



138689

April 1989

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# Reports Issued in April 1989

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## National Defense

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### Defense Reorganization: Progress and Concerns at JCS and Combatant Commands

GAO/NSIAD-89-83, Mar. 1.

GAO examined the implementation of Title II of the Goldwater-Nichols Department of Defense Reorganization Act. The first part of title II strengthened the Joint Chiefs of Staff Chairman's ability to provide military advice, required the Chairman to perform new functions, shifted responsibilities from the JCS as a committee to the Chairman, and created the position of Vice Chairman. The second part defined the combatant commanders' operational responsibilities and provided authority for them to accomplish their missions. The Department of Defense has generally been responsive to the provisions of title II and has made progress in implementing them. GAO analysis indicated that 26 of 33 administrative actions needed to respond to title II were complete. The remaining 7 actions were incomplete usually because related documents had not been revised.

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### Communications: Actions Needed to Ensure Advanced High Frequency Radios Interoperate

GAO/NSIAD-89-84, Mar. 20.

GAO reviewed interoperability and standardization issues resulting from the Department of Defense's efforts to develop advanced high frequency radio systems. Although the establishment of interoperability standards represent progress, improvement is needed in testing and implementing the standards. For instance, the Air Force Automatic Communications Processor and the Army Short-Term Antijam systems will begin production in 1989, but no independent interoperability testing is planned between the two systems to determine whether the antijam standard was correctly implemented. Informal testing by the contractors revealed the systems may not interoperate in the antijam mode. The DOD programs developing antijam, automatic link establishment equipment, and advanced modems represent the first generation of advanced features being added to high frequency radios. If these systems are acquired before the standards are incorporated and tested, there is no assurance they will be interoperable, and any changes required to make them interoperable would likely result in additional retrofit costs.

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**Honduras:  
U.S. Military Presence at  
Soto Cano Air Base**

GAO/NSIAD-89-107BR, Mar. 21.

U.S. military personnel have been stationed at Soto Cano Air Base, Honduras, since August 1983 when the headquarters for Joint Task Force 11 (subsequently renamed Joint Task Force-Bravo) was established for what the Department of Defense said would be a temporary mission. Although the number of personnel assigned to has remained relatively constant at about 1,100, the mission has expanded, logistic capabilities have improved, and facilities have been enhanced. The overall cost of maintaining a military presence in Soto Cano is approximately \$25 million per year.

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**Military Child Care:  
Extensive, Diverse, and  
Growing**

GAO/HRD-89-3, Mar. 8.

In the military, the demand for child care services has exceeded the supply at most military bases. Military child care is provided on installations primarily through child development centers and family day care homes. Care in a center is given by trained caregivers on a fee-for-service basis. Care in family day care homes is given in government housing, usually by a trained military spouse, at a rate agreed to by the caregiver and the families needing care. The military provides most of its child care at child development centers, which are designed to (1) offer care at a lower cost than private sector care and at more convenient locations and (2) provide services that may not be available in the private sector. As of February 9, 1988, child development centers and family day care homes had the combined capacity to care for about 62,000 child at the same time, an 82-percent increase over the end of FY 1984. In spite of the growth, centers cannot currently meet demand. Of the installations GAO surveyed, 185 maintained waiting lists of interested parents. These lists contained the names of about 24,700 children.

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**Battlefield Automation:  
Field Artillery Data  
Systems Acquisition  
Problems and Budget  
Impacts**

GAO/NSIAD-89-95BR, Mar. 28.

The Army's Advanced Field Artillery Tactical Data System program has experienced problems that delayed the completion of the Concept Evaluation Phase by over 2 years. The contractor, Magnavox, and the Army believe that corrective actions which have been taken should reduce the risk of further delays in the Concept Evaluation Phase. The Army has complied with both congressional directions to field light Tactical Fire Direction System and cost limits for the AFATDS Concept Evaluation Phase.

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**Financial Reporting:  
Navy's 1986 Consolidated  
Report on Financial  
Position Is Unreliable**

Acc. No. 138375 (GAO/AFMD-89-18), Apr. 6.

For FY 1986, Navy did not effectively control the preparation and consolidation of its Reports on Financial Position. The consolidated report did not include a total of approximately \$58 billion in assets. In addition, the amount it reported for property was substantially lower than that included in a separate annual property report required by Congress. Furthermore, the report did not comply with two GAO accounting standards and Treasury Financial Manual requirements. As a result, the consolidated financial statements are understated and unreliable. These problems could be minimized if Navy developed guidance for complying with Treasury's reporting requirements, supervised the preparation of financial statements more closely, performed reconciliations, and compared financial reports with their supporting schedules.

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**Submarine Combat  
System:  
Technical Challenges  
Confronting Navy's  
Seawolf AN/BSY-2  
Development**

GAO/IMTEC-89-35, Mar. 13.

The AN/BSY-2 combat system for the new SSN-21 Seawolf attack submarine is an advanced computer system designed to detect, classify, track, and launch weapons at enemy subsurface, surface, and land targets. The Navy faces significant challenges to meet the performance requirements within the tight time frames and budget established. GAO identified several areas to date where the Navy's early and continuing management attention should be focused if the Navy is going to successfully meet these challenges. These areas include (1) developing and integrating a massive amount of software, most of which is planned to be written in a relatively new computer language for which there is a shortage of experienced programmers; (2) designing a system with sufficient reliability to ensure mission needs are met; (3) developing, refining, and testing a model to accurately predict system performance; (4) ensuring there is sufficient time for the government to witness software testing and to resolve identified problems; (5) ensuring that independent verification and validation assessments are performed on the software development effort.

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**Marine Corps Child Care:  
User Fee Increases at  
Parris Island and Beaufort  
Installations**

GAO/HRD-89-74, Mar. 24.

In the spring of 1988, weekly fees for one child at the Marine Corps Recruit Depot, Parris Island, South Carolina, and the Marine Corps Air Station, Beaufort, South Carolina, child care centers ranged from \$22 to \$24 and \$24 to \$29, respectively, depending on the military parent's

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rank. During 1988 both child care centers experience significant pressures to increase user fees. These pressures resulted primarily from a combination of several factors: (1) directives from Marine Corps headquarters to cover more nonappropriated costs with user fees, (2) reduced availability of savings because they had been used to support nonappropriated funds subsidies to child care and other morale, welfare, and recreation activities, (3) cuts in FY 1988 morale, welfare, and recreation appropriations, and (4) increased manpower and operations expenses partly due to an overall Marine Corps initiative to improve the quality of child care. In 1988, both installations found it necessary to raise fees. The increased weekly child care fees at Parris Island range from \$26 to \$45 and in Beaufort from \$36 to \$40.

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**DOD Contracting:  
Air Force and Navy  
Maintenance of Training  
Aircraft and Training  
Equipment**

GAO/NSIAD-89-114, Mar. 20.

