging Awardee's
Proposal Unacceptable (*Decision*) 124860
Allegations of Contract Buy-In and
Substantial Cost Increases in the
Navy's Standard Automated Finan-
cial System (*Report*) 125545

Computer Switch, Inc.
Protests of Bid Rejections by SSA
(*Decision*) 123433

**Computerized Interference Elimina-
tion, Inc.**
Advanced, Computer-Oriented,
Design System (*Report*) 089218

COMSEC Systems Corp.
Protest Alleging Insufficient Bid
Preparation Time (*Decision*) 125557

**Congressional Panel on Social Secu-
rity Organization**
GAO's Views on the Report of the
Congressional Panel on Social
Security Organization (*Testimony*) 124786

Contech
Protest of EPA Contract Award Un-
der Oral Solicitation (*Decision*) 123565

Continental Telephone of California
Protest of Forest Service Rejection of
Bid (*Decision*) 123931

Control Data Corp.
Protest of IRS Elimination of Propo-
sal From Competitive Range (*Deci-
sion*) 123141

**Coordinating Council for Multilateral
Export Controls**
Licensing Data for Exports to Non-
Communist Countries (*Report*) 124107

Corporation for Public Broadcasting
National Public Radio (*Testimony*) 123385

Defense Communications Agency
Protests of Army, Defense, and Coast
Guard Procurements (*Decision*) 124000

Defense Logistics Agency
Defense Logistics Agency Could
Better Identify and Cancel Un-
needed On-Order Material (*Re-
port*) 123199
Defense Logistics Agency's First-Year
Implementation of the Federal
Managers' Financial Integrity Act
(*Report*) 124030

Defense Mapping Agency
Defense Mapping Agency's First-Year
Implementation of the Federal
Managers' Financial Integrity Act
(*Report*) 124035

**Hydrographic/Topographic Center, Wash-
ington, DC**
Protest of Defense Mapping Agency
Contract Award (*Decision*) 123693

Delta Data Systems Corp.
Protest of FBI Contract Award (*Deci-
sion*) 123955
Request for Reconsideration of Sus-
tained Protest Under FBI Solicita-
tion (*Decision*) 124078

Department of Agriculture
The Department of Agriculture's
Allegation Concerning the General
Services Administration's Mandato-
ry Requirements Contract for
ITEL Disk Drives (*Report*) 102434
Improved Collections Can Reduce
Federal and District Government
Food Stamp Program Costs (*Re-
port*) 114830

Protest of USDA Solicitation (*Deci-
sion*) 123335
Federal and State Initiatives Needed
To Improve Productivity and Re-
duce Administrative Costs of the
Aid to Families With Dependent
Children and Food Stamp Programs
(*Report*) 123347

Electronic Marketing of Agricultural
Commodities: An Evolutionary
Trend (*Report*) 123647

ASCS Needs Better Information To
Adequately Assess Proposed
County and State Office Automa-
tion (*Report*) 124258

Agriculture's First-Year Implementa-
tion of the Federal Managers' Fi-
nancial Integrity Act (*Report*) 124477

Congress Needs Better Information
on Forest Service's Below-Cost
Timber Sales (*Report*) 124538

Status of the Statistical Community
After Sustaining Budget Reduc-
tions (*Staff Study*) 124693

Information on Forest Service
Below-Cost Timber Sales for Na-
tional Forests in Colorado (*Report*) 124000
Better Wage-Matching Systems and
Procedures Would Enhance Food
Stamp Program Integrity (*Report*) 125000

Food and Nutrition Service
Review of Crimes in Computer-Based
Data Processing System (*Report*) 089111
Federal and State Liability for Inaccu-
rate Payments of Food Stamp,
AFDC, and SSI Program Benefits
(*Report*) 125000

**Food and Nutrition Service: Automated
Data Processing Division**
Review of Crimes in Computer-Based
Data Processing System (*Report*) 089111

**Food and Nutrition Service: Food Stamp
Division**
Review of Crimes in Computer-Based
Data Processing System (*Report*) 089122

Office of Audit
Review of Crimes in Computer-Based
Data Processing System (*Report*) 089122

Office of Investigations
Review of Crimes in Computer-Based
Data Processing System (*Report*) 089122

Statistical Reporting Service
Status of the Statistical Community
After Sustaining Budget Reduc-
tions (*Staff Study*) 124693

**Statistical Reporting Service: Washington
Data Processing Center**
Activities of Washington Data Pro-
cessing Center Statistical Research
Service (*Report*) 088933

Department of Commerce
Protest of Cancellation and Unres-
tricted Resolicitation of Commerce
RFP (*Decision*) 123230

Department of Commerce's First-
Year Implementation of the Feder-
al Managers' Financial Integrity
Act (*Report*) 124483

Exports of Dual-Use, Nuclear-
Related Equipment to the People's
Republic of China (*Report*) 124609

Status of the Statistical Community
After Sustaining Budget Reduc-
tions (*Staff Study*) 124693

Protest Alleging Insufficient Time To
Respond to Commerce RFP (*Deci-
sion*) 125522

Bureau of Economic Analysis
Status of the Statistical Community
After Sustaining Budget Reduc-
tions (*Staff Study*) 124693

Bureau of the Census

- Bureau of the Census' Planned 1985 Pretests for the 1990 Decennial Census (*Testimony*) 124525
- Status of the Statistical Community After Sustaining Budget Reductions (*Staff Study*) 124693
- Accuracy, Cost, and Users of the Consolidated Federal Funds Report (*Report*) 125396

National Technical Information Service

- Use of Public Funds by the National Technical Information Service To Compete With Private Industry (*Letter*) 102824
- Department of Energy's Activities To Limit Distribution of Certain Unclassified Scientific and Technical Information (*Report*) 124076
- Outlook for Expanding the Federal Research in Progress System (*Report*) 125654

National Telecommunications and Information Administration

- Privacy Policy Activities of the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (*Report*) 125246

Office of Export Administration

- Licensing Data for Exports to Non-Communist Countries (*Report*) 124107

Office of the Inspector General

- Use of Investigative Information by Inspectors General To Identify and Report Internal Control Weaknesses (*Report*) 123496

Department of Defense

- Adequacy of the DOD Response to Its Inspector General's Report on the Use of Vehicles Assigned to the Office of the Secretary of Defense Executive Motor Pool (*Report*) 122883
- GAO Examination of Air Force's Proposed Multiyear Procurement for DSCS III (*Report*) 123312
- Army Could Do More To Reduce Imbalances in Military Occupational Specialties (*Report*) 123439
- The Army Can Do More To Assure War Reserve Funds Are Spent Effectively (*Report*) 123440
- Internal Controls Can Be Improved To Help Ensure Proper and Correct Military Retirement Payments (*Report*) 123527
- The Grace Commission's Major Proposals To Control Federal Costs (*Testimony*) 123530

- The Unit Status and Identity Report (UNITREP) System--What It Does and Does Not Measure (*Staff Study*) 123595

- Summaries of Conclusions and Recommendations on Department of Defense Operations (*Report*) 123710

- Defense Logistics Agency's First-Year Implementation of the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act (*Report*) 124030

- Department of Defense's First-Year Implementation of the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act (*Report*) 124031

- Defense Mapping Agency's First-Year Implementation of the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act (*Report*) 124035

- Department of the Army's First-Year Implementation of the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act (*Report*) 124074

- Department of Energy's Activities To Limit Distribution of Certain Unclassified Scientific and Technical Information (*Report*) 124076

- Department of the Navy's First-Year Implementation of the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act (*Report*) 124150

- Observations on the Army's Manpower Requirements Criteria Program (*Report*) 124183

- Further Improvements Needed in Navy's Oversight of Contracting for Facilities Construction on Diego Garcia (*Report*) 124211

- Reductions in Coast Guard Leased Housing Can Achieve Savings (*Report*) 124872

- Price Markups and Inefficiency in Defense Production (*Testimony*) 125333

- Accuracy, Cost, and Users of the Consolidated Federal Funds Report (*Report*) 125396

- Better Use of Available Data Would Improve Mobilization Planning for Inductees (*Report*) 125416

- Excessive Air Force Inventories Result From Duplicative Spare Parts Requirements (*Report*) 125449

- Planning for Navy Shore Facilities: Improvements Possible (*Report*) 125581

- Opportunities To Improve the DOD Personal Property Shipping Program (*Report*) 125582

- Navy Material in Suspended, Not Ready for Issue, Condition Needs More Management Attention (*Report*) 125613

- Accurate and Complete Subcontract Data Needed To Assess International Agreements on Defense Procurement (*Report*) 125941

Army and Air Force Exchange Service

- Department of the Air Force's First-Year Implementation of the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act (*Report*) 124033

Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Manpower, Installations, and Logistics)

- Control of Aircraft Parts at Maintenance Depots (*Report*) 124182

Office of the Secretary

- Adequacy of the DOD Response to Its Inspector General's Report on the Use of Vehicles Assigned to the Office of the Secretary of Defense Executive Motor Pool (*Report*) 122883

Department of Education

- Use of Investigative Information by Inspectors General To Identify and Report Internal Control Weaknesses (*Report*) 123496
- First-Year Implementation of the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act in the Department of Education (*Report*) 124112
- Protests Concerning Bidder Responsiveness Pursuant to Department of Education Contract Award (*Decision*) 124142

National Center for Education Statistics

- Status of the Statistical Community After Sustaining Budget Reductions (*Staff Study*) 124693

Department of Energy

- The Energy Information Administration Needs To Strengthen Its Computer Systems Development Procedures (*Report*) 123180
- Department of Energy's Activities To Limit Distribution of Certain Unclassified Scientific and Technical Information (*Report*) 124076
- Information on Relicensing Cases at the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (*Report*) 124282
- The Department of Energy's First-Year Implementation of the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act (*Report*) 124331
- Performance Evaluation of the Energy Information Administration (*Report*) 124430
- Information on Repayment of the Government's Uranium Enrichment Program Costs and Audits of That Program's Financial Statements (*Report*) 124971
- Protest of RFP Provisions Issued by Department of Energy (*Decision*) 125935
- Information on Data Problems Identified by the Department of Energy With Its Final Entitlements Lists (*Report*) 125989

Economic Regulatory Administration

- Information on the Department of Energy's Budgets for Enforcing Its Petroleum Allocation and Pricing

Regulations and Its Process for Distributing Oil Company Overcharge Refunds (*Report*) 124143

Lawrence Berkeley Radiation Laboratory
Use of ADP Equipment Operated by Three or Four Typical Government Contractors (*Report*) 089247

Office of Hearings and Appeals
Information on the Department of Energy's Budgets for Enforcing Its Petroleum Allocation and Pricing Regulations and Its Process for Distributing Oil Company Overcharge Refunds (*Report*) 124143

Department of Health and Human Services
Reissuing Tamper-Resistant Cards Will Not Eliminate Misuse of Social Security Numbers (*Report*) 114062
Protest of HHS Rejection of Offer and Issuance of Delivery Order to Another Firm (*Decision*) 123270
Federal and State Initiatives Needed To Improve Productivity and Reduce Administrative Costs of the Aid to Families With Dependent Children and Food Stamp Programs (*Report*) 123347
Social Security Could Improve Its Management and Detection of Postentitlement Changes by Using Postjudicative Appraisal Data (*Report*) 123594
Expanded Federal Authority Needed To Protect Medicare and Medicaid Patients From Health Practitioners Who Lose Their Licenses (*Report*) 124032
The Department of Health and Human Services' First-Year Implementation of the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act (*Report*) 124123
GAO Observations on the Use of Tax Return Information for Verification in Entitlement Programs (*Report*) 124423
HHS Needs To Determine If Massachusetts' AFDC Program Meets Federal Requirements and, If Not, Take Compliance Action (*Report*) 124605
Financial Management Profile: Department of Health and Human Services (*Report*) 124637
Status of the Statistical Community After Sustaining Budget Reductions (*Staff Study*) 124693
Protest of RFP Issued by HHS (*Decision*) 124773
GAO's Views on the Report of the Congressional Panel on Social Security Organization (*Testimony*) 124786
Social Security Administration's Management of Its Data Communications Contracts With Paradyne Corporation (*Testimony*) 124834
SSA Data Communications Contracts With Paradyne Corporation Demonstrate the Need for Improved Management Controls (*Report*) 124854

Technical Summary: HHS, Budget Development Systems (*Other*) 124926
Technical Summary: Financial Management Profile of the HHS Central Personnel/Payroll System (*Other*) 124927
Technical Summary: HHS, Regional Accounting System (*Other*) 124928
Technical Summary: Financial Management Profile of the Social Security Administration (*Other*) 124929
Technical Summary: Financial Management Profile of the Health Care Financing Administration (*Other*) 124930
Technical Summary: Financial Management Profile of the Centers for Disease Control (*Other*) 124933
Technical Summary: Financial Management Profile of the National Institutes of Health (*Other*) 124934
Proposal To Improve Identification and Collection of Medicare Part B Duplicate Payments (*Report*) 125007
Protest of HUD Purchase (*Decision*) 125121
Additional Information on SSA Management of Data Communications Contracts with Paradyne Corporation (*Report*) 125124
Delays in Recomputing Social Security Benefits Cause Underpayments for Extended Periods (*Report*) 125199
Excessive Respiratory Therapy Cost and Utilization Data Used in Setting Medicare's Prospective Payment Rates (*Report*) 125312

Office of Human Development Services
Technical Summary: Financial Management Profile of the Office of Human Development Services, HHS (*Other*) 124931

Office of Inspector General
Use of Investigative Information by Inspectors General To Identify and Report Internal Control Weaknesses (*Report*) 123496

Office of the Secretary
Technical Summary: Financial Management Profile of the Office of the Secretary, HHS (*Other*) 124925

Department of Health, Education, and Welfare
Survey of States' Utilization Review Programs for Noninstitutional Services Under Medicaid (*Report*) 102509

Health Care Financing Administration
Survey of States' Utilization Review Programs for Noninstitutional Services Under Medicaid (*Report*) 102509

Social and Rehabilitation Service
Survey of States' Utilization Review Programs for Noninstitutional Services Under Medicaid (*Report*) 102509

Department of Housing and Urban Development
District Could Get More for Urban Renewal Property, but HUD Debt Will Be Repaid (*Report*) 117731
Increasing HUD Effectiveness Through Improved Management (*Report*) 123198
Insights Into Major Urban Development Action Grant Issues (*Report*) 123557
Improving Controls Over Rent and Management Fees at Multifamily Housing Projects (*Report*) 123943
HUD's First-Year Implementation of the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act (*Report*) 124698
Opportunities for Public Housing Authorities To Develop and Acquire Computer-Based Management Information Systems (*Report*) 125270

Office of the Inspector General
Use of Investigative Information by Inspectors General To Identify and Report Internal Control Weaknesses (*Report*) 123496

Department of Justice
First Year Implementation of the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act by the Department of Justice (*Report*) 124097
SEC's Efforts To Find Lost and Stolen Securities (*Report*) 124186
Status of the Statistical Community After Sustaining Budget Reductions (*Staff Study*) 124693
Observations on the FBI's Interstate Identification Index (*Report*) 125400
Regional Information Sharing Systems (*Report*) 125548
Information on Aliens Admitted into the United States as Nonimmigrant Workers (*Report*) 125958

Immigration and Naturalization Service
Information on Aliens Admitted into the United States as Nonimmigrant Workers (*Report*) 125958

Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention
Better Monitoring and Recordkeeping Systems Needed To Accurately Account for Juvenile Justice Practices (*Report*) 124611

Department of Labor
Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs' Actions To Improve Processing of Handicapped Employment Discrimination Complaints (*Report*) 123311
An Assessment of Random Audit--A New Department of Labor Program To Improve the Accuracy of Unemployment Insurance Benefit Payments (*Report*) 123788

First-Year Implementation of the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act in the Department of Labor (<i>Report</i>)	124061	Protest of Any Contract Award to Another Firm Under Air Force IFB (<i>Decision</i>)	124565	Observations on the Army's Manpower Requirements Criteria Program (<i>Report</i>)	124183
Office of Workers' Compensation Programs Needs To Improve Procedures To Help Reduce Payment Errors and Identify Dual Payments (<i>Report</i>)	124193	Protest of Air Force Rejection of Apparent Low Bid (<i>Decision</i>)	124868	Contracting Out Under OMB Circular A-76 at Selected Army and Navy Activities in Virginia (<i>Report</i>)	124888
Status of the Statistical Community After Sustaining Budget Reductions (<i>Staff Study</i>)	124693	Price Markups and Inefficiency in Defense Production (<i>Testimony</i>)	125333	Army Has the Opportunity To Recompete DAS3 Purchases and Improve Automated Battlefield Support (<i>Report</i>)	125265
Incomplete Participant Data Affect Reliability of Values Placed by Actuaries on Multiemployer Pension Plans (<i>Report</i>)	125081	Survey of Actions To Correct Problems With the Navy's Military Pay System (<i>Report</i>)	125340	Price Markups and Inefficiency in Defense Production (<i>Testimony</i>)	125333
		Opportunities To Improve the DOD Personal Property Shipping Program (<i>Report</i>)	125582	Survey of Actions To Correct Problems With the Navy's Military Pay System (<i>Report</i>)	125340
				Better Use of Available Data Would Improve Mobilization Planning for Inductees (<i>Report</i>)	125416
Office of the Inspector General		Air Force Logistics Command		Opportunities To Improve the DOD Personal Property Shipping Program (<i>Report</i>)	125582
Strong Internal Controls at Service Delivery Level Will Help Prevent CETA-Type Fraud and Abuse in Job Training Partnership Act Programs (<i>Report</i>)	125541	Excessive Air Force Inventories Result From Duplicative Spare Parts Requirements (<i>Report</i>)	125449	Request for Modification of Decision Sustaining Protest of Army Issuance of Delivery Order (<i>Decision</i>)	125730
Department of State		Air Force Logistics Command: Air Logistics Center, Hill AFB, UT		Computer Systems Selection and Acquisition Agency	
Department of State's First-Year Implementation of the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act (<i>Report</i>)	124029	Protest of Air Force Contract Award to Higher Priced Offerer (<i>Decision</i>)	123240	Protests Under Army RFP (<i>Decision</i>)	124883
Exports of Dual-Use, Nuclear-Related Equipment to the People's Republic of China (<i>Report</i>)	124609				
		Air Force Systems Command: Air Force Computer Acquisition Office		Corps of Engineers	
		Protest of Air Force Refusal To Consider Late Technical Literature (<i>Decision</i>)	124979	Protest of Corps of Engineers Contract Award Alleging Awardee's Proposal Unacceptable (<i>Decision</i>)	124860
				Navy Did Not Adhere to Procurement Regulations in Acquiring a Computer for Its Ships Parts Control Center (<i>Report</i>)	124959
Department of the Air Force		Carswell AFB, TX			
Air Force Decision Not To Purchase Certain Automatic Data Processing Equipment Located at Its Environmental Technical Applications Center, Washington, D.C. (<i>Report</i>)	089229	Protest of Issuance of Air Force Delivery Order (<i>Decision</i>)	123305	Corps of Engineers: Ohio River Division	
Availability of GAO Records to the Public (<i>Letter</i>)	106221			Corps of Engineers Request for Decision Concerning Legality of Expending Appropriated Funds (<i>Decision</i>)	123808
Air Force Progress in Implementing the Phase IV Base Level Computer Replacement Program (<i>Report</i>)	123225	Lindsey AFS, Germany			
GAO Examination of Air Force's Proposed Multiyear Procurement for DSCS III (<i>Report</i>)	123312	Protest of Provisions in Air Force RFP (<i>Decision</i>)	125673	Fort Benjamin Harrison, IN	
Army Could Do More To Reduce Imbalances in Military Occupational Specialties (<i>Report</i>)	123439			Protest of Rejection of Bid as Nonresponsive by Army (<i>Decision</i>)	123863
Protest of Air Force Issuance of Delivery Orders (<i>Decision</i>)	123560	Department of the Army		Fort Monmouth, NJ	
The Unit Status and Identity Report (UNITREP) System--What It Does and Does Not Measure (<i>Staff Study</i>)	123595	Army Could Do More To Reduce Imbalances in Military Occupational Specialties (<i>Report</i>)	123439	Protest Alleging Insufficient Bid Preparation Time (<i>Decision</i>)	125557
Department of the Air Force's First-Year Implementation of the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act (<i>Report</i>)	124033	The Army Can Do More To Assure War Reserve Funds Are Spent Effectively (<i>Report</i>)	123440		
Defense Mapping Agency's First-Year Implementation of the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act (<i>Report</i>)	124035	The Unit Status and Identity Report (UNITREP) System--What It Does and Does Not Measure (<i>Staff Study</i>)	123595	Fort Ord, CA	
Control of Aircraft Parts at Maintenance Depots (<i>Report</i>)	124182	Protest of Proposed Army Contract Award (<i>Decision</i>)	123603	Irregularities in the Performance of a Painting Contract at Fort Ord, California (<i>Report</i>)	089225
		Protest Alleging Unduly Restrictive Specifications in Army RFP (<i>Decision</i>)	123611		
		Department of the Air Force's First-Year Implementation of the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act (<i>Report</i>)	124033	International Logistics Command	
		Department of the Army's First-Year Implementation of the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act (<i>Report</i>)	124074	Survey of the Billing and Collection System for Foreign Military Sales (<i>Report</i>)	100113
		Control of Aircraft Parts at Maintenance Depots (<i>Report</i>)	124182	Letterkenny Army Depot, PA	
				Examination of Alleged Waste and Mismanagement in Army Test, Measurement, and Diagnostic Equipment Support Group (<i>Report</i>)	123556

