



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

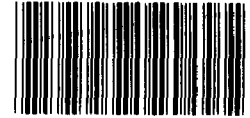
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MISSION ANALYSIS AND
SYSTEMS ACQUISITION DIVISION

B-205886

JANUARY 7, 1982

The Honorable John F. Lehman
The Secretary of the Navy



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Attention: Comptroller of the Navy (NCB-53)

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Subject: Observations on the Navy's New Guided Missile
Destroyer--DDGX (MASAD-82-12)

We have completed our review of the new class guided missile destroyer (DDGX). This letter discusses a matter that could possibly reduce total Navy expenditures in the coming years without adversely affecting the accomplishment of the Navy's mission.

As you know, the design of surface combatants involves numerous tradeoffs that affect their final size, capability, and cost. Your office has identified a design that it feels will meet the postulated threat while being constrained by cost and size considerations. In reviewing the proposed DDGX, we found that most of the DDGX's combat system elements, although quantitatively less capable, are common with that of the CG-47 class cruisers presently under construction. Proposed survivability and fuel efficiency features were stressed in support of the construction of a new hull.

In reviewing Navy assessments of the future operating environment, the projected threat, mission, and required capability of the DDGX, we learned that the Navy is designing the proposed DDGX to accommodate the AN/SQR-19 tactical towed array sonar (TACTAS). We question the need for a TACTAS equipped DDGX.

TACTAS, currently under development, is to provide a passive detection, classification, and tracking capability against enemy submarines. Specifically, it will be used as a long-range "trigger" to enable the LAMPS MK III helicopter and other antisubmarine warfare weapon systems to react for localization of and weapons delivery against the threat. Because the proposed DDGX will not be LAMPS MK III equipped and it will be accompanied by LAMPS MK III equipped surface combatants in the various missions, we

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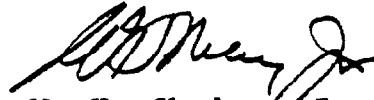
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question whether having TACTAS equipped DDGXs would significantly add to the total antisubmarine warfare capability of a particular naval combat group. According to the recent TACTAS selected acquisition report, the estimated unit cost of TACTAS is \$9.5 million. This includes a provision for inflation to the end of the acquisition. Thus, it would cost approximately \$589 million to equip the entire projected buy of 62 new design DDGX destroyers with this sonar.

We plan to monitor the status of the DDGX program as its development progresses.

We are sending copies of this letter to the Secretary of Defense and the chairmen, House and Senate Committees on Appropriations and Armed Services.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'W. H. Sheley, Jr.', written in a cursive style.

W. H. Sheley, Jr.
Director