Office of Management and Budget Circular A-76 requires executive branch agencies to procure commercial services from the private sector when the same quality work can be accomplished at less cost than government operation. Cost comparisons must be made to determine whether the commercial activities should be performed in-house using government personnel or under contract by commercial sources. After such cost comparisons, the Air Force converted the maintenance of training support equipment to contractor operations at Lowery AFB in May 1988 and the maintenance of training aircraft at Columbus AFB in April 1988. As part of two consolidated contracts involving a number of bases, the Navy converted the maintenance of T-2 and A-4 training aircraft to contractor operations at Meridian NAS in August 1985 and April 1988, respectively. It appears that the projected savings of \$3.4 million at Lowry AFB and most of the \$52.6 million projected for the two consolidated Navy contracts will be realized. However, because of less-than-satisfactory contractor performance, Columbus AFB is not likely to achieve the \$4.2 million projected savings and could possibly incur additional costs beyond those initially estimated for in-house maintenance.

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**ICBM Modernization:  
Availability Problems and  
Flight Test Delays in  
Peacekeeper Program**

GAO/NSIAD-89-105, Mar. 9.

The original Peacekeeper missile plan was based on the need to deploy Peacekeepers in silos and the need for operational test and evaluation flight test programs scheduled to start in early 1987. However, the operation test and evaluation program has been changed to make sufficient

missiles available to meet the scheduled full operational capability milestone for the Peacekeeper in Minuteman silo program. The Air Force has not yet begun its operational test and evaluation program, which is designed to confirm that the weapon system will work in its intended environment. In December 1988 when the Air Force declared full operational capability, it met its goal for having a sufficient number of missile guidance and control sets to support a 50 Peacekeeper missile force. However, maintaining that inventory will be challenging and will depend upon (1) increasing the number of missile guidance and control sets available for operational use, (2) increasing the number of serviceable inertial measurement units, (3) improving the reliability of the inertial measurement units components, and/or (4) sustaining missile guidance and control sets repair time that is substantially better than the time that has been generally experienced in the past. Air Force officials agree with the assessment of the challenges they face but they are confident that their goals will continue to be met.

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**Aircrew Training:  
Developing Objective Data  
to Support Flying Hour  
Programs**

GAO/NSIAD-89-99, Mar. 9.

The Department of Defense and the Air Force have efforts underway or planned to accumulate and analyze objective data and relate the data to flying hour requirements. For FY 1988 the Air Force programmed 1,328,000 flying hours for continuation training, at a cost of about \$1.5 billion. DOD and Air Force efforts, in addition to helping identify cost-effective levels of flying hours, could have implications for training pilots and maintaining combat capability. Therefore, committing needed resources to their completion is important because of their potential to improve management and oversight of the flying hour programs significantly.

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**Space Defense:  
Management and  
Technical Problems Delay  
Operations Center  
Acquisition**

Acc. No. 138460 (GAO/IMTEC-89-18), Apr. 20.

The Air Force's Space Defense Operations Center program has been marked by management problems, unrealized expectations, and program delays. The Air Force has invested over \$235 million in a system that is now more than 4 years behind schedule and far from meeting its required operational capability. At the root of SPADOC's technical problems is the Air Force's attempt to achieve controlled mode security. Software development tasks designed to achieve this form of multilevel

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security are time-consuming, technically demanding, and still undergoing much research and development. Throughout 5 years of development, technical contractors warned the Air Force that the program would have difficulty achieving its requirements. The Air Force continued to press forward with the program despite the warnings, consistently deferring problem resolution to later development phases.

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**Air Force Logistics:  
Conflict of Interest in  
Procurement of C-5 Crash  
Damage Kits**

GAO/NSIAD-89-109, Apr. 12.

The allegation is that the Colonel, who was Chief of the Airlift Aircraft Systems Program Management Division at the San Antonio Air Logistics Center, contacted Lockheed Aeronautical Systems Company about future employment before his retirement, creating a potential conflict of interest. This allegation also raised concerns that the Colonel's approval of the requirement for the C-5 crash kits on April 25, 1986, was influenced by prospects of future employment at Lockheed, the manufacturer of the kits. GAO did not find any evidence to indicate that the Colonel's official actions regarding the purchase of kits for the C-5 aircraft were influenced by the contacts with Lockheed. His major involvement with the kit procurement occurred before any identified contacts with Lockheed about employment.

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**Contract Pricing:  
Material Prices Overstated  
on GBU-15 Bomb Weapon  
System**

GAO/NSIAD-89-125, Apr. 27.

GAO reviewed material prices under the firm fixed-price contract awarded to Rockwell International Corporation, Missile Systems Division, Duluth, Georgia. The contract is for the production of module sets for the GBU-15 Modular Guided Weapon System, a precision guided bomb capable of destroying various targets. Rockwell did not disclose accurate, complete, and current cost or pricing data for 13 material items. The nondisclosures cause the contract to be overpriced by \$5,580,724, including overhead, profit, and warranty costs. GAO recommends that the Commander, Armament Division, U.S. Air Force Systems Command, initiate action to recover the overstated material prices from Rockwell.



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## International Affairs

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### Foreign Assistance: Administration of Funds for the International Fund for Ireland

Acc. No. 138326 (GAO/NSIAD-89-53), Apr. 3.

The International Fund for Ireland was established to promote economic and social reconstruction and development in Northern Ireland and Ireland by stimulating private investment and enterprise, supplementing public programs, and encouraging voluntary efforts. The Agency for International Development monitors the activities and administration of contributions to the Fund. AID is unable to determine how U.S. contributions and the activities of the Fund contribute to the stated goals. AID's ability to do so has been influenced by (1) limited project commitments and disbursements necessary to effect accomplishments, (2) inherent problems in measuring the degree of social change, and (3) the absence of adequate criteria to measure social change. AID is developing ways to make such measurements.

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### Foreign AID: Issues Concerning U.S. University Participation

Acc. No. 138378 (GAO/NSIAD-89-38), Apr. 11.

Title XII, the 1975 Famine Prevention and Freedom from Hunger Amendment to the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, as amended, encourages the Agency for International Development to draw on the resources of U.S. land-grant, sea-grant, and other universities in implementing its international agricultural development programs. The number of title XII projects, while fluctuating from year to year, has declined over the past 6 years, from a peak of 42 new starts in 1982 to 14 in 1987 and 8 in 1988. AID and Board for International Food and Agricultural Development officials attribute the decline to budgetary issues, changing congressional and AID priorities, and the reluctance of some AID staff to use title XII universities. This reluctance is due, in part, to negative perceptions of university performance and commitment. Furthermore, AID and the Board, after 13 years, have yet to fulfill some legislative and administrative responsibilities aimed at facilitating the implementation of the title XII mandate. For example, neither AID nor the Board accurately track title XII activities. Also, annual reports to Congress, required by legislation, have not been submitted since 1984. Among other things, AID and the Board need to (1) improve agency tracking and reporting capabilities for title XII project activities and (2) re-institute the legislatively required annual reports to Congress.

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**Israel:  
Use of U.S.-Manufactured  
Tear Gas in the Occupied  
Territories**

Acc. No. 138412 (GAO/NSIAD-89-128), Apr. 13.

During the early part of 1988, various claims were made to the Department of State that the Israeli Defense Forces had misused U.S.-manufactured tear gas designed for outdoor use by throwing it into enclosed spaces, such as mosques, hospitals, and private homes or by aiming it directly into crowds. GAO reviewed medical evidence and spoke to experts and generally concluded that when properly used, tear gas is one of the most humane forms of riot control. Also, in its 1988 report, the Physicians for Human Rights noted that it had conducted a fact-finding trip in the occupied territories and could not confirm that deaths were linked to tear gas inhalation. The State Department has reviewed specific allegations of Israeli Defense Forces misuse of tear gas in the occupied territories and has concluded that there are insufficient evidence to suspend the export of tear gas and related articles.

