



COMPTROLLER GENERAL OF THE UNITED STATES
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20548

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APRIL 11, 1979

RELEASED

The Honorable Jamie L. Whitten
Chairman, Committee on Appropriations
House of Representatives

Title on form #115

Dear Mr. Chairman:

~~Re: Staffing~~
George H.

In response to former Chairman ^{George H.} Mañon's letter of September 19, 1978, we have evaluated the Air Force's plans to increase staffing at the Military Airlift Command's aerial ports. The increases were based on a projected total requirement for 5,914 spaces and were to be accomplished by transferring 426 existing staffing spaces to the aerial port function during fiscal year 1979.

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In January 1979 the Air Force revised the fiscal year 1979 staffing requirement downward to 5,691 spaces, thereby reducing the requirement for additional aerial port personnel to 203 spaces. Our review of the revised figures revealed several errors in the data used to make the computations. Correction of these errors reduces the total requirement even further to 5,594 spaces, or 106 spaces more than the pre-1979 staffing level.

The Air Force also projected an aerial port staffing requirement for fiscal year 1980 of 5,883 spaces, or 395 spaces more than the pre-1979 level. Again, we found data errors in this computation. Correction of these errors reduces the total figure to 5,790 spaces, or 302 spaces more than the pre-1979 staffing level.

AIR FORCE METHODOLOGY FOR COMPUTING STAFFING REQUIREMENTS

In past years the Air Force computed staffing requirements by applying historical monthly average workload data to engineered staffing standards. Beginning with fiscal year 1979 computations, the methodology was expanded to recognize upward or downward trends in workload.

This was done by using regression analyses and forecasting techniques in addition to staffing standards. The regression analysis helped derive a mathematical equation which expressed the functional relationship between staffing



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and passenger and cargo workload. The forecasting techniques were based on a time-series computer model which uses trigonometric functions and exponential smoothing procedures to analyze data and project workloads.

All of these factors were used in projecting future staffing requirements. Based on our evaluation, we believe the Air Force methodology is sound. As discussed below, however, we found that the Air Force made certain errors in applying the methodology which distorted the results.

EVALUATION OF AIR FORCE STAFFING COMPUTATIONS

In May 1978, the Air Force applied the above described methodology in computing aerial port staffing requirements for fiscal year 1979. The resulting projection of 5,914 spaces was the basis for their proposal to realign 426 spaces to the aerial port function. Our evaluation disclosed only minor errors in workload data which had little effect on total staffing requirements.

In January 1979, while preparing fiscal year 1981 budget submission data, the Air Force recomputed 1979 staffing requirements using several newly revised engineered staffing standards and updated historical and projected workload data. These changes reduced the 1979 requirement by 223 spaces to 5,691 total spaces. Our evaluation of the new computation disclosed errors which would reduce the requirement even further to 5,594 spaces. The primary error was the failure to exclude passengers processed through commercial terminals from future workload projections.

The January 1979 computations also included a projection of 5,883 spaces for fiscal year 1980. However, we found errors similar to those made in the prior year's computation. Correcting these errors would reduce the 1980 requirement to 5,790 spaces. The increase in staffing between fiscal years 1979 and 1980 was primarily due to an expected increase in cargo airlifted to Korea and removal of the embargo on shipments to bases in Turkey.

In summary, our evaluation showed that the additional aerial port staffing requirements would be 106 spaces for fiscal year 1979 and 302 spaces for fiscal year 1980. The results of our evaluation of Air Force staffing computations are further summarized in the enclosure.

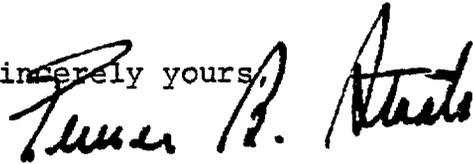
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As your office requested, we did not submit our report to the Air Force for formal comment, but we did discuss our findings with Air Force officials in some detail. They agreed with the facts as presented as well as our conclusion that the additional aerial port staffing requirements for fiscal years 1979 and 1980 were overstated.

As arranged with your office, this report will be released for distribution to interested parties in 30 days unless you publicly announce its contents earlier.

We will be glad to discuss our findings in detail if you desire.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Turner B. Atch". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'T' and 'A'.

Comptroller General
of the United States

Enclosure

	Fiscal year 1979				Fiscal year 1980		
	Original Air Force projection	Revised Air Force projection	GAO figures	Differ- ence	Air Force projection	GAO figures	Differ- ence
Staffing for 21 major aerial ports	5,556	5,323	5,226	-97	5,515	5,422	-93
Staffing for minor aerial ports	402	368	368	-	368	368	-
Less adjustment (note a)	<u>-44</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Total staff re- quirement	5,914	5,691	5,594	-97	5,883	5,790	-93
Pre-1979 staffing level	<u>-5,488</u>	<u>-5,488</u>	<u>-5,488</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-5,488</u>	<u>-5,488</u>	<u>-</u>
Additional staffing required	<u>426</u>	<u>203</u>	<u>106</u>	<u>-97</u>	<u>395</u>	<u>302</u>	<u>-93</u>

a/This adjustment is due to the updating of three staffing standards, a modification of terminal security staffing, and a termination of in-flight specialists on C-141 missions.