
Reports and Testimony: December 1993

Highlights

Management Reform

GAO generally agrees with most of the recommendations in the National Performance Review report on "reinventing government" since they emphasize many of the basic themes that GAO has stressed for years. Page 13.

Nuclear Health and Safety

Drawing on information from diverse sources because of inadequate government records, GAO documented 13 planned radioactive releases between 1948 and 1952 that were part of nuclear weapons research and development at test sites in four states. Page 5.

Managed Competition

The California Public Employees' Retirement System (CalPERS) is often cited as an example of "managed competition" in purchasing health insurance. GAO found that although CalPERS-negotiated insurance premiums rose at rates higher than the national average between 1989 and 1991, its record of controlling the cost of premiums has improved since 1992. Page 15.

Contents

Reports and Testimony: December 1993

Agriculture and Food	2
Budget and Spending	3
Education	3
Employment	4
Energy	5
Financial Institutions	7
Financial Management	9
Government Operations	13
Health	15
Information Management	17
International Affairs	19
Justice and Law Enforcement	21
National Defense	21
Natural Resources	26
Science, Space, and Technology	27
Social Services	28
Tax Policy and Administration	28
Veterans Affairs	29

Reports and Testimony: December 1993

Agriculture and Food

Food Assistance: USDA's Multiprogram Approach

GAO/RCED-94-33, Nov. 24 (38 pages).

About 39 million people receive federal food assistance through the Agriculture Department's (USDA) Food and Nutrition Service. In fiscal year 1992, the Service and state agencies jointly ran 14 programs that provided food assistance at a federal cost of about \$33 billion—about 58 percent of USDA's total budget; about 63 percent of this went to children. This report provides information on (1) USDA's food assistance programs; (2) the strengths and weaknesses of the current multiprogram approach; and (3) alternative approaches to delivering food assistance identified by federal, state, and other officials.

Food Assistance: Information on Meal Costs in the National School Lunch Program

GAO/RCED-94-32BR, Dec. 1 (52 pages).

On an average school day, an estimated 25 million children at more than 93,000 locations nationwide receive meals through the National School Lunch Program. In fiscal year 1993, federal funding for the program totaled about \$4.7 billion. In 1991 and 1992, the Agriculture Department's Food and Nutrition Service, which runs the program, published the results of a survey of state and local school officials on the cost of meals. The results suggested that the level of federal reimbursement paid to schools for each free meal they served was roughly equivalent to the national average cost to produce the meal. This briefing report discusses (1) GAO's review of the Food and Nutrition Service study, (2) the ability of local school food authorities to produce meals at or below the reimbursement rate for free meals, (3) differences in meal production costs among regions, and (4) the appropriateness of the index that the Food and Nutrition Service uses to adjust reimbursement rates.

Food Assistance: Schools That Left the National School Lunch Program

GAO/RCED-94-36BR, Dec. 3 (65 pages).

The National School Lunch Program, established in 1946, is one of the federal government's oldest and largest food assistance programs. Schools

participating in the school lunch program receive cash subsidies and food from the Agriculture Department. In turn, schools must meet federal requirements, such as offering free and reduced-price lunches to students and ensuring that lunches meet dietary requirements. This briefing report provides information on the (1) number of schools that withdrew from the program, (2) characteristics of schools that withdrew, (3) reasons why they withdrew, and (4) lunch services offered at the schools after they withdrew.

Budget and Spending

Impoundments: Proposed Deferrals of Funds for International Security and Disaster Assistance and for Public Building Construction Projects

GAO/OGC-94-20, Dec. 23 (three pages).

On November 19, 1993, the President submitted to Congress his third special impoundment message for fiscal year 1994, which reports four deferrals of budget authority and revises the amounts of two deferrals already reported. GAO reviewed these deferrals and found them to be in accordance with the Impoundment Control Act.

Education

Deaf Education: Improved Oversight Needed for National Technical Institute for the Deaf

GAO/HRD-94-23, Dec. 16 (42 pages).

In 1965, Congress passed legislation creating the National Technical Institute for the Deaf (NTID), a postsecondary institution intended to train and educate deaf persons for successful employment. The Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT) in upstate New York subsequently agreed to host NTID. The Education Department assumed responsibility in fiscal year 1980 for administering the agreement with RIT and for overseeing NTID. GAO found that NTID has done a poor job of accounting for how it has spent federal funds, has inappropriately carried over federal funds from one year to the next, and may have used federal funds improperly. Although NTID is not under the same restrictions that federal agencies and grantees must abide by when using federal funds, some NTID expenditures did not directly relate to NTID operations. Education Department and NTID officials believe that NTID's dependence on federal dollars will continue at its present level

of 83 percent of total revenues despite program changes that have occurred. Review of NTID has been minimal.

**School-Linked Human Services:
A Comprehensive Strategy for Aiding Students at Risk of
School Failure**

GAO/HRD-94-21, Dec. 30 (66 pages).

Since 1980, at least eight states and more than 200 localities have been delivering a variety of health, social, and educational services to students—many of whom are at risk of failing in school or dropping out. These comprehensive school-linked programs are trying to improve the academic performance and well-being of at-risk students by addressing their many needs in a coordinated manner at schools. Some policymakers view these programs as an efficient, cost-effective way to link at-risk children and their families with prevention and early intervention services. This report (1) reviews the literature to determine the kinds of school-linked approaches involving students and their families, the relative strengths and weaknesses of these approaches, and the circumstances under which each appears most appropriate; (2) identifies the problems encountered when using the school as a hub for delivering services; and (3) determines the role that the federal government could play in promoting promising school-linked approaches.

Employment

**Occupational Safety and Health:
Differences Between Program in the United States and Canada**

GAO/HRD-94-15FS, Dec. 6 (37 pages).

Every year an estimated 1.7 million workers suffer disabling on-the-job injuries; 10,500 of these workers die as a result of their injuries. In addition, 390,000 cases of occupational illnesses are diagnosed and 100,000 workers die each year as a result of work-related illnesses. A 1991 industrial fire that killed 25 workers and injured more than 50 others renewed debate about whether the U.S. approach to ensuring workplace safety and health could be improved. The NAFTA negotiations have focused attention on how workers are protected in the United States, Mexico, and Canada. This fact sheet (1) compares the U.S. and Canadian programs for ensuring workplace safety and health and (2) identifies issues to consider in improving safety and health in the United States.

**Dislocated Workers:
A Look Back at the Redwood Employment Training Programs**

GAO/HRD-94-16BR, Dec. 13 (25 pages).

The expansion of Redwood National Park in 1978 put many timber workers in Northern California out of work. As a result, the federal government created programs to help alleviate the effects of the park expansion on workers and their towns. Now 15 years later, new environmental concerns have again placed restrictions on the timber industry, and the President has proposed new assistance programs for dislocated timber workers. GAO revisited the Redwood worker assistance programs and found that, although they were quite extensive, few workers actually enrolled in retraining programs. Many workers received wage replacement benefits or severance payments—some received as much as \$45,000—but this money was not tied to retraining. In addition, because Labor Department regulations for retraining were delayed until 14 months after program implementation, educational service providers were reluctant to develop retraining programs, and officials lost contact with many of the dislocated workers before they could be retrained. Per capita income dropped steeply in the two counties affected by the park expansion, and housing values fluctuated. In one county, an influx of retirees helped to stabilize property values and retail sales, while in the other county construction of a state prison produced about 1,800 jobs.

Energy

**Nuclear Health and Safety:
Examples of Post World War II Radiation Releases at U.S.
Nuclear Sites**

GAO/RCED-94-51FS, Nov. 24 (19 pages).

In reaction to the Soviet Union's first atomic bomb detonation in the late 1940s, the United States government began a series of nuclear tests that released into the atmosphere what are today considered potentially dangerous quantities of radioactive material. During the 1949 Green Run Test at Hanford, Washington, the military and the Atomic Energy Commission released a radioactive cloud that spread out over southeast Washington and Oregon. The details of these tests have been shrouded in secrecy over the years. This fact sheet provides information on the Green Run Test as well as 12 other radioactive releases at three other nuclear sites—Oak Ridge, Tennessee, Dugway, Utah, and Los Alamos, New

Mexico—between 1948 and 1952. During two of tests at the Los Alamos site, for example, atmospheric radiation reached small towns 70 miles away. The potential health consequences of these experiments are still under study.