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**International Trade:  
Long-Term Bilateral Grain  
Agreements and Grain  
Countertrade**

Acc. No. 138428 (GAO/NSIAD-89-91), Apr. 14.

GAO reviewed two types of alternative international grain trading practices: long-term bilateral grain agreements and countertrade. LBGAS are agreements between two countries specifying the minimum and maximum quantity of a grain to be traded over a certain period of time. Countertrade refers to a commitment imposed as a condition of purchase by the importer on the exporter and generally involves the exchange of goods and/or services. Officials of grain-trading nations around the world said countries enter into LBGAS for various reasons, which include (1) limiting uncertainty and stabilizing markets, (2) facilitating planning and permitting diversification of suppliers, (3) gaining information on and access to markets, and (4) strengthening political and economic ties. On the other hand, some countries recognize countertrade as a tool to export surplus goods or to create new markets for their goods while importing needed products and conserving foreign exchange reserves.

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## Science, Space, and Technology

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### Biotechnology: Backlog of Patent Applications

GAO/RCED-89-120BR, Apr. 12.

Concern was raised about the large backlog of unprocessed biotechnology patent applications at the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. The long delays impede the development of important biotechnological inventions. GAO found the following: (1) actions are underway to streamline the biotechnology patent application process, (2) to attract and retain qualified biotechnology patent examiners, the Patent Office has obtained from the Office of Personnel Management special engineering pay rates and greater hiring authority to correct prior delays in hiring examiners, (3) the total pendency period for biotechnology patent applications continues to be much longer than that of any other technology, and (4) longer-than-average delays are typical across the full spectrum of biotechnology developments, but because of smaller backlogs, certain areas, such as biotechnology equipment, are acted upon more quickly by the examiners.

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## Energy

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### Fossil Fuels: Commercializing Clean Coal Technologies

GAO/RCED-89-80, Mar. 29.

The Department of Energy's Clean Coal Technology program goal is to expand the use of coal in an environmentally safe manner by contributing to the cost of projects demonstrating the commercial applications of emerging clean coal technologies. DOE has conducted two solicitations for demonstration project proposals and is planning a third solicitation by May 1989. Congress has appropriated \$400 million for the first solicitation, or round one, \$575 million for round two, and \$575 million for round three, for a total of \$1.55 billion. DOE has experienced difficulties in negotiating cooperative agreements with round-one project sponsors, which delayed completing agreements for five projects and resulted in the termination of negotiations for three projects. Among other things, negotiations were delayed because of (1) sponsors' reluctance to agree to repay the federal share of project costs should the technology become

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commercialized and (2) sponsors' and other project participants' reluctance to release proprietary data to DOE.

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**Nuclear Science:  
Effect of Conversion of  
Washington Nuclear Plant  
No. 1 on Debt and Electric  
Rates**

GAO/RCED-89-88FS, Mar. 9.

This fact sheet answers specific questions about the Department of Energy's possible acquisition and conversion of a partially completed commercial nuclear power plant to a nuclear materials production facility. The nuclear power plant is the Washington Nuclear Plant #1 owned by the Washington Public Power Supply System and is located on DOE's Hanford Reservation near Richland, Washington.

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**Strategic Petroleum  
Reserves:  
Analysis of Alternative  
Financing Methods**

GAO/RCED-89-103, Mar. 16.

GAO examined approximately 40 alternative, nontraditional methods of acquiring oil for the Strategic Petroleum Reserve. The alternatives identified were compared to the current method of acquiring and financing SPR oil through congressional appropriations that are reported in the budget. When compared to the conventional method of financing oil, most of the proposals have certain benefits or advantages, but all of them have economic or other disadvantages. For example, some proposals would reduce the budget deficit by increasing government revenues but would raise prices to the consumer. Other proposals would reduce short-term expenditures (asset sales, leasing oil or indexed bonds). However, the proposals might increase long-term expenditures by more than the initial reduction in outlays.

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**Energy Management:  
States' Use of Oil  
Overcharge Funds for  
Legal Expenses**

GAO/RCED-89-60, Mar. 21.

Between March 1986 and March 1988, states received about \$3 billion from three oil overcharge cases—the Exxon decision, the Stripper Well settlement, and the Diamond Shamrock settlement—to reimburse customers who were victims of oil overcharges. As of March 31, 1988, states reported that they had incurred legal expenses of about \$15.4 million on oil overcharge cases. Nearly \$11.3 million of these expenses has been or will be paid from Stripper Well and Diamond Shamrock funds, while about \$4 million will be paid from state appropriated funds. The Department of Energy has not issued clear and consistent guidance to the states on whether the use of Stripper Well and Diamond Shamrock funds for Exxon legal expenses is allowable. Nineteen states reported

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that they had used such funds for Exxon legal expenses. The use of these funds for Exxon legal expenses is not specifically prohibited by either of the settlement agreements.

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**Energy Management:  
DOE's Plan to Transfer  
Fire Department  
Operations to Los Alamos  
County**

GAO/RCED-89-89, Apr. 5.

GAO was asked to review the legality of the Department of Energy's transferring its responsibility for operating the Los Alamos, New Mexico, fire department to the county of Los Alamos. Since 1948, the fire department—which serves both the Los Alamos National Laboratory and the residential and commercial community—has been funded and managed by the federal government and staffed with federal employees. Some the findings are that (1) DOE is authorized to contract for transfer of the fire department operations; (2) DOE has not made specific provisions to ensure that the county will assume financial responsibility for its share of the operating costs; and (3) the views of fire fighters are divided—some are against it, and some are in favor of it.

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**Canadian Power Imports:  
Update on Electricity  
Imports in the Northeast**

GAO/RCED-89-51, Mar. 3.

For a number of years U.S. utilities have purchased electricity from Canadian utilities. Between January 1986 and December 1988, northeastern U.S. utilities had signed two contracts and one preliminary agreement for longer term firm power with Hydro-Quebec, a Canadian provincial utility. These purchases have saved U.S. consumers hundreds of millions of dollars.

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**Electricity Supply:  
What Can Be Done to  
Revive the Nuclear  
Option?**

GAO/RCED-89-67, Mar. 23.

In the 1960s and early 1970s, nuclear power plants offered economic and environmental advantages over coal plants; most were completed on time and at reasonable cost and still operate today, providing economical, reliable electricity. In the 1970s, a series of events, beginning with the 1973-74 recession and culminating with the Three Mile Island accident, adversely affected the nuclear industry. According to experts, reviving the nuclear option requires increased public acceptance and reduced financial risks. The public's concerns about safety need to be allayed through the safe, efficient operation of current plants and improved designs. In addition, escalating costs—stemming in part from

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an outmoded licensing process and unanticipated actions by state agencies and public interest groups—must be alleviated. Utility executives says progress toward finding a permanent disposal site for nuclear waste is also needed.

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## Natural Resources

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### Surface Mining: Office of Surface Mining Response to Management Review Recommendations

GAO/RCED-89-82FS, Feb. 22.