Military District of Washington		Protest of Specifications in Interior RFP (<i>Decision</i>)	124615	Survey of Actions To Correct Problems With the Navy's Military Pay System (<i>Report</i>)	125501
Need for Computer Program Modifications To Show a Correct Organizational History of Employees' Earnings in the Civilian Payroll System of the U.S. Army Military District of Washington (<i>Report</i>)	089108	Better Management of Information Resources at the Bureau of Indian Affairs Could Reduce Waste and Improve Productivity (<i>Report</i>)	125865	Allegations of Contract Buy-In and Substantial Cost Increases in the Navy's Standard Automated Financial System (<i>Report</i>)	125545
		Improvements Needed in the Department of the Interior's Acquisition of Geophysical Data (<i>Report</i>)	125907	Planning for Navy Shore Facilities: Improvements Possible (<i>Report</i>)	125581
Office of the Assistant Secretary (Manpower and Reserve Affairs)		Geological Survey		Opportunities To Improve the DOD Personal Property Shipping Program (<i>Report</i>)	125582
Observations on the Army's Manpower Requirements Criteria Program (<i>Report</i>)	124183	Protest of USGS Proposed Contract Award (<i>Decision</i>)	123762	Navy Material in Suspended, Not Ready for Issue, Condition Needs More Management Attention (<i>Report</i>)	125613
				Protest of Rejection of Proposal Under Navy RFTP (<i>Decision</i>)	125697
Tobyhanna Army Depot, PA		Minerals Management Service			
Examination of Alleged Waste and Mismanagement in Army Test, Measurement, and Diagnostic Equipment Support Group (<i>Report</i>)	123556	Safeguarding of Proprietary Data at Minerals Management Service OCS Regional Offices (<i>Report</i>)	124360	Atlantic Fleet: Naval Air Station, Jacksonville, FL	
		Improvements Needed in the Department of the Interior's Acquisition of Geophysical Data (<i>Report</i>)	125907	Protest of Proposed Contract Award Under Navy IFB (<i>Decision</i>)	125498
U.S. Army Communications-Electronics Command		Office of Aircraft Services		Naval Data Automation Command: Navy Automatic Data Processing Selection Office	
Protest of Rejection of Offer by Army (<i>Decision</i>)	123820	Actions Taken To Improve Management and Reduce Costs of Interior's Aircraft Operations (<i>Report</i>)	123974	Request for Reconsideration of Protest Under Navy RFP (<i>Decision</i>)	123416
U.S. Army Materiel Command				Naval Facilities Engineering Command	
GAO Concerns Relating to Additional EQUATE Procurements and Improvements (<i>Report</i>)	124996	Office of the Inspector General		Planning for Navy Shore Facilities: Improvements Possible (<i>Report</i>)	125581
		Use of Investigative Information by Inspectors General To Identify and Report Internal Control Weaknesses (<i>Report</i>)	123496	Naval Sea Systems Command	
U.S. Army Materiel Development and Readiness Command				Planning for Navy Shore Facilities: Improvements Possible (<i>Report</i>)	125581
The Army Can Do More To Assure War Reserve Funds Are Spent Effectively (<i>Report</i>)	123440	Department of the Navy		Pacific Fleet: Treasure Island Naval Station, San Francisco, CA	
Protests of Army, Defense, and Coast Guard Procurements (<i>Decision</i>)	124000	Alleged Violation of the General Services Administration Regulations by the Navy in the Purchase of IBM Optical Character Recognition (OCR) Typewriters (<i>Report</i>)	089196	Review of Leave Resulting From Delay Enroute Incident to Permanent Change of Duty Station (<i>Report</i>)	089125
		Evaluation of System Design of the Department of the Navy's Armed Forces Health Professions Scholarship Program Pay System (<i>Letter</i>)	103078		
U.S. Army Materiel Development and Readiness Command: Test, Measurement, and Diagnostic Equipment Support Group		The Unit Status and Identity Report (UNITREP) System--What It Does and Does Not Measure (<i>Staff Study</i>)	123595	Department of the Treasury	
Examination of Alleged Waste and Mismanagement in Army Test, Measurement, and Diagnostic Equipment Support Group (<i>Report</i>)	123556	Department of the Navy's First-Year Implementation of the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act (<i>Report</i>)	124150	Bank Liability Pursuant to Electronic Transfer of Reoccurring Federal Payments (<i>Decision</i>)	123881
		Control of Aircraft Parts at Maintenance Depots (<i>Report</i>)	124182	Control Improvements Needed in Accounting for Treasury Securities at the Federal Reserve Bank of New York (<i>Report</i>)	124060
U.S. Army Tank-Automotive Materiel Readiness Command		Further Improvements Needed in Navy's Oversight of Contracting for Facilities Construction on Diego Garcia (<i>Report</i>)	124211	Tax Court Can Reduce Growing Case Backlog and Expenses Through Administrative Improvements (<i>Report</i>)	124125
Survey of the Billing and Collection System for Foreign Military Sales (<i>Report</i>)	100113	Contracting Out Under OMB Circular A-76 at Selected Army and Navy Activities in Virginia (<i>Report</i>)	124888	First-Year Implementation of the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act by the Department of the Treasury (<i>Report</i>)	124235
		Navy Did Not Adhere to Procurement Regulations in Acquiring a Computer for Its Ships Parts Control Center (<i>Report</i>)	124959	Internal Control Weaknesses at the U.S. Customs Service (<i>Report</i>)	124237
Yuma Proving Ground, AZ		Price Markups and Inefficiency in Defense Production (<i>Testimony</i>)	125333	Compilation of GAO's Work on Tax-Related Activities During 1983 (<i>Report</i>)	124536
Examination of Alleged Waste and Mismanagement in Army Test, Measurement, and Diagnostic Equipment Support Group (<i>Report</i>)	123556				
Department of the Interior					
Department of the Interior's First-Year Implementation of the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act (<i>Report</i>)	124460				

Status of the Statistical Community After Sustaining Budget Reductions (<i>Staff Study</i>)	124693	Office of Municipal Audits and Inspection Review of Crimes in Computer-Based Data Processing Systems (<i>Report</i>)	089059	EPA Could Benefit From Comprehensive Management Information on Superfund Enforcement Actions (<i>Report</i>)	125938
Incomplete Participant Data Affect Reliability of Values Placed by Actuaries on Multiemployer Pension Plans (<i>Report</i>)	125081	Drug Enforcement Administration Protest of Exclusion From Competitive Range Under RFP (<i>Decision</i>)	125084	Executive Office of the President Performance Evaluation of the Energy Information Administration (<i>Report</i>)	124430
Progress in Improving Program and Budget Information for Congressional Use (<i>Report</i>)	125339				
Department of Transportation		Electronic Data Systems Federal Corp.		Export-Import Bank of the United States	
Internal Controls of the Transportation Computer Center and Pollution Reporting Incident Reporting System (<i>Report</i>)	089018	Proposal To Improve Identification and Collection of Medicare Part B Duplicate Payments (<i>Report</i>)	125007	Examination of the Financial Statements of the Export-Import Bank of the United States for the Fiscal Year Ended September 30, 1983 (<i>Report</i>)	124124
Legality of Contract Award to Kentron Hawaii, Ltd. by the Department of Transportation (<i>Letter</i>)	106189				
The FAA Process of Selecting Locations for Automated Flight Service Stations (<i>Report</i>)	123550	Employment and Training Administration		Exxon Office Systems Co.	
Federal Aviation Administration's System for Prioritizing Airport Grants (<i>Report</i>)	124121	An Assessment of Random Audit--A New Department of Labor Program To Improve the Accuracy of Unemployment Insurance Benefit Payments (<i>Report</i>)	123788	Protest of Issuance of Air Force Delivery Order (<i>Decision</i>)	123305
Transportation's First-Year Implementation of the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act (<i>Report</i>)	124658	Strong Internal Controls at Service Delivery Level Will Help Prevent CETA-Type Fraud and Abuse in Job Training Partnership Act Programs (<i>Report</i>)	125541		
Reductions in Coast Guard Leased Housing Can Achieve Savings (<i>Report</i>)	124872			Falcon Systems, Inc.	
				Protests of Any Contract Award Under VA Solicitation (<i>Decision</i>)	124952
				Protest of Exclusion From Competitive Range Under RFP (<i>Decision</i>)	125084
Digital Equipment Corp.		Employment Standards Administration		Federal Aviation Administration	
Protest of Air Force Issuance of Delivery Orders (<i>Decision</i>)	123560	Office of Workers' Compensation Programs Needs To Improve Procedures To Help Reduce Payment Errors and Identify Dual Payments (<i>Report</i>)	124193	The FAA Process of Selecting Locations for Automated Flight Service Stations (<i>Report</i>)	123550
District of Columbia		Office of Workers' Compensation Programs		Federal Aviation Administration's System for Prioritizing Airport Grants (<i>Report</i>)	124121
Evaluation of Two Proposals for Design of a New Financial Management System for the District Government (<i>Letter</i>)	105972	Office of Workers' Compensation Programs Needs To Improve Procedures To Help Reduce Payment Errors and Identify Dual Payments (<i>Report</i>)	124193	Interim Observations on FAA's Plans for Major Systems Acquisitions (<i>Report</i>)	124281
Improved Collections Can Reduce Federal and District Government Food Stamp Program Costs (<i>Report</i>)	114830			Federal Bureau of Investigation	
District Could Get More for Urban Renewal Property, but HUD Debt Will Be Repaid (<i>Report</i>)	117731	Energy Information Administration		Protest of FBI Contract Award (<i>Decision</i>)	123955
Protest of Certain Requirements Under D.C. Solicitation (<i>Decision</i>)	123165	The Energy Information Administration Needs To Strengthen Its Computer Systems Development Procedures (<i>Report</i>)	123180	Request for Reconsideration of Sustained Protest Under FBI Solicitation (<i>Decision</i>)	124078
Department of General Services		Activities of the Energy Information Administration (<i>Testimony</i>)	123708	National Crime Information Center	
Survey of the District of Columbia Procurement System (<i>Report</i>)	089046	Performance Evaluation of the Energy Information Administration (<i>Report</i>)	124430	Observations on the FBI's Interstate Identification Index (<i>Report</i>)	125400
Department of Housing and Community Development		Environmental Protection Agency		Federal Communications Commission	
Improved Collections Can Reduce Federal and District Government Food Stamp Program Costs (<i>Report</i>)	114830	Protest of EPA Contract Award Under Oral Solicitation (<i>Decision</i>)	123565	Protest of Rejection of Bid as Nonresponsive by Army (<i>Decision</i>)	123863
Department of Human Services: Office of Fair Hearings		Protest of Proposed Subcontract Award by EPA Contractor (<i>Decision</i>)	123826	GSA's Telecommunications Procurement Program Requires Comprehensive Planning and Management (<i>Report</i>)	124361
Improved Collections Can Reduce Federal and District Government Food Stamp Program Costs (<i>Report</i>)	114830	Protest of EPA Request for Proposals (<i>Decision</i>)	125760	Federal Data Corp.	
				Protest of Rejection of Proposal Under Navy RFTP (<i>Decision</i>)	125697

Federal Election Commission

- Withdrawal of Approval of the Federal Election Commission Accounting System (*Report*) 123202
- Examination of the Federal Election Commission's Financial Statements for the Year Ended September 30, 1982 (*Report*) 124591

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

- The Energy Information Administration Needs To Strengthen Its Computer Systems Development Procedures (*Report*) 123180
- FERC Can Improve Its Operational Performance by Broadening and Deepening Current Management Efforts (*Report*) 123309
- Information on Relicensing Cases at the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (*Report*) 124282

Federal Reserve Bank, New York, NY

- Control Improvements Needed in Accounting for Treasury Securities at the Federal Reserve Bank of New York (*Report*) 124060

Federal Reserve System Board of Governors

- Control Improvements Needed in Accounting for Treasury Securities at the Federal Reserve Bank of New York (*Report*) 124060

Fein-Marquart Associates, Inc.

- Protest of EPA Request for Proposals (*Decision*) 125760

Field Operations Division

- Regional Office (Dallas)**
- Request for Opportunity To Inspect Certain GAO Records Relating to Contracts (*Letter*) 100463

Food and Drug Administration

- Technical Summary: Financial Management Profile of the Food and Drug Administration (*Other*) 124935

Forest Service

- Protest of Forest Service Contract Award (*Decision*) 123534
- Protest of Forest Service Rejection of Bid (*Decision*) 123931
- Congress Needs Better Information on Forest Service's Below-Cost Timber Sales (*Report*) 124538
- Information on Forest Service Below-Cost Timber Sales for National Forests in Colorado (*Report*) 124843

General Accounting Office

- Improving Generalists' Capabilities in Assessing Output Reliability and

- Internal Controls in Computer-Based Systems (*Other*) 088865
- The Evaluation Synthesis (*Other*) 088890
- GAO's Policies and Practices To Prevent Misuse of Access and Disclosure Authority (*Letter*) 104823
- The Leesburg GAO Senior Executive Management Meeting Speeches (*Speech*) 124300
- Computer-Assisted Research in GAO (*Other*) 124345
- Tax Information Safeguard Activity Annual Report (*Report*) 124866
- Comments on S. 774, The Freedom of Information Reform Act (*Letter*) 125041
- Design, Methodology, and Technical Assistance Groups in GAO: A Concept Paper (*Other*) 125125
- Audit Guides To Review Implementation of the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act: The Second Year (*Other*) 125524

General Electric Co.

- Management and Technical Services Co.**
- Army Has the Opportunity To Recompete DAS3 Purchases and Improve Automated Battlefield Support (*Report*) 125265

Space Division

- GAO Examination of Air Force's Proposed Multiyear Procurement for DSCS III (*Report*) 123312

General Services Administration

- The Department of Agriculture's Allegation Concerning the General Services Administration's Mandatory Requirements Contract for ITTEL Disk Drives (*Report*) 102434
- Proposed Regulation Prescribing New "Fixed-Price Options" Provisions for Use in Automatic Data Processing Systems Procurement (*Letter*) 103353
- Policy and Procedures Pertaining to Procurement of ADP Equipment (*Letter*) 107007
- Federal Agency Compliance with Indexing and Publishing Requirements of the Freedom of Information Act (*Letter*) 107421
- Protest of GSA Decision To Exclude Carriers From Competition (*Decision*) 123947
- First Year Implementation of the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act by the GSA (*Report*) 124210
- Internal Control Weaknesses at GSA (*Report*) 124306
- GSA's Telecommunications Procurement Program Requires Comprehensive Planning and Management (*Report*) 124361
- Protest of GSA Procurement Practices and Contract Award (*Decision*) 124672

- GAO's Views on the Report of the Congressional Panel on Social Security Organization (*Testimony*) 1247
- Social Security Administration's Management of Its Data Communications Contracts With Paradyne Corporation (*Testimony*) 124000
- Observations on a General Services Administration Report on the National Archives and Records Service (*Report*) 12487
- Navy Did Not Adhere to Procurement Regulations in Acquiring a Computer for Its Ships Parts Control Center (*Report*) 124000
- Accuracy, Cost, and Users of the Consolidated Federal Funds Report (*Report*) 125396

Government Printing Office

- Comments on the Adequacy of the Audit Trail Within GPO's Automated Publication Receipt and Control System (*Report*) 089124
- Depository Librarians' Views on GPO's Administration of the Depository Library Program (*Report*) 123921
- Government Printing Office's Depository Library Program (*Report*) 125853

Government-Wide

- Federal Evaluations (*Other*) 123685
- Summaries of Conclusions and Recommendations on the Operations of Civil Departments and Agencies (*Report*) 123713
- Status of Internal Audit Capabilities of Federal Agencies Without Statutory Inspectors General (*Report*) 124351
- Implementation of the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act: First Year (*Report*) 125049
- CARE-Based Audit Methodology To Review and Evaluate Agency Accounting and Financial Management Systems (*Report*) 125337

Health and Hospitals, Inc.

