



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

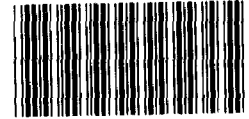
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PROCUREMENT, LOGISTICS,
AND READINESS DIVISION

B-208015

JULY 9, 1982

The Honorable William Proxmire
United States Senate



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Dear Senator Proxmire:

Subject: Allegations of Wasteful Spending
at the Naval Air Station,
Lemoore, California (GAO/PLRD-82-99)

In April 1982 you asked us to review allegations of wasteful spending at the Naval Air Station, Lemoore, California. You asked us to determine:

- Whether the Navy spent over \$4,000 for furniture which was placed in a house used by the Secretary of the Navy for 1 night, and if so, the details of what was purchased.
- How often this house had been used before the Secretary's visit and whether it has been used since that visit.
- Whether new carpeting was installed in the officers' club for the visit, and if so, the cost of the carpeting.

On June 9, 1982, we briefed your Office on the results of our work. As a result of that briefing, your Office asked us to provide you the information in writing.

We obtained information on these allegations through discussions with Navy officials at Lemoore, inspections of facilities and furniture, and reviews of correspondence, reports, and other documents.

FURNITURE PLACED IN THE HOUSE

The Navy used stored bachelor and transient officer quarters (BOQs) furniture to furnish a house for the Secretary's visit. The furniture had been stored for BOQs undergoing and

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scheduled for renovation. The furniture was purchased with both appropriated and nonappropriated funds, which is standard practice for BOQs and enlisted quarters. The house was furnished with both used and unused furniture. The unused furniture was valued at about \$3,200. These items were part of a total furniture purchase of over \$131,000 made in July and August of 1981. We did not determine the value of the used furniture.

USE OF THE HOUSE BEFORE AND
AFTER THE SECRETARY'S VISIT

A three-bedroom officer housing unit, number 104, was used to house the Secretary and the Assistant Secretary of the Navy and their wives on the night of February 5, 1982. This unit is 1 of 110 officer family housing units at Lemoore. The house was vacated by a Navy captain in October 1981. From that time until January 1982, it underwent renovation as part of a program which began in February 1979 to renovate 1,300 of the 1,590 family housing units at Lemoore.

According to Navy officials, there have been no requirements to use the house either for distinguished visitors or for family housing since the Secretary's visit in February. These officials said the house was used as distinguished visitors quarters because the number of vacant officer housing units exceeded the demand for these houses at this time. They said that when a demand develops for the unit to house an officer's family, it will be used for that purpose.

INSTALLATION OF CARPETING
IN THE OFFICERS' CLUB

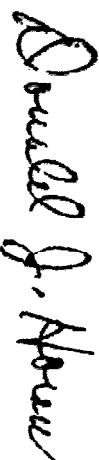
The bandstand in the ballroom of the officers' club was recarpeted between January 29 and February 5, 1982, with a 12-by-18-foot piece of carpet costing \$173. The recarpeting was done in preparation for the annual Light Attack Wing Ball held in the club on the night of February 5, 1982, and at which the Secretary of the Navy was the guest speaker. Public works officials said the repairs were clearly routine maintenance work that would have taken place regardless of any visits or other actions. According to the officials, the impending annual affair merely acted as a catalyst for action at the time.

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We are sending copies of this report to the Secretary of the Navy, the Secretary of Defense, and the Director,

Office of Management and Budget. Copies will be made available to others upon request.

Sincerely yours,



Donald J. Horan
Director