This fact sheet presents the current status, as of February 13, 1989, of the Department of the Interior's Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement's action on recommendations made in a 1985 report. In summary, GAO found that for the remaining 65 task force recommendations, OSMRE has (1) taken the recommended action in 41 cases; (2) taken alternative corrective action in response to 8 recommendations; (3) taken action to implement portions of 3 recommendations; (4) begun, but not completed, action on 3 recommendations; and (5) taken no action to implement 10 recommendations.

### Gasoline Marketing: States' Programs for Gasoline Octane Testing

GAO/RCED-89-91FS, Apr. 12.

This fact sheet provides information on states' gasoline octane testing programs. Questionnaires were sent to 56 state officials, of which 51 responded. Twenty states responded that they have gasoline octane testing programs, and 7 others responded that, while they do not have a testing program, they test octane in response to complaints. Officials from 13 states that do not have an octane testing program responded that they plan to recommend a program within 3 years primarily because of consumer complaints. Eleven states indicated that octane mislabeling is a problem in their states. Eighteen states responded that octane mislabeling is not a problem. Twenty-one responded that they had no basis to judge if there is a problem.

### Forest Service: Status of the All-Resource Cost Reporting Project

GAO/AFMD-89-65, Apr. 14.

According to the project work plan, the Forest Service's schedule of developing the all-resource cost reporting system is to (1) complete an outline of the system design by September 30, 1989; (2) initiate testing

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of the system presented in the outline; and (3) decide whether to fully implement the system after reviewing the preliminary results of testing in FY 1990. To date, the project is on schedule, and a completed outline should be ready for testing as planned.

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## Agriculture

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### Agriculture: Progress Made Toward Goals of 1985 Farm Bill

GAO/RCED-89-76BR, Mar. 30.

In the Food Security Act of 1985, commonly known as the 1985 farm bill, price and income support and export programs were designed to help stabilize the farm economy, enhance U.S. agricultural exports, and prevent the buildup of large surplus stocks. Progress has been made toward the major goals of the farm bill. Most economic indicators have turned positive, exports have increased, and stock levels have generally lowered.

### Pesticides: Economic Research Service's Analyses of Proposed EPA Actions

GAO/RCED-89-75BR, Mar. 14.

GAO was asked to review how and to what extent the Economic Research Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, has used the funds earmarked for analysis on any Environmental Protection Agency proposed action affecting food production and the agricultural economy. ERS' analyses of EPA pesticide regulatory proposals, which include EPA's analyses of the proposals' impact on the agricultural economy, are carried out as part of USDA's National Agricultural Pesticide Impact Assessment Program. ERS estimated that for FYs 1985 through 1988 its expenditures relating to EPA proposals ranged from \$550,000 to \$650,000 annually and totaled \$2.4 million.

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## Commerce and Housing Credit

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### Troubled Thrifts: Bank Board Use of Enforcement Actions

GAO/GGD-89-68BR, Apr. 13.

This briefing report provides preliminary results of GAO's work for the Committee on the Federal Home Loan Bank Board's supervision of near-failing thrifts. GAO is presently analyzing the supervisory history of near-failing thrifts and reviewing in detail the histories of 47 thrifts in three FHLBB System Districts. Preliminary work on these 47 thrifts indicates that (1) for over half of the thrifts in the three district, no formal enforcement actions were taken, and in one district, 24 of 29 near-failing thrifts had no history of formal actions against them; (2) when formal enforcement actions were taken against the near-failing thrifts, many of the available tools, such as civil money penalties, were not used; (3) enforcement actions that were taken were often not effective in correcting identified violations and preventing further financial deterioration; and (4) the elapsed time between identification of a need for formal enforcement action and implementation of the action was often unduly lengthy.

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### Federal Statistics: Merchandise Trade Statistics: Some Observations

GAO/OCE-89-1BR, Apr. 21.

GAO undertook a review of how the Nation's trade data are collected and compiled. For years, federal agencies have used the merchandise trade data to assess import duties, administer tariffs and quotas, implement export controls for national security and foreign policy purposes, monitor effects of trade policies, and support trade negotiations. The data have also been essential for computing components of the Nation's balance of payment accounts and the gross national product. Some of GAO's observations are as follows: (1) trade balances are inherently volatile; (2) U.S. monthly trade statistics are published on a less timely basis than those of Japan, Canada, the United Kingdom, and France but on a more timely basis than West Germany; and (3) lack of substantial verification of export documents and the absence of an adequate mechanism to assure complete and timely reporting of exports diminish the accuracy of the export data.



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## Transportation

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### Computer Procurement: FAA's \$1.5-Billion Computer Resources Nucleus Project

GAO/IMTEC-89-44FS, Mar. 31.

In February 1989, the Federal Aviation Administration issued a request for proposals for its largest and most complex general purpose data-processing acquisition to date: the Computer Resources Nucleus project. This \$1.5 billion project is intended to meet the agency's general purpose data-processing needs for up to 10 years in the following mission and program areas: airport and aviation activity; air traffic control and air-space; aviation safety; national airspace system facilities; financial, materiel, and human resources; and management support. CORN is intended to cover an initial 5-year implementation period, followed by five 1-year renewals. The agency anticipates that the contract will be awarded in late September 1989.

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### FAA Training: Continued Improvements Needed in FAA's Controller Field Training Program

GAO/HRD-89-83, Mar. 29.

The Federal Aviation Administration is responsible for training over 16,000 air traffic controllers annually at about 240 field facilities. GAO found that (1) on-the-job training provided to developmental controllers at field facilities is not standardized despite recent FAA efforts to make it more uniform, (2) full performance level controllers are receiving only limited amounts of training to maintain and upgrade their knowledge and skills, (3) FAA does not maintain sufficient data to oversee controller field training, and (4) FAA has not evaluated contractor-provided training at route centers. FAA recognizes the need to improve its field training programs, and in August 1988, a series of initiatives was announced to improve controller training. While these initiatives should strengthen FAA's training programs, additional changes are needed to improve both FAA's implementation and oversight of controller field training.

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### Aviation Research: Information of FAA's Research, Engineering, and Development Programs

GAO/RCED-89-122FS, Apr. 12.

The objective of the Federal Aviation Administration's Research, Engineering, and Development program is to improve the Nation's air transportation system by increasing its safety, productivity, and capacity to meet the expected air traffic demands of the future. FAA has obligated \$158 million, \$150 million, and an estimated \$165 million for RE&D in

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FYs 1987 to 1989, respectively. This fact sheet provides tabular information of the funding, staffing, and scheduling for FAA's RE&D subprograms.

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**Aviation Safety:  
FAA Action Plan for  
Chicago O'Hare  
International Airport**

GAO/RCED-89-114, Apr. 19.

Recruiting, retaining, and training controllers at Chicago O'Hare International Airport have been long-standing problems, and much of the equipment that supports operations is aging or difficult to maintain. The Federal Aviation Administration is making a concerted effort to improve the situation, and its actions have resulted in some immediate relief to O'Hare's personnel problems. However, the impact of all action plan initiatives to improve staffing, training, and equipment will not be known for some time.

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**Social Services**

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**Training Programs:  
Information on Fiscal  
Years 1989 and 1990  
Appropriations**

Acc. No. 138422 (GAO/HRD-89-71FS), Apr. 14.

