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FLORIDA VOLUNTEERS—ESTIMATES.

LETTER

FROM

THE SECRETARY OF WAR,

ADDRESSED

To the Chairman of Ways and Means, accompanied by estimates of appropriation for defraying expenses of volunteers lately called into service in Florida.

APRIL 2, 1856.—Referred to the Committee of Ways and Means, and ordered to be printed.

WAR DEPARTMENT,
Washington, March 28, 1856.

SIR: I have the honor to transmit, herewith, for the consideration and action of the Committee of Ways and Means, a communication from the Adjutant General, submitting estimates from the Quartermaster, Paymaster, and Commissary Generals, of the amounts necessary to be appropriated for the pay, allowances, &c., of three mounted and three foot companies of Florida volunteers, lately called into the service of the United States for six months. The aggregate amount required is \$214,298 27.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,
JEFF. DAVIS,
Secretary of War.

Hon. L. D. CAMPBELL,
Chairman Committee Ways and Means, Ho. of Reps.

ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE,
Washington, March 25, 1856.

SIR: I have the honor respectfully to recommend that an appropriation of \$214,298 27 be asked from Congress to defray the estimated expenses incident to the calling into service of three mounted and three foot companies of volunteers in Florida. This amount is made up of the detailed estimates furnished by the Quartermaster General, Com-

missary General of Subsistence, and Paymaster General, and which are herewith submitted.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

S. COOPER, *Adjutant General.*

Hon. JEFF. DAVIS, *Secretary of War.*

QUARTERMASTER GENERAL'S OFFICE,
Washington City, March 21, 1856.

SIR: I submit an estimate, in detail, of the probable expense, through the Quartermaster's department, of a volunteer force of three mounted and three foot companies, called into the service of the United States for six months, for the suppression of Indian hostilities in Florida. Such an estimate can be nothing more than an approximation to the truth, because the expenditures must, and do, depend upon the nature of the service on which the troops may be employed, and are liable to be increased or diminished by constantly varying circumstances which cannot be foreseen. The whole amount may not be required, but it would be unsafe to estimate for less.

I have the honor to be, sir, your obedient servant,

THOMAS S. JESUP,
Quartermaster General.

HON. JEFFERSON DAVIS,
Secretary of War, Washington City.

Estimate of the probable cost of furnishing and maintaining, with quartermaster's stores and supplies, three companies of mounted and three companies of foot infantry, with the organization of mounted riflemen and infantry, in Florida, for six months.

<i>Forage.</i>			
Full ration, 183 days, for 274 horses, of officers, non-commissioned officers, and privates:			
10,744 $\frac{1}{2}$ bushels of corn, at 80 cents		\$8,595 77	
701,988 pounds of hay, at 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ cent.....		10,529 82	
			\$19,125 59
For 66 pack and wagon mules:			
2,588 $\frac{1}{2}$ bushels of corn, at 80 cents		2,070 51	
169,092 pounds of hay, at 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ cent.....		2,536 38	
			4,606 89
The above is for the corn and hay at the depots at Fort Brooke or Punta Rasa, on the coast.			
<i>Means of transportation.</i>			
6 wagons complete, at \$200 each.....		1,200 00	
36 wagon mules, at \$150 each		5,400 00	
36 sets harness for wagon mules, at \$8 per set		288 00	
30 pack mules, at \$150 each.....		4,500 00	
30 pack-saddles, at \$15 each.....		450 00	
			11,838 00

ESTIMATE—Continued.

<i>Tools.</i>		
1 set blacksmiths' tools.....	\$100 00	
3 sets shoeing tools, at \$15 per set	45 00	
3 sets saddlers' tools, at \$15 per set	45 00	
2 sets carpenters' tools, at \$50 per set	100 00	
24 axes, at \$1 25 each.....	30 00	
24 spades, at \$1 each.....	24 00	
24 pick-axes, at \$1 25.....	30 00	
		\$374 00
<i>Transportation in kind.</i>		
279,990 pounds of subsistence stores from place of purchase to the troops in the field, at 1½ cent per pound.....	4,199 85	
891,080 pounds of hay from the depots to the troops in the field, at 1 cent.....	8,910 80	
746,592 pounds of corn, at 1 cent.....	7,465 92	
20,000 pounds of quartermaster's medical and ordnance stores from place of purchase, at 1 cent.....	200 00	
		20,776 57
Hire of 1 wagon and forage-master for 6 months, at \$58 60 per month	351 60	
Hire of 6 teamsters for 6 months, at \$30, including subsistence	1,080 00	
Hire of 6 muleteers for 6 months, at \$30, including subsistence	1,080 00	
Hire of 1 blacksmith for 6 months, at \$46, including subsistence	276 00	
Hire of 1 wheelwright at same	276 00	
Hire of 1 harness-maker at same.....	276 00	
		3,339 60
<i>Incidental.</i>		
4,384 horse-shoes, at 12½ cents each.....	548 00	
1,056 mule-shoes, at 10 cents.....	105 60	
400 pounds shoe-nails, at 25 cents per pound	100 00	
Materials for repairs of wagons and harness.....	200 00	
		953 60
Fuel for officers, men, hospital, and guard, about 700 cords, at \$1 per cord		700 00
Stationery for the officers, &c.....		50 00
		61,764 25
Camp and garrison equipage.....		3,000 00
To the above, which is a net calculation, should be added for contingencies, (of cost and transportation,) to replace stores which may become damaged, or be lost while being transported, or with the troops in the field; for the transportation of sick and wounded men, erection of huts at temporary posts which it may be necessary to establish, pay of extra-duty men, of expenses, &c., say 50 per cent.....		32,382 12
Total.....		97,146 37

FLORIDA VOLUNTEERS.

OFFICE OF COMMISSARY GENERAL OF SUBSISTENCE,
Washington, March 20, 1856.

COLONEL: In reply to your request of this date, I now enclose you an "estimate of the probable amount that will be required to subsist, for six months, six companies of volunteers, called into service in Florida by the United States."

Very respectfully, your most obedient servant,
 GEORGE GIBSON,
Com. General of Subsistence.

Colonel S. COOPER,
Adjutant General, U. S. Army.

Estimate of the probable amount that will be required to subsist, for six months, six companies of volunteers, called into service in Florida by the United States.

Total probable amount required..... \$29,151 90

Data upon which this estimate is made :

507 men.....	507 men.
24 women to companies.....	24 women.
	<u>531 persons.</u>
531 persons, 183 days, at 30 cents per day, is.....	<u><u>\$29,151 90</u></u>

GEORGE GIBSON,
Com. General of Subsistence.

OFFICE COMMISSARY GENERAL OF SUBSISTENCE,
Washington, March 20, 1856.

PAYMASTER GENERAL'S OFFICE,
Washington, March 19, 1856.

SIR: In reply to your letter of the 18th inst., requesting an estimate of the amount required for the payment of certain companies of Florida volunteers, called into service for six months, I have the honor to state that the amount estimated for pay and traveling allowances is eighty-eight thousand dollars.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,
 BENJAMIN F. LARNED,
Paymaster General.

Colonel S. COOPER,
Adjutant General, U. S. Army.