- Contract/Relationship Between the City of Boston and Health and Hospitals, Inc. (*Letter*) 107059

Health Care Financing Administration

- Technical Summary: Financial Management Profile of the Health Care Financing Administration (*Other*) 124930
- Proposal To Improve Identification and Collection of Medicare Part B Duplicate Payments (*Report*) 125007

Health Resources and Services Administration

- Technical Summary: Financial Management Profile of the Health Resources and Services Administration (*Other*) 124932

Agency/Organization Index

Honeywell Information Systems, Inc.
Protest of OPM Procurement (*Decision*) 125330

House of Representatives
Right To Make Public a Library of Congress Written Work Product (*Letter*) 103489

Clerk of the House
Review of the Activities of the House Office Equipment Service for the Year Ended June 30, 1983 (*Report*) 123463

Office Equipment Service
Review of the Activities of the House Office Equipment Service for the Year Ended June 30, 1983 (*Report*) 123463

Information Consultants, Inc.
Protest of Proposed Subcontract Award by EPA Contractor (*Decision*) 123826

Information Management Associates, Inc.
Protest of HUD Purchase (*Decision*) 125121

Inland Associates
Protest of Rejection of Bid as Nonresponsive by Army (*Decision*) 123863

Interagency Committee on Information Resources Management
Federal Policies and Practices for Acquiring Information Technology Can Be Improved (*Speech*) 124890

Internal Revenue Service
Protest of IRS Elimination of Proposal From Competitive Range (*Decision*) 123141
Tax Court Can Reduce Growing Case Backlog and Expenses Through Administrative Improvements (*Report*) 124125
Protest of Allegedly Improper IRS Actions in Amending Solicitation (*Decision*) 124232
GAO Observations on the Use of Tax Return Information for Verification in Entitlement Programs (*Report*) 124423
Compilation of GAO's Work on Tax-Related Activities During 1983 (*Report*) 124536
Ways To Improve the Federal/State Tax Information Exchange Program (*Speech*) 124608
Status of the Statistical Community After Sustaining Budget Reductions (*Staff Study*) 124693
Tax Information Safeguard Activity Annual Report (*Report*) 124866

ADP Bibliography

Incomplete Participant Data Affect Reliability of Values Placed by Actuaries on Multiemployer Pension Plans (*Report*) 125081

International Business Machines Corp.
Protest of Air Force Contract Award to Higher Priced Offerer (*Decision*) 123240
Navy Did Not Adhere to Procurement Regulations in Acquiring a Computer for Its Ships Parts Control Center (*Report*) 124959
Protest of OPM Procurement (*Decision*) 125330
Request for Modification of Decision Sustaining Protest of Army Issuance of Delivery Order (*Decision*) 125730

International Financial Management Conference
Governmental Financial Management and Debt Crisis: Some Lessons From Experience (*Speech*) 125417

ITEL Data Products Corp.
The Department of Agriculture's Allegation Concerning the General Services Administration's Mandatory Requirements Contract for ITEL Disk Drives (*Report*) 102434

James W. Collins and Associates, Inc.
Protest of Cancellation and Unrestricted Resolicitation of Commerce RFP (*Decision*) 123230

Jefferson Bank & Trust Co. of Lakewood, CO
Bank Liability Pursuant to Electronic Transfer of Reoccurring Federal Payments (*Decision*) 123881

Kentron Hawaii, Ltd.
Legality of Contract Award to Kentron Hawaii, Ltd. by the Department of Transportation (*Letter*) 106189

Kidd Enterprises, Inc.
Protest of EPA Contract Award Under Oral Solicitation (*Decision*) 123565

Law Enforcement Assistance Administration
Audit of the Interstate Organized Crime Index (*Letter*) 106870

Library of Congress
Right To Make Public a Library of Congress Written Work Product (*Letter*) 103489

National Archives and Records Service

Locom Corp.
Protests of Bid Rejections by SSA (*Decision*) 123433

Managed Information Systems
Protests Concerning Bidder Responsiveness Pursuant to Department of Education Contract Award (*Decision*) 124142

Martin Marietta Corp. Data Systems
Protest of Corps of Engineers Contract Award Alleging Awardee's Proposal Unacceptable (*Decision*) 124860

Massachusetts Department of Public Welfare
HHS Needs To Determine If Massachusetts' AFDC Program Meets Federal Requirements and, If Not, Take Compliance Action (*Report*) 124605

Masstor Systems Corp.
Request for Reconsideration of Protest Under Navy RFP (*Decision*) 123416

Memorex Corp.
Protest of USDA Solicitation (*Decision*) 123335
Protest of Specifications in Interior RFP (*Decision*) 124615

Mountain States Telephone and Telegraph Co.
Protest of Proposed Army Contract Award (*Decision*) 123603

National Aeronautics and Space Administration
Earth Resources Information Satellite System Act (*Letter*) 100002
National Aeronautics and Space Administration's First-Year Implementation of the Federal Manager's Financial Integrity Act (*Report*) 124038
Department of Energy's Activities To Limit Distribution of Certain Unclassified Scientific and Technical Information (*Report*) 124076
Protest of NASA Negotiated Procurement (*Decision*) 125071
Better Management Controls and ADP Requirements Analysis Can Help NASA Lewis Research Center (*Report*) 125266

Lewis Research Center, Cleveland, OH
Better Management Controls and ADP Requirements Analysis Can Help NASA Lewis Research Center (*Report*) 125266

National Archives and Records Service
Federal Agency Compliance with Indexing and Publishing Require-

ments of the Freedom of Information Act (<i>Letter</i>)	107421	Oakland County, MI Department of Computer Services Protest of Contract Award by the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts (<i>Decision</i>)	123949	Accuracy, Cost, and Users of the Consolidated Federal Funds Report (<i>Report</i>)	125396
Observations on a General Services Administration Report on the National Archives and Records Service (<i>Report</i>)	124873			Office of Science and Technology Policy Studies of U.S. Universities' Research Equipment Needs Inconclusive (<i>Report</i>)	124347
National Association of Tax Administrators Ways To Improve the Federal/State Tax Information Exchange Program (<i>Speech</i>)	124608	OAQ Corp. Protest of GSA Procurement Practices and Contract Award (<i>Decision</i>)	124672	Office of Telecommunications Policy Establishment of a Central Focal Point for Telecommunications Matters (<i>Letter</i>)	106777
National Consumer Cooperative Bank Review of the Audit of the National Consumer Cooperative Bank's Financial Statements for the Year Ended December 31, 1982 (<i>Report</i>)	122615	Office of Management and Budget Organization of Issues Involved in Establishing Machinery and Processes for Handling the Paperwork Problem (<i>Letter</i>)	103488	Olivetti Corp. of America Alleged Violation of the General Services Administration Regulations by the Navy in the Purchase of IBM Optical Character Recognition (OCR) Typewriters (<i>Report</i>)	089196
National Federation of Federal Employees Local 892 Corps of Engineers Request for Decision Concerning Legality of Expending Appropriated Funds (<i>Decision</i>)	123808	Establishment of a Central Focal Point for Telecommunications Matters (<i>Letter</i>)	106777	Paradyne Corp. Social Security Administration's Management of Its Data Communications Contracts With Paradyne Corporation (<i>Testimony</i>)	124834
National Guard Calibration Co. Examination of Alleged Waste and Mismanagement in Army Test, Measurement, and Diagnostic Equipment Support Group (<i>Report</i>)	123556	H.R. 13955, the Paperwork and Redtape Reduction Act of 1978 (<i>Letter</i>)	107974	SSA Data Communications Contracts With Paradyne Corporation Demonstrate the Need for Improved Management Controls (<i>Report</i>)	124854
National Institutes of Health Protest of HHS Issuance of Delivery Order (<i>Decision</i>)	123651	First-Year Implementation of the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act in the Department of Labor (<i>Report</i>)	124061	Additional Information on SSA Management of Data Communications Contracts with Paradyne Corporation (<i>Report</i>)	125124
Technical Summary: Financial Management Profile of the National Institutes of Health (<i>Other</i>)	124934	First-Year Implementation of the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act by the Department of the Treasury (<i>Report</i>)	124235	Social Security Administration's Management of Its Contracts To Modernize Its Data Communications System (<i>Testimony</i>)	125175
National Public Radio National Public Radio (<i>Testimony</i>)	123385	Implementation of the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act of 1982 (<i>Testimony</i>)	124299	Peat, Marwick, Mitchell and Co. Evaluation of Two Proposals for Design of a New Financial Management System for the District Government (<i>Letter</i>)	105972
National Science Foundation Studies of U.S. Universities' Research Equipment Needs Inconclusive (<i>Report</i>)	124347	GSA's Telecommunications Procurement Program Requires Comprehensive Planning and Management (<i>Report</i>)	124361	Pension Benefit Guaranty Corp. Incomplete Participant Data Affect Reliability of Values Placed by Actuaries on Multiemployer Pension Plans (<i>Report</i>)	125081
Protest of NSF Contract Award (<i>Decision</i>)	125435	The Federal Government Can Reduce Costs in the Development, Maintenance, and Operation of Civilian Payroll Systems (<i>Report</i>)	124877	People's Republic of China Exports of Dual-Use, Nuclear-Related Equipment to the People's Republic of China (<i>Report</i>)	124609
NBI, Inc. Protest Alleging Insufficient Time To Respond to Commerce RFP (<i>Decision</i>)	125522	Progress in Improving Program and Budget Information for Congressional Use (<i>Report</i>)	125339	Perkin-Elmer Corp. Protest of Air Force Rejection of Apparent Low Bid (<i>Decision</i>)	124868
NCR Corp. Protest of Marine Corps Issuance of Delivery Order (<i>Decision</i>)	125892	OMB Needs To More Fully Consider Government-Wide Implications in Its Telecommunications Initiatives (<i>Report</i>)	125388	Phillips Information Systems, Inc. Protest of Proposed Equipment Order by ACTION Against GSA Contract (<i>Decision</i>)	125278
Micrographics Systems Division Protest of Specifications in RFQ (<i>Decision</i>)	123641	Accuracy, Cost, and Users of the Consolidated Federal Funds Report (<i>Report</i>)	125396		
		Status of OMB Implementation of Paperwork Reduction Act (<i>Letter</i>)	125821		
		Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs Extending the Authorization of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1980 (<i>Testimony</i>)	123816		
		OMB Actions Show Progress in Implementing the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1980 (<i>Report</i>)	125387		
		Office of Personnel Management GAO's Views on the Report of the Congressional Panel on Social Security Organization (<i>Testimony</i>)	124786		
		Protest of OPM Procurement (<i>Decision</i>)	125330		

Planning and Analysis, Inc.

Protest of Contract Award by the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts (*Decision*) 123949

Postal Rate Commission

Opportunities To Improve the Postal Ratemaking Process (*Report*) 124348

Potomac Scheduling Co.

Protests Under Army RFP (*Decision*) 124883

Printer Systems Corp.

Protest of Allegedly Improper IRS Actions in Amending Solicitation (*Decision*) 124232

Private Sector Survey on Cost Control

The Grace Commission's Major Proposals To Control Federal Costs (*Testimony*) 123530

Analysis of the Grace Commission's Major Proposals for Cost Control (*Other*) 123531

Professional Audit Review Team

Activities of the Energy Information Administration (*Testimony*) 123708

Public Health Service**Centers for Disease Control**

Technical Summary: Financial Management Profile of the Centers for Disease Control (*Other*) 124933

Radix, Inc.

Protest of Air Force Contract Award to Higher Priced Offerer (*Decision*) 123240

RCA American Communications, Inc.

Protest of GSA Decision To Exclude Carriers From Competition (*Decision*) 123947

Saturn Airways, Inc.

Availability of GAO Records to the Public (*Letter*) 106221

Saudi Arabia

Navy Did Not Adhere to Procurement Regulations in Acquiring a Computer for Its Ships Parts Control Center (*Report*) 124959

Science and Management Associates, Inc.

Protest of Cancellation and Unrestricted Resolicitation of Commerce RFP (*Decision*) 123230

Securities and Exchange Commission

SEC's Efforts To Find Lost and Stolen Securities (*Report*) 124186

Singleton Contracting Corp.

Protest of Proposed Contract Award Under Navy IFB (*Decision*) 125498

Small Business Administration

Survey of the Small Business Administration's Accounting for Loan Guaranty Fees (*Report*) 089255

An Improved Automated System Would Better Identify Small Businesses Seeking Federal Contracting Opportunities (*Report*) 123228

Protest of SBA Contract Award (*Decision*) 123475

Small Business Administration's First-Year Implementation of the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act (*Report*) 124365

Protest of SBA Brand Name Only Purchase Description (*Decision*) 125164

Request for Reconsideration of Protest of SBA Requirement (*Decision*) 125801

Small Business Systems, Inc.

Protest of RFP Issued by HHS (*Decision*) 124773

Social Security Administration

Reissuing Tamper-Resistant Cards Will Not Eliminate Misuse of Social Security Numbers (*Report*) 114062

Protests of Bid Rejections by SSA (*Decision*) 123433

Social Security Could Improve Its Management and Detection of Postentitlement Changes by Using Postadjudicative Appraisal Data (*Report*) 123594

Federal and State Liability for Inaccurate Payments of Food Stamp, AFDC, and SSI Program Benefits (*Report*) 124028

GAO Observations on the Use of Tax Return Information for Verification in Entitlement Programs (*Report*) 124423

GAO's Views on the Report of the Congressional Panel on Social Security Organization (*Testimony*) 124786

Social Security Administration's Management of Its Data Communications Contracts With Paradyne Corporation (*Testimony*) 124834

SSA Data Communications Contracts With Paradyne Corporation Demonstrate the Need for Improved Management Controls (*Report*) 124854

Technical Summary: Financial Management Profile of the Social Security Administration (*Other*) 124929

Additional Information on SSA Management of Data Communications Contracts with Paradyne Corporation (*Report*) 125124

Social Security Administration's Management of Its Contracts To Modernize Its Data Communications System (*Testimony*) 125175

Delays in Recombining Social Security Benefits Cause Underpayments for Extended Periods (*Report*) 125199

Software Associates, Ltd.

Protest of Rejection of Offer by Army (*Decision*) 123820

Sony Corp. of America

Protest of Proposed Equipment Order by ACTION Against GSA Contract (*Decision*) 125278

Spectrum Leasing Corp.

Protest of Any Contract Award to Another Firm Under Air Force IFB (*Decision*) 124565

Sperry Rand Corp.**Sperry Univac**

Protests Under Army RFP (*Decision*) 124883

Protest of NASA Negotiated Procurement (*Decision*) 125071

Storage Technology Corp.

Protests of Any Contract Award Under VA Solicitation (*Decision*) 124952

Protest of Rejection of Proposal Under Navy RFTP (*Decision*) 125697

Sybron Corp.**Castle Division**

Protest of HHS Rejection of Offer and Issuance of Delivery Order to Another Firm (*Decision*) 123270

Syntrex, Inc.

Protests Concerning Bidder Responsiveness Pursuant to Department of Education Contract Award (*Decision*) 124142

Systems Architects, Inc.

Protest of Air Force Issuance of Delivery Orders (*Decision*) 123560

Teledyne Geotronics

Protest of Defense Mapping Agency Contract Award (*Decision*) 123693

TeQcom Inc.

Protests of Army, Defense, and Coast Guard Procurements (*Decision*) 124000

Tolca Construction Co.

Protest of Forest Service Contract Award (*Decision*) 123534

Townsend & Co.

Protest of USGS Proposed Contract Award (*Decision*) 123762

U.S. Time Sharing, Inc.

Activities of Washington Data Processing Center Statistical Research Service (*Report*) 088933

United States Coast Guard

Internal Controls of the Transportation Computer Center and Pollution Reporting Incident Reporting System (*Report*) 089018

Protests of Army, Defense, and Coast Guard Procurements (*Decision*) 124000

Reductions in Coast Guard Leased Housing Can Achieve Savings (*Report*) 124872

United States Customs Service

Internal Control Weaknesses at the U.S. Customs Service (*Report*) 124237

United States District Court**District of District of Columbia**

Protest of FBI Contract Award (*Decision*) 123955

United States Information Agency

The Audit and Inspection Functions at the United States Information Agency Need Management Attention (*Report*) 123829

United States Marine Corps

Protest of Marine Corps Issuance of Delivery Order (*Decision*) 125892

United States Postal Service

Information on Shortages in Stamp Stock at the Main Post Office and the Carl Range Station in Irving, Texas (*Report*) 124041

Opportunities To Improve the Postal Ratemaking Process (*Report*) 124348

A Comparative Review of Optical Character Readers Used in Mail Processing (*Testimony*) 124418

Comparative Review of Single-Line and Multiline Optical Character Readers Used in Mail Processing (*Report*) 124865

Information on the Status of Postal Service Costs and Mail Delivery Service Under the Postal Reorganization Act (*Report*) 125108

The Nine-Digit ZIP Code: Is the Postal Service Doing a Number on Us? (*Other*) 125831

Board of Governors

Opportunities To Improve the Postal Ratemaking Process (*Report*) 124348

Irving, TX Post Office

Information on Shortages in Stamp Stock at the Main Post Office and the Carl Range Station in Irving, Texas (*Report*) 124041

Irving, TX Post Office: Carl Range Station

Information on Shortages in Stamp Stock at the Main Post Office and the Carl Range Station in Irving, Texas (*Report*) 124041

United States Tax Court

Tax Court Can Reduce Growing Case Backlog and Expenses Through Administrative Improvements (*Report*) 124125

Urban Mass Transportation Administration

Approval of Statement of Accounting Principles and Standards (*Letter*) 106255

Veterans Administration

Internal Controls Can Be Improved To Help Ensure Proper and Correct Military Retirement Payments (*Report*) 123527

First-Year Implementation of the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act in VA (*Report*) 124023

Protests of Any Contract Award Under VA Solicitation (*Decision*) 124952

Vietnam Veterans' Memorial Fund, Inc.

The Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund's Financial Operations Were Properly Accounted for and Reported (*Report*) 124335

Vion Corp.

Protest of Any Contract Award to Another Firm Under Air Force IFB (*Decision*) 124565

Vycor Corp.

Protests of Bid Rejections by SSA (*Decision*) 123433

Walker Telecommunications Corp.**Sigme Teleproducts, Inc.**

Protest Alleging Unduly Restrictive Specifications in Army RFP (*Decision*) 123611

Wang Laboratories, Inc.

Protest of SBA Brand Name Only Purchase Description (*Decision*) 125164

Request for Reconsideration of Protest of SBA Requirement (*Decision*) 125801

Whittaker Corp.**Falcon Research**

Protest of Defense Mapping Agency Contract Award (*Decision*) 123693

XYZTEK Corp.

Protest of Air Force Refusal To Consider Late Technical Literature (*Decision*) 124979

CONGRESSIONAL INDEX

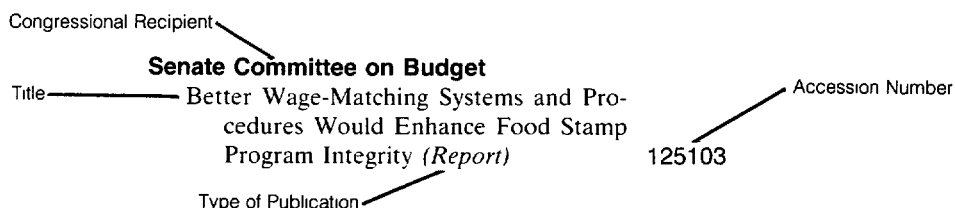
Includes entries under relevant congressional bodies and individual Representatives and Senators. Entries are grouped under the following headings:

Congress (as a whole)
House of Representatives
House Committees

Senate
Senate Committees

Joint Committees
Members (Individual)

SAMPLE ENTRY

[illegible]

the Office of the Secretary of Defense Executive Motor Pool (<i>Report</i>)	122883
Army Could Do More To Reduce Imbalances in Military Occupational Specialties (<i>Report</i>)	123439
The Army Can Do More To Assure War Reserve Funds Are Spent Effectively (<i>Report</i>)	123440
Internal Controls Can Be Improved To Help Ensure Proper and Correct Military Retirement Payments (<i>Report</i>)	123527
Examination of Alleged Waste and Mismanagement in Army Test, Measurement, and Diagnostic Equipment Support Group (<i>Report</i>)	123556
Navy Did Not Adhere to Procurement Regulations in Acquiring a Computer for Its Ships Parts Control Center (<i>Report</i>)	124959
Army Has the Opportunity To Recompete DAS3 Purchases and Improve Automated Battlefield Support (<i>Report</i>)	125265
Better Use of Available Data Would Improve Mobilization Planning for Inductees (<i>Report</i>)	125416
Excessive Air Force Inventories Result From Duplicative Spare Parts Requirements (<i>Report</i>)	125449
District of Columbia Subcommittee	
Improved Collections Can Reduce Federal and District Government Food Stamp Program Costs (<i>Report</i>)	114830
District Could Get More for Urban Renewal Property, but HUD Debt Will Be Repaid (<i>Report</i>)	117731
Energy and Water Development Subcommittee	
FERC Can Improve Its Operational Performance by Broadening and Deepening Current Management Efforts (<i>Report</i>)	123309
Foreign Operations Subcommittee	
The Audit and Inspection Functions at the United States Information Agency Need Management Attention (<i>Report</i>)	123829
HUD-Independent Agencies Subcommittee	
Insights Into Major Urban Development Action Grant Issues (<i>Report</i>)	123557
Improving Controls Over Rent and Management Fees at Multifamily Housing Projects (<i>Report</i>)	123943
Better Management Controls and ADP Requirements Analysis Can Help NASA Lewis Research Center (<i>Report</i>)	125266
Opportunities for Public Housing Authorities To Develop and Acquire Computer-Based Management Information Systems (<i>Report</i>)	125270