This fact sheet provides data on 45 programs in the federal government that have a significant occupational training component. These programs span six executive agencies—the Departments of Labor, Education, Health and Human Services, Veterans Affairs, Agriculture, and Transportation. The 45 programs have total FY 1989 funding of \$16.7 billion, although several of the programs include significant funding for other activities. The FY 1990 budget requests \$16.3 billion for 38 of these programs; there is no budget request for the other 7 programs. The Department of Education operates the most programs, 21, with FY 1989 funding of about \$11.1 billion.

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**Age Discrimination:  
Use of Waivers by Large  
Companies Offering Exit  
Incentives to Employees**

GAO/HRD-89-87, Apr. 18.

GAO reviewed Fortune 100 companies' use of waivers to release employees from certain legal claims under the Age Discrimination in Employment Act of 1967 in special short-term exit incentive programs offered employees. These programs are designed to encourage employees' early departure through some form of financial incentive. About 80 percent of Fortune 100 companies sponsored an exit incentive program at least

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once during 1979 through 1988. About 30 percent of these companies required their employees to sign a waiver as a condition for receiving enhanced benefits. Overall, waiver usage increased during the years 1985 through 1988 and was highest in 1987 and 1988, when 35 percent of the companies with exit incentives used them. Officials from companies that required waivers said such a practice protected the company from lawsuits. Companies not using waivers contended that they were unnecessary because of the voluntary nature of exit incentive programs and the adverse effect that waivers would have on employee relations.

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## Health

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### Occupational Safety & Health: California's Resumption of Enforcement Responsibility in the Private Sector

GAO/HRD-89-82, Apr. 17.

This report presents information on California's resumption of the occupational safety and health enforcement program in the private sector. The federal government has administered the California program since July 1987, when the state terminated its enforcement responsibility. To assume responsibility for administering its own program, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration requires a state to submit a detailed plan for assuring workers' safety and health through appropriate legislation and standard-setting and enforcement procedures, adequate funding, and a sufficient number of competent enforcement personnel. Before reinstating the California program, the most critical condition that must be met is an adequate number of qualified enforcement staff. The state has authorized 214 positions, of which 190 are for private sector enforcement. In January 1989, as start-up costs for its private sector program, California appropriated about \$8.5 million for the rest of its current fiscal year (which ends on June 30, 1989). To ensure the effectiveness of California's reinstated enforcement program in the private sector, OSHA officials have said they will monitor and evaluate the state's progress in adopting state safety and health standards that are at least as effective as OSHA's.

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**U.S. Employee Health  
Benefits:  
Independent Agencies  
Offering Their Own Health  
Plans**

GAO/HRD-89-49, Mar. 2.

Seven independent U.S. government agencies that currently offer health plans other than those offered under the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program were identified. These agencies are the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, Farm Credit Administration, Overseas Private Investment Corporation, Federal Reserve Board, and Federal Home Loan Bank Board. According to officials at these agencies, not all of their employees participate in the alternative health plans primarily because they either prefer membership in a health maintenance organization available through FEHBP or receive health insurance coverage under their spouse's policy.

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**U.S. Employees Health  
Benefits:  
Rebate for Duplicate  
Medicare Coverage**

GAO/HRD-89-58, Mar. 23.

The Medicare Catastrophic Coverage Act of 1988 extends catastrophic insurance protection to about 33 million elderly and disabled beneficiaries, including Medicare-eligible federal retirees. Many of these federal retirees are also enrolled in the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program. To finance the cost of the new catastrophic benefits, additional Medicare premiums were imposed. Because federal employees already pay premiums to have many of these medical costs covered under FEHBP, the Office of Personnel Management was directed to reduce FEHBP premiums to prevent federal retirees from paying twice for the same benefits.

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**Medical ADP Systems:  
Composite Health Care  
System Operational Tests  
Extended**

Acc. No. 138379 (GAO/IMTEC-89-30), Apr. 10.

The Department of Defense's Composite Health Care System is a state-of-the-art, integrated medical information system that DOD is acquiring at an estimated cost of \$1.1 billion for use in its 767 medical treatment facilities worldwide. DOD is over 6 months behind schedule in deploying CHCS to test hospitals. Project start-up problems encountered during initial systems implementation and DOD's establishment of a contractor work load greater than that defined in its request led to the schedule delay. The extent to which the nine hospitals serving as the operational test and evaluation sites are representative of the population of Defense medical facilities is questionable for two reasons. First, the test sites do not include the largest military hospitals, where attaining satisfactory system performance is expected to be difficult but where benefits are expected to be the greatest. Second, the sites do not include the smaller

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hospitals, which comprise the majority of DOD medical treatment facilities and at which system benefits are less apparent. CHCS program managers share these concerns and have developed plans for corrective actions, which include improving the system's implementation process, lengthening the test period by 8 months, and adding larger and smaller hospitals to the test site mix.

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**Social Security:  
Selective Face-To-Face  
Interviews With Disability  
Claimants Could Reduce  
Appeals**

GAO/HRD-89-22, Apr. 20.

Nearly two-thirds of the people who apply to the Social Security Administration for disability benefits are initially denied them. The state Disability Determination Service makes the initial disability determinations for claimants. Many appeal this decision, asking for reconsideration; some go on appealing to an administrative law judge. ALJs reverse DDS decisions in over 60 percent of the cases they decide, often disagreeing with DDS determinations about claimants' remaining ability to work. Some of these appeals might be avoided if DDS interviewed selected claimants at the reconsideration stage. To date, the limited experience with face-to-face interviews at the reconsideration stage suggests that these interviews improve decisional quality and resolve some cases that would otherwise become appeals to ALJs.

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**Mental Health:  
Funds Needed for Future  
Planning Activities**

GAO/HRD-89-94, Apr. 28.

GAO was asked to assess whether additional federal funds are needed to assist states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. territories in completing the development of the comprehensive mental health services plan required by law. In order to make an assessment, GAO contacted officials in 12 states (California, Louisiana, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, and Virginia), Puerto Rico, and the District of Columbia. Officials in all places contacted said that taken together, monies allocated in FY 1988 and those received in FY 1989 should be sufficient to develop the current plans by the September 30, 1989, due date. However, several noted that if plans submitted are not approved, they would need additional funds to address the Department of Housing and Human Services' concerns. GAO had no basis on which to conclude whether Congress should appropriate additional funds for state activities required by law. However, sufficient federal funds will be needed for HHS to fulfill its requirements under the law to ensure appropriate oversight and to provide technical assistance to the states.

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## Veterans Affairs

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### Disabled Veterans' Employment: Performance Standards Needed to Assess Program Results

Acc. No. 138325 (GAO/GGD-89-45), Feb. 28.

Concern was raised that federal agencies may not be doing all they can to hire and advance disabled veterans. GAO reviewed disabled veteran programs at the following agencies: the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, the Office of Management and Budget, and the Office of Personnel Management. Without specified performance criteria, it is not possible to conclusively determine to what extent agencies' disabled veterans' programs have been successful or unsuccessful. Overall, GAO found mixed results among the five agencies. While Labor and OPM programs were more successful at employing and advancing disabled veterans than were programs at the other agencies, all five agencies' disabled veteran employment rates declined from 1982 to 1987.

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### VA Health Care: Delays in Awarding Major Construction Contracts

GAO/HRD-89-75, Mar. 31.

