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General Accounting Office
Washington, D.C. 20548

**National Security and
International Affairs Division**

B-272284

June 14, 1996

The Honorable John McCain
Chairman, Subcommittee on Readiness
Committee on Armed Services
United States Senate

Dear Mr. Chairman:

This letter responds to your June 4, 1996, request for information concerning certain activities being performed or funded by the Department of Defense (DOD) in support of the 1996 Olympic and Paralympic games in Atlanta, Georgia. More specifically, we are providing information on DOD (1) providing water for the field hockey fields, (2) providing ice chests to the Atlanta Police Department, (3) providing barges to be used at the yachting events, (4) using active duty military personnel as bus and van drivers, (5) funding driver licensing fees for the bus and van drivers, (6) paying the Atlanta Committee for the Olympic Games (ACOG) for on-duty meals and housing for military personnel, and (7) providing military personnel in a security role. You also asked whether DOD, at the request of the Olympic Security Support Group (OSSG), paid for travel expenses of nonfederal law enforcement officials to the 1993 Presidential Inauguration.

BACKGROUND

Through congressional appropriations, reprogramming, and transfer of funds initially appropriated for other special events, DOD has \$50 million available for support of the 1996 Olympic and Paralympic games. As of the time of our review, DOD had identified requirements of about \$39 million. Feeding, housing, and laundry for the military personnel; leased transportation; security and nonsecurity support; and pay and allowances and travel are the major cost drivers. According to the Director of the DOD Office of Special Events, the Office has received \$57,562 in reimbursements from ACOG and \$427,000 from the Columbus Organizing Committee. In addition, the Joint Task Force-Olympics (JTF-O) projects reimbursements of \$211,000 from ACOG.

As of June 7, 1996, JTF-O officials told us that 11,467 National Guard and reserve personnel and about 2,700 active duty military personnel are expected to provide support to the games. At the peak period--July 27 and 28, 1996--there will be 8,666 military personnel providing support.

In contrast to the Atlanta games, DOD provided 825 military personnel and the California National Guard provided 320 Guardsmen to support the 1984 Olympic games in Los Angeles, California. Most of the personnel were used to support helicopters used by the Los Angeles law enforcement agencies.

DOD had about \$50 million available and obligated about \$32.2 million for support of the Los Angeles games. Information, however, was not readily available for us to determine the extent to which DOD's costs were reimbursed by the games' organizers.

WATER FOR FIELD HOCKEY FIELDS

In June 1996, the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Installations, Logistics, and Environment reaffirmed support, estimated to cost \$5,659 on a reimbursable basis, to the field hockey venues¹ during the 1996 Olympic games. The support will consist of four 50,000-gallon water bladders, two 20,000-gallon water bladders, and six water pumps to be used to water three artificial turf hockey fields. DOD will also provide 25 military personnel who will fill and operate the water bladders and pump the water into a distribution system. At the three locations, water will be pumped into above ground watering systems. ACOG personnel will operate the above ground watering systems distributing water on the fields. The purpose of the watering apparatus is to irrigate the fields to ensure proper ball speed in accordance with Field Hockey International Federation rules.

To meet this requirement, the watering system must be able to dispense 4,500 gallons of water over the field in a 7-minute period twice during each competition. According to documentation in JTF-O files, the Municipal Water Department could not guarantee adequate water quantity and pressure to fulfill this requirement. The Chief of the Atlanta Fire Department also expressed concern that such a large draw down of the water system would significantly reduce available water pressure and could seriously hamper the Fire Department's fire-fighting capability. Because of these concerns, the storage bladders will be slowly filled from city water lines during late night and early morning hours.

¹Locations at which the events are conducted.

ICE CHESTS FOR ATLANTA POLICE DEPARTMENT

On January 8, 1996, OSSG requested that DOD provide 350 48-quart ice chests for use by Atlanta police officers working at fixed traffic locations. On February 20, 1996, the Commander, JTF-O advised OSSG that DOD could not approve the request because it did not have 350 ice chests available.

In February 1996, OSSG submitted another request for 40 48-quart ice chests to be used to store bottled fluids that will be distributed to police officers in the field. In response to this request, JTF-O advised OSSG in March 1996 that 35 ice chests were on hand in the Office of Special Events warehouse and available for delivery, and that OSSG should obtain the remaining ice chests from alternative sources.

BARGES TO BE USED IN YACHTING EVENTS

In June 1995, ACOG requested three barges for use in yachting events in Savannah, Georgia, from July 1, 1995, through August 31, 1996. According to the request, the barges are to be used to form the operating base for support functions and storage and launching of the smaller classes of competition boats.

The Army towed the barges from Charleston, South Carolina, to Savannah at a cost of \$9,247. In addition, the Navy spent \$39,750 to repair the barges. ACOG reimbursed DOD for the repair costs. However, the towing cost was absorbed by DOD.

BUS AND VAN DRIVERS WITH VALID
COMMERCIAL DRIVERS LICENSES

ACOG, Atlanta Paralympics Organizing Committee (APOC), and law enforcement agencies asked DOD to provide 1,058 bus and van drivers to support the transportation system in Atlanta. The request indicated that the drivers would be used from July 4, 1996, to August 28, 1996.

Before arriving in Atlanta, each driver must have a valid commercial driver's license, 60 hours of training, be over the age of 21, and be on active duty. After arriving in Atlanta, an additional 10 days of training will be required. The drivers must train and obtain their commercial driver's licenses at their home stations.