Interior Subcommittee	
The Energy Information Administration Needs To Strengthen Its Computer Systems Development Procedures (<i>Report</i>)	123180
Performance Evaluation of the Energy Information Administration (<i>Report</i>)	124430
Congress Needs Better Information on Forest Service's Below-Cost Timber Sales (<i>Report</i>)	124538
Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Subcommittee	
An Assessment of Random Audit--A New Department of Labor Program To Improve the Accuracy of Unemployment Insurance Benefit Payments (<i>Report</i>)	123788
Expanded Federal Authority Needed To Protect Medicare and Medicaid Patients From Health Practitioners Who Lose Their Licenses (<i>Report</i>)	124032
Office of Workers' Compensation Programs Needs To Improve Procedures To Help Reduce Payment Errors and Identify Dual Payments (<i>Report</i>)	124193
HHS Needs To Determine If Massachusetts' AFDC Program Meets Federal Requirements and, If Not, Take Compliance Action (<i>Report</i>)	124605
SSA Data Communications Contracts With Paradyne Corporation Demonstrate the Need for Improved Management Controls (<i>Report</i>)	124854
Proposal To Improve Identification and Collection of Medicare Part B Duplicate Payments (<i>Report</i>)	125007
Incomplete Participant Data Affect Reliability of Values Placed by Actuaries on Multiemployer Pension Plans (<i>Report</i>)	125081
Military Construction Subcommittee	
Further Improvements Needed in Navy's Oversight of Contracting for Facilities Construction on Diego Garcia (<i>Report</i>)	124211
Transportation Subcommittee	
The FAA Process of Selecting Locations for Automated Flight Service Stations (<i>Report</i>)	123550
Interim Observations on FAA's Plans for Major Systems Acquisitions (<i>Report</i>)	124281
Reductions in Coast Guard Leased Housing Can Achieve Savings (<i>Report</i>)	124872
Treasury-Postal Service and General Government Subcommittee	
Control Improvements Needed in Accounting for Treasury Securities at the Federal Reserve Bank of New York (<i>Report</i>)	124060
Tax Court Can Reduce Growing Case Backlog and Expenses Through Administrative Improvements (<i>Report</i>)	124125

Internal Control Weaknesses at the U.S. Customs Service (<i>Report</i>)	124237
Internal Control Weaknesses at GSA (<i>Report</i>)	124306
Opportunities To Improve the Postal Ratemaking Process (<i>Report</i>)	124348
GSA's Telecommunications Procurement Program Requires Comprehensive Planning and Management (<i>Report</i>)	124361
Incomplete Participant Data Affect Reliability of Values Placed by Actuaries on Multiemployer Pension Plans (<i>Report</i>)	125081
OMB Needs To More Fully Consider Government-Wide Implications in Its Telecommunications Initiatives (<i>Report</i>)	125388
House Committee on Armed Services	
Army Could Do More To Reduce Imbalances in Military Occupational Specialties (<i>Report</i>)	123439
The Army Can Do More To Assure War Reserve Funds Are Spent Effectively (<i>Report</i>)	123440
Internal Controls Can Be Improved To Help Ensure Proper and Correct Military Retirement Payments (<i>Report</i>)	123527
Navy Did Not Adhere to Procurement Regulations in Acquiring a Computer for Its Ships Parts Control Center (<i>Report</i>)	124959
Army Has the Opportunity To Recompete DAS3 Purchases and Improve Automated Battlefield Support (<i>Report</i>)	125265
Better Use of Available Data Would Improve Mobilization Planning for Inductees (<i>Report</i>)	125416
Readiness Subcommittee	
Excessive Air Force Inventories Result From Duplicative Spare Parts Requirements (<i>Report</i>)	125449
House Committee on Banking, Currency and Housing	
Increasing HUD Effectiveness Through Improved Management (<i>Report</i>)	123198
House Committee on Banking, Finance and Urban Affairs	
Insights Into Major Urban Development Action Grant Issues (<i>Report</i>)	123557
Improving Controls Over Rent and Management Fees at Multifamily Housing Projects (<i>Report</i>)	123943
Internal Control Weaknesses at the U.S. Customs Service (<i>Report</i>)	124237
Opportunities for Public Housing Authorities To Develop and Acquire Computer-Based Management Information Systems (<i>Report</i>)	125270

House Committee on District of Columbia

- Improved Collections Can Reduce Federal and District Government Food Stamp Program Costs (*Report*) 114830
- District Could Get More for Urban Renewal Property, but HUD Debt Will Be Repaid (*Report*) 117731

House Committee on Education and Labor

- Incomplete Participant Data Affect Reliability of Values Placed by Actuaries on Multiemployer Pension Plans (*Report*) 125081

Human Resources Subcommittee

- Better Monitoring and Recordkeeping Systems Needed To Accurately Account for Juvenile Justice Practices (*Report*) 124611

Labor Standards Subcommittee

- Office of Workers' Compensation Programs Needs To Improve Procedures To Help Reduce Payment Errors and Identify Dual Payments (*Report*) 124193

House Committee on Energy and Commerce

- The Energy Information Administration Needs To Strengthen Its Computer Systems Development Procedures (*Report*) 123180
- Expanded Federal Authority Needed To Protect Medicare and Medicaid Patients From Health Practitioners Who Lose Their Licenses (*Report*) 124032
- Department of Energy's Activities To Limit Distribution of Certain Unclassified Scientific and Technical Information (*Report*) 124076
- Performance Evaluation of the Energy Information Administration (*Report*) 124430
- Information on Repayment of the Government's Uranium Enrichment Program Costs and Audits of That Program's Financial Statements (*Report*) 124971
- Proposal To Improve Identification and Collection of Medicare Part B Duplicate Payments (*Report*) 125007

Energy Conservation and Power Subcommittee

- FERC Can Improve Its Operational Performance by Broadening and Deepening Current Management Efforts (*Report*) 123309
- Information on Relicensing Cases at the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (*Report*) 124282
- Information on Repayment of the Government's Uranium Enrichment Program Costs and Audits of That Program's Financial Statements (*Report*) 124971

Fossil and Synthetic Fuels Subcommittee

- FERC Can Improve Its Operational Performance by Broadening and Deepening Current Management Efforts (*Report*) 123309
- Activities of the Energy Information Administration (*Testimony*) 123708

Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee

- National Public Radio (*Testimony*) 123385
- SEC's Efforts To Find Lost and Stolen Securities (*Report*) 124186
- Improvements Needed in the Department of the Interior's Acquisition of Geophysical Data (*Report*) 125907
- Information on Data Problems Identified by the Department of Energy With Its Final Entitlements Lists (*Report*) 125989

Special U.S. Trade With China Subcommittee

- Exports of Dual-Use, Nuclear-Related Equipment to the People's Republic of China (*Report*) 124609

Telecommunications, Consumer Protection, and Finance Subcommittee

- SEC's Efforts To Find Lost and Stolen Securities (*Report*) 124186

House Committee on Foreign Affairs

- The Audit and Inspection Functions at the United States Information Agency Need Management Attention (*Report*) 123829
- Navy Did Not Adhere to Procurement Regulations in Acquiring a Computer for Its Ships Parts Control Center (*Report*) 124959

International Economic Policy and Trade Subcommittee

- Licensing Data for Exports to Non-Communist Countries (*Report*) 124107

House Committee on Government Operations

- Views and Comments on H.R. 15353, 94th Congress, Second Session (*Letter*) 100566
- The Department of Agriculture's Allegation Concerning the General Services Administration's Mandatory Requirements Contract for ITTEL Disk Drives (*Report*) 102434
- Legality of Contract Award to Kentron Hawaii, Ltd. by the Department of Transportation (*Letter*) 106189
- H.R. 13955, the Paperwork and Redtape Reduction Act of 1978 (*Letter*) 107974
- Air Force Progress in Implementing the Phase IV Base Level Computer Replacement Program (*Report*) 123225

- GAO Views on H.R. 5184 (*Testimony*) 123751

- The Audit and Inspection Functions at the United States Information Agency Need Management Attention (*Report*) 123829

- Actions Taken To Improve Management and Reduce Costs of Interior's Aircraft Operations (*Report*) 123974

- First Year Implementation of the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act by the Department of Justice (*Report*) 124097

- Implementation of the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act of 1982 (*Testimony*) 124299

- Internal Control Weaknesses at GSA (*Report*) 124306

- GSA's Telecommunications Procurement Program Requires Comprehensive Planning and Management (*Report*) 124361

- Compilation of GAO's Work on Tax-Related Activities During 1983 (*Report*) 124536

- SSA Data Communications Contracts With Paradyne Corporation Demonstrate the Need for Improved Management Controls (*Report*) 124854

- The Federal Government Can Reduce Costs in the Development, Maintenance, and Operation of Civilian Payroll Systems (*Report*) 124877

- Navy Did Not Adhere to Procurement Regulations in Acquiring a Computer for Its Ships Parts Control Center (*Report*) 124959

- Comments on S. 774, The Freedom of Information Reform Act (*Letter*) 125041

- Implementation of the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act: First Year (*Report*) 125049

- Additional Information on SSA Management of Data Communications Contracts with Paradyne Corporation (*Report*) 125124

- Army Has the Opportunity To Recompete DAS3 Purchases and Improve Automated Battlefield Support (*Report*) 125265

- OMB Actions Show Progress in Implementing the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1980 (*Report*) 125387

- OMB Needs To More Fully Consider Government-Wide Implications in Its Telecommunications Initiatives (*Report*) 125388

- Accuracy, Cost, and Users of the Consolidated Federal Funds Report (*Report*) 125396

Government Activities and Transportation Subcommittee

- Irregularities in the Performance of a Painting Contract at Fort Ord, California (*Report*) 089225

- Actions Taken To Improve Management and Reduce Costs of Interior's Aircraft Operations (*Report*) 123974

Government Information and Individual Rights Subcommittee GAO's Policies and Practices To Prevent Misuse of Access and Disclosure Authority (<i>Letter</i>)	104823	Comparative Review of Single-Line and Multiline Optical Character Readers Used in Mail Processing (<i>Report</i>)	124865	Analysis of the Grace Commission's Major Proposals for Cost Control (<i>Other</i>)	123531
Government Information, Justice, and Agriculture Subcommittee Observations on a General Services Administration Report on the National Archives and Records Service (<i>Report</i>)	124873	Postal Personnel and Modernization Subcommittee A Comparative Review of Optical Character Readers Used in Mail Processing (<i>Testimony</i>)	124418	SSA Data Communications Contracts With Paradyne Corporation Demonstrate the Need for Improved Management Controls (<i>Report</i>)	124854
Privacy Policy Activities of the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (<i>Report</i>)	125246	Comparative Review of Single-Line and Multiline Optical Character Readers Used in Mail Processing (<i>Report</i>)	124865	Better Wage-Matching Systems and Procedures Would Enhance Food Stamp Program Integrity (<i>Report</i>)	125103
Legislation and National Security Subcommittee Status of Internal Audit Capabilities of Federal Agencies Without Statutory Inspectors General (<i>Report</i>)	124351	House Committee on Public Works and Transportation The FAA Process of Selecting Locations for Automated Flight Service Stations (<i>Report</i>)	123550	House Committee on the Judiciary SEC's Efforts To Find Lost and Stolen Securities (<i>Report</i>)	124186
Social Security Administration's Management of Its Data Communications Contracts With Paradyne Corporation (<i>Testimony</i>)	124834	Aviation Subcommittee Federal Aviation Administration's System for Prioritizing Airport Grants (<i>Report</i>)	124121	Information on Aliens Admitted into the United States as Nonimmigrant Workers (<i>Report</i>)	125958
Social Security Administration's Management of Its Contracts To Modernize Its Data Communications System (<i>Testimony</i>)	125175	Investigations and Oversight Subcommittee EPA Could Benefit From Comprehensive Management Information on Superfund Enforcement Actions (<i>Report</i>)	125938	Civil and Constitutional Rights Subcommittee Observations on the FBI's Interstate Identification Index (<i>Report</i>)	125400
House Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs Actions Taken To Improve Management and Reduce Costs of Interior's Aircraft Operations (<i>Report</i>)	123974	House Committee on Rules Budget Process Task Force Reform of the Federal Budget Process (<i>Testimony</i>)	123358	Crime Subcommittee Audit of the Interstate Organized Crime Index (<i>Letter</i>)	106870
House Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee Audit of the Interstate Organized Crime Index (<i>Letter</i>)	106870	House Committee on Science and Technology Better Management Controls and ADP Requirements Analysis Can Help NASA Lewis Research Center (<i>Report</i>)	125266	House Committee on Ways and Means An Assessment of Random Audit--A New Department of Labor Program To Improve the Accuracy of Unemployment Insurance Benefit Payments (<i>Report</i>)	123788
House Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries Reductions in Coast Guard Leased Housing Can Achieve Savings (<i>Report</i>)	124872	Science, Research and Technology Subcommittee Federal Agencies' Actions To Implement Section 11 of the Stevenson-Wydler Technology Innovation Act of 1980 (<i>Report</i>)	125024	Expanded Federal Authority Needed To Protect Medicare and Medicaid Patients From Health Practitioners Who Lose Their Licenses (<i>Report</i>)	124032
House Committee on Post Office and Civil Service Opportunities To Improve the Postal Ratemaking Process (<i>Report</i>)	124348	House Committee on Small Business Electronic Marketing of Agricultural Commodities: An Evolutionary Trend (<i>Report</i>)	123647	Control Improvements Needed in Accounting for Treasury Securities at the Federal Reserve Bank of New York (<i>Report</i>)	124060
Comparative Review of Single-Line and Multiline Optical Character Readers Used in Mail Processing (<i>Report</i>)	124865	General Oversight and the Economy Subcommittee An Improved Automated System Would Better Identify Small Businesses Seeking Federal Contracting Opportunities (<i>Report</i>)	123228	Tax Court Can Reduce Growing Case Backlog and Expenses Through Administrative Improvements (<i>Report</i>)	124125
Census and Population Subcommittee Bureau of the Census' Planned 1985 Pretests for the 1990 Decennial Census (<i>Testimony</i>)	124525	House Committee on the Budget Increasing HUD Effectiveness Through Improved Management (<i>Report</i>)	123198	Compilation of GAO's Work on Tax-Related Activities During 1983 (<i>Report</i>)	124536
Postal Operations and Services Subcommittee A Comparative Review of Optical Character Readers Used in Mail Processing (<i>Testimony</i>)	124418			HHS Needs To Determine If Massachusetts' AFDC Program Meets Federal Requirements and, If Not, Take Compliance Action (<i>Report</i>)	124605
				Proposal To Improve Identification and Collection of Medicare Part B Duplicate Payments (<i>Report</i>)	125007
				Incomplete Participant Data Affect Reliability of Values Placed by Actuaries on Multiemployer Pension Plans (<i>Report</i>)	125081
				Social Security Subcommittee GAO's Views on the Report of the Congressional Panel on Social Security Organization (<i>Testimony</i>)	124786
				SSA Data Communications Contracts With Paradyne Corporation Demonstrate the Need for Improved Management Controls (<i>Report</i>)	124854

Joint Committees**Joint Committee on Printing**

Depository Librarians' Views on GPO's Administration of the Depository Library Program (*Report*) 123921

Government Printing Office's Depository Library Program (*Report*) 125853

Joint Committee on Taxation

Compilation of GAO's Work on Tax-Related Activities During 1983 (*Report*) 124536

Incomplete Participant Data Affect Reliability of Values Placed by Actuaries on Multiemployer Pension Plans (*Report*) 125081

Joint Economic Committee

Price Markups and Inefficiency in Defense Production (*Testimony*) 125333

Economic Goals and Intergovernmental Policy Subcommittee

Outlook for Expanding the Federal Research in Progress System (*Report*) 125654

Economy in Government Subcommittee

Use of ADP Equipment Operated by Three or Four Typical Government Contractors (*Report*) 089247

International Trade, Finance and Security Economics Subcommittee

Price Markups and Inefficiency in Defense Production (*Testimony*) 125333

Priorities and Economy in Government Subcommittee

Use of ADP Equipment Operated by Three or Four Typical Government Contractors (*Report*) 089247

Senate Committees**Senate Committee on Aeronautical and Space Sciences**

Earth Resources Information Satellite System Act (*Letter*) 100002

Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry

Federal and State Initiatives Needed To Improve Productivity and Reduce Administrative Costs of the Aid to Families With Dependent Children and Food Stamp Programs (*Report*) 123347

Federal and State Liability for Inaccurate Payments of Food Stamp, AFDC, and SSI Program Benefits (*Report*) 124028

ASCS Needs Better Information To Adequately Assess Proposed

County and State Office Automation (*Report*) 124258

Better Wage-Matching Systems and Procedures Would Enhance Food Stamp Program Integrity (*Report*) 125103

Soil and Water Conservation, Forestry and Environment Subcommittee

Congress Needs Better Information on Forest Service's Below-Cost Timber Sales (*Report*) 124538

Senate Committee on Appropriations

District Could Get More for Urban Renewal Property, but HUD Debt Will Be Repaid (*Report*) 117731

Summaries of Conclusions and Recommendations on Department of Defense Operations (*Report*) 123710

Summaries of Conclusions and Recommendations on the Operations of Civil Departments and Agencies (*Report*) 123713

Actions Taken To Improve Management and Reduce Costs of Interior's Aircraft Operations (*Report*) 123974

The Federal Government Can Reduce Costs in the Development, Maintenance, and Operation of Civilian Payroll Systems (*Report*) 124877

Agriculture and Related Agencies Subcommittee

Federal and State Initiatives Needed To Improve Productivity and Reduce Administrative Costs of the Aid to Families With Dependent Children and Food Stamp Programs (*Report*) 123347

ASCS Needs Better Information To Adequately Assess Proposed County and State Office Automation (*Report*) 124258

Better Wage-Matching Systems and Procedures Would Enhance Food Stamp Program Integrity (*Report*) 125103

Commerce, Justice, State and Judiciary Subcommittee

An Improved Automated System Would Better Identify Small Businesses Seeking Federal Contracting Opportunities (*Report*) 123228

First Year Implementation of the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act by the Department of Justice (*Report*) 124097

SEC's Efforts To Find Lost and Stolen Securities (*Report*) 124186

Accuracy, Cost, and Users of the Consolidated Federal Funds Report (*Report*) 125396

Regional Information Sharing Systems (*Report*) 125548

Defense Subcommittee

Adequacy of the DOD Response to Its Inspector General's Report on the Use of Vehicles Assigned to the Office of the Secretary of

Defense Executive Motor Pool (*Report*) 122883

GAO Examination of Air Force's Proposed Multiyear Procurement for DSCS III (*Report*) 123312

Army Could Do More To Reduce Imbalances in Military Occupational Specialties (*Report*) 123439

The Army Can Do More To Assure War Reserve Funds Are Spent Effectively (*Report*) 123440

Internal Controls Can Be Improved To Help Ensure Proper and Correct Military Retirement Payments (*Report*) 123527

Further Improvements Needed in Navy's Oversight of Contracting for Facilities Construction on Diego Garcia (*Report*) 124211

Navy Did Not Adhere to Procurement Regulations in Acquiring a Computer for Its Ships Parts Control Center (*Report*) 124959

Army Has the Opportunity To Recompete DAS3 Purchases and Improve Automated Battlefield Support (*Report*) 125265

Better Use of Available Data Would Improve Mobilization Planning for Inductees (*Report*) 125416

Excessive Air Force Inventories Result From Duplicative Spare Parts Requirements (*Report*) 125449

Accurate and Complete Subcontract Data Needed To Assess International Agreements on Defense Procurement (*Report*) 125941

District of Columbia Subcommittee

Improved Collections Can Reduce Federal and District Government Food Stamp Program Costs (*Report*) 114830