**Energy Management:
Controls Over the Livermore Laboratory's Indirect Costs
Are Inadequate**

GAO/RCED-94-34, Nov. 16 (40 pages).

In fiscal year 1991, the Lawrence Livermore Laboratory, a government research and development facility, incurred about \$436 million in indirect costs—outlays that are not directly linked to a particular program, such as costs for facility maintenance or accounting services. In response to congressional concerns that indirect costs were not being adequately managed or controlled, GAO examined the adequacy of (1) financial management controls over indirect costs at the Livermore Laboratory and (2) Energy Department oversight of the laboratory's indirect costs. GAO makes recommendations intended to stop direct costs from being included in the Laboratory's overhead pool and to develop adequate internal controls that will ensure the reliability of the laboratory's financial information.

Testimony

DOE Management: Implementing the Environmental Restoration Management Contractor Concept, by Victor S. Rezendes, Director of Energy and Science Issues, before the Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, House Committee on Energy and Commerce.
GAO/T-RCED-94-86, Dec. 1 (nine pages).

As part of its effort to reform contract management, the Department of Energy (DOE) is now pilot testing at its Fernald, Ohio, and Hanford, Washington, sites a new environmental restoration management contractor approach. DOE hopes that this approach will lower cleanup costs, accelerate cleanups, and strengthen DOE management control over contractors. GAO testified that the environmental restoration management contractor concept, with its ambitious goals and use of an invoice approach, offers the promise of better DOE oversight of cleanup contractors. Several constraints, however, may make it difficult to realize the concept's goals. GAO continues to believe that a thorough and careful evaluation should be a major component of the pilot tests. More

importantly, the success of the pilot tests could be seriously jeopardized unless DOE meets its own estimates of the number of qualified staff and adequately trains them to oversee the contractors.

Financial Institutions

Minority-Owned Financial Institutions: Status of Federal Efforts to Preserve Minority Ownership

GAO/GGD-94-1, Nov. 3 (41 pages).

GAO reviewed how four agencies—the Treasury Department, the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, the Office of Thrift Supervision, and the Resolution Trust Corporation—have implemented laws designed to preserve minority ownership of financial institutions and to assist minority-owned institutions and minority investors with acquiring failed institutions. Although the agencies have taken some steps to preserve minority ownership of financial institutions, they have not assessed whether these measures have been successful. GAO believes that periodic assessments of the effectiveness of the current approaches is essential given the goals of the legislation and the mixed views of the minority banking community on the agencies' efforts. In addition, until the agencies evaluate the effectiveness of their current approaches, they remain vulnerable to the perception that they have not done enough to preserve minority ownership of financial institutions.

Federal Home Loan Bank System: Reforms Needed to Promote Its Safety, Soundness, and Effectiveness

GAO/GGD-94-38, Dec. 8 (120 pages).

In response to the savings and loan disaster, Congress overhauled federal regulation of the thrift industry. Many of these changes directly affected the Federal Home Loan (FHL) Bank System, which was established in the 1930s to facilitate mortgage lending to homebuyers. This report answers the following questions: Can the FHL Bank System pay its assessment for affordable housing and for cleaning up the savings and loan mess while carrying out its mission? What are appropriate capital standards for the FHL Bank system? Should the terms of membership in the FHL Bank System be changed? What is, and what should be, the role of the FHL Bank system in affordable housing, and how would system consolidation affect this? Should the FHL Bank System be allowed to offer new products and

services? GAO also discusses needed changes in the corporate governance and regulation of the system.

**Regulatory Burden:
Recent Studies, Industry Issues, and Agency Initiatives**

GAO/GGD-94-28, Dec. 13 (70 pages).

Over the last several years, a growing chorus of protest has arisen from the banking and thrift industries over what many view as an excessively complex patchwork of federal banking laws and regulations. The banking industry is particularly concerned about the cumulative burden of regulation and its effect on a bank's ability to make enough credit available to worthy borrowers. This report provides an overview of the regulatory burden studies recently done by, or on behalf of, the federal banking agencies and several of the major banking industry trade associations. GAO also describes the major regulatory burdens addressed in those studies and agency actions or initiatives related to each issue. The results of GAO's review should prove helpful in assessing the appropriateness and effectiveness of administrative, legislative, and regulatory initiatives to ease burdensome regulation and to boost credit availability.

**Resolution Trust Corporation:
Better Information Could Enhance Controls Over Loan
Servicing Costs**

GAO/GGD-94-41, Dec. 22 (16 pages).

The Resolution Trust Corporation (RTC) makes extensive use of contractors to service the mortgages and loans placed under its control. As of April 1993, loan servicing contractors were servicing about 193,000 mortgages and loans with more than \$18 billion in total book value. This report discusses RTC's loan servicing contracting and makes suggestions to improve the planning of future loan servicing contracts and establish appropriate fee structures for these kinds of contracts.

**Resolution Trust Corporation:
Ineffective Management of HomeFed Bank Environmental Services
Contracting**

GAO/GGD-94-62, Dec. 28 (25 pages).

The Resolution Trust Corporation's (RTC) environmental site assessments are required to identify any assets with special resource values, such as wetlands, endangered species, and historic buildings, or environmental hazards, such as underground storage tanks, hazardous waste, asbestos, and radon. RTC's planning and management of environmental services contracts at the HomeFed Bank Federal Association in San Diego, California, were ineffective, and RTC incurred added costs in excess of \$570,000—25 percent of the \$2.3 million spent to date. HomeFed was one of the largest environmental contracting efforts undertaken by RTC, with 20 contracts and more than 500 assets. RTC failed to (1) adequately consider the magnitude of its task and the staffing needed to achieve its sales objectives, (2) provide contractors with complete information on contract requirements or assets to be assessed, (3) follow contracting procedures, (4) ensure that key staff were available to resolve basic project issues, (5) know the status of individual environmental assessments during the project, and (6) provide effective oversight of contractors and the contracting officer's and oversight manager's performance. As a result, RTC's efforts to complete the environmental assessments required for the asset sales were impeded.

Financial Management

Inspectors General: Action Needed to Strengthen OIGs at Designated Federal Entities

GAO/AIMD-94-39, Nov. 30 (38 pages).

The 34 federal entities designated by a 1988 law have made progress in establishing offices of inspectors general (IG) during the past three years. The IGs have established policies and procedures for doing independent audits and investigations; have developed working relationships with their entity heads; and have reported potential recoveries, cost efficiencies, civil fines, and forfeitures from their audits and investigations. Several problems did arise during the implementation, however. GAO found that seven IGs were supervised by officials other than their entity heads, which is prohibited by law. In 14 of the 16 entities whose budget processes GAO reviewed, entity officials who competed with the IGs for resources—and whose programs and operations were subject to IG audits or investigations—made decisions affecting the IGs' budgets. Two entity heads did not adequately disclose the reasons for dismissing or transferring their IGs in their required written notification to Congress. GAO also discusses the ability of the IGs to ensure audit coverage of entity

programs and operations, especially through the development and use of strategic plans.

**Financial Audit:
House Interparliamentary Groups' Financial Statements for 1992
and 1991**

GAO/AIMD-94-21, Dec. 14 (22 pages).

GAO audited the financial statements of several House of Representatives' interparliamentary groups for 1992 and 1991, including the Mexico-United States Interparliamentary Group, the Canada-United States Interparliamentary Group, the United States-European Community Interparliamentary Group, the United States Group of the North Atlantic Treaty Parliamentary Conference, and the British-American Interparliamentary Group. Such groups work to enable Members of Congress to meet annually with other representative parliamentary groups to discuss common problems affecting the United States and Mexico, Canada, the European Community, and the United Kingdom as well as other North Atlantic Treaty Organization members in the interest of maintaining peace and security in the North Atlantic region. GAO found that the financial statements were reliable in all material respects; that internal controls reasonably ensured that losses, noncompliance with laws and regulations, and misstatements affecting the financial statements would be prevented or detected; and that there was no material noncompliance with laws and regulations.

