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JAN 2 8 1969

Commander in Chief
United States Army, Pacific
Fort Shafter, Hawaii 96558
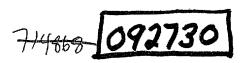
Attention: Comptroller

Dear Sir:

The General Accounting Office has made limited inquiries
into the utilization of Government-owned passenger motor vehicles
assigned to the United States Army, Ryukyu Islands (USARYIS), and
the United States Civil Administration of the Ryukyu Islands (USCAR).
We found, based on our limited survey of the practices of both these
organizations, that there was considerable evidence of unofficial
use of passenger vehicles. We also found that the vast majority
of assigned vehicles were being placed at the disposal of the same
individuals daily rather than being assigned to a motor pool.

Both law and regulation generally prohibit the use of United
States owned vehicles for personal use such as home-to-work
transportation. In this regard, 31 U.S.C. 638a(c)(2) states in
part:

> "Unless otherwise specifically provided, no appro-
> priation for any department shall be expended--for the
> maintenance, operation, and repair of any Government-
> owned passenger motor vehicle or aircraft not used
> exclusively for official purposes; and 'official
> purposes' shall not include the transportation of
> officers and employees between their domiciles and
> places of employment, except in cases of medical
> officers on out-patient medical service and except in
> cases of officers and employees engaged in field work
> the character of whose duties make such transportation
> necessary and then only as to such latter cases when
> the same is approved by the head of the department
> concerned ***"

092730

At USARYIS we found that, while an exception had been obtained
to provide home-to-work and return transportation for the Commanding
General, at least six other sedans were being used regularly for
transporting other officials for the same purpose. In addition,
more than 65 trips of an apparently personal nature had been made
during a recent one-week period. These trips included visits to
such places as the golf course, gift shops, Yaka Beach, snack bars,
and officer and civilian clubs.

At USCAR, our survey disclosed that, while an exception had
been obtained to provide home-to-work and return transportation
for the Civil Administrator, at least four other sedans were being
used regularly for transporting other officials for the same
purpose. Also, we found that about 50 unofficial trips had been
made in addition to the regular use of official vehicles for home-
to-work transportation during a recent two-week period. These
trips included visits to such places as the PX, the golf course,
gift shops, and officer and enlisted clubs.

We advised the Commanding General, USARYIS, and the Civil
Administrator, USCAR, of our findings. We recommended that USCAR
and USARYIS conduct a more detailed examination to determine the
extent of unofficial use of passenger vehicles and to develop
procedures to minimize such unauthorized use. In this connection,
we suggested that motor pools might be utilized to the maximum
extent possible. We have been advised by USCAR and USARYIS
officials that corrective measures have been taken to preclude
unofficial use of Government vehicles and that maximum use is now
being made of motor pools.

We are bringing this matter to your attention so that
appropriate measures can be taken to preclude the possibility of
this occurring at other locations. You may wish to advise the
Army Audit Agency, Inspector General, and other management review
staffs in the Pacific theater to consider this matter in their
reviews.

We are planning no additional work in this area at this time
but would appreciate being advised of any corrective measures taken
or planned with respect to the matters discussed in this letter.

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Copies of this letter will be furnished to the Deputy Under
Secretary of the Army, International Affairs, who has responsibility
for USCAR activities.

Sincerely yours,

C. Roman
Director