The Department of Veterans Affairs was given funding in FY 1988 for 15 major construction projects, each estimated to cost \$2 million or more. The act required that (1) working drawings contracts be awarded by September 30, 1988, and (2) construction contracts be awarded by September 30, 1989. VA reported that, as of September 30, 1988, working drawings contracts for 2 of the 15 FY 1988 projects and construction contracts for 3 of the 11 FY 1987 projects had not been awarded as required. Information provided by VA officials indicates that various programmatic considerations caused the contracting delays. The most common reasons cited for delays were changes in the projects' scope or design or receipt of bids that exceeded the available funds.

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### Inspectors General: Allegations About the Independence of the Former VA Inspector General

GAO/AFMD-89-46, Mar. 17.

Allegations were made about the independence of the Veterans Administration Office of the Inspector General. VA OIG employees alleged that the OIG was not independent by citing eight audits conducted between 1981 and 1987 which they contend were altered to meet the desires of program officials or, in some cases, cancelled to suppress audit findings.

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because of pressure placed on the Inspector General by the Administrator. GAO could find no conclusive evidence to indicate that the IG lacked independence in his decisions on these audits.

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ADP Systems:  
VA Actions to Improve  
Management of  
Information Resources

GAO/IMTEC-89-24, Apr. 25.

In previous reports, GAO has reported the need for the Veterans Administration to (1) improve management of the Decentralized Hospital Computer Program in the areas of software development, security, and capacity management; (2) better justify and conduct additional analyses for the Department of Veterans Benefits Modernization Program; and (3) increase data sharing among systems, justifying its major telecommunications procurement, and exploiting opportunities for centralizing automated data processing training. VA has issued policies and procedures strengthening software development controls, restricting the release of security-sensitive portions of software, and conducting risk analyses and contingency planning, and is in the process of developing software to allow for easier access to patient data. It has also established measurable goals and objectives to guide its revised benefits modernization program. The agency has also initiated efforts to increase data sharing, conducted required analyses for its telecommunications procurement, and explored cost-saving opportunities in centralizing ADP training.

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Administration of  
Justice

Immigration:  
Projected Immigration  
Under S. 448 and Recent  
Trends in Legal  
Immigration

Acc. No. 138407 (GAO/PEMD-89-12), Apr. 4.

This report provides additional information to testimony given in March 1989 on immigration estimates. GAO estimates that S. 448 would increase family preference immigration over the 10-year period of the projection in comparison with the level projection estimated under current law and the declines predicted under S. 358. Family preference immigration during 1990 to 1999 would total an estimated 3,240,000 under S. 448; 2,160,000 under current law; and 1,213,133 under S. 358.

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**Organized Crime:  
Issues Concerning Strike  
Forces**

GAO/GGD-89-67, Apr. 11.

Since their inception in late 1966 and early 1967, Strike Forces have achieved many successfully prosecutions of traditional organized crime leaders. However, in this review and in earlier reports in 1977 and 1981, GAO found that the Strike Forces have not fully met expectations in achieving a planned and coordinated, multiagency effort against organized crime. GAO found that (1) national oversight of Strike Forces has continued; (2) Strike Force-level executive committees have not functioned as intended, but Strike Force attorneys have sometimes informally coordinated with investigative agencies primarily on a case-by-case basis; and (3) U.S. attorneys have not fully complied with a requirement to develop strategic plans.

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**Customs Automation:  
Internal Control  
Weaknesses in Customs'  
Revenue Collection Process**

GAO/IMTEC-89-50, Apr. 11.

One of the Customs Service's primary missions is to assess and collect revenues in the form of duties, taxes, tariffs, and fees on imported merchandise. In FY 1988, imported merchandise was valued at over \$430 billion, and Customs collected about \$17.5 billion in revenues. To assist in its efforts to collect, account for, and control these revenues, Customs developed the Automated Commercial System Financial System module. Although the revenue collection process is intended to ensure that all Customs revenues are deposited into the U.S. Treasury, GAO's preliminary review identified some key facts that have Customs questioning the design of the Financial System module and its effectiveness. During the past 2 1/2 years, two frauds resulted in the theft of over \$4.2 million in revenues. Customs officials said that the thefts occurred and were not identified for these two reasons. First, procedures do not require individual ports to receive copies of the confirmed deposit tickets from banks. The deposit tickets are forwarded to Customs' National Finance Center. Second, Customs relies on the Treasury's Statement of Differences report as the internal control; however, relying on this report allows as much as 2 months to elapse before Customs is notified that a deposit was not received or a discrepancy was noted in the amount deposited. In March 1989, Customs formed a task force to study the collection and deposit reconciliation problems, develop solutions, and identify the resources needed to implement these solutions.



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## General Government

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### Federal Workforce: Implementation of the Executive Exchange Program Voluntary Services Act of 1986

GAO/GGD-89-62, Mar. 31.

Since 1970, the federal government and the private sector have voluntarily exchanged executives on a temporary basis through the President's Commission on Executive Exchange Program. The Executive Exchange Program Voluntary Services Act added an experimental component that the salaries of up to 10 private sector participants each year are paid by their employers rather than the government. The experimental component has achieved its objective to facilitate the Commission's ability to recruit high level private sector executives, and it will have resulted in savings to the government during FYs 1988 and 1989 of about \$1.5 million. However, there is an inequity in the PCEE program; while private sector executives in the program continue to receive most of their fringe benefits from their corporate employers, federal participants are in a leave-without-pay status, and certain federal employees benefits are reduced or not available to them. Congress should extend the authority provided by the act and expand it to permit more private sector executives assigned to government agencies to be paid their full salaries by their corporate employers, and make changes so that federal participants will continue to receive their federal employee benefits.

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### Drug Testing: Federal Agency Plans for Testing Employees

GAO/GGD-89-51, Mar. 1.

Executive Order 12564 requires each executive branch agency to establish drug-testing programs for employees in sensitive positions. Provisions in the 1987 Supplemental Appropriations Act required that certain actions be taken before executive branch agencies could use appropriations to fund drug-testing program operations. Among other things, the act required each agency to develop a drug-testing plan in accordance with the Executive Order. It also required the Department of Health and Human Services to (1) expand and issue its 1987 guidance in final form as mandatory guidelines, (2) certify that each agency had developed a plan, and (3) provide Congress with an agency-by-agency analysis of the plans. In general HHS guidelines contained the federal workplace drug-testing program elements required by the law. A review of 21 plans issued by 11 of the 12 civilian cabinet level departments showed that each agency prepared a written drug-testing plan that followed the requirements of the law and the guidelines.

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**Federal Employees:  
Supplemental Information  
on Appointees Converted  
to Career Positions**

GAO/GGD-89-56FS, Mar. 21.

This fact sheet presents the results of conversions of certain types of noncareer appointees reported by 10 agencies for the period January 1, 1987, through June 30, 1988. The 10 agencies are the Departments of Defense, Education, Energy, Health and Human Services, Housing and Urban Development, Justice, and Transportation, and the Environmental Protection Agency, National Aeronautics and Space Administration, and the United States Information Agency. For the time period, 8 of the 10 agencies did not report a total of 34 of their 87 conversions from the types of noncareer appointments. No conversions were found for the Departments of Housing and Urban Development and Transportation. The Department of Health and Human Services did not report 16 conversions, the largest number of unreported conversions, followed by the Department of Defense with 6 unreported conversions.

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**Senior Executive Service:  
Data on Hard-To-Fill  
Vacancies Not Readily  
Available**

GAO/GGD-89-72BR, Apr. 26.