District Could Get More for Urban Renewal Property, but HUD Debt Will Be Repaid (*Report*) 117731

Energy and Water Development Subcommittee

FERC Can Improve Its Operational Performance by Broadening and Deepening Current Management Efforts (*Report*) 123309

Foreign Operations Subcommittee

The Audit and Inspection Functions at the United States Information Agency Need Management Attention (*Report*) 123829

HUD-Independent Agencies Subcommittee

Increasing HUD Effectiveness Through Improved Management (*Report*) 123198

Insights Into Major Urban Development Action Grant Issues (*Report*) 123557

Improving Controls Over Rent and Management Fees at Multifamily Housing Projects (*Report*) 123943

Better Management Controls and ADP Requirements Analysis Can Help NASA Lewis Research Center (<i>Report</i>)	125266	Administrative Improvements (<i>Report</i>)	124125	Senate Committee on Budget	
Opportunities for Public Housing Authorities To Develop and Acquire Computer-Based Management Information Systems (<i>Report</i>)	125270	Internal Control Weaknesses at the U.S. Customs Service (<i>Report</i>)	124237	Increasing HUD Effectiveness Through Improved Management (<i>Report</i>)	123198
Interior Subcommittee		Internal Control Weaknesses at GSA (<i>Report</i>)	124306	The Grace Commission's Major Proposals To Control Federal Costs (<i>Testimony</i>)	123530
The Energy Information Administration Needs To Strengthen Its Computer Systems Development Procedures (<i>Report</i>)	123180	Opportunities To Improve the Postal Ratemaking Process (<i>Report</i>)	124348	Analysis of the Grace Commission's Major Proposals for Cost Control (<i>Other</i>)	123531
Performance Evaluation of the Energy Information Administration (<i>Report</i>)	124430	GSA's Telecommunications Procurement Program Requires Comprehensive Planning and Management (<i>Report</i>)	124361	SSA Data Communications Contracts With Paradyne Corporation Demonstrate the Need for Improved Management Controls (<i>Report</i>)	124854
Congress Needs Better Information on Forest Service's Below-Cost Timber Sales (<i>Report</i>)	124538	Incomplete Participant Data Affect Reliability of Values Placed by Actuaries on Multiemployer Pension Plans (<i>Report</i>)	125081	Better Wage-Matching Systems and Procedures Would Enhance Food Stamp Program Integrity (<i>Report</i>)	125103
Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Subcommittee		OMB Needs To More Fully Consider Government-Wide Implications in Its Telecommunications Initiatives (<i>Report</i>)	125388	Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation	
An Assessment of Random Audit--A New Department of Labor Program To Improve the Accuracy of Unemployment Insurance Benefit Payments (<i>Report</i>)	123788	Senate Committee on Armed Services		The FAA Process of Selecting Locations for Automated Flight Service Stations (<i>Report</i>)	123550
Expanded Federal Authority Needed To Protect Medicare and Medicaid Patients From Health Practitioners Who Lose Their Licenses (<i>Report</i>)	124032	Army Could Do More To Reduce Imbalances in Military Occupational Specialties (<i>Report</i>)	123439	Reductions in Coast Guard Leased Housing Can Achieve Savings (<i>Report</i>)	124872
Office of Workers' Compensation Programs Needs To Improve Procedures To Help Reduce Payment Errors and Identify Dual Payments (<i>Report</i>)	124193	The Army Can Do More To Assure War Reserve Funds Are Spent Effectively (<i>Report</i>)	123440	Better Management Controls and ADP Requirements Analysis Can Help NASA Lewis Research Center (<i>Report</i>)	125266
HHS Needs To Determine If Massachusetts' AFDC Program Meets Federal Requirements and, If Not, Take Compliance Action (<i>Report</i>)	124605	Internal Controls Can Be Improved To Help Ensure Proper and Correct Military Retirement Payments (<i>Report</i>)	123527	Science, Technology, and Space Subcommittee	
SSA Data Communications Contracts With Paradyne Corporation Demonstrate the Need for Improved Management Controls (<i>Report</i>)	124854	Navy Did Not Adhere to Procurement Regulations in Acquiring a Computer for Its Ships Parts Control Center (<i>Report</i>)	124959	Studies of U.S. Universities' Research Equipment Needs Inconclusive (<i>Report</i>)	124347
Proposal To Improve Identification and Collection of Medicare Part B Duplicate Payments (<i>Report</i>)	125007	Better Use of Available Data Would Improve Mobilization Planning for Inductees (<i>Report</i>)	125416	Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources	
Incomplete Participant Data Affect Reliability of Values Placed by Actuaries on Multiemployer Pension Plans (<i>Report</i>)	125081	Preparedness Subcommittee		The Energy Information Administration Needs To Strengthen Its Computer Systems Development Procedures (<i>Report</i>)	123180
Transportation Subcommittee		Excessive Air Force Inventories Result From Duplicative Spare Parts Requirements (<i>Report</i>)	125449	Performance Evaluation of the Energy Information Administration (<i>Report</i>)	124430
The FAA Process of Selecting Locations for Automated Flight Service Stations (<i>Report</i>)	123550	Senate Committee on Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs		Energy Regulation Subcommittee	
Reductions in Coast Guard Leased Housing Can Achieve Savings (<i>Report</i>)	124872	Increasing HUD Effectiveness Through Improved Management (<i>Report</i>)	123198	FERC Can Improve Its Operational Performance by Broadening and Deepening Current Management Efforts (<i>Report</i>)	123309
Treasury, Postal Service, and General Government Subcommittee		Insights Into Major Urban Development Action Grant Issues (<i>Report</i>)	123557	Senate Committee on Finance	
Control Improvements Needed in Accounting for Treasury Securities at the Federal Reserve Bank of New York (<i>Report</i>)	124060	Improving Controls Over Rent and Management Fees at Multifamily Housing Projects (<i>Report</i>)	123943	An Assessment of Random Audit--A New Department of Labor Program To Improve the Accuracy of Unemployment Insurance Benefit Payments (<i>Report</i>)	123788
Tax Court Can Reduce Growing Case Backlog and Expenses Through		Internal Control Weaknesses at the U.S. Customs Service (<i>Report</i>)	124237	Expanded Federal Authority Needed To Protect Medicare and Medicaid Patients From Health Practitioners Who Lose Their Licenses (<i>Report</i>)	124032
		Opportunities for Public Housing Authorities To Develop and Acquire Computer-Based Management Information Systems (<i>Report</i>)	125270	Control Improvements Needed in Accounting for Treasury Securities at the Federal Reserve Bank of New York (<i>Report</i>)	124060
		Securities Subcommittee		Tax Court Can Reduce Growing Case Backlog and Expenses Through	
		SEC's Efforts To Find Lost and Stolen Securities (<i>Report</i>)	124186		

Administrative Improvements (*Report*) 124125

Compilation of GAO's Work on Tax-Related Activities During 1983 (*Report*) 124536

HHS Needs To Determine If Massachusetts' AFDC Program Meets Federal Requirements and, If Not, Take Compliance Action (*Report*) 124605

Proposal To Improve Identification and Collection of Medicare Part B Duplicate Payments (*Report*) 125007

Incomplete Participant Data Affect Reliability of Values Placed by Actuaries on Multiemployer Pension Plans (*Report*) 125081

Social Security and Income Maintenance Programs Subcommittee

SSA Data Communications Contracts With Paradyne Corporation Demonstrate the Need for Improved Management Controls (*Report*) 124854

Senate Committee on Foreign Relations

The Audit and Inspection Functions at the United States Information Agency Need Management Attention (*Report*) 123829

Navy Did Not Adhere to Procurement Regulations in Acquiring a Computer for Its Ships Parts Control Center (*Report*) 124959

Senate Committee on Government Operations

First Year Implementation of the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act by the Department of Justice (*Report*) 124097

Internal Control Weaknesses at GSA (*Report*) 124306

The Federal Government Can Reduce Costs in the Development, Maintenance, and Operation of Civilian Payroll Systems (*Report*) 124877

Senate Committee on Governmental Affairs

Adequacy of the DOD Response to Its Inspector General's Report on the Use of Vehicles Assigned to the Office of the Secretary of Defense Executive Motor Pool (*Report*) 122883

The Audit and Inspection Functions at the United States Information Agency Need Management Attention (*Report*) 123829

Further Improvements Needed in Navy's Oversight of Contracting for Facilities Construction on Diego Garcia (*Report*) 124211

Opportunities To Improve the Postal Ratemaking Process (*Report*) 124348

Compilation of GAO's Work on Tax-Related Activities During 1983 (*Report*) 124536

ADP Bibliography

Accuracy, Cost, and Users of the Consolidated Federal Funds Report (*Report*) 125396

Civil Service, Post Office and General Services Subcommittee

Opportunities To Improve the Postal Ratemaking Process (*Report*) 124348

Information on the Status of Postal Service Costs and Mail Delivery Service Under the Postal Reorganization Act (*Report*) 125108

Governmental Efficiency and the District of Columbia Subcommittee

Improved Collections Can Reduce Federal and District Government Food Stamp Program Costs (*Report*) 114830

District Could Get More for Urban Renewal Property, but HUD Debt Will Be Repaid (*Report*) 117731

Federal Agencies' Actions To Implement Section 11 of the Stevenson-Wydler Technology Innovation Act of 1980 (*Report*) 125024

Information Management and Regulatory Affairs Subcommittee

Extending the Authorization of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1980 (*Testimony*) 123816

Status of OMB Implementation of Paperwork Reduction Act (*Letter*) 125821

Overight of Government Management Subcommittee

GAO Observations on the Use of Tax Return Information for Verification in Entitlement Programs (*Report*) 124423

Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations

Strong Internal Controls at Service Delivery Level Will Help Prevent CETA-Type Fraud and Abuse in Job Training Partnership Act Programs (*Report*) 125541

Senate Committee on Labor and Human Resources

Incomplete Participant Data Affect Reliability of Values Placed by Actuaries on Multiemployer Pension Plans (*Report*) 125081

Handicapped Subcommittee

Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs' Actions To Improve Processing of Handicapped Employment Discrimination Complaints (*Report*) 123311

Labor Subcommittee

Office of Workers' Compensation Programs Needs To Improve Procedures To Help Reduce Payment

Errors and Identify Dual Payments (*Report*) 124193

Senate Committee on Small Business

An Improved Automated System Would Better Identify Small Businesses Seeking Federal Contracting Opportunities (*Report*) 123228

Senate Committee on the Judiciary

SEC's Efforts To Find Lost and Stolen Securities (*Report*) 124186

Administrative Practice and Procedure Subcommittee

Federal Agency Compliance with Indexing and Publishing Requirements of the Freedom of Information Act (*Letter*) 107421

Limitations of Contracted and Delegated Authority Subcommittee

Reissuing Tamper-Resistant Cards Will Not Eliminate Misuse of Social Security Numbers (*Report*) 114062

Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs

The Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund's Financial Operations Were Properly Accounted for and Reported (*Report*) 124335

Members

Abourezk, Sen. James

Federal Agency Compliance with Indexing and Publishing Requirements of the Freedom of Information Act (*Letter*) 107421

Addabbo, Rep. Joseph P.

Examination of Alleged Waste and Mismanagement in Army Test, Measurement, and Diagnostic Equipment Support Group (*Report*) 123556

Andrews, Rep. Ike F.

Better Monitoring and Recordkeeping Systems Needed To Accurately Account for Juvenile Justice Practices (*Report*) 124611

Annunzio, Rep. Frank

Government Printing Office's Depository Library Program (*Report*) 125853

Baucus, Sen. Max S.

Reissuing Tamper-Resistant Cards Will Not Eliminate Misuse of Social Security Numbers (*Report*) 114062

Bedell, Rep. Berkley W.

An Improved Automated System Would Better Identify Small

Businesses Seeking Federal Contracting Opportunities (<i>Report</i>)	123228	Carper, Rep. Thomas R. The Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund's Financial Operations Were Properly Accounted for and Reported (<i>Report</i>)	124335	Ford, Rep. William D. Comparative Review of Single-Line and Multiline Optical Character Readers Used in Mail Processing (<i>Report</i>)	124865
Bentsen, Sen. Lloyd Outlook for Expanding the Federal Research in Progress System (<i>Report</i>)	125654	Cohen, Sen. William S. GAO Observations on the Use of Tax Return Information for Verification in Entitlement Programs (<i>Report</i>)	124423	Garcia, Rep. Robert Comparative Review of Single-Line and Multiline Optical Character Readers Used in Mail Processing (<i>Report</i>)	124865
Breckinridge, Rep. John B. Right To Make Public a Library of Congress Written Work Product (<i>Letter</i>)	103489	Conyers, Rep. John, Jr. Audit of the Interstate Organized Crime Index (<i>Letter</i>)	106870	Gorton, Sen. Slade Studies of U.S. Universities' Research Equipment Needs Inconclusive (<i>Report</i>)	124347
Brooks, Rep. Jack Irregularities in the Performance of a Painting Contract at Fort Ord, California (<i>Report</i>)	089225	Cranston, Sen. Alan The Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund's Financial Operations Were Properly Accounted for and Reported (<i>Report</i>)	124335	Hart, Sen. Gary Information on Forest Service Below-Cost Timber Sales for National Forests in Colorado (<i>Report</i>)	124843
Legality of Contract Award to Kentron Hawaii, Ltd. by the Department of Transportation (<i>Letter</i>)	106189	Danforth, Sen. John C. Status of OMB Implementation of Paperwork Reduction Act (<i>Letter</i>)	125821	Hatfield, Sen. Mark O. Summaries of Conclusions and Recommendations on Department of Defense Operations (<i>Report</i>)	123710
H.R. 13955, the Paperwork and Redtape Reduction Act of 1978 (<i>Letter</i>)	107974	Dingell, Rep. John D. Department of Energy's Activities To Limit Distribution of Certain Unclassified Scientific and Technical Information (<i>Report</i>)	124076	Summaries of Conclusions and Recommendations on the Operations of Civil Departments and Agencies (<i>Report</i>)	123713
Air Force Progress in Implementing the Phase IV Base Level Computer Replacement Program (<i>Report</i>)	123225	Information on Repayment of the Government's Uranium Enrichment Program Costs and Audits of That Program's Financial Statements (<i>Report</i>)	124971	Hawkins, Rep. Augustus F. Depository Librarians' Views on GPO's Administration of the Depository Library Program (<i>Report</i>)	123921
Actions Taken To Improve Management and Reduce Costs of Interior's Aircraft Operations (<i>Report</i>)	123974	Improvements Needed in the Department of the Interior's Acquisition of Geophysical Data (<i>Report</i>)	125907	Helms, Sen. Jesse A. Federal and State Liability for Inaccurate Payments of Food Stamp, AFDC, and SSI Program Benefits (<i>Report</i>)	124028
Status of Internal Audit Capabilities of Federal Agencies Without Statutory Inspectors General (<i>Report</i>)	124351	Information on Data Problems Identified by the Department of Energy With Its Final Entitlements Lists (<i>Report</i>)	125989	Horton, Rep. Frank H.R. 13955, the Paperwork and Redtape Reduction Act of 1978 (<i>Letter</i>)	107974
Compilation of GAO's Work on Tax-Related Activities During 1983 (<i>Report</i>)	124536	Dole, Sen. Robert J. Compilation of GAO's Work on Tax-Related Activities During 1983 (<i>Report</i>)	124536	Hunter, Rep. Duncan L. The Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund's Financial Operations Were Properly Accounted for and Reported (<i>Report</i>)	124335
SSA Data Communications Contracts With Paradyne Corporation Demonstrate the Need for Improved Management Controls (<i>Report</i>)	124854	Eagleton, Sen. Thomas F. Evaluation of Two Proposals for Design of a New Financial Management System for the District Government (<i>Letter</i>)	105972	Jackson, Sen. Henry M. Advanced, Computer-Oriented, Design System (<i>Report</i>)	089218
Navy Did Not Adhere to Procurement Regulations in Acquiring a Computer for Its Ships Parts Control Center (<i>Report</i>)	124959	Edwards, Rep. Don Observations on the FBI's Interstate Identification Index (<i>Report</i>)	125400	Kindness, Rep. Thomas Observations on a General Services Administration Report on the National Archives and Records Service (<i>Report</i>)	124873
Comments on S. 774, The Freedom of Information Reform Act (<i>Letter</i>)	125041	English, Rep. Glenn L. Privacy Policy Activities of the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (<i>Report</i>)	125246		
Additional Information on SSA Management of Data Communications Contracts with Paradyne Corporation (<i>Report</i>)	125124				
OMB Actions Show Progress in Implementing the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1980 (<i>Report</i>)	125387				
OMB Needs To More Fully Consider Government-Wide Implications in Its Telecommunications Initiatives (<i>Report</i>)	125388				
Accuracy, Cost, and Users of the Consolidated Federal Funds Report (<i>Report</i>)	125396				
Brown, Rep. George E., Jr. Federal Agencies' Actions To Implement Section 11 of the Stevenson-Wydler Technology Innovation Act of 1980 (<i>Report</i>)	125024				

- Lautenberg, Sen. Frank R.**
The Federal Government Can Reduce Costs in the Development, Maintenance, and Operation of Civilian Payroll Systems (*Report*) 124877
- Laxalt, Sen. Paul**
Regional Information Sharing Systems (*Report*) 125548
- Lehman, Rep. William**
Interim Observations on FAA's Plans for Major Systems Acquisitions (*Report*) 124281
- Leland, Rep. Mickey**
Comparative Review of Single-Line and Multiline Optical Character Readers Used in Mail Processing (*Report*) 124865
- Levitas, Rep. Elliott H.**
EPA Could Benefit From Comprehensive Management Information on Superfund Enforcement Actions (*Report*) 125938
- Mack, Rep. Connie**
The FAA Process of Selecting Locations for Automated Flight Service Stations (*Report*) 123550
- Martin, Rep. David O'B.**
The Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund's Financial Operations Were Properly Accounted for and Reported (*Report*) 124335
- Mathias, Sen. Charles McC.**
The Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund's Financial Operations Were Properly Accounted for and Reported (*Report*) 124335
Federal Agencies' Actions To Implement Section 11 of the Stevenson-Wydler Technology Innovation Act of 1980 (*Report*) 125024
- McCain, Rep. John**
The FAA Process of Selecting Locations for Automated Flight Service Stations (*Report*) 123550
The Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund's Financial Operations Were Properly Accounted for and Reported (*Report*) 124335
- Miller, Rep. George**
Delays in Recomputing Social Security Benefits Cause Underpayments for Extended Periods (*Report*) 125199
- Mineta, Rep. Norman Y.**
Federal Aviation Administration's System for Prioritizing Airport Grants (*Report*) 124121
- Mitchell, Rep. Parren J.**
Electronic Marketing of Agricultural Commodities: An Evolutionary Trend (*Report*) 123647
- Montgomery, Rep. G.V.**
The Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund's Financial Operations Were Properly Accounted for and Reported (*Report*) 124335
- Moss, Rep. John E.**
Audit of the Interstate Organized Crime Index (*Letter*) 106870
- Murtha, Rep. John P.**
The FAA Process of Selecting Locations for Automated Flight Service Stations (*Report*) 123550
- Nunn, Sen. Sam**
Strong Internal Controls at Service Delivery Level Will Help Prevent CETA-Type Fraud and Abuse in Job Training Partnership Act Programs (*Report*) 125541
- Ottinger, Rep. Richard L.**
Information on Relicensing Cases at the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (*Report*) 124282
Information on Repayment of the Government's Uranium Enrichment Program Costs and Audits of That Program's Financial Statements (*Report*) 124971
- Preyer, Rep. Richardson**
GAO's Policies and Practices To Prevent Misuse of Access and Disclosure Authority (*Letter*) 104823
- Proxmire, Sen. William**
Alleged Violation of the General Services Administration Regulations by the Navy in the Purchase of IBM Optical Character Recognition (OCR) Typewriters (*Report*) 089196
Air Force Decision Not To Purchase Certain Automatic Data Processing Equipment Located at Its Environmental Technical Applications Center, Washington, D.C. (*Report*) 089229
Use of ADP Equipment Operated by Three or Four Typical Government Contractors (*Report*) 089247
District Could Get More for Urban Renewal Property, but HUD Debt Will Be Repaid (*Report*) 117731
Improving Controls Over Rent and Management Fees at Multifamily Housing Projects (*Report*) 123943
Allegations of Contract Buy-In and Substantial Cost Increases in the
- Navy's Standard Automated Financial System (*Report*) 125545
- Purcell, Rep. Carl D.**
The FAA Process of Selecting Locations for Automated Flight Service Stations (*Report*) 123550
- Ridge, Rep. Thomas J.**
The Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund's Financial Operations Were Properly Accounted for and Reported (*Report*) 124335
- Rodino, Rep. Peter W., Jr.**
Information on Aliens Admitted into the United States as Nonimmigrant Workers (*Report*) 125958
- Rostenkowski, Rep. Daniel**
Compilation of GAO's Work on Tax-Related Activities During 1983 (*Report*) 124536
- Roth, Rep. Toby**
Licensing Data for Exports to Non-Communist Countries (*Report*) 124107
- Roth, Sen. William V.**
Accuracy, Cost, and Users of the Consolidated Federal Funds Report (*Report*) 125396
- Roth, Sen. William V., Jr.**
Adequacy of the DOD Response to Its Inspector General's Report on the Use of Vehicles Assigned to the Office of the Secretary of Defense Executive Motor Pool (*Report*) 122883
Compilation of GAO's Work on Tax-Related Activities During 1983 (*Report*) 124536
- Sasser, Sen. Jim**
Information on the Department of Energy's Budgets for Enforcing Its Petroleum Allocation and Pricing Regulations and Its Process for Distributing Oil Company Overcharge Refunds (*Report*) 124143
- Scott, Rep. William L.**
Activities of Washington Data Processing Center Statistical Research Service (*Report*) 088933
- Sisisky, Rep. Norman**
Contracting Out Under OMB Circular A-76 at Selected Army and Navy Activities in Virginia (*Report*) 124888
- Stafford, Sen. Robert T.**
Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs' Actions To

Improve Processing of Handi-
capped Employment Discrimination
Complaints (*Report*) 123311

Stevens, Sen. Ted

GAO Examination of Air Force's
Proposed Multiyear Procurement
for DSCS III (*Report*) 123312

Opportunities To Improve the Postal
Ratemaking Process (*Report*) 124348

Information on the Status of Postal
Service Costs and Mail Delivery
Service Under the Postal Reorgani-
zation Act (*Report*) 125108

Swift, Rep. Allen B.