**Financial Management:
Customs' Accounting for Budgetary Resources Was Inadequate**

GAO/AIMD-94-23, Dec. 14 (22 pages).

The U.S. Customs Service did not properly account for the receipt of goods and services. Delays in recording transactions overstated outstanding obligations by millions of dollars with corresponding understatements of accounts payable, expense, and asset accounts. This accounting practice, coupled with the failure to periodically deobligate amounts that were no longer supported by valid contracts or orders, undermined Customs' ability to accurately determine amounts available for obligation. It also undermined the accuracy of historical data on internal recurring obligations, thus inhibiting accurate budget preparation and inflating obligations for such expenses to avoid a shortfall. Intensive

manual efforts were required at year-end to determine actual expenditures and the amount of unobligated funds. In addition, Customs did not properly account for its reimbursable work done on behalf of other agencies. Customs recorded and recognized intragovernmental receivables and revenue before incurring costs related to doing the work, thereby misstating its financial statements and providing the Office of Management and Budget with misleading information in the apportionment process. Further, Customs lacked documentation to substantiate amounts charged other agencies for doing reimbursable work.

**Legislative Service Organizations:
Proposed Accounting Standards and Guidelines**

GAO/AIMD-94-49, Dec. 16 (28 pages).

This report explains GAO's proposed accounting standards and guidelines for legislative service organizations (LSO), which range from the Arts and Automotive Congressional Caucuses to the Democratic and Republican study groups. GAO believes that the LSOS should report their financial operations on the accrual, rather than the cash, basis of accounting. Under the accrual basis, revenues are recognized when earned and expenses are recognized when incurred. Financial statements should disclose matters affecting the statements' use, understanding, and interpretation. The Committee on House Administration has adopted regulations specifically for LSOS, including provisions that allow LSOS to carry over unexpended funds to following years. LSOS can use their financial statements to increase awareness of the House regulations governing their operations, as well as exceptions to the regulations granted by the House Committee on Administration. In addition, related party transactions and the nature of certain common control relationships should be disclosed if the nature of those relationships could significantly affect an organization. At least three LSOS, for example, share their executive directors with outside groups, while another LSO shares its staff printer with an outside organization.

**Financial Management:
Important IRS Revenue Information Is Unavailable or Unreliable**

GAO/AIMD-94-22, Dec. 21 (37 pages).

As the nation's primary tax collector, the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) reported about \$1.1 trillion in tax revenues for fiscal year 1992. This report discusses deficiencies and internal control weaknesses in the systems that account for this money. GAO identified these shortcomings during its audit of IRS' fiscal year 1992 financial statements. GAO recommends that IRS (1) develop a way to capture information on the specific taxes collected for trust funds so that the difference between amounts assessed and amounts collected is readily determinable and tax receipts can be distributed as required by law, (2) determine the trust fund revenue information needs of other agencies and provide such information, and (3) identify the information needed for revenue reporting and related sources and develop written policies and procedures for compiling this information.

**Financial Management:
Strong Leadership Needed to Improve Army's Financial
Accountability**

GAO/AIMD-94-12, Dec. 22 (54 pages).

The Army's financial accountability for billions of dollars in resources is seriously undercut by weaknesses in its disbursement systems, inadequate controls over computer processing of financial and logistics information, and limited progress in Defense Department (DOD) efforts to beef up financial management. Overall, the lack of sustained DOD leadership has impaired the Army's ability to strengthen financial accountability. The Army's budget execution information could not be relied on to ensure Army compliance with disbursement limits set by law. Adequate controls were not always used to support recorded disbursements for the Army Material Command. General controls over computer processing gave little assurance that financial data were accurately processed or that automated systems and data were secured. DOD's efforts to improve Army financial management information have been weakened by vacancies in the position of the DOD Chief Financial Officer. Also, DOD lacks a comprehensive plan to guide the assessment of financial management personnel qualifications or other Army efforts to improve financial management. In addition, the roles and responsibilities of the various DOD

organizations carrying out the Army's financial management operations have not been spelled out clearly.

Government Operations

Management Reform: GAO's Comments on the National Performance Review's Recommendations

GAO/OCG-94-1, Dec. 3 (279 pages).

The National Performance Review (NPR), done under the direction of the Vice President, seeks ways to make the government work better and cost less. The NPR recommendations are grouped into four areas: cutting red tape, putting customers first, empowering employees to get results, and cutting back to basics. The NPR report contains 384 recommendations covering 27 federal agencies and 14 government systems, such as procurement and budgeting. The NPR report emphasizes many of the basic themes that GAO has been stressing for years, including the need to strengthen agency management and to focus management and accountability on the results of programs. Accordingly, GAO agrees with virtually all of the NPR report's recommendations and believes that their successful implementation will significantly help the government to overcome its management and programmatic problems.

Whistleblower Protection: Reasons for Whistleblower Complainants' Dissatisfaction Need to Be Explored

GAO/GGD-94-21, Nov. 15 (44 pages).

A survey of federal workers who have sought whistleblower reprisal protection from the Office of Special Counsel (OSC) found that the vast majority were frustrated with the complaint process and did not believe that investigators gathered all of the information needed to examine their claims. Believing that OSC failed to act on their behalf, most survey respondents said that they needed to hire a lawyer to protect their interests. Also, most of the respondents did not seem to fully understand the process. GAO concludes that OSC needs to look into the reasons for this level of dissatisfaction and work with Congress to address the problems. Education about the whistleblower protection process clearly needs attention. Federal workers need to know about their right to protection from whistleblower reprisals, the four elements needed to prove that

reprisal has occurred, and the challenges that complainants may encounter in pursuing their cases.

**Refugee Resettlement:
Unused Federal Funds in 1991 and 1992**

GAO/HRD-94-44, Dec. 7 (32 pages).

The federal government helps to resettle refugees for up to 36 months after they enter the United States. This assistance can include cash payments and medical assistance. Between 1985 and 1992, federal assistance for refugee resettlement decreased and the time period for cash and medical assistance was reduced, while the number of refugees being admitted rose. This report discusses (1) the extent to which Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) funds to states for refugee cash and medical assistance went unused in fiscal years 1991 and 1992, (2) the cause of any residual surplus for HHS funds for such assistance in those years and GAO's views on the reasonableness of the cause, (3) whether refugees could have received cash and medical assistance for a longer period of time than they did, (4) GAO's views on the reasonableness of HHS' proposed changes to federal regulations on the eligibility period for cash and medical aid, and (5) the extent to which HHS matching funds to voluntary agencies were unused in fiscal years 1991 and 1992 and the explanation for any surplus. GAO also provides information on how HHS determined the eligibility period for fiscal years 1991 and 1992.

**Legislative Employment:
Operations of the Office of Fair Employment Practices Could
Be Improved**

GAO/GGD-94-36, Dec. 9 (26 pages).

Although the House of Representatives has experienced an annual turnover rate of 25 percent each year since the Office of Fair Employment Practices was established in 1988, the Office has not been routinely informing congressional staff about employees' rights and the office created to enforce them. Unlike its Senate counterpart, the House Office has not been required to develop programs that would, by heightening awareness of employee rights, prevent violations in the first place. The lack of a statutory mandate or House rule could have contributed to the Office's limited educational efforts. By the end of July 1993, the Office had received more than 1,000 inquiries in the five years since it had started up.

It had not, however, collected data on the exact nature of the information requested or the concerns expressed—information that would allow the Office to target its educational efforts and to anticipate its potential complaint workload. The Office's hearing procedures could be strengthened by (1) barring the appointment of House employees or officers as hearing officers and (2) requiring that hearing officers be familiar with equal employment opportunity and civil rights laws. Also, the Office's procedures for addressing employees' grievances should be extended to House employees working for the Architect of the Capitol.

