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

A. Riedinger

PLM II



OFFICE OF GENERAL COUNSEL

IN REPLY REFER TO: B-193580

December 28, 1978

Allegation of Inequities and Inconsistencies Involving The Army Suggestion Program

Mr. Gary S. Cook
Box 360
Hooks, Texas 75561

Dear Mr. Cook:

Reference is made to your letter of November 8, 1978, with enclosures, in which you seek the assistance of this Office in correcting that which you conceive to be certain inequities and inconsistencies regarding application of Army Regulation 672-20 involving the Army Suggestion Program to your situation and, in general, to your place of employment, the Lone Star Army Ammunition Plant.

You say that you recently made a suggestion concerning purchase of calculators, which suggestion was adopted and apparently resulted in a tangible savings to the Government in an amount in excess of \$9,000. You say further, that you were denied the monetary award authorized by the regulation because it was your supervisor's view that the suggestion resulted from the normal performance of your job description and duties. Apparently the commanding officer of the plant concurred with that finding. You indicate that you requested reconsideration, but that the committee panel, which was convened for that purpose, affirmed the earlier decision in your case. You are now, in effect, appealing that agency determination here.

An official decision is not being rendered at your request on the question presented; however, the following comments may be of assistance to you.

The statutory authorities under which the Incentive Awards Program was established are contained in 10 U.S.C. 1124, applicable to members of the uniformed services and chapter 45 of title 5, United States Code, applicable to civilian employees. As that authority relates to civilian employees of the Department of the Army, Army Regulation 672-20, provides that activity commanders are delegated the basic authority to grant such awards, under procedures outlined in chapter 2 thereof. Nowhere in the before-cited law or regulations has the General Accounting Office been granted any authority to question or review any specific administrative determination such as you say was made in your case. In this connection, see paragraph 2-10 of AR 672-20. Cf. B-183541, November 19, 1975, copy enclosed.

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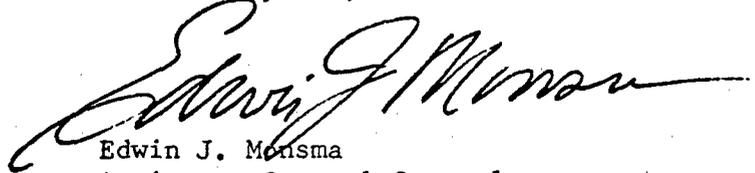
Letter

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In these circumstances, if you feel that the operation of the Suggestion Program where you are employed is not being consistently applied, it would be appropriate for you to bring the matter to the attention of the Department of the Army and the Civil Service Commission, since they also have authority to regulate in this area. See chapter 451 of the Federal Personnel Manual. (5 C.F.R. Part 451)

We trust this information will serve the purpose of your inquiry.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Edwin J. Meisma".

Edwin J. Meisma
Assistant General Counsel

Enclosure