In providing information on Senior Executive Service positions that were vacant for 120 days or more, GAO found that complete, accurate, and current data on career SES vacancies governmentwide were not readily available. Using data from the Office of Personnel Management and interviews with agency officials, 319 SES positions were identified in 13 agencies that were vacant at least 120 days on January 31, 1989. Agencies were actively recruiting for just 74 SES vacancies. The remaining 245 positions reported by OPM and some of the agencies as being vacant were not included in this review because many had actually been filled, had been abolished, were slated for cancellation, or were not being actively recruited, and several were being held for noncareer appointees.

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**Budget Issues:  
Budgetary Treatment of  
Federal Credit Programs**

Acc. No. 138376 (GAO/AFMD-89-42), Apr. 10.

This report discusses GAO's views on the budgetary treatment of federal credit programs—direct loans and guarantees. GAO was asked how would it calculate the subsidy costs of credit programs and to demonstrate these calculations with hypothetical examples. The report also discusses and illustrates the “cost-to-the-government” measurement of subsidy costs. It also discusses how appropriated credit subsidies could be reported without altering the overall budget deficit amounts in either in the current unified budget or in a restructured unified budget.

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**Information Security:  
Update of Data on  
Employees Affected by  
Federal Security Programs**

GAO/NSIAD-89-56FS, Mar. 7.

This report updates data in a 1986 report on employees affected by federal security programs. GAO sent questionnaires to 51 agencies that handle classified information and 48 agencies responded. Overall, the 48 responding agencies estimated that about 3.2 million federal and contractor employees held security clearances at the end of 1987. This is a decrease of about 500,000, or about 13 percent, since the end of 1985. The reduction is primarily the result of a continuing clearance reduction program within the Department of Defense. At the end of 1987, the 48 agencies reported that current and former federal and contractor employees had signed 2.7 million and 270,000 classified information nondisclosure agreement, respectively. Seven agencies reported 144 unauthorized disclosures of classified information during 1986. Forty-eight were referred to the Department of Justice for investigation. During 1987 11 agencies reported 177 such disclosures and referred 53 to Justice. The total number of polygraph test being conducted annually has increase significantly in recent years. Between 1984 and 1987, the number of polygraph tests given by the government increased by 94 percent.

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**Prompt Payment:  
State Laws Are Similar to  
the Federal Act but Less  
Comprehensive**

GAO/AFMD-89-33BR, Mar. 10.

Forty-seven states and the District of Columbia have enacted laws that govern the timing of at least some types of state payments to private vendors and contractors. Although there are significant variations among these laws, many states have enacted provisions that parallel federal prompt pay legislation. For example, about three-fourths of the states have laws requiring that, in the absence of contractual payment-timing provisions, invoices for goods and services be paid within a period of either 30 or 45 days, and most provide for interest penalties when payments are late. However, the laws in most states are not as comprehensive as the federal law because they do not have as broad an application and do not specifically address as many types of payments and payment-timing issues.

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**Public Buildings Service:  
GSA's Projection of Lease  
Costs in the 1990s**

Acc. No. 138462 (GAO/GGD-89-55), Apr. 19.

The General Services Administration developed two models for making lease cost projections into the 1990s on a current service basis. The first model was used to make the 1985 projection that annual lease costs

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would reach about \$2 billion by FY 1995. This model, however, was based on a straight-line projection that did not adequately consider certain lease provisions that affect the rate of cost increases; GSA no longer uses this model. In 1986, GSA developed its current model, which projects that annual costs on a current services basis will be around \$1.6 billion by FY 1995. The current model more accurately reflects how lease cost escalate and provides better overall estimates of future cost increases of the current amount of space leased. However, GAO found that some of the data used to make the model's lease cost projections were unreliable. In addition, when GAO tested GSA's computer program by manually duplicating the calculations for a few sample leases, minor programming problems were found. Once its data are verified as accurate and the programming errors are corrected, the current model could be used in policy decisionmaking.

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**Internal Controls:  
Areas for GSA  
Management to Strengthen**

Acc. No. 138459 (GAO/AFMD-89-36), Apr. 20.

A previous GAO report contained the less significant problems in internal accounting controls and procedures identified during an audit of the General Services Administration FY 1986 financial statements. Some of the problems from FY 1986 have continued and additional ones were found in FY 1987. Some of the problems include: (1) financial transactions that were not always recorded in the proper fiscal year; (2) accounting principles that were not always properly or consistently applied; and (3) GSA not maintaining adequate supporting documentation for some transactions, especially those concerning the Federal Buildings, Automated Data Processing, and Federal Telecommunications funds. Improvements are needed in these areas and the other areas identified to prevent errors or irregularities that may affect the integrity of amounts reported in GSA's consolidated financial statements or lead to misuse of assets.

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**Tax Policy:  
Status of IRS' Studies of  
the Refund Offset Program**

GAO/GGD-89-60, Apr. 25.

Under the Refund Offset Program, the Internal Revenue Service offsets federal tax refunds due taxpayers who are delinquent in paying such debts as child and spousal support payments or federal education loans. IRS' 1986 study indicated the Refund Offset Program has reduced taxpayers' compliance with tax laws. Compared to the control group, more taxpayers in the offset group (1) did not file a return in the tax year following the offset or (2) filed a return but did not pay their full tax

liability. These IRS conclusions, however, were not fully supported. GAO found methodological limitations in the study that may have caused IRS to overstate the effect of the program on taxpayer noncompliance. IRS has strengthened its methodology as it continues to study the Refund Offset Program. It could improve future studies by supplementing its analyses using updated taxpayer information.

## Congressional Testimony by GAO Officials

FAA's Voice Communications and Administrative Computer Systems, by Samuel W. Bowlin, Information Management and Technology Division, before the Subcommittee on Transportation, House Committee on Appropriations, Apr. 4. GAO/T-IMTEC-89-3. Acc. No. 138350.

Budgetary Implications of IRS' Tax System Modernization and Automated Examination System Efforts, by James R. Watts, Information Management and Technology Division, before the Subcommittee on Oversight, House Committee on Ways and Means, Apr. 4. GAO/T-IMTEC-89-4. Acc. No. 138400.

FAA Appropriation Issues, by Kenneth M. Mead, Resources, Community, and Economic Development Division, before the Subcommittee on Transportation, House Committee on Appropriations, Apr. 4. GAO/T-RCED-89-20. Acc. No. 138399.

Administration's Fiscal Year 1990 Budget Proposals for IRS and the Tax Court, by Jennie S. Stathis, General Government Division, before the Subcommittee on Oversight, House Committee on Ways and Means, Apr. 4. GAO/T-GGD-89-16. Acc. No. 138401.

Site Selection Process for the Department of Energy's Super Collider, by Flora H. Milans, Resources, Community, and Economic Development Division, before the House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, Apr. 5. GAO/T-RCED-89-22. Acc. No. 138347.

Respite Care: Insights on Federal, State, and Private Sector Involvement, by Franklin Frazier, Human Resources Division, before the Subcommittee on Select Education, House Committee on Education and Labor, Apr. 6. GAO/T-HRD-89-12. Acc. No. 138366.