Testimony

Border Management: Dual Management Structure at Entry Ports Should End, by J. William Gadsby, Director of Government Business Operations Issues, before the Subcommittee on Information, Justice, Transportation, and Agriculture, House Committee on Government Operations.
GAO/T-GGD-94-34, Dec. 10 (10 pages).

The U.S. Customs Service and the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) are the main agencies responsible for inspecting and clearing, respectively, goods and merchandise as well as persons crossing the U.S. border. Customs and INS have a long history of interagency rivalry coupled with ineffective cooperation and coordination on border crossing operations. GAO testified that these problems will not be resolved until the existing dual management structure is ended. GAO supports the creation of an independent immigration and customs agency—a move that should produce a more strategic and integrated vision for handling the heavy volume of persons, services, and goods entering this country.

Health

**Health Insurance:
California Public Employees' Alliance Has Reduced Recent
Premium Growth**

GAO/HRD-94-40, Nov. 22 (28 pages).

As part of the ongoing debate over health care reform, policymakers have been weighing the pros and cons of alternative ways to purchase care. The administration's health care reform package and other recent reform proposals call for purchasing cooperatives to manage competition among health care plans. One frequently cited example of a successful purchasing cooperative is the California Public Employees' Retirement System (CalPERS), which negotiates health premiums for many public employees in

California. This report analyzes CalPERS' effectiveness in controlling health care costs for its members. GAO (1) examines CalPERS' cost-containment record, (2) identifies factors that have contributed to the trend in its premium rates, (3) assesses the impact of CalPERS' cost-containment efforts on its members' benefits, and (4) discusses the applicability of its Health Benefits Program as a model of managed competition—a system under which large purchasing cooperatives contract with a variety of competing health plans on behalf of employers and individuals.

**Grant Administration:
CDC Oversight of Grantees' Activities Needs Improvement**

GAO/HRD-94-12, Dec. 10 (20 pages).

This report discusses funding by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to promote "safer sex" as a way of controlling the spread of the virus that causes AIDS. GAO examined whether grant recipients used federal money to engage in prohibited lobbying; improperly advocate cultural, institutional, ideological, economic, or other causes; or encourage homosexuality or the illegal use of intravenous drugs. Although CDC did not find grantees engaging in prohibited lobbying, its oversight was not accompanied by adequate controls over the use of federal funds to pay membership dues to organizations. During GAO's review, CDC strengthened its controls by requiring staff to gather information on the organizations receiving dues and the purpose of these payments. Also, the Public Health Service revised its grants administration policy on the extent of organizations' lobbying to determine the allowability of such dues reimbursement. CDC's oversight of AIDS-related materials produced with federal funds has fallen short.

Testimony

Hospitals: Chief Executives' Compensation, 1989-1991, by Janet L. Shikles, Assistant Comptroller General for Human Resources Programs, before the Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, House Committee on Energy and Commerce. GAO/T-HRD-94-70, Dec. 7 (27 pages).

In recent years, the media have scrutinized the high salaries—some approaching \$1 million annually—paid to health care executives, in some cases linking them to the rising cost of health care. Yet little has been known about how representative such salaries are of the industry as a whole or about the various factors that influence chief executives' compensation. A GAO survey of more than 400 hospitals found that the

average annual compensation of hospital chief executives in 1991 was \$131,000—ranging from about \$31,000 to \$850,000—but that their actual compensation was understated by what they earned for their services to related businesses, such as medical equipment companies, pharmacies, diagnostic centers, and property management firms. Differences in compensation earned by hospital chief executives was due largely to varying hospital characteristics, inpatient data, financial performance, and location. For instance, executives employed by large for-profit hospitals in the Northeast were likely to receive the highest pay.

Information Management

Information Resources: USDA Lacks Data on Major Computer Systems

GAO/AIMD-94-31, Oct. 21 (13 pages).

The Agriculture Department (USDA) says that it has 17 major computer systems under development with total estimated life-cycle costs of \$6.3 billion. One of these—a major information technology modernization program for the farm service agencies—accounts for about \$2.6 billion of this amount. USDA has two additional major initiatives—one to streamline administrative processes and another to develop integrated financial information systems—that are still in early planning stages and therefore do not yet have estimated life-cycle costs. Although the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) requires specific information about major systems, USDA has not routinely collected and reported these basic data and has therefore not complied with these government reporting requirements. USDA, OMB, and Congress need these data to determine (1) how and to what extent information technology is being used and (2) whether planned information technology investments warrant further review. Recently, USDA has taken steps to comply with the OMB requirements.

EPA Toxic Substances Program: Long-Standing Information Planning Problems Must Be Addressed

GAO/AIMD-94-25, Nov. 17 (36 pages).

Because toxic chemicals are in such widespread use today, nearly every American's body contains traces of toxic chemicals as a result of skin absorption or other environmental exposure. Some of the chemicals, such as asbestos, PCPS, and ozone-depleting chemicals, have been found to

cause tumors and birth defects as well as to harm wildlife. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is responsible for identifying, assessing, and regulating the risks posed by the approximately 72,000 chemicals in commercial use as well as chemicals proposed for manufacture. Because of concerns about EPA's information resources management practices, this report examines whether EPA is effectively planning for and using information resources to (1) identify and assess chemicals posing the greatest risk to human health and the environment and (2) retrieve critical data on health and environmental risks by other federal users that assess risks from chemicals.

**Defense IRM:
Business Strategy Needed for Electronic Data Interchange
Program**

GAO/AIMD-94-17, Dec. 9 (14 pages).

The Defense Department (DOD), realizing that electronic data interchange technology could save it millions of dollars, began a program to standardize electronic business operations and provide a common approach for vendors to conduct business with DOD. With electronic data interchange, business information traditionally conveyed on paper is sent directly between computers without human intervention. DOD estimated that it could save \$254 million by 1996 by automating routine business forms and standardizing them. These goals, although laudable, are not being achieved because of a lack of leadership and ineffective, splintered management.

**Veterans Benefits:
Redirected Modernization Shows Promise**

GAO/AIMD-94-26, Dec. 9 (28 pages).

In December 1992, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) awarded the first of its planned three-stage modernization procurements. This eight-year contract was awarded to Federal Data Corporation with a maximum value of \$300 million. In response to congressional concerns about the benefits expected from this contract, this report discusses (1) the status of VA's business process redesign and its service improvement goals, (2) the validity of VA's cost estimates for the modernization, and (3) VA's contention that existing computer equipment failures were frequent and caused severe benefit service problems. In

June 1993, VA and the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) agreed to redirect VA's modernization effort. This report also comments on the VA-OMB agreement.

International Affairs

Agricultural Loan Guarantees: National Advisory Council's Critical Views on Loans to Iraq Withheld

GAO/GGD-94-24, Oct. 27 (36 pages).

The National Advisory Council on International Monetary and Financial Policies (NAC) approved more than \$6 billion in Agriculture Department (USDA) loans and credit guarantees to Iraq despite that country's poor creditworthiness. NAC's use of majority voting to decide issues, as well as approval letters that omitted dissenting opinion, enabled USDA to continue to provide loans to Iraq while giving the impression that interagency backing for its credit decisions was unanimous. In addition, although the NAC review and approval process is not essentially an analysis of financial considerations, USDA represented NAC as a financial review process in describing its credit guarantees to Iraq. NAC's role shrank even further after the Iraq incident when the Bush administration did not consult NAC before announcing USDA credit guarantees to the former Soviet Union.

Former Soviet Union: Agricultural Reform and Food Situation in Its Successor States

GAO/GGD-94-17, Nov. 19 (108 pages).

