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UNITED STATES GENERAL ACCOUNTING OFFICE
REGIONAL OFFICE
ROOM 204, 161 PEACHTREE STREET, N.E.
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30303



Mr. A. W. Tate, Regional Director
Veterans Administration
Regional Office
730 Peachtree Street, N. E.
Atlanta, Georgia 30308

SEP 3 1970

DLG 05874

Dear Mr. Tate:

We have reviewed selected administrative operations and related financial transactions through June 30, 1970, at the Veterans Administration Regional Office (VARO), Atlanta, Georgia.

Our review, which was completed on July 16, 1970, was directed principally to administrative procedures and internal controls relative to receipts and disbursements, and included a review of the work performed by the Veterans Administration Controller's auditors as well as such tests as we deemed appropriate. Program operations were not included in our review.

While we found administrative procedures and internal controls to be generally satisfactory, we noted the two deficiencies summarized below which were discussed with you and directly responsible officials. Corrective action was promised on one of the deficiencies during our review.

REIMBURSEMENT FOR MOVEMENT OF
HOUSEHOLD GOODS AT ACTUAL COST

Two employees, in connection with permanent change of station, were reimbursed for the movement of their household goods at commercial bill of lading actual cost instead of on the commuted-rate basis. In one case the employee was overpaid about \$14 and in the other the employee understated his claim by about \$16.

The Chief, Finance and Data Processing Division, informed us that responsible employees would receive briefing in transactions of this type.

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MOVEMENT OF HOUSEHOLD GOODS ON
GOVERNMENT BILL OF LADING (GBL)
MORE COSTLY THAN BY COMMUTED
BASIS

The movement of an employee's household goods on a GBL resulted in additional cost to the Government.

The VARO, Chicago, advised the VARO, Atlanta, that use of GBL in the shipment of household effects would result in savings in excess of \$100 over use of the commuted-rate basis. However, the shipment by GBL resulted in a direct transportation cost of \$62 over what the reimbursement would have been by the commuted-rate basis, in addition to other administrative costs incurred in processing the documents applicable to the move.

The Chief, Finance and Data Processing Division informed us that no recovery action could be taken; however, in the future any similar situations would be verified by the VARO, Atlanta, to determine which method of shipment would be more advantageous to the Government.

We recommend that this case be called to the attention of the VARO, Chicago, with the suggestion that, in the future, more care be taken in determining the most economical means of transportation.

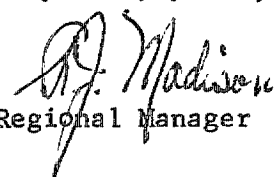
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In accordance with 8 GAO 13.2, the records of the financial transactions through June 30, 1970, which are no longer needed, may be transmitted to the Federal Records Center for storage.

Copies of this report are being sent to the Director, Internal Audit Service, Office of Management and Evaluation; Controller, Veterans Administration; and Chief Benefits Director, Department of Veterans Benefit.

We wish to acknowledge the cooperation given our representatives during this review. We will appreciate your comments as to the action taken on the matters reported herein.

Very truly yours,


Regional Manager