Medigap Insurance: Effects of the Catastrophic Coverage Act of 1988 on Benefits and Premiums, by Michael Zimmerman, Human Resources Division, before the Subcommittee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and

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Competitiveness, House Committee on Energy and Commerce, Apr. 6. GAO/T-HRD-89-13. Acc. No. 138357.

Processing Soviet Refugees, by Nancy Kingsbury, National Security and International Affairs Division, before the Subcommittee on Immigration, Refugees, and International Law, House Committee on the Judiciary, Apr. 6. GAO/T-NSIAD-89-22. Acc. No. 138363.

Environmental Problems in the Nuclear Weapons Complex, by Keith O. Fultz, Resources, Community, and Economic Development Division, before the Subcommittee on Strategic Forces and Nuclear Deterrence, Senate Committee on Armed Services, Apr. 7. GAO/T-RCED-89-18. Acc. No. 138371.

Medicare: GAO Views On the Payment System For Outpatient Cataract Surgery, by Michael Zimmerman, Human Resources Division, before the Subcommittee on Health, House Committee on Ways and Means, Apr. 10. GAO/T-HRD-89-16. Acc. No. 138382.

Social Security Administration—The First 6 Months of 800 Phone Service, by Joseph F. Delfico, Human Resources Division, before the Senate Special Committee on Aging, Apr. 10. GAO/T-HRD-89-15. Acc. No. 138444.

Medicare: Indirect Medical Education Payments Too High, by Michael Zimmerman, Human Resources Division, before the Subcommittee on Health, House Committee on Ways and Means, Apr. 11. GAO/T-HRD-89-14.

Change in Approach Needed to Improve the Bureau of Land Management's Oversight of Public Lands, by James Duffus III, Resources, Community, and Economic Development Division, before the Subcommittee on National Parks and Public Lands, House Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs, Apr. 11. GAO/T-RCED-89-23. Acc. No. 138384.

FAA Research, Engineering, and Development Issues, by Victor S. Rezendes, Resources, Community, and Economic Development Division, before the Subcommittee on Transportation, Aviation and Materials, House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, Apr. 12. GAO/T-RCED-89-21. Acc. No. 138443.

Coast Guard Icebreaker Requirements, by Kenneth M. Mead, Resources, Community, and Economic Development Division, before the Subcommittee on Transportation, Senate Committee on Appropriations, Apr. 12. GAO/T-RCED-89-24. Acc. No. 138438.

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Base Realignments and Closures, by Frank Conahan, National Security and International Affairs Division, before the Subcommittee on Readiness, Sustainability, and Support, Senate Committee on Armed Services, Apr. 12. GAO/T-NSIAD-89-24. Acc. No. 138402.

Status of DOE-Funded Clean Coal Technology Projects, by Keith O. Fultz, Resources, Community, and Economic Development Division, before the Subcommittee on Energy and Power, House Committee on Energy and Commerce, Apr. 13. GAO/T-RCED-89-25. Acc. No. 138441.

Internal Control Weaknesses In Customs Revenue Collection Process, by James R. Watts, Information Management and Technology Division, before the Subcommittee on Oversight, House Committee on Ways and Means, Apr. 17. GAO/T-IMTEC-89-5. Acc. No. 138432.

Government-Sponsored Enterprises and the Proposed Resolution Funding Corporation (REFCORP), by Charles A. Bowsher, Comptroller General of the United States, before the House Committee on Ways and Means, Apr. 18. GAO/T-AFMD-89-6. Acc. No. 138435.

Implementation of the CHAMPUS Reform Initiative, by David P. Baine, Human Resources Division, before the Subcommittee on Military Personnel and Compensation, House Committee on Armed Services, Apr. 18. GAO/T-HRD-89-17. Acc. No. 138442.

Conditions Creating Refugees and U.S. Asylum Seekers From Central America, by Thomas J. Schulz, National Affairs and International Affairs Division, before the Commission for the Study of International Migration and Cooperative Economic Development, Apr. 21. GAO/T-NSIAD-89-25.

Alternative Financing Methods for the Strategic Petroleum Reserve, by Keith O. Fultz, Resources, Community, and Economic Development Division, before the Subcommittee on Energy and Power, House Committee on Energy and Commerce, Apr. 19. GAO/T-RCED-89-27. Acc. No. 138451.

Property and Casualty Insurance: Thrifts Failures Provide Valuable Lessons, by Frederick D. Wolf, Accounting and Financial Management Division, before the Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, House Committee on Energy and Commerce, Apr. 19. GAO/T-AFMD-89-7. Acc. No. 138450.

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Asset Forfeiture: An Update, by Gene L. Dodaro, General Government Division, before the Subcommittee on Crime, House Committee on the Judiciary, Apr. 24. GAO/T-GGD-89-17.

Forest Service Cost Reporting for National Forest System Programs, by Brian P. Crowley, Accounting and Financial Management Division, before the Subcommittee on Interior and Related Agencies, House Committee on Appropriations, Apr. 24.

Fuel Ethanol: Imports From Caribbean Basin Initiative Countries, by Allan I. Mendelowitz, National Security and International Affairs Division, before the Subcommittee on Trade, House Committee on Ways and Means, Apr. 25. GAO/T-NSIAD-89-26. Acc. No. 138482.

Medicare: Physician Incentive Payments by Prepaid Health Plans Could Lower Quality of Care, by Sarah F. Jaggard, Human Resources Division, before the Subcommittee on Health, House Committee on Ways and Means, Apr. 25. GAO/T-HRD-89-19. Acc. No. 138483.

Post-Employment Activities of Dr. June Q. Koch, Former Assistant Secretary for Policy Development and Research, Department of Housing and Urban Development, by John M. Ols, Resources, Community, and Economic Development, before the Subcommittee on Employment and Housing, House Committee on Government Operations, Apr. 26. GAO/T-RCED-89-19.

Groundwater Conditions At Many Hazardous Waste Disposal Facilities Remain Uncertain, by Richard L. Hembra, Resources, Community, and Economic Development, before the Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, House Committee on Energy and Commerce, Apr. 27. GAO/T-RCED-89-30.

Report of the National Commission on the Public Service, by Richard L. Fogel, General Government Division, before the House Committee on Post Office and Civil Service, Apr. 27. GAO/T-GGD-89-19.

Pension Plans and Leveraged Buy-Outs, by Joseph F. Delfico, Human Resources Division, before the Subcommittee on Oversight, House Committee on Ways and Means, Apr. 27. GAO/T-HRD-89-20.

Disabled Veterans' Employment: Performance Standards Needed to Assess Program Results, by Bernard L. Ungar, General Government



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Division, before the Subcommittee on Education, Training and Employment, House Committee on Veterans' Affairs, Apr. 27. GAO/T-GGD-89-18.

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**NATIONAL DEFENSE**

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Progress and Concerns at JCS  
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GAO/NSIAD-89-83, Mar. 1.

☐ Communications:  
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☐ Honduras:  
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☐ Military Child Care:  
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☐ Battlefield Automation:  
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☐ Financial Reporting:  
Navy's 1986 Consolidated  
Report on Financial Position Is  
Unreliable  
Acc. No. 138375 (GAO/  
AFMD-89-18), Apr. 6.

☐ Submarine Combat System:  
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☐ Marine Corps Child Care:  
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☐ Air Force Logistics:  
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☐ Contract Pricing:  
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GAO/NSIAD-89-125, Apr. 27.

**INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS**

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