Since the breakup of the Soviet Union in late 1991, the newly independent successor states have been trying to transform their communist-style command economies into more-efficient market-based ones. As part of this effort, the states are trying to change their agricultural sectors, including the privatization of food production, processing, and distribution. If successful, these agricultural reforms should reduce the states' dependence on food imports, and, in particular, their reliance on export credit guarantees from the United States and other countries. This report identifies (1) the status of agricultural reforms in the newly independent states; (2) the relationship, if any, between U.S. credit-guaranteed food exports to the states and agricultural reform in these countries; (3) the amount of U.S. credit guarantees provided to the former Soviet Union and whether food provided under the guarantees was

distributed equitably among its republics; and (4) the food situation in the newly independent states.

Foreign Assistance:
Clearer Guidance Needed on When to Use Cash Grants

GAO/NSIAD-94-30, Dec. 22 (47 pages).

The Agency for International Development (AID) provided nearly \$10 billion in cash grant assistance during fiscal years 1989-92. This report (1) analyzes the use of cash grant assistance to buy U.S. goods and services, (2) assesses AID's systems for ensuring accountability and monitoring of the use of cash grant assistance, and (3) evaluates AID's basis for deciding when to use cash grants rather than other forms of assistance to achieve U.S. objectives. AID prefers, but does not require, that cash grant recipients use the money to buy U.S. goods. AID reports that for fiscal year 1992, recipient countries used an estimated 83 percent of all cash grants to repay debts; about 17 percent was used to purchase goods, of which about half was used to directly purchase U.S. goods, but these data are of doubtful accuracy. At the six missions GAO visited—Bolivia, Egypt, Ghana, Nicaragua, the Philippines, and Tanzania—AID generally maintained adequate accountability and monitoring controls as required by law and AID guidance. GAO recommends, however, that AID provide clear guidance to overseas missions on choosing among various forms of assistance, including cash grants, and that the missions fully document the reasons for their choices.

U.N. Peacekeeping:
Lessons Learned in Managing Recent Missions

GAO/NSIAD-94-9, Dec. 29 (71 pages).

The U.N. efforts in Cambodia and Somalia have sought to bring peace to nations devastated by civil war. The U.N. operations in these two countries, which involved ambitious objectives and authorized budgets of more than \$1 billion, provide excellent case studies in how the U.N. manages peacekeeping. This report examines operational problems with implementing peacekeeping and the importance of clear mandates and a solid political framework for peace. Specifically, GAO (1) describes the results of U.N. efforts in Cambodia through July 1993, (2) studies the U.N.'s capability to manage operations such as those in Cambodia and

Somalia, (3) examines peacekeeping command in the field, and (4) examines peacekeeping mandates.

Justice and Law Enforcement

Illicit Narcotics: Recent Efforts to Control Chemical Diversion and Money Laundering

GAO/NSIAD-94-34, Dec. 8 (54 pages).

Illicit drug production and trafficking are global problems transcending national borders. Profits from drug trafficking are pegged at hundreds of billions of dollars annually—far exceeding what the international community spends on counternarcotics programs. Manufacturers of illegal drugs often rely on chemicals that have been diverted from legitimate commercial uses. The United Nations and two international task forces have suggested ways to control the production and trafficking of illicit drugs and their proceeds. This report identifies the 88 signatories to a 1988 U.N. convention against illegal drug trafficking and discusses the extent to which the international community has adopted an international task force recommendation on chemical diversion and money laundering.

National Defense

Department of Defense: Changes Needed to the Humanitarian and Civic Assistance Program

GAO/NSIAD-94-57, Nov. 2 (12 pages).

GAO reviewed the Defense Department's (DOD) Humanitarian and Civic Assistance Program, which provides nonlethal assistance for humanitarian activities. Since 1985, when Congress first authorized such assistance, the program has grown rapidly. Under the program, DOD has provided foreign countries with excess medical supplies and clothing from its stocks, helped to rebuild or repair countries' infrastructures, delivered disaster assistance, and transported food and supplies from private donor groups to starving people abroad. GAO recommends that DOD (1) develop a cost-effective method for providing Congress with a more reasonable estimate of the costs incurred in providing humanitarian assistance; (2) issue an implementing directive for conducting humanitarian and civic assistance activities as required by the law, which would clarify DOD's authority to engage in humanitarian assistance and would set a dollar

threshold for minimum assistance provided under title 10 legislation; (3) ensure that projects contribute to U.S. foreign policy objectives and have the full support of the host country involved; and (4) ensure that commands are evaluating the effectiveness of the projects.

**Conscientious Objectors:
Number of Applications Remained Small During the Persian
Gulf War**

GAO/NSIAD-94-35, Nov. 9 (12 pages).

During fiscal years 1988-1990, the Pentagon processed up to 200 applications each year for conscientious objector status and approved about 80 to 85 percent. During the 1991 Persian Gulf War, the number of applications rose to 447, about 61 percent of which were approved. Applicants were generally young junior enlisted personnel. Given that more than 500,000 troops were sent to the Persian Gulf, coupled with the fact that the services deployed some applicants, conscientious objectors had no measurable impact on the readiness of the all-volunteer force. This report also describes the different procedures used by the various military services to process conscientious objectors' applications.

**Electronic Warfare:
Costly Radar Warning Receiver Duplication Continues**

GAO/NSIAD-94-4, Nov. 29 (25 pages).

Despite recommendations from Congress that the military services build common electronic warfare systems that can be shared, the Air Force and the Navy have continued to acquire radar warning receivers for fixed-wing aircraft that lack commonality. This lack of progress stems in part from the Defense Department's (DOD) reliance on a flawed analysis justifying the perpetuation of separate radar warning receiving programs. The prospects for achieving commonality for future fixed-wing fighter and attack aircraft are also unclear because DOD has no plans to ensure use of a common system. GAO believes that commonality is feasible and that substantial savings can be realized. The Army has acquired a common radar warning receiver for its helicopters, and a follow-on system for Army and Marine Corps special purpose aircraft and helicopters is being jointly acquired, with savings estimated to be equal to the system acquisition cost.

**Household Goods:
DOD Can Improve Claims Recovery on Direct Procurement
Method Shipments**

GAO/NSIAD-94-39, Nov. 29 (32 pages).

This report reviews the Defense Department's (DOD) efforts to recover from government contractors the money it paid to military and civilian personnel for lost or damaged personal property moved under DOD's Direct Procurement Method of shipment. DOD nearly always tries to recover loss and damage claims from destination contractors, even though others, particularly the origin contractor or one of the freight carriers, may be more responsible for losses and damages and may have greater liability limits than the does the destination contractor. Claims officials have recovered less than they could have and have indirectly forced destination contractors to boost rates to offset the claims losses. In addition, origin transportation officers have received only minimal feedback, which could have been helpful in reducing the loss and damage and improving the quality of service on future shipments. This report explains in detail the reasons the claims officials did not attempt recovery from other than the destination contractor.

**Acquisition Reform:
DOD Acquisition Law Advisory Panel's Operations and Report**

GAO/NSIAD-94-5, Dec. 1 (60 pages).

The final report of the Defense Department's Acquisition Law Advisory Panel, entitled Streamlining Defense Acquisition Laws, examined more than 600 laws and made specific legislative proposals aimed at streamlining the defense acquisition process. GAO (1) reviewed whether the selection of Panel members and Panel operations fulfilled the relevant legal requirements; (2) analyzed and described the information-gathering and analytical approaches the Panel used; and (3) reviewed the Panel's report and determined the extent to which the report presents opposing, or otherwise differing, views to its recommendations for statutory change. GAO also identified Panel recommendations that would change acquisition laws applicable to all federal agencies or create new inconsistencies in the statutory requirements for Pentagon and civilian agencies' procurements.

**Department of Defense:
Widespread Abuse in Recycling Program Increases Funds for
Recreation Activities**

GAO/NSIAD-94-40, Dec. 10 (32 pages).