Exports of Dual-Use, Nuclear-
Related Equipment to the People's
Republic of China (*Report*) 124609

Taylor, Rep. Gene

The FAA Process of Selecting Loca-
tions for Automated Flight Service
Stations (*Report*) 123550

Tower, Sen. John G.

Information on Shortages in Stamp
Stock at the Main Post Office and
the Carl Range Station in Irving,
Texas (*Report*) 124041

Walgren, Rep. Doug

Federal Agencies' Actions To Imple-
ment Section 11 of the Stevenson-
Wylder Technology Innovation Act
of 1980 (*Report*) 125024

Warner, Sen. John W.

The Vietnam Veterans Memorial
Fund's Financial Operations Were
Properly Accounted for and Re-
ported (*Report*) 124335

Welcker, Sen. Lowell P.

Office of Federal Contract Compli-
ance Programs' Actions To Im-
prove Processing of Handicapped
Employment Discrimination Com-
plaints (*Report*) 123311

Whitten, Rep. Jamie L.

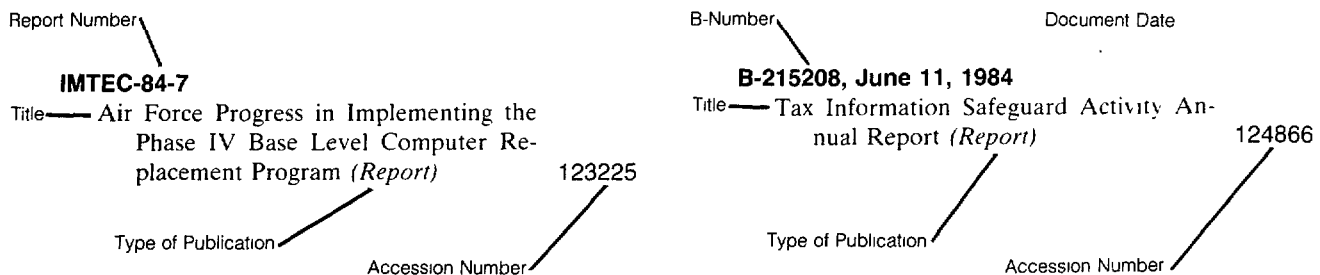
Summaries of Conclusions and
Recommendations on Department
of Defense Operations (*Report*) 123710

Summaries of Conclusions and
Recommendations on the Opera-
tions of Civil Departments and A-
gencies (*Report*) 123713

DOCUMENT NUMBER INDEX

Entries are arranged by report and/or B-number and date. See inside back cover for GAO Division abbreviations used as the initial part of report numbers.

SAMPLE ENTRY



B-Number Section

- | | | |
|--|---|--|
| <p>A-65768, February 16, 1977
Summary of Records Retention Requirements Relating to the Activities of the GAO (Letter) 100469</p> <p>B-100489, April 1, 1977
Use of Microfilm for Record Keeping Purposes (Letter) 100067</p> <p>B-114865, February 22, 1984
Review of the Activities of the House Office Equipment Service for the Year Ended June 30, 1983 (Report) 123463</p> <p>B-115369, November 24, 1971
Use of ADP Equipment Operated by Three or Four Typical Government Contractors (Report) 089247</p> <p>B-115369, May 31, 1978
Legality of Contract Award to Kentron Hawaii, Ltd. by the Department of Transportation (Letter) 106189</p> <p>B-118638, May 15, 1978
Evaluation of Two Proposals for Design of a New Financial Management System for the District Government (Letter) 105972</p> <p>B-131935, August 18, 1978
Establishment of a Central Focal Point for Telecommunications Matters (Letter) 106777</p> <p>B-133170, August 9, 1973
Advanced, Computer-Oriented, Design System (Report) 089218</p> | <p>B-137762, June 27, 1984
Compilation of GAO's Work on Tax-Related Activities During 1983 (Report) 124536</p> <p>B-146864, June 20, 1977
The Department of Agriculture's Allegation Concerning the General Services Administration's Mandatory Requirements Contract for ITEL Disk Drives (Report) 102434</p> <p>B-151204, January 20, 1972
Air Force Decision Not To Purchase Certain Automatic Data Processing Equipment Located at Its Environmental Technical Applications Center, Washington, D.C. (Report) 089229</p> <p>B-158363, June 6, 1977
Use of Public Funds by the National Technical Information Service To Compete With Private Industry (Letter) 102824</p> <p>B-159605, August 9, 1978
Policy and Procedures Pertaining to Procurement of ADP Equipment (Letter) 107007</p> <p>B-159797, June 21, 1977
Approval of Revised Design of Accounting System for U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Letter) 102825</p> <p>B-159797, August 23, 1977
Evaluation of System Design of the Department of the Navy's Armed Forces Health Professions Scholarship Program Pay System (Letter) 103078</p> <p>B-163391, November 18, 1976
Legal Requirements for Retention of Grant-Related Records (Letter) 100065</p> | <p>B-164031(1).174, July 31, 1978
Proposed Procedure for Access by GAO to Records of Students in the Murphy School District (Letter) 106776</p> <p>B-164031(4), January 25, 1978
GAO's Policies and Practices To Prevent Misuse of Access and Disclosure Authority (Letter) 104823</p> <p>B-164630, May 2, 1973
Alleged Violation of the General Services Administration Regulations by the Navy in the Purchase of IBM Optical Character Recognition (OCR) Typewriters (Report) 089196</p> <p>B-166741, June 14, 1978
Approval of Statement of Accounting Principles and Standards (Letter) 106255</p> <p>B-167008, April 23, 1970
Activities of Washington Data Processing Center Statistical Research Service (Report) 088933</p> <p>B-171019, August 18, 1978
Audit of the Interstate Organized Crime Index (Letter) 106870</p> <p>B-173761, November 19, 1976
Views and Comments on H.R. 15353, 94th Congress, Second Session (Letter) 100566</p> <p>B-173761, December 13, 1976
Request for Opportunity To Inspect Certain GAO Records Relating to Contracts (Letter) 100463</p> <p>B-173761, June 12, 1978
Availability of GAO Records to the Public (Letter) 106221</p> |
|--|---|--|

B-173761, July 25, 1978

Freedom of Information Act Request
for Records (*Letter*) 106476

B-173761, September 18, 1978

Contract/Relationship Between the
City of Boston and Health and
Hospitals, Inc. (*Letter*) 107059

B-173761, October 12, 1978

Federal Agency Compliance with
Indexing and Publishing Require-
ments of the Freedom of Informa-
tion Act (*Letter*) 107421

B-177185, December 4, 1972

Irregularities in the Performance of a
Painting Contract at Fort Ord, Cal-
ifornia (*Report*) 089225

B-178780, June 12, 1978

Availability of GAO Records to the
Public (*Letter*) 106221

B-180224, April 19, 1978

Relation of Independent Regulatory
Agencies to Paperwork Reduction
Program (*Letter*) 105644

B-180224, September 7, 1984

OMB Actions Show Progress in
Implementing the Paperwork
Reduction Act of 1980 (*Report*) 125387

B-181426, January 3, 1977

Earth Resources Information Satellite
System Act (*Letter*) 100002

B-182087, September 7, 1977

Organization of Issues Involved in
Establishing Machinery and Pro-
cesses for Handling the Paperwork
Problem (*Letter*) 103488

B-182087, November 27, 1978

H.R. 13955, the Paperwork and
Redtape Reduction Act of 1978
(*Letter*) 107974

B-182869, January 24, 1978

Government Small Purchase Pro-
cedures (*Letter*) 105024

B-185146, December 13, 1976

Request for Opportunity To Inspect
Certain GAO Records Relating to
Contracts (*Letter*) 100463

B-186313, August 24, 1977

Proposed Regulation Prescribing New
"Fixed-Price Options" Provisions
for Use in Automatic Data Process-
ing Systems Procurement (*Letter*) 103353

B-186658, August 24, 1977

Proposed Regulation Prescribing New
"Fixed-Price Options" Provisions
for Use in Automatic Data Process-
ing Systems Procurement (*Letter*) 103353

B-189669, September 9, 1977

Right To Make Public a Library of
Congress Written Work Product
(*Letter*) 103489

B-192886, January 9, 1984

Withdrawal of Approval of the Feder-
al Election Commission Accounting
System (*Report*) 123202

B-192886, June 26, 1984

Examination of the Federal Election
Commission's Financial Statements
for the Year Ended September 30,
1982 (*Report*) 124591

B-197710, April 26, 1984

Examination of the Financial State-
ments of the Export-Import Bank
of the United States for the Fiscal
Year Ended September 30, 1983
(*Report*) 124124

B-199333, October 22, 1984

Better Use of Available Data Would
Improve Mobilization Planning for
Inductees (*Report*) 125416

B-199370, November 5, 1984

Regional Information Sharing Sys-
tems (*Report*) 125548

B-199833, October 12, 1984

Survey of Actions To Correct Prob-
lems With the Navy's Military Pay
System (*Report*) 125340

B-200111, October 12, 1984

Progress in Improving Program and
Budget Information for Congres-
sional Use (*Report*) 125339

B-200490, May 15, 1984

Information on Relicensing Cases at
the Federal Energy Regulatory
Commission (*Report*) 124282

B-200951, September 30, 1983

Review of the Audit of the National
Consumer Cooperative Bank's Fi-
nancial Statements for the Year
Ended December 31, 1982 (*Report*) 122615

B-201283, April 3, 1981

Improved Collections Can Reduce
Federal and District Government
Food Stamp Program Costs (*Re-
port*) 114830

B-201373, December 23, 1980

Reissuing Tamper-Resistant Cards
Will Not Eliminate Misuse of
Social Security Numbers (*Report*) 114062

B-201919, May 1, 1984

Licensing Data for Exports to Non-
Communist Countries (*Report*) 124107

B-202205, April 27, 1984

First-Year Implementation of the
Federal Managers' Financial Integ-
rity Act in VA (*Report*) 124023

B-202205, May 1, 1984

Department of State's First-Year Im-
plementation of the Federal Man-
agers' Financial Integrity Act (*Re-
port*) 124029

Defense Logistics Agency's First-Year
Implementation of the Federal
Managers' Financial Integrity Act
(*Report*) 124030

Department of Defense's First-Year
Implementation of the Federal
Managers' Financial Integrity Act
(*Report*) 124031

Department of the Air Force's First-
Year Implementation of the Feder-
al Managers' Financial Integrity
Act (*Report*) 124033

Defense Mapping Agency's First-Year
Implementation of the Federal
Managers' Financial Integrity Act
(*Report*) 124035

National Aeronautics and Space Ad-
ministration's First-Year Implemen-
tation of the Federal Manager's Fi-
nancial Integrity Act (*Report*) 124038

Department of the Army's First-Year
Implementation of the Federal
Managers' Financial Integrity Act
(*Report*) 124074

Department of the Navy's First-Year
Implementation of the Federal
Managers' Financial Integrity Act
(*Report*) 124150

B-202205, May 3, 1984

First-Year Implementation of the
Federal Managers' Financial Integ-
rity Act in the Department of
Labor (*Report*) 124061

B-202205, May 8, 1984

First Year Implementation of the
Federal Managers' Financial Integ-
rity Act by the Department of Jus-
tice (*Report*) 124097

B-202205, May 9, 1984

First-Year Implementation of the
Federal Managers' Financial Integ-
rity Act in the Department of Edu-
cation (*Report*) 124112

The Department of Health and
Human Services' First-Year Imple-
mentation of the Federal Managers'
Financial Integrity Act (*Report*) 124123

B-202205, May 22, 1984

First Year Implementation of the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act by the GSA (*Report*) 124210

B-202205, May 25, 1984

First-Year Implementation of the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act by the Department of the Treasury (*Report*) 124235

B-202205, June 7, 1984

The Department of Energy's First-Year Implementation of the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act (*Report*) 124331

B-202205, June 12, 1984

Small Business Administration's First-Year Implementation of the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act (*Report*) 124365

B-202205, June 19, 1984

Department of the Interior's First-Year Implementation of the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act (*Report*) 124460

B-202205, June 21, 1984

Agriculture's First-Year Implementation of the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act (*Report*) 124477

B-202205, June 22, 1984

Department of Commerce's First-Year Implementation of the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act (*Report*) 124483

B-202205, July 13, 1984

Transportation's First-Year Implementation of the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act (*Report*) 124658

B-202205, July 20, 1984

HUD's First-Year Implementation of the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act (*Report*) 124698

B-202205, August 24, 1984

Implementation of the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act: First Year (*Report*) 125049

B-202245, July 9, 1984

Better Monitoring and Recordkeeping Systems Needed To Accurately Account for Juvenile Justice Practices (*Report*) 124611

B-204207, March 8, 1982

District Could Get More for Urban Renewal Property, but HUD Debt Will Be Repaid (*Report*) 117731

B-204264, April 23, 1984

Opportunities To Improve the Postal Ratemaking Process (*Report*) 124348

B-204811, May 15, 1984

Exports of Dual-Use, Nuclear-Related Equipment to the People's Republic of China (*Report*) 124609

B-205616, February 28, 1984

Internal Controls Can Be Improved To Help Ensure Proper and Correct Military Retirement Payments (*Report*) 123527

B-205879, March 20, 1984

Summaries of Conclusions and Recommendations on Department of Defense Operations (*Report*) 123710

Summaries of Conclusions and Recommendations on the Operations of Civil Departments and Agencies (*Report*) 123713

B-206232, April 2, 1984

Actions Taken To Improve Management and Reduce Costs of Interior's Aircraft Operations (*Report*) 123974

B-206427, April 4, 1984

The Audit and Inspection Functions at the United States Information Agency Need Management Attention (*Report*) 123829

B-206570, February 1, 1984

GAO Examination of Air Force's Proposed Multiyear Procurement for DSCS III (*Report*) 123312

B-206599, January 12, 1984

An Improved Automated System Would Better Identify Small Businesses Seeking Federal Contracting Opportunities (*Report*) 123228

B-206711, September 11, 1984

Better Wage-Matching Systems and Procedures Would Enhance Food Stamp Program Integrity (*Report*) 125103

B-206887, May 4, 1984

Interim Observations on FAA's Plans for Major Systems Acquisitions (*Report*) 124281

B-207463, August 10, 1984

Information on Repayment of the Government's Uranium Enrichment Program Costs and Audits of

That Program's Financial Statements (*Report*) 124971

B-208122, January 10, 1984

Increasing HUD Effectiveness Through Improved Management (*Report*) 123198

B-208826, December 13, 1984

Accurate and Complete Subcontract Data Needed To Assess International Agreements on Defense Procurement (*Report*) 125941

B-209166.2, December 27, 1983

Protest of IRS Elimination of Proposal From Competitive Range (*Decision*) 123141

B-209865, May 23, 1984

Further Improvements Needed in Navy's Oversight of Contracting for Facilities Construction on Diego Garcia (*Report*) 124211

B-209876, December 21, 1984

Better Management of Information Resources at the Bureau of Indian Affairs Could Reduce Waste and Improve Productivity (*Report*) 125865

B-210412, April 11, 1984

Bank Liability Pursuant to Electronic Transfer of Reoccurring Federal Payments (*Decision*) 123881

B-210983, June 28, 1984

Congress Needs Better Information on Forest Service's Below-Cost Timber Sales (*Report*) 124538

B-210983, August 3, 1984

Information on Forest Service Below-Cost Timber Sales for National Forests in Colorado (*Report*) 124843

B-211087, January 18, 1984

Air Force Progress in Implementing the Phase IV Base Level Computer Replacement Program (*Report*) 123225

B-211240.2, February 14, 1984

Request for Reconsideration of Protest Under Navy RFP (*Decision*) 123416

B-211330.2, March 5, 1984

Protest of Air Force Issuance of Delivery Orders (*Decision*) 123560

B-211463, December 28, 1984

EPA Could Benefit From Comprehensive Management Information on Superfund Enforcement Actions (*Report*) 125938

