

B-156022-O.M.

JAN 6 1972

Chairman, Incentive Awards Committee

Paul G. Dembling

General Counsel - Paul G. Dembling

Suggestion No. S-72-23-DD
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The suggestion is that employees of the General Accounting Office be assigned to the Department of the Air Force for a period of 1 year for on-the-job training in automatic data processing. It is stated that the Department of the Air Force would be willing to assume the salary of our employees so assigned and the participants would be staffing needed positions with the Department of the Air Force and, at the same time, developing their own competence in the automatic data processing area. A successful program between the Department of the Air Force and the General Accounting Office would evolve into similar programs with the Departments of the Navy and Army, Office of Secretary of Defense, and General Services Administration.

An opinion has been requested as to the legality of the proposed arrangement. The authority for the utilization of services of a bureau or department is contained in section 601 of the Economy Act of June 30, 1932, 47 Stat. 417, as amended, 31 U.S.C. 686, which authorizes any executive department or independent establishment of the Government, if funds are available and it is determined in the best interest of the Government to do so, to place orders with any other such department or establishment for work or services of any kind that such other Federal agency may be in a position to supply. Section 601 further provides that the ordering agency will reimburse the agency furnishing the work or services on an actual cost basis. See 22 Comp. Gen. 74 (1942). This statute has been recognized as being applicable to the General Accounting Office. See B-13988 dated January 7, 1941, and B-109666 dated May 15, 1952. Therefore, we can see no legal objection to the proposal, if otherwise deemed appropriate.

The suggestion paper is returned herewith.

Attachment

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DETAILS

Between agencies

Automatic data processing training

DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES

Services between

Applicability of authority to General Accounting Office

DEPARTMENTS AND ESTABLISHMENTS

Services between

Detail of employee

General Accounting Office

to Defense Dept.