Military bases routinely receive millions of dollars annually from the sale of aircraft, vehicles, and other materials that are specifically excluded from a scrap recycling program and spend the money on recreation activities instead of using it to offset the need for appropriated funds or returning it to the U.S. Treasury. In addition, some installations are holding their own sales rather than selling materials through disposal offices. As a result, the total amount that installations are receiving from the recycling programs and spending on everything from golf courses to boating and ski equipment is unknown. In addition, Defense Department (DOD) regulations have not been revised to reflect the latest legislative changes, and internal controls for the recycling program are not being adequately followed. In some cases, program proceeds are not being properly handled. Several Inspector General and military service reviews of the recycling program over the past few years failed to report the abuses GAO found. DOD recently revised its recycling program guidance to include ferrous and nonferrous scrap and some firing range brass, a move that appears to conflict with the purpose of the recycling program since these materials are not part of the waste stream.

**National Defense Stockpile:
Disposal of Zinc**

GAO/NSIAD-94-70, Dec. 13 (nine pages).

In disposing of excess government-owned zinc, the Defense National Stockpile Center has tried not to disrupt unduly the zinc market. GAO found no evidence that zinc disposals from the stockpile had so far caused undue market disruption. In GAO's view, cautious disposal, in concert with Market Impact Committee review of market conditions, should result in continued zinc disposal without undue market disruption. The Treasury Department, the Pentagon, and industry representatives have expressed interest in and support for noncompetitive sales of stockpile zinc to the Treasury. The Defense National Stockpile Center believes that no legislative change would be necessary for sales of excess stockpile materials to other government agencies.

**Air Force Logistics:
Base Maintenance Inventories Can Be Reduced**

GAO/NSIAD-94-8, Dec. 15 (12 pages).

The Air Force has not effectively managed bench stocks—supply inventories that military base activities, such as repair shops, purchase from base supply for their own use. Despite the belief that bench stocks should contain frequent-use low-cost items, about 26 percent of the items in bench stocks at the five bases GAO reviewed were rarely used during the past year and about 30 percent of the remaining bench stocks were expensive items. Inventory managers have no idea how many of these items are in bench stocks at a given moment, which may be causing the Air Force to buy new items when the same items are in oversupply in bench stocks. Base supply inventories can be economical alternatives to bench stocks for providing low-usage and high-cost items to maintenance activities. Using base supply inventories instead of bench stocks for these items would reduce overall inventory levels and improve asset visibility without sacrificing the timeliness of the maintenance activities.

**NATO Nuclear Bases:
U.S. Should Seek Needs Reassessment and Increased Alliance
Contributions**

GAO/NSIAD-94-84, Dec. 23 (seven pages).

The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) can maintain a strong nuclear force and maintain broad Allied participation with fewer strike bases, and the United States may be able to cut its support costs by consolidating its nuclear bombs at fewer storage sites. NATO's most recent assessment of required nuclear capability assumes that its strike bases are vulnerable to a massive and sustained Soviet air attack. Despite the recent collapse of the Soviet Union, NATO has yet to do additional analyses to see whether fewer bases could provide enough nuclear capability. U.S. Air Forces in Europe does not follow Pentagon and Air Force regulations on implementing and monitoring Allied compliance with bilateral agreements governing support for U.S. Air Force custodial units stationed at Allied strike bases. U.S. Air Forces in Europe has failed to identify these problems in its annual evaluations of internal and administrative controls, though required by law. As a result, the United States is spending millions of dollars for facilities, equipment, and other support promised by host nations.

**Operation Desert Storm:
Problems With Air Force Medical Readiness**

GAO/NSIAD-94-58, Dec. 30 (23 pages).

The medical and evacuation units provided by the Air Force during Operation Desert Storm would have been unable to handle the projected number of casualties. Further, even though actual casualty rates fell short of the predictions, the units still had a hard time accomplishing their missions. Units did not have enough or the right mix of people; supplies were often incompatible with the equipment, missing, or outdated; many personnel were inadequately trained; and the system used to regulate the movement of patients did not work. According to Air Force personnel, the Air Force's system of forming teams to meet staffing requirements was biased and caused low troop morale.

Natural Resources

**Fisheries Management:
Administration of the Sport Fish Restoration Program**

GAO/RCED-94-4, Nov. 8 (68 pages).

The long-term decline in the quality of sport fishing in the United States prompted the creation in 1950 of the Sport Fish Restoration Program, which seeks to restore, conserve, and enhance the nation's sport fishery resources. During fiscal years 1998-92, the program received nearly \$1 billion in federal funding. In response to congressional concerns about the program's rapid expansion and about whether program money was being used for its intended purposes, this report determines (1) the extent to which the Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) used these funds to run the program, (2) whether FWS' use of program funds for special investigations helped the agency to achieve the program's goals, (3) whether the states allocated the required amount of funds to freshwater and marine projects, and (4) the extent to which the states programmed funds to enhance fish habitat. GAO limited its review to five coastal states—California, Florida, North Carolina, Texas, and Washington—that historically have either received the largest apportionments of program funds or have underwritten a diverse range of sport fish projects.

Testimony

Bureau of Reclamation: Information on the Federal Financial Commitment and Repayment Status of the Central Arizona Project, by James Duffus III, Director of Natural Resources Management Issues, before the Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, House Committee on Natural Resources. GAO/T-RCED-94-92, Dec. 10 (11 pages).

It is estimated that construction of the Central Arizona Project—a massive water project designed to pump water from the Colorado River as far south as Tucson—will be completed in 1999 at a cost of \$4.7 billion, and the federal share could climb from \$1.7 billion to upwards of \$2.8 billion. The project is expected to provide Arizona residents with flood control, fish and wildlife enhancement, recreation, commercial power, groundwater conservation, and drinking water. This testimony discusses (1) the total financial commitment of the federal government to build the system and (2) the Central Arizona Water Conservation District's ability to fulfill its obligation to repay allocated project costs.

Science, Space, and Technology

NASA Procurement: Planning for Pilot Test of New Procurement Procedures Is Adequate

GAO/NSIAD-94-67, Nov. 4 (13 pages).

GAO reviewed NASA's plans to pilot test new procedures for procurements with annual values between \$25,000 and \$500,000 and total five-year values up to \$2.5 million. The pilot test seeks to determine whether the new procedure will reduce the time and effort needed to solicit offers and award contracts in this price range. As now designed, each midrange acquisition of supplies or services is reserved exclusively for small businesses. GAO reviewed (1) the extent to which the pilot test procurement procedures differ from the Federal Acquisition Regulation; (2) the development of key features of the pilot project, including the financial impact of using an electronic commerce system on those wanting to do business with NASA and how such a system would accommodate the amending of solicitations; and (3) NASA's plans for assessing the results of the pilot project.

Social Services

Breastfeeding: WIC's Efforts to Promote Breastfeeding Have Increased

GAO/HRD-94-13, Dec. 16 (122 pages).

The Department of Health and Human Services has set a goal, by the year 2000, of increasing the percentage of women who breastfeed their infants to at least 75 percent at hospital discharge and to at least 50 percent at five to six months postpartum. Poor women, such as those served by the Special Supplemental Food Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC), breastfeed less than other U.S. women. Concern about WIC mothers' low rates of breastfeeding prompted Congress to set aside \$8 million annually to promote breastfeeding during fiscal years 1990-94. This report determines (1) how promotional funds for breastfeeding are being spent and what WIC is doing to promote breastfeeding, (2) to what degree breastfeeding promotion is an integral part of local WIC services, (3) whether encouraging WIC participants to breastfeed would reduce WIC food program costs at the program's current funding level or if WIC were funded so that all eligible participants could be served, (4) how effective current WIC efforts to promote breastfeeding are, and (5) whether any changes in federal laws or regulations could encourage breastfeeding.

Aging Issues: Related GAO Reports and Activities in Fiscal Year 1993

GAO/HRD-94-73, Dec. 22 (75 pages).

GAO's work on aging issues reflects the continuing importance of federal programs for older Americans. The 1990 Census reported more than 31 million older Americans, and that number is expected to top 53 million by 2020. A multitude of public policy issues are linked to the graying of America. GAO's reports and testimony during 1993 addressed many of these subjects, including federal programs relating to employment, health care, housing, income security, and veterans affairs. This handy reference guide summarizes issued reports and testimony and lists jobs that were ongoing as of September 1993.