- B-211506, August 2, 1984**
The Federal Government Can Reduce Costs in the Development, Maintenance, and Operation of Civilian Payroll Systems (*Report*) 124877
- B-211646, May 2, 1984**
Control Improvements Needed in Accounting for Treasury Securities at the Federal Reserve Bank of New York (*Report*) 124060
- B-211752, February 17, 1984**
Army Could Do More To Reduce Imbalances in Military Occupational Specialties (*Report*) 123439
- B-211762, March 27, 1984**
Protest of USGS Proposed Contract Award (*Decision*) 123762
- B-211803, July 17, 1984**
Protest of GSA Procurement Practices and Contract Award (*Decision*) 124672
- B-211921, October 25, 1983**
Adequacy of the DOD Response to Its Inspector General's Report on the Use of Vehicles Assigned to the Office of the Secretary of Defense Executive Motor Pool (*Report*) 122883
- B-211981, February 1, 1984**
Protest of Issuance of Air Force Delivery Order (*Decision*) 123305
- B-212184, March 30, 1984**
Department of Energy's Activities To Limit Distribution of Certain Unclassified Scientific and Technical Information (*Report*) 124076
- B-212425, April 24, 1984**
Protests of Army, Defense, and Coast Guard Procurements (*Decision*) 124000
- B-212494, September 28, 1984**
Opportunities for Public Housing Authorities To Develop and Acquire Computer-Based Management Information Systems (*Report*) 125270
- B-212573, March 12, 1984**
Protest of Proposed Army Contract Award (*Decision*) 123603
- B-212628, January 20, 1984**
Protest of Cancellation and Unrestricted Resolicitation of Commerce RFP (*Decision*) 123230
- B-212628.2, January 20, 1984**
Protest of Cancellation and Unrestricted Resolicitation of Commerce RFP (*Decision*) 123230
- B-212637, March 5, 1984**
Insights Into Major Urban Development Action Grant Issues (*Report*) 123557
- B-212660, February 7, 1984**
Protest of USDA Solicitation (*Decision*) 123335
- B-212781.2, May 15, 1984**
Protests Concerning Bidder Responsiveness Pursuant to Department of Education Contract Award (*Decision*) 124142
- B-212781.3, May 15, 1984**
Protests Concerning Bidder Responsiveness Pursuant to Department of Education Contract Award (*Decision*) 124142
- B-212867, February 15, 1984**
Protests of Bid Rejections by SSA (*Decision*) 123433
- B-212867.2, February 15, 1984**
Protests of Bid Rejections by SSA (*Decision*) 123433
- B-212867.3, February 15, 1984**
Protests of Bid Rejections by SSA (*Decision*) 123433
- B-212914, September 5, 1984**
Protest of NASA Negotiated Procurement (*Decision*) 125071
- B-212933, January 26, 1984**
Protest of HHS Rejection of Offer and Issuance of Delivery Order to Another Firm (*Decision*) 123270
- B-212972, September 10, 1984**
Protest of HUD Purchase (*Decision*) 125121
- B-213002, February 22, 1984**
Protest of SBA Contract Award (*Decision*) 123475
- B-213009, July 26, 1984**
Protest of RFP Issued by HHS (*Decision*) 124773
- B-213028, February 28, 1984**
Protest of Forest Service Contract Award (*Decision*) 123534
- B-213099, January 19, 1984**
Protest of Air Force Contract Award to Higher Priced Offerer (*Decision*) 123240
- B-213106, April 24, 1984**
Protests of Army, Defense, and Coast Guard Procurements (*Decision*) 124000
- B-213127, January 3, 1984**
The Energy Information Administration Needs To Strengthen Its Computer Systems Development Procedures (*Report*) 123180
- B-213147, April 11, 1984**
Information on the Department of Energy's Budgets for Enforcing Its Petroleum Allocation and Pricing Regulations and Its Process for Distributing Oil Company Overcharge Refunds (*Report*) 124143
- B-213150, January 3, 1984**
Protest of Certain Requirements Under D.C. Solicitation (*Decision*) 123165
- B-213255, April 17, 1984**
Protest of Forest Service Rejection of Bid (*Decision*) 123931
- B-213287, August 6, 1984**
Protest of Corps of Engineers Contract Award Alleging Awardee's Proposal Unacceptable (*Decision*) 124860
- B-213396, April 17, 1984**
Protest of FBI Contract Award (*Decision*) 123955
- B-213396.2, May 2, 1984**
Request for Reconsideration of Sustained Protest Under FBI Solicitation (*Decision*) 124078
- B-213415, April 2, 1984**
Corps of Engineers Request for Decision Concerning Legality of Expanding Appropriated Funds (*Decision*) 123808
- B-213430, July 9, 1984**
Protest of Specifications in Interior RFP (*Decision*) 124615
- B-213440, March 20, 1984**
Protest of Defense Mapping Agency Contract Award (*Decision*) 123693
- B-213452, March 6, 1984**
Protest of EPA Contract Award Under Oral Solicitation (*Decision*) 123565

- B-213537, October 16, 1984**
Observations on the FBI's Interstate Identification Index (*Report*) 125400
- B-213579, April 9, 1984**
Protest of Rejection of Bid as Nonresponsive by Army (*Decision*) 123863
- B-213647.2, July 2, 1984**
Protest of Any Contract Award to Another Firm Under Air Force IFB (*Decision*) 124565
- B-213652, January 10, 1984**
Defense Logistics Agency Could Better Identify and Cancel Unneeded On-Order Material (*Report*) 123199
- B-213682, April 2, 1984**
Protest of Proposed Subcontract Award by EPA Contractor (*Decision*) 123826
- B-213812, March 15, 1984**
Protest of HHS Issuance of Delivery Order (*Decision*) 123651
- B-213878, April 3, 1984**
Protest of Rejection of Offer by Army (*Decision*) 123820
- B-213913, March 13, 1984**
Protest Alleging Unduly Restrictive Specifications in Army RFP (*Decision*) 123611
- B-213927, August 13, 1984**
Protests Under Army RFP (*Decision*) 124883
- B-213927.2, August 13, 1984**
Protests Under Army RFP (*Decision*) 124883
- B-213941, April 20, 1984**
Protest of Contract Award by the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts (*Decision*) 123949
- B-213963, July 9, 1984**
SSA Data Communications Contracts With Paradyne Corporation Demonstrate the Need for Improved Management Controls (*Report*) 124854
- B-213963, August 27, 1984**
Additional Information on SSA Management of Data Communications Contracts with Paradyne Corporation (*Report*) 125124
- B-213978, May 22, 1984**
Protest of Allegedly Improper IRS Actions in Amending Solicitation (*Decision*) 124232
- B-213992, January 30, 1984**
FERC Can Improve Its Operational Performance by Broadening and Deepening Current Management Efforts (*Report*) 123309
- B-213995, April 19, 1984**
Protest of GSA Decision To Exclude Carriers From Competition (*Decision*) 123947
- B-214040, August 8, 1984**
Protest of Air Force Rejection of Apparent Low Bid (*Decision*) 124868
- B-214126, February 17, 1984**
The Army Can Do More To Assure War Reserve Funds Are Spent Effectively (*Report*) 123440
- B-214127, January 31, 1984**
Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs' Actions To Improve Processing of Handicapped Employment Discrimination Complaints (*Report*) 123311
- B-214174, February 2, 1984**
Federal and State Initiatives Needed To Improve Productivity and Reduce Administrative Costs of the Aid to Families With Dependent Children and Food Stamp Programs (*Report*) 123347
- B-214185, November 29, 1984**
Information on Data Problems Identified by the Department of Energy With Its Final Entitlements Lists (*Report*) 125989
- B-214207, May 1, 1984**
Expanded Federal Authority Needed To Protect Medicare and Medicaid Patients From Health Practitioners Who Lose Their Licenses (*Report*) 124032
- B-214251, May 23, 1984**
Internal Control Weaknesses at the U.S. Customs Service (*Report*) 124237
- B-214334, February 24, 1984**
Use of Investigative Information by Inspectors General To Identify and Report Internal Control Weaknesses (*Report*) 123496
- B-214395, March 2, 1984**
The FAA Process of Selecting Locations for Automated Flight Service Stations (*Report*) 123550
- B-214401, March 5, 1984**
Examination of Alleged Waste and Mismanagement in Army Test, Measurement, and Diagnostic Equipment Support Group (*Report*) 123556
- B-214403, October 30, 1984**
Allegations of Contract Buy-In and Substantial Cost Increases in the Navy's Standard Automated Financial System (*Report*) 125545
- B-214409.3, December 3, 1984**
Request for Modification of Decision Sustaining Protest of Army Issuance of Delivery Order (*Decision*) 125730
- B-214411, September 6, 1984**
Incomplete Participant Data Affect Reliability of Values Placed by Actuaries on Multiemployer Pension Plans (*Report*) 125081
- B-214420, March 8, 1984**
Electronic Marketing of Agricultural Commodities: An Evolutionary Trend (*Report*) 123647
- B-214511, July 16, 1984**
Navy Did Not Adhere to Procurement Regulations in Acquiring a Computer for Its Ships Parts Control Center (*Report*) 124959
- B-214522, May 4, 1984**
Status of Internal Audit Capabilities of Federal Agencies Without Statutory Inspectors General (*Report*) 124351
- B-214526, March 15, 1984**
Protest of Specifications in RFQ (*Decision*) 123641
- B-214536, November 9, 1984**
Opportunities To Improve the DOD Personal Property Shipping Program (*Report*) 125582
- B-214560, May 14, 1984**
Tax Court Can Reduce Growing Case Backlog and Expenses Through Administrative Improvements (*Report*) 124125
- B-214562, September 10, 1984**
Protest of Exclusion From Competitive Range Under RFP (*Decision*) 125084
- B-214581, March 30, 1984**
An Assessment of Random Audit--A New Department of Labor Program To Improve the Accuracy of Unemployment Insurance Benefit Payments (*Report*) 123788

B-214583, August 3, 1984 Contracting Out Under OMB Circular A-76 at Selected Army and Navy Activities in Virginia (<i>Report</i>)	124888	B-214852, April 9, 1984 Depository Librarians' Views on GPO's Administration of the Depository Library Program (<i>Report</i>)	123921	B-215152, May 21, 1984 Office of Workers' Compensation Programs Needs To Improve Procedures To Help Reduce Payment Errors and Identify Dual Payments (<i>Report</i>)	124193
B-214592, April 3, 1984 Studies of U.S. Universities' Research Equipment Needs Inconclusive (<i>Report</i>)	124347	B-214852, December 17, 1984 Government Printing Office's Depository Library Program (<i>Report</i>)	125853	B-215177, May 23, 1984 The Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund's Financial Operations Were Properly Accounted for and Reported (<i>Report</i>)	124335
B-214637, May 18, 1984 SEC's Efforts To Find Lost and Stolen Securities (<i>Report</i>)	124186	B-214853, August 22, 1984 Comments on S. 774, The Freedom of Information Reform Act (<i>Letter</i>)	125041	B-215186, October 29, 1984 Protest of Proposed Contract Award Under Navy IFB (<i>Decision</i>)	125498
B-214652, December 4, 1984 Protest of EPA Request for Proposals (<i>Decision</i>)	125760	B-214903, May 25, 1984 ASCS Needs Better Information To Adequately Assess Proposed County and State Office Automation (<i>Report</i>)	124258	B-215208, June 11, 1984 Tax Information Safeguard Activity Annual Report (<i>Report</i>)	124866
B-214654, March 27, 1984 Observations on the Army's Manpower Requirements Criteria Program (<i>Report</i>)	124183	B-214958, April 16, 1984 Control of Aircraft Parts at Maintenance Depots (<i>Report</i>)	124182	B-215212, October 22, 1984 Outlook for Expanding the Federal Research in Progress System (<i>Report</i>)	125654
B-214663, May 1, 1984 Information on Shortages in Stamp Stock at the Main Post Office and the Carl Range Station in Irving, Texas (<i>Report</i>)	124041	B-214995, June 1, 1984 Internal Control Weaknesses at GSA (<i>Report</i>)	124306	B-215224, October 9, 1984 Protest of OPM Procurement (<i>Decision</i>)	125330
B-214677, April 13, 1984 Federal Aviation Administration's System for Prioritizing Airport Grants (<i>Report</i>)	124121	B-215017, April 25, 1984 Federal and State Liability for Inaccurate Payments of Food Stamp, AFDC, and SSI Program Benefits (<i>Report</i>)	124028	B-215336, August 17, 1984 Protests of Any Contract Award Under VA Solicitation (<i>Decision</i>)	124952
B-214704, August 21, 1984 Protest of Air Force Refusal To Consider Late Technical Literature (<i>Decision</i>)	124979	B-215048, December 26, 1984 Protest of Marine Corps Issuance of Delivery Order (<i>Decision</i>)	125892	B-215336.2, August 17, 1984 Protests of Any Contract Award Under VA Solicitation (<i>Decision</i>)	124952
B-214722, April 24, 1984 Protests of Army, Defense, and Coast Guard Procurements (<i>Decision</i>)	124000	B-215060, November 20, 1984 Improvements Needed in the Department of the Interior's Acquisition of Geophysical Data (<i>Report</i>)	125907	B-215405, September 7, 1984 OMB Needs To More Fully Consider Government-Wide Implications in Its Telecommunications Initiatives (<i>Report</i>)	125388
B-214748, August 24, 1984 Federal Agencies' Actions To Implement Section 11 of the Stevenson-Wydler Technology Innovation Act of 1980 (<i>Report</i>)	125024	B-215064, August 8, 1984 Information on the Status of Postal Service Costs and Mail Delivery Service Under the Postal Reorganization Act (<i>Report</i>)	125108	B-215485, October 22, 1984 Protest of NSF Contract Award (<i>Decision</i>)	125435
B-214780, June 5, 1984 GAO Observations on the Use of Tax Return Information for Verification in Entitlement Programs (<i>Report</i>)	124423	B-215077, June 11, 1984 GSA's Telecommunications Procurement Program Requires Comprehensive Planning and Management (<i>Report</i>)	124361	B-215564, July 9, 1984 HHS Needs To Determine If Massachusetts' AFDC Program Meets Federal Requirements and, If Not, Take Compliance Action (<i>Report</i>)	124605
B-214786, April 11, 1984 Improving Controls Over Rent and Management Fees at Multifamily Housing Projects (<i>Report</i>)	123943	B-215092, December 31, 1984 Protest of RFP Provisions Issued by Department of Energy (<i>Decision</i>)	125935	B-215589, September 17, 1984 Protest of SBA Brand Name Only Purchase Description (<i>Decision</i>)	125164
B-214788, April 9, 1984 Financial Management Profile: Department of Health and Human Services (<i>Report</i>)	124637	B-215132, August 7, 1984 Comparative Review of Single-Line and Multiline Optical Character Readers Used in Mail Processing (<i>Report</i>)	124865		

B-215589.2, December 10, 1984

Request for Reconsideration of Pro-
test of SBA Requirement (*Decision*) 125801

B-215674, August 8, 1984

Reductions in Coast Guard Leased
Housing Can Achieve Savings (*Re-
port*) 124872

B-215677, August 31, 1984

Privacy Policy Activities of the Na-
tional Telecommunications and In-
formation Administration (*Report*) 125246

B-215774, September 28, 1984

Strong Internal Controls at Service
Delivery Level Will Help Prevent
CETA-Type Fraud and Abuse in
Job Training Partnership Act Pro-
grams (*Report*) 125541

B-215803, September 13, 1984

Delays in Recomputing Social Secu-
rity Benefits Cause Underpayments
for Extended Periods (*Report*) 125199

B-215877, November 26, 1984

Protest of Provisions in Air Force
RFP (*Decision*) 125673

B-215932, July 31, 1984

Observations on a General Services
Administration Report on the Na-
tional Archives and Records Ser-
vice (*Report*) 124873

B-215984, October 1, 1984

Accuracy, Cost, and Users of the
Consolidated Federal Funds Report
(*Report*) 125396

B-215989, October 25, 1984

Excessive Air Force Inventories
Result From Duplicative Spare
Parts Requirements (*Report*) 125449

B-216005, September 28, 1984

Army Has the Opportunity To
Recompete DAS3 Purchases and
Improve Automated Battlefield
Support (*Report*) 125265

B-216029, November 5, 1984

Planning for Navy Shore Facilities:
Improvements Possible (*Report*) 125581

B-216037, August 17, 1984

GAO Concerns Relating to Addi-
tional EQUATE Procurements and
Improvements (*Report*) 124996

B-216267, September 27, 1984

Better Management Controls and
ADP Requirements Analysis Can
Help NASA Lewis Research Cen-
ter (*Report*) 125266

B-216405, September 28, 1984

Protest of Proposed Equipment Order
by ACTION Against GSA Con-
tract (*Decision*) 125278

B-216596.2, November 5, 1984

Protest Alleging Insufficient Bid
Preparation Time (*Decision*) 125557

B-216611, September 28, 1984

Excessive Respiratory Therapy Cost
and Utilization Data Used in Set-
ting Medicare's Prospective Pay-
ment Rates (*Report*) 125312

B-216719, November 28, 1984

Protest of Rejection of Proposal Un-
der Navy RFTP (*Decision*) 125697

B-216899, October 31, 1984

Protest Alleging Insufficient Time To
Respond to Commerce RFP (*Deci-
sion*) 125522

B-216913, November 19, 1984

Navy Material in Suspended, Not
Ready for Issue, Condition Needs
More Management Attention (*Re-
port*) 125613

B-217417, December 26, 1984

Information on Aliens Admitted into
the United States as Nonimmigrant
Workers (*Report*) 125958

Report Number Section**AFMD-82-79**

Survey of the Small Business Admin-
istration's Accounting for Loan
Guaranty Fees (*Report*) 089255

AFMD-83-101

Review of the Audit of the National
Consumer Cooperative Bank's Fi-
nancial Statements for the Year
Ended December 31, 1982 (*Report*) 122615

AFMD-84-7

Internal Controls Can Be Improved
To Help Ensure Proper and
Correct Military Retirement Pay-
ments (*Report*) 123527

AFMD-84-8

FERC Can Improve Its Operational
Performance by Broadening and
Deepening Current Management
Efforts (*Report*) 123309

AFMD-84-10

Control Improvements Needed in Ac-
counting for Treasury Securities at
the Federal Reserve Bank of New
York (*Report*) 124060

AFMD-84-15

Financial Management Profile: De-
partment of Health and Human
Services (*Report*) 124637

AFMD-84-15-1

Technical Summary: Financial Man-
agement Profile of the Office of the
Secretary, HHS (*Other*) 124925

AFMD-84-15-2

Technical Summary: HHS, Budget
Development Systems (*Other*) 124926

AFMD-84-15-3

Technical Summary: Financial Man-
agement Profile of the HHS Cen-
tral Personnel/Payroll System (*Oth-
er*) 124927

AFMD-84-15-4

Technical Summary: HHS, Regional
Accounting System (*Other*) 124928

AFMD-84-15-5

Technical Summary: Financial Man-
agement Profile of the Social Secu-
rity Administration (*Other*) 124929

AFMD-84-15-6

Technical Summary: Financial Man-
agement Profile of the Health Care
Financing Administration (*Other*) 124930

AFMD-84-15-7

Technical Summary: Financial Man-
agement Profile of the Office of
Human Development Services,
HHS (*Other*) 124931

AFMD-84-15-8

Technical Summary: Financial Man-
agement Profile of the Health Re-
sources and Services Administra-
tion (*Other*) 124932

AFMD-84-15-9

Technical Summary: Financial Man-
agement Profile of the Centers for
Disease Control (*Other*) 124933