Most of the bus and van drivers (990) are to be used to transport athletes and coaches to and from the sporting venues. The additional bus and van drivers (68)

are to be used to transport law enforcement personnel to and from their duty locations. According to information in JTF-O files, the estimated cost to provide the military bus and van drivers is \$978,450, including \$105,800 for the commercial licenses and \$300,000 for training. These costs will be paid from DOD funds appropriated for the Olympic games.

A memorandum of agreement signed May 14, 1996, between the Department of the Army and the Georgia Department of Public Safety provides that the Department of Public Safety shall pay the application, testing, and licensing fees associated with obtaining commercial drivers' licenses for military personnel stationed in Georgia.

Information in JTF-O files also showed that 358 of the 1,058 bus and van drivers are expected to come from Fort Stewart, Georgia. The other 700 drivers are expected to come from military installations in Virginia, North Carolina, as well as from Air Combat Command bases located throughout the country. If the 358 drivers come from Fort Stewart, as planned, the licensing fees for the bus and van drivers from other states would range from \$34,500 to \$43,250.

DOD TO PAY HOUSING AND FOOD COSTS TO ACOG

JTF-O expects to contract with ACOG to provide housing for military personnel who will be supporting the Olympic venues in the Athens, Georgia, area. The value of the contract is \$155,011 and covers the period July 19 through August 5, 1996. The contract to provide housing for military personnel before July 19 and after August 5, 1996, is with the University of Georgia. According to JTF-O officials, the reason for contracting with ACOG is that ACOG controls the housing at the University during the contract period. Before and after the ACOG contract dates, the housing is under the control of the University.

A contract was signed on June 7, 1996, whereby JTF-O agreed to pay the ACOG \$632,124 to provide an estimated 158,031 on-duty meals (\$4 a meal) to military personnel performing duties in support of the Olympic games.

According to JTF-O officials, there were initial discussions about ACOG providing on-duty meals at no cost to DOD--the same as it plans to do for volunteers. Later, however, ACOG decided that it could not afford to provide the on-duty meals at no cost to DOD. JTF-O officials said that under the contract with ACOG for the on-duty meals, the military members will receive the same meals as the volunteers.

MILITARY PERSONNEL IN A SECURITY ROLE

According to JTF-O officials, at the peak period of the Olympics when 8,666 military personnel will be providing support, approximately 5,200 National Guardsmen will be performing security-related functions. JTF-O officials said that these personnel will enhance security by providing a visual deterrence and by monitoring, observing, and alerting law enforcement officials of irregular situations or activities. The Guardsmen will provide roving patrols at the venues or cluster of venues and along pedestrian and vehicle routes as well as screening vehicles and packages. They will not be armed and will not have arrest or detainment authority.

TRAVEL TO THE 1993 PRESIDENTIAL INAUGURATION

On January 12, 1993, OSSG requested DOD's financial support for providing air travel, lodging, and per diem for nine nonfederal law enforcement officials to attend the 1993 Presidential Inauguration. The period of travel was cited as January 16 to 22, 1993, for the then Atlanta Chief of Police and January 18 to 22, 1993, for the other eight officials.

The cited purpose of the travel was for the officials to participate in and receive an overview of the U.S. Secret Service's security preparations for the Inauguration. According to the request, OSSG planning is predicated, to a significant degree, on the study of how security was planned for and implemented in previous Olympics and other major special events. The 1993 Presidential Inauguration was viewed as a unique opportunity to study and synthesize the security planning and preparation of the Secret Service, which OSSG could incorporate into the security planning process for the 1996 games. The request further stated that resources were not available from other sources. Therefore, the request to DOD was made as a last resort to fulfill the need.

According to the Director of the DOD Office of Special Events, the travel was a joint law enforcement and DOD effort. DOD paid for the lodging, and the U.S. Secret Service paid for the airfare.

AGENCY COMMENTS

The DOD Office of Special Events and the JTF-O were asked to provide oral comments on a draft of this report. We have incorporated their comments where appropriate.

SCOPE AND METHODOLOGY

To obtain data on support provided by DOD for the 1996 Olympic and Paralympic games, we held discussions with the Director of the Office of Special Events in Washington, D.C., and the JTF-O in Atlanta, Georgia. We reviewed documentation supporting the requests for DOD support that were received from ACOG and OSSG and the databases that summarized the requests and provided the disposition of the requests as being approved, disapproved, canceled or withdrawn, completed, or pending. We also reviewed budget documents to determine the amount of funds available to DOD for support of the games and the amount that had been obligated or committed as of early June 1996.

Our review was performed between June 5, 1996, and June 13, 1996, in accordance with generally accepted government auditing standards except that, because of time constraints, we did not validate the reported cost of various activities being performed by DOD in support of the Olympic games.

We are sending copies of this report to the Chairmen and Ranking Minority Members of the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations, House Committee on National Security, Senate Committee on Armed Services, and other interested congressional members. Copies will also be provided to the Secretary of Defense, the Director of the Office of Special Events, and the Commander, JTF-O.

If you or your staff have any questions concerning the information above or would like to discuss it in greater detail, please call me at (202) 512-5140. Major contributors to this report were Robert Lane, Robert Crowl, Carole Coffey, Donna Rogers, Lorelei Hill, Stacey Keisling, and Harry Jobes.

Sincerely yours,



Mark E. Gebicke
Director, Military Operations
and Capabilities Issues

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