Tax Policy and Administration

Tax Administration: Increased Fraud and Poor Taxpayer Access to IRS Cloud 1993 Filing Season

GAO/GGD-94-65, Dec. 22 (22 pages).

In 1993, for the first time in several years, the number of tax returns filed dropped; about 2 million fewer individual income tax returns were filed that year than during 1992. The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) believes that a major reason for the decrease is the change in withholding tables for tax year 1992, which caused fewer taxpayers to receive refunds and more to owe taxes. IRS identified about 54,000 fraudulent returns involving refund claims in 1993, about twice as many as IRS identified in 1992. Fraudulent electronic filing, which has been on the upswing since the service was introduced nationwide in 1990, is a particularly difficult problem for IRS because of the speed with which refunds are processed. Although IRS is bolstering its efforts to combat electronic fraud, such as conducting computer checks to verify that taxpayer names and social security numbers on returns match IRS records, GAO believes that IRS could take further steps to identify and stop fraudulent electronic refunds. For example, IRS should analyze information provided by banks on rejected refund anticipation loans—loans that allow taxpayers to quickly get money while their refunds are being processed. IRS indicators show that, except for the continuing fraud problem, the agency did a good job processing returns during the 1993 filing season; most refunds were issued quickly and accurately. In addition, toll-free telephone assistors did a good job answering tax law questions, and distribution centers did a good job responding to taxpayers' requests for forms, instructions, and publications. Taxpayers, however, continued to have difficulty getting through to telephone assistors.

Veterans Affairs

VA Health Care: Tuberculosis Controls Receiving Greater Emphasis at VA Medical Centers

GAO/HRD-94-5, Nov. 9 (69 pages).

Lax infection-control practices and inadequate isolation rooms were behind the tuberculosis outbreak at the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) medical center in East Orange, New Jersey. Medical center staff did not consistently use appropriate procedures for isolating suspected or

known tuberculosis patients. The center lacked a comprehensive employee-testing program to monitor the staff's exposure to active tuberculosis. Isolation rooms did not have proper airflow, and air exhausted from these rooms may have contaminated other areas in the medical center. Since the outbreak, the center has made major improvements in its infection-control practices, and VA plans to construct 19 isolation rooms at the center. VA has also tried to beef up tuberculosis controls at its other medical centers and is giving greater scrutiny to centers' tuberculosis-control programs and practices. According to a December 1992 VA survey, 10 medical centers each had more than 20 cases of tuberculosis; six of the 10 also had the highest numbers of AIDS cases.

GAO

Order Form

Check appropriate boxes, tear out entire form, affix mailing label to this page, and send to:

U.S. General Accounting Office
Post Office Box 6015
Gaithersburg, Maryland 20884-6015

Affix mailing label from back cover here. Otherwise, please print or type address information.

Name and organization

Street or P.O. box

City, state, and ZIP code

If your address has changed, please check this box and write out your new address in the space above.

AGRICULTURE AND FOOD

- Food Assistance: USDA's Multiprogram Approach
GAO/RCED-94-33, Nov. 24.
- Food Assistance: Information on Meal Costs in the National School Lunch Program
GAO/RCED-94-32BR, Dec. 1.
- Food Assistance: Schools That Left the National School Lunch Program
GAO/RCED-94-36BR, Dec. 3.

BUDGET AND SPENDING

- Impoundments: Proposed Deferrals of Funds for International Security and Disaster Assistance and for Public Building Construction Projects
GAO/OGC-94-20, Dec. 23.

EDUCATION

- Deaf Education: Improved Oversight Needed for National Technical Institute for the Deaf
GAO/HRD-94-23, Dec. 16.
- School-Linked Human Services: A Comprehensive Strategy for Aiding Students at Risk of School Failure
GAO/HRD-94-21, Dec. 30.

EMPLOYMENT

- Occupational Safety and Health: Differences Between Program in the United States and Canada
GAO/HRD-94-15FS, Dec. 6.
- Dislocated Workers: A Look Back at the Redwood Employment Training Programs
GAO/HRD-94-16BR, Dec. 13.

ENERGY

- Nuclear Health and Safety: Examples of Post World War II Radiation Releases at U.S. Nuclear Sites
GAO/RCED-94-51FS, Nov. 24.
- Energy Management: Controls Over the Livermore Laboratory's Indirect Costs Are Inadequate
GAO/RCED-94-34, Nov. 16.

Testimony

- DOE Management: Implementing the Environmental Restoration Management Contractor Concept
GAO/T-RCED-94-86, Dec. 1.

FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS

- Minority-Owned Financial Institutions: Status of Federal Efforts to Preserve Minority Ownership
GAO/GGD-94-1, Nov. 3.
- Federal Home Loan Bank System: Reforms Needed to Promote Its Safety, Soundness, and Effectiveness
GAO/GGD-94-38, Dec. 8.
- Regulatory Burden: Recent Studies, Industry Issues, and Agency Initiatives
GAO/GGD-94-28, Dec. 13.
- Resolution Trust Corporation: Better Information Could Enhance Controls Over Loan Servicing Costs
GAO/GGD-94-41, Dec. 22.
- Resolution Trust Corporation: Ineffective Management of HomeFed Bank Environmental Services Contracting
GAO/GGD-94-62, Dec. 28.

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

- Inspectors General: Action Needed to Strengthen OIGs at Designated Federal Entities
GAO/AIMD-94-39, Nov. 30.
- Financial Audit: House Interparliamentary Groups' Financial Statements for 1992 and 1991
GAO/AIMD-94-21, Dec. 14.
- Financial Management: Customs' Accounting for Budgetary Resources Was Inadequate
GAO/AIMD-94-23, Dec. 14.
- Legislative Service Organizations: Proposed Accounting Standards and Guidelines
GAO/AIMD-94-49, Dec. 16.
- Financial Management: Important IRS Revenue Information Is Unavailable or Unreliable
GAO/AIMD-94-22, Dec. 21.
- Financial Management: Strong Leadership Needed to Improve Army's Financial Accountability
GAO/AIMD-94-12, Dec. 22.

GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

- Management Reform: GAO's Comments on the National Performance Review's Recommendations
GAO/OCG-94-1, Dec. 3.
- Whistleblower Protection: Reasons for Whistleblower Complainants' Dissatisfaction Need to Be Explored
GAO/GGD-94-21, Nov. 15.
- Refugee Resettlement: Unused Federal Funds in 1991 and 1992
GAO/HRD-94-44, Dec. 7.

- Legislative Employment: Operations of the Office of Fair Employment Practices Could Be Improved
GAO/GGD-94-36, Dec. 9.

Testimony

- Border Management: Dual Management Structure at Entry Ports Should End
GAO/T-GGD-94-34, Dec. 10.

HEALTH

- Health Insurance: California Public Employees' Alliance Has Reduced Recent Premium Growth
GAO/HRD-94-40, Nov. 22.
- Grant Administration: CDC Oversight of Grantees' Activities Needs Improvement
GAO/HRD-94-12, Dec. 10.

Testimony

- Hospitals: Chief Executives' Compensation, 1989-1991
GAO/T-HRD-94-70, Dec. 7.

INFORMATION MANAGEMENT

- Information Resources: USDA Lacks Data on Major Computer Systems
GAO/AIMD-94-31, Oct. 21.
- EPA Toxic Substances Program: Long-Standing Information Planning Problems Must Be Addressed
GAO/AIMD-94-25, Nov. 17.
- Defense IRM: Business Strategy Needed for Electronic Data Interchange Program
GAO/AIMD-94-17, Dec. 9.
- Veterans Benefits: Redirected Modernization Shows Promise
GAO/AIMD-94-26, Dec. 9.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

- Agricultural Loan Guarantees: National Advisory Council's Critical Views on Loans to Iraq Withheld
GAO/GGD-94-24, Oct. 27.
- Former Soviet Union: Agricultural Reform and Food Situation in Its Successor States
GAO/GGD-94-17, Nov. 19.
- Foreign Assistance: Clearer Guidance Needed on When to Use Cash Grants
GAO/NSIAD-94-30, Dec. 22.
- U.N. Peacekeeping: Lessons Learned in Managing Recent Missions
GAO/NSIAD-94-9, Dec. 29.