AFMD-84-15-10 Technical Summary: Financial Management Profile of the National Institutes of Health (<i>Other</i>)	124934	AFMD-84-50 Depository Librarians' Views on GPO's Administration of the Depository Library Program (<i>Report</i>)	123921	GG-8-354 H.R. 13955, the Paperwork and Redtape Reduction Act of 1978 (<i>Letter</i>)	107974
AFMD-84-15-11 Technical Summary: Financial Management Profile of the Food and Drug Administration (<i>Other</i>)	124935	AFMD-84-59 The Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund's Financial Operations Were Properly Accounted for and Reported (<i>Report</i>)	124335	GGD-81-31 Improved Collections Can Reduce Federal and District Government Food Stamp Program Costs (<i>Report</i>)	114830
AFMD-84-18 Federal and State Initiatives Needed To Improve Productivity and Reduce Administrative Costs of the Aid to Families With Dependent Children and Food Stamp Programs (<i>Report</i>)	123347	AFMD-84-62 Strong Internal Controls at Service Delivery Level Will Help Prevent CETA-Type Fraud and Abuse in Job Training Partnership Act Programs (<i>Report</i>)	125541	GGD-82-32 District Could Get More for Urban Renewal Property, but HUD Debt Will Be Repaid (<i>Report</i>)	117731
AFMD-84-22 Review of the Activities of the House Office Equipment Service for the Year Ended June 30, 1983 (<i>Report</i>)	123463	AFMD-84-75 CARE-Based Audit Methodology To Review and Evaluate Agency Accounting and Financial Management Systems (<i>Report</i>)	125337	GGD-84-10 Opportunities To Improve the Postal Ratemaking Process (<i>Report</i>)	124348
AFMD-84-23 Internal Control Weaknesses at the U.S. Customs Service (<i>Report</i>)	124237	AFMD-84-77 Audit Guides To Review Implementation of the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act: The Second Year (<i>Other</i>)	125524	GGD-84-25 Tax Court Can Reduce Growing Case Backlog and Expenses Through Administrative Improvements (<i>Report</i>)	124125
AFMD-84-27 Internal Control Weaknesses at GSA (<i>Report</i>)	124306	AFMD-85-1 Accuracy, Cost, and Users of the Consolidated Federal Funds Report (<i>Report</i>)	125396	GGD-84-42 SEC's Efforts To Find Lost and Stolen Securities (<i>Report</i>)	124186
AFMD-84-30 Withdrawal of Approval of the Federal Election Commission Accounting System (<i>Report</i>)	123202	AFMD-85-5 Survey of Actions To Correct Problems With the Navy's Military Pay System (<i>Report</i>)	125340	GGD-84-57 First Year Implementation of the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act by the GSA (<i>Report</i>)	124210
AFMD-84-38 Use of Investigative Information by Inspectors General To Identify and Report Internal Control Weaknesses (<i>Report</i>)	123496	AFMD-85-9 Progress in Improving Program and Budget Information for Congressional Use (<i>Report</i>)	125339	GGD-84-63 First Year Implementation of the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act by the Department of Justice (<i>Report</i>)	124097
AFMD-84-40 Examination of the Federal Election Commission's Financial Statements for the Year Ended September 30, 1982 (<i>Report</i>)	124591	AFMD-85-19 Government Printing Office's Depository Library Program (<i>Report</i>)	125853	GGD-84-66 First-Year Implementation of the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act by the Department of the Treasury (<i>Report</i>)	124235
AFMD-84-45 Status of Internal Audit Capabilities of Federal Agencies Without Statutory Inspectors General (<i>Report</i>)	124351	FGMSD-77-45 Approval of Revised Design of Accounting System for U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (<i>Letter</i>)	102825	GGD-84-67 Information on Shortages in Stamp Stock at the Main Post Office and the Carl Range Station in Irving, Texas (<i>Report</i>)	124041
AFMD-84-48 Examination of the Financial Statements of the Export-Import Bank of the United States for the Fiscal Year Ended September 30, 1983 (<i>Report</i>)	124124	FGMSD-78-45 Approval of Statement of Accounting Principles and Standards (<i>Letter</i>)	106255	GGD-84-73 Information on the Status of Postal Service Costs and Mail Delivery Service Under the Postal Reorganization Act (<i>Report</i>)	125108
AFMD-84-49 The Federal Government Can Reduce Costs in the Development, Maintenance, and Operation of Civilian Payroll Systems (<i>Report</i>)	124877	GG-8-273 Audit of the Interstate Organized Crime Index (<i>Letter</i>)	106870	GGD-84-78 Comparative Review of Single-Line and Multiline Optical Character Readers Used in Mail Processing (<i>Report</i>)	124865

GGD-84-81

Compilation of GAO's Work on
Tax-Related Activities During 1983
(Report) 124536

GGD-84-83

Tax Information Safeguard Activity
Annual Report (Report) 124866

GGD-84-85

Better Monitoring and Recordkeeping
Systems Needed To Accurately Ac-
count for Juvenile Justice Practices
(Report) 124611

GGD-84-91

Reductions in Coast Guard Leased
Housing Can Achieve Savings (Re-
port) 124872

GGD-84-93

Privacy Policy Activities of the Na-
tional Telecommunications and In-
formation Administration (Report) 125246

GGD-84-95

Observations on a General Services
Administration Report on the Na-
tional Archives and Records Serv-
ice (Report) 124873

GGD-85-4

Observations on the FBI's Interstate
Identification Index (Report) 125400

GGD-85-17

Regional Information Sharing Sys-
tems (Report) 125548

GGD-85-27

Information on Aliens Admitted into
the United States as Nonimmigrant
Workers (Report) 125958

HRD-81-20

Reissuing Tamper-Resistant Cards
Will Not Eliminate Misuse of
Social Security Numbers (Report) 114062

HRD-84-8

HHS Needs To Determine If Mas-
sachusetts' AFDC Program Meets
Federal Requirements and, If Not,
Take Compliance Action (Report) 124605

HRD-84-21

Office of Federal Contract Compli-
ance Programs' Actions To Im-
prove Processing of Handicapped
Employment Discrimination Com-
plaints (Report) 123311

HRD-84-26

An Assessment of Random Audit--A
New Department of Labor Pro-
gram To Improve the Accuracy of
Unemployment Insurance Benefit
Payments (Report) 123788

HRD-84-27

Social Security Could Improve Its
Management and Detection of Pos-
tentitlement Changes by Using Pos-
tadjudicative Appraisal Data (Re-
port) 123594

HRD-84-38

Incomplete Participant Data Affect
Reliability of Values Placed by
Actuaries on Multiemployer Pen-
sion Plans (Report) 125081

HRD-84-45

First-Year Implementation of the
Federal Managers' Financial Integ-
rity Act in the Department of
Labor (Report) 124061

HRD-84-46

First-Year Implementation of the
Federal Managers' Financial Integ-
rity Act in VA (Report) 124023

HRD-84-47

The Department of Health and
Human Services' First-Year Imple-
mentation of the Federal Managers'
Financial Integrity Act (Report) 124123

HRD-84-49

First-Year Implementation of the
Federal Managers' Financial Integ-
rity Act in the Department of Edu-
cation (Report) 124112

HRD-84-53

Expanded Federal Authority Needed
To Protect Medicare and Medicaid
Patients From Health Practitioners
Who Lose Their Licenses (Report) 124032

HRD-84-63

Office of Workers' Compensation
Programs Needs To Improve Pro-
cedures To Help Reduce Payment
Errors and Identify Dual Payments
(Report) 124193

HRD-84-71

Delays in Recomputing Social Secu-
rity Benefits Cause Underpayments
for Extended Periods (Report) 125199

HRD-84-72

GAO Observations on the Use of
Tax Return Information for Verifi-
cation in Entitlement Programs
(Report) 124423

HRD-84-88

Proposal To Improve Identification
and Collection of Medicare Part B
Duplicate Payments (Report) 125007

HRD-84-90

Excessive Respiratory Therapy Cost
and Utilization Data Used in Set-
ting Medicare's Prospective Pay-
ment Rates (Report) 125312

IMTEC-84-3

An Improved Automated System
Would Better Identify Small
Businesses Seeking Federal Con-
tracting Opportunities (Report) 123228

IMTEC-84-7

Air Force Progress in Implementing
the Phase IV Base Level Computer
Replacement Program (Report) 123225

IMTEC-84-9

ADP, IRM & Telecommunications
(Other) 124463

IMTEC-84-10

GSA's Telecommunications Procure-
ment Program Requires Compre-
hensive Planning and Management
(Report) 124361

IMTEC-84-11

ASCS Needs Better Information To
Adequately Assess Proposed
County and State Office Automa-
tion (Report) 124258

IMTEC-84-13

Opportunities for Public Housing
Authorities To Develop and
Acquire Computer-Based Manage-
ment Information Systems (Report) 125270

IMTEC-84-14

Interim Observations on FAA's Plans
for Major Systems Acquisitions
(Report) 124281

IMTEC-84-15

SSA Data Communications Contracts
With Paradyne Corporation Dem-
onstrate the Need for Improved
Management Controls (Report) 124854

IMTEC-84-16

Navy Did Not Adhere to Procure-
ment Regulations in Acquiring a
Computer for Its Ships Parts Con-
trol Center (Report) 124959

IMTEC-84-17

Status of the Statistical Community
After Sustaining Budget Reduc-
tions (Staff Study) 124693

IMTEC-84-20

Army Has the Opportunity To Recompete DAS3 Purchases and Improve Automated Battlefield Support *(Report)* 125265

IMTEC-84-21

OMB Needs To More Fully Consider Government-Wide Implications in Its Telecommunications Initiatives *(Report)* 125388

IMTEC-84-23

Additional Information on SSA Management of Data Communications Contracts with Paradyne Corporation *(Report)* 125124

IMTEC-84-24

OMB Actions Show Progress in Implementing the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1980 *(Report)* 125387

IMTEC-84-25

Better Management Controls and ADP Requirements Analysis Can Help NASA Lewis Research Center *(Report)* 125266

IMTEC-85-1

Better Management of Information Resources at the Bureau of Indian Affairs Could Reduce Waste and Improve Productivity *(Report)* 125865

IMTEC-85-2

Allegations of Contract Buy-In and Substantial Cost Increases in the Navy's Standard Automated Financial System *(Report)* 125545

LCD-77-115

The Department of Agriculture's Allegation Concerning the General Services Administration's Mandatory Requirements Contract for ITEL Disk Drives *(Report)* 102434

NSIAD-84-10

Adequacy of the DOD Response to Its Inspector General's Report on the Use of Vehicles Assigned to the Office of the Secretary of Defense Executive Motor Pool *(Report)* 122883

NSIAD-84-14

The Audit and Inspection Functions at the United States Information Agency Need Management Attention *(Report)* 123829

NSIAD-84-20

Army Could Do More To Reduce Imbalances in Military Occupational Specialties *(Report)* 123439

NSIAD-84-39

The Unit Status and Identity Report (UNITREP) System--What It Does and Does Not Measure *(Staff Study)* 123595

NSIAD-84-42

Defense Logistics Agency Could Better Identify and Cancel Unneeded On-Order Material *(Report)* 123199

NSIAD-84-45

Actions Taken To Improve Management and Reduce Costs of Interior's Aircraft Operations *(Report)* 123974

NSIAD-84-50

The Army Can Do More To Assure War Reserve Funds Are Spent Effectively *(Report)* 123440

NSIAD-84-54

GAO Examination of Air Force's Proposed Multiyear Procurement for DSCS III *(Report)* 123312

NSIAD-84-62

Further Improvements Needed in Navy's Oversight of Contracting for Facilities Construction on Diego Garcia *(Report)* 124211

NSIAD-84-67

Examination of Alleged Waste and Mismanagement in Army Test, Measurement, and Diagnostic Equipment Support Group *(Report)* 123556

NSIAD-84-78

Observations on the Army's Manpower Requirements Criteria Program *(Report)* 124183

NSIAD-84-91

Department of State's First-Year Implementation of the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act *(Report)* 124029

NSIAD-84-92

Department of the Army's First-Year Implementation of the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act *(Report)* 124074

NSIAD-84-93

Department of the Air Force's First-Year Implementation of the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act *(Report)* 124033

NSIAD-84-94

Department of the Navy's First-Year Implementation of the Federal

Managers' Financial Integrity Act *(Report)* 124150

NSIAD-84-98

Department of Defense's First-Year Implementation of the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act *(Report)* 124031

NSIAD-84-99

Defense Logistics Agency's First-Year Implementation of the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act *(Report)* 124030

NSIAD-84-100

National Aeronautics and Space Administration's First-Year Implementation of the Federal Manager's Financial Integrity Act *(Report)* 124038

NSIAD-84-101

Defense Mapping Agency's First-Year Implementation of the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act *(Report)* 124035

NSIAD-84-103

Control of Aircraft Parts at Maintenance Depots *(Report)* 124182

NSIAD-84-105

Licensing Data for Exports to Non-Communist Countries *(Report)* 124107

NSIAD-84-115

Exports of Dual-Use, Nuclear-Related Equipment to the People's Republic of China *(Report)* 124609

NSIAD-84-122

Contracting Out Under OMB Circular A-76 at Selected Army and Navy Activities in Virginia *(Report)* 124888

NSIAD-84-152

GAO Concerns Relating to Additional EQUATE Procurements and Improvements *(Report)* 124996

NSIAD-85-6

Planning for Navy Shore Facilities: Improvements Possible *(Report)* 125581

NSIAD-85-7

Excessive Air Force Inventories Result From Duplicative Spare Parts Requirements *(Report)* 125449

NSIAD-85-10

Opportunities To Improve the DOD Personal Property Shipping Program *(Report)* 125582

NSIAD-85-11

Better Use of Available Data Would Improve Mobilization Planning for Inductees (*Report*) 125416

NSIAD-85-23

Navy Material in Suspended, Not Ready for Issue, Condition Needs More Management Attention (*Report*) 125613

NSIAD-85-30

Accurate and Complete Subcontract Data Needed To Assess International Agreements on Defense Procurement (*Report*) 125941

OACG-84-3

Federal Evaluations (*Other*) 123685

OADPS-84-1

Summaries of Conclusions and Recommendations on the Operations of Civil Departments and Agencies (*Report*) 123713

OADPS-84-2

Summaries of Conclusions and Recommendations on Department of Defense Operations (*Report*) 123710

OCG-84-3

Implementation of the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act: First Year (*Report*) 125049

PART-84-1

Performance Evaluation of the Energy Information Administration (*Report*) 124430

RCED-84-9

Increasing HUD Effectiveness Through Improved Management (*Report*) 123198

RCED-84-42

The Energy Information Administration Needs To Strengthen Its Computer Systems Development Procedures (*Report*) 123180

RCED-84-52

Information on the Department of Energy's Budgets for Enforcing Its Petroleum Allocation and Pricing Regulations and Its Process for Distributing Oil Company Overcharge Refunds (*Report*) 124143

RCED-84-55

Insights Into Major Urban Development Action Grant Issues (*Report*) 123557

RCED-84-60

Federal Agencies' Actions To Implement Section 11 of the Stevenson-Wydler Technology Innovation Act of 1980 (*Report*) 125024

RCED-84-95

The FAA Process of Selecting Locations for Automated Flight Service Stations (*Report*) 123550

RCED-84-96

Congress Needs Better Information on Forest Service's Below-Cost Timber Sales (*Report*) 124538

RCED-84-97

Electronic Marketing of Agricultural Commodities: An Evolutionary Trend (*Report*) 123647

RCED-84-105

Studies of U.S. Universities' Research Equipment Needs Inconclusive (*Report*) 124347

RCED-84-112

Better Wage-Matching Systems and Procedures Would Enhance Food Stamp Program Integrity (*Report*) 125103

RCED-84-116

Information on Relicensing Cases at the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (*Report*) 124282

RCED-84-118

Improving Controls Over Rent and Management Fees at Multifamily Housing Projects (*Report*) 123943

RCED-84-124

Federal Aviation Administration's System for Prioritizing Airport Grants (*Report*) 124121

RCED-84-125

Small Business Administration's First-Year Implementation of the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act (*Report*) 124365

RCED-84-129

Department of Energy's Activities To Limit Distribution of Certain Unclassified Scientific and Technical Information (*Report*) 124076

RCED-84-133

Department of Commerce's First-Year Implementation of the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act (*Report*) 124483

RCED-84-134

The Department of Energy's First-Year Implementation of the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act (*Report*) 124331

RCED-84-136

Department of the Interior's First-Year Implementation of the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act (*Report*) 124460

RCED-84-138

Agriculture's First-Year Implementation of the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act (*Report*) 124477

RCED-84-140

HUD's First-Year Implementation of the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act (*Report*) 124698

RCED-84-141

Transportation's First-Year Implementation of the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act (*Report*) 124658

RCED-84-155

Federal and State Liability for Inaccurate Payments of Food Stamp, AFDC, and SSI Program Benefits (*Report*) 124028

RCED-84-184

Information on Forest Service Below-Cost Timber Sales for National Forests in Colorado (*Report*) 124843

RCED-84-190

Information on Repayment of the Government's Uranium Enrichment Program Costs and Audits of That Program's Financial Statements (*Report*) 124971

RCED-85-3

EPA Could Benefit From Comprehensive Management Information on Superfund Enforcement Actions (*Report*) 125938

RCED-85-9

Improvements Needed in the Department of the Interior's Acquisition of Geophysical Data (*Report*) 125907

RCED-85-15

Outlook for Expanding the Federal Research in Progress System (*Report*) 125654

RCED-85-45

Information on Data Problems Identified by the Department of Energy With Its Final Entitlements Lists (*Report*) 125989

ADP Bibliography

ABBREVIATIONS COMMONLY USED IN THIS PUBLICATION

In general, the abbreviations used in this publication follow the recommended practices of the *U.S. Government Printing Office Style Manual*. However, the abbreviations used in the Law Authority Index follow the recommended rules for abbreviations cited in the latest edition of *A Uniform System of Citation*. The following list includes only those abbreviations that do not coincide with the rules cited in the *U.S. Government Printing Office Style Manual* or *A Uniform System of Citation*.

A.F.R.	Air Force Regulation
A.R.	Army Regulation
A.S.P.R.	Armed Services Procurement Regulation
C.G.	Coast Guard
C.M.M.I.	Civilian Manpower Management Instruction
C.P.R.	Army Civilian Personnel Regulation
D.A.C.	Defense Acquisition Circular
D.A.R.	Defense Acquisition Regulation (formerly A S P R)
DLA	Defense Logistics Agency
DODPM	Department of Defense Military Pay and Allowances Entitlements Manual
DOJ	Department of Justice
D.P.C.	Defense Procurement Circular
FAM	Foreign Affairs Manual
FIPS	Federal Information Processing Standards
FIRM	Federal Information Resources Management Regulation
F.L.R.C.	Federal Labor Relations Council
F.P.M.	Federal Personnel Manual
F.P.M.R.	Federal Personnel Management Regulation
F.P.R.	Federal Procurement Regulation
F.T.R.	Federal Travel Regulation
IAM	Indian Affairs Manual
J.T.R.	Joint Travel Regulation
NAVJAGMAN	Manual of the Judge Advocate General of the Navy
NAVSEAOP	Naval Sea Systems Command Ordnance Publications
N.M.F.C.	National Motor Freight Classification
VAPR	Veterans Administration Procurement Regulation

GAO Division and Office Abbreviations

AFMD³	Accounting and Financial Management Division
CED¹	Community and Economic Development Division
EMD¹	Energy and Minerals Division
FOD	Field Operations Division
FPCD	Federal Personnel and Compensation Division
GGD	General Government Division
HRD	Human Resources Division
ID²	International Division
IMTEC³	Information Management and Technology Division
IPE⁵	Institute for Program Evaluation
LCD³	Logistics and Communications Division
MASAD²	Mission Analysis and Systems Acquisition Division
NSIAD²	National Security and International Affairs Division
OACG	Office of the Assistant Comptroller General
OADPS⁴	Office of Automatic and Data Processing Services
OCG	Office of the Comptroller General
OCR	Office of Congressional Relations
OGC	Office of the General Counsel
OIRM	Office of Information Resources Management
OISS⁴	Office of Information Systems and Services
OLS	Office of Library Services
OP	Office of Policy
OPP	Office of Program Planning
PAD⁵	Program Analysis Division
PART⁶	Professional Audit Review Team
PEMD⁵	Program Evaluation and Methodology Division
PLRD²	Procurement, Logistics, and Readiness Division
PSAD	Procurement and Systems Acquisition Division
RCED¹	Resources, Community, and Economic Development Division

¹**CED** and **EMD** were merged to form **RCED** in October 1982.

²**ID**, **MASAD**, and **PLRD** were merged to form **NSIAD** in May 1983.

³Part of **AFMD** and all of **LCD** were merged to form **IMTEC** in October 1983.

⁴Now **OIRM**.

⁵**IPE** and **PAD** merged to form **PEMD**.

⁶Special-study group.

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SUBJECT INDEX

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CONGRESSIONAL INDEX

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