JUSTICE AND LAW ENFORCEMENT

- Illicit Narcotics: Recent Efforts to Control Chemical Diversion and Money Laundering
GAO/NSIAD-94-34, Dec. 8.

NATIONAL DEFENSE

- Department of Defense: Changes Needed to the Humanitarian and Civic Assistance Program
GAO/NSIAD-94-57, Nov. 2.
- Conscientious Objectors: Number of Applications Remained Small During the Persian Gulf War
GAO/NSIAD-94-35, Nov. 9.
- Electronic Warfare: Costly Radar Warning Receiver Duplication Continues
GAO/NSIAD-94-4, Nov. 29.
- Household Goods: DOD Can Improve Claims Recovery on Direct Procurement Method Shipments
GAO/NSIAD-94-39, Nov. 29.
- Acquisition Reform: DOD Acquisition Law Advisory Panel's Operations and Report
GAO/NSIAD-94-5, Dec. 1.
- Department of Defense: Widespread Abuse in Recycling Program Increases Funds for Recreation Activities
GAO/NSIAD-94-40, Dec. 10.

- National Defense Stockpile: Disposal of Zinc
GAO/NSIAD-94-70, Dec. 13.
- Air Force Logistics: Base Maintenance Inventories Can Be Reduced
GAO/NSIAD-94-8, Dec. 15.

- NATO Nuclear Bases: U.S. Should Seek Needs Reassessment and Increased Alliance Contributions
GAO/NSIAD-94-84, Dec. 23.
- Operation Desert Storm: Problems With Air Force Medical Readiness
GAO/NSIAD-94-58, Dec. 30.

NATURAL RESOURCES

- Fisheries Management: Administration of the Sport Fish Restoration Program
GAO/RCED-94-4, Nov. 8.

Testimony

- Bureau of Reclamation: Information on the Federal Financial Commitment and Repayment Status of the Central Arizona Project
GAO/T-RCED-94-92, Dec. 10.

SCIENCE, SPACE, AND TECHNOLOGY

- NASA Procurement: Planning for Pilot Test of New Procurement Procedures Is Adequate
GAO/NSIAD-94-67, Nov. 4.

SOCIAL SERVICES

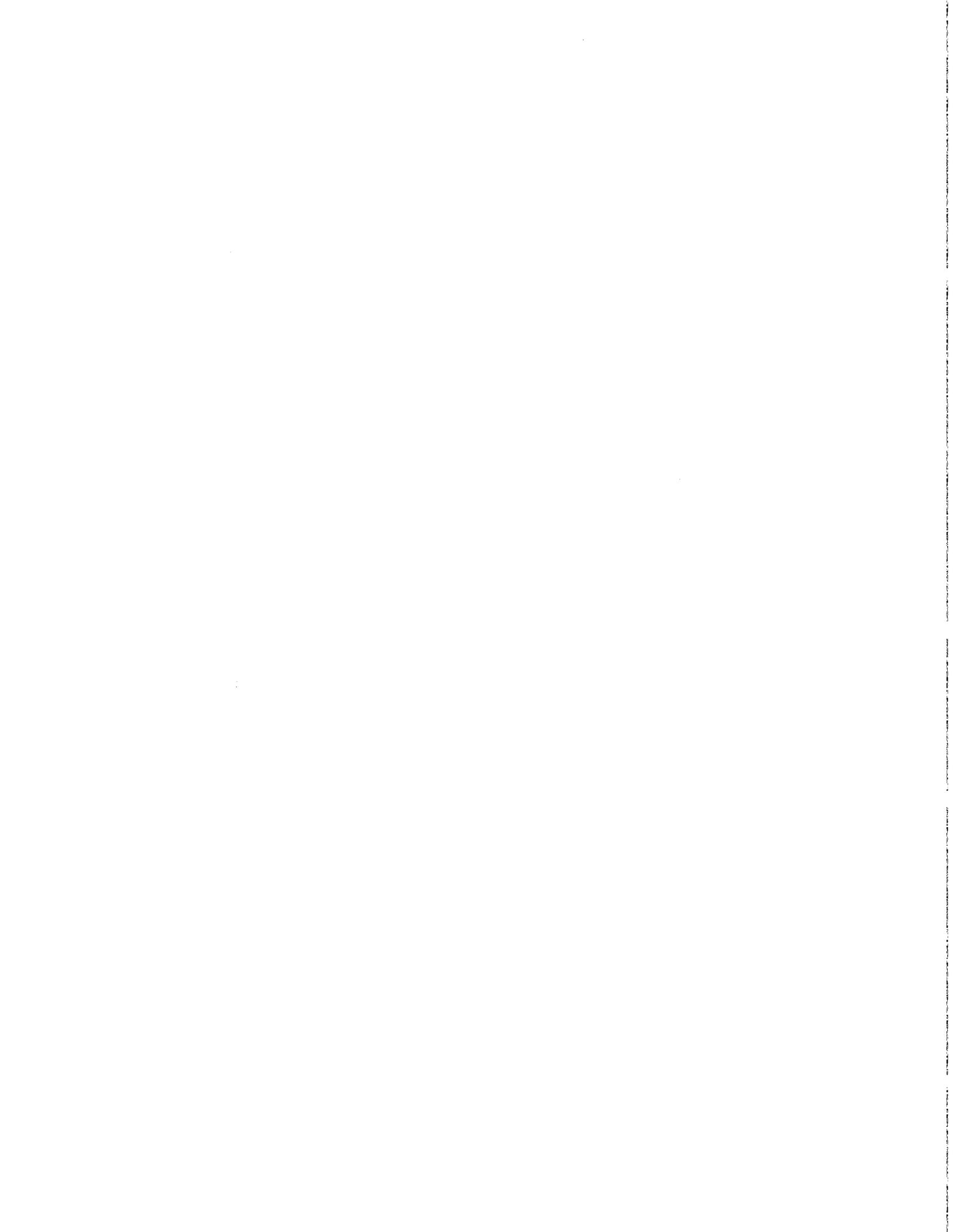
- Breastfeeding: WIC's Efforts to Promote Breastfeeding Have Increased
GAO/HRD-94-13, Dec. 16.
- Aging Issues: Related GAO Reports and Activities in Fiscal Year 1993
GAO/HRD-94-73, Dec. 22.

TAX POLICY AND ADMINISTRATION

- Tax Administration: Increased Fraud and Poor Taxpayer Access to IRS Cloud 1993 Filing Season
GAO/GGD-94-65, Dec. 22.

VETERANS AFFAIRS

- VA Health Care: Tuberculosis Controls Receiving Greater Emphasis at VA Medical Centers
GAO/HRD-94-5, Nov. 9.



Ordering Information

The first copy of each GAO report and testimony is free. Additional copies are \$2 each. Orders should be sent to the following address, accompanied by a check or money order made out to the Superintendent of Documents, when necessary. Orders for 100 or more copies to be mailed to a single address are discounted 25 percent.

Orders by mail:

**U.S. General Accounting Office
P.O. Box 6015
Gaithersburg, MD 20884-6015**

or visit:

**Room 1000
700 4th St. NW (corner of 4th and G Sts. NW)
U.S. General Accounting Office
Washington, DC**

**Orders may also be placed by calling (202) 512-6000
or by using fax number (301) 258-4066.**

Each day, GAO issues a list of newly available reports and testimony. To receive facsimile copies of the daily list, or any listing from the past 30 days, please call (301) 258-4097 using a touchtone phone. A recorded menu will provide information on how to obtain these listings.

**United States
General Accounting Office
Washington, D.C. 20548**

**Official Business
Penalty for Private Use \$300**

<p>Bulk Rate Postage & Fees Paid GAO Permit No. G100</p>
