

§ 842.76

withdraw, or restore delegated authority.

§ 842.76 Filing a claim.

(a) *How and when filed.* A claim has been filed when a federal agency receives from a claimant or the claimant's duly authorized agent written notification of an incident of property damage, personal injury or death accompanied by a demand for money damages in a sum certain. A claim incorrectly presented to the Air Force will be promptly transferred to the appropriate Federal agency.

(b) *Amending a claim.* A claimant may amend a claim at any time prior to final Air Force action. Amendments will be submitted in writing and signed by the claimant or the claimant's duly authorized agent.

§ 842.77 Statute of limitations.

(a) A claim must be presented in writing within 2 years after it accrues. It accrues at the time the claimant discovers, or in the exercise of reasonable care should have discovered, the existence of the act causing property damage, personal injury or death for which the claim is filed.

(b) In computing time to determine whether the period of limitation has expired, exclude the incident date and include the date the claim was filed.

§ 842.78 Claims payable.

When all of the following are present, payment of a claim in the amount of \$1,000 or less is authorized if it:

(a) Is for property damage, personal injury, or death. (Payment for a personal injury or death claim is limited to costs of reasonable medical, hospital, and burial expenses actually incurred and not otherwise furnished or paid by the United States.)

(b) Was caused by a military member or civilian employee of the Air Force, whether acting within or outside the scope of employment.

(c) Arose from the use of a government vehicle at any place or other government property on a government installation, and

(d) Is not payable under any other provision of law except Article 139, UCMJ.

32 CFR Ch. VII (7-1-11 Edition)

§ 842.79 Claims not payable.

A claim is not payable if it is:

(a) Payable under any other provision of the law.

(b) Caused wholly or partly by a negligent or wrongful act of the claimant, the claimant's agent, or employee.

(c) A subrogated claim.

(d) Recoverable from other sources such as an insurance policy, or recovered from action under Article 139, UCMJ.

§ 842.80 Reconsideration of final denial.

(a) The statute does not provide for appeals. The original settlement authority may, however, reconsider any decision. There is no set format for a reconsideration but it should be submitted in writing within 60 days of the original decision.

(b) The settlement authority may either grant all or any portion of the requested relief without referral to any other office, or forward the entire file with the reasons for the action and recommendations to the next higher claims settlement authority for independent review and final action.

§ 842.81 Settlement agreement.

Do not pay a claim unless the claimant accepts the amount offered in full satisfaction of the claim and signs a settlement agreement to that effect.

Subpart J—Admiralty Claims (10 U.S.C. 9801-9804, 9806; 46 U.S.C. 740)

§ 842.82 Scope of this subpart.

It sets forth the procedure for administrative settlement of admiralty and maritime claims in favor of and against the United States.

§ 842.83 Definitions.

(a) *Admiralty contracts.* A contract covering maritime services or a maritime transaction such as vessel procurement and space for commercial ocean transportation of DOD cargo, mail, and personnel is an admiralty contract.

(b) *General average.* General average is the admiralty rule that when someone's property is thrown overboard to

Department of the Air Force, DoD

§ 842.87

save a ship, the ship owner and all owners of the cargo must share the loss.

(c) *Maritime torts.* A maritime tort is one committed in navigable waters or on land or in the air where a substantial element of the damage, personal injury, or death occurred in navigable waters. The activity causing the tortious act must bear some significant relationship to traditional maritime activity.

(d) *Vessel.* Every description of watercraft used or usable as a means of transportation on water is a vessel. (1 U.S.C. 3)

§ 842.84 Delegations of authority.

(a) The following officials have the authority to settle a claim against the Air Force in the amounts provided:

(1) The Secretary of the Air Force has the authority to:

(i) Settle a claim for payment of more than \$500,000 and to certify it to Congress for payment.

(ii) Settle and pay a claim for \$500,000 or less.

(iii) Deny a claim in any amount.

(2) The following individuals have delegated authority to settle claims for \$100,000 or less:

(i) The Judge Advocate General.

(ii) The Deputy Judge Advocate General.

(iii) The Director of Civil Law.

(iv) The Chief and Deputy Chief, Claims and Tort Litigation staff.

(b) Delegation of settlement authority on claims in favor of the United States.

(1) The Secretary of the Air Force has the authority to settle claims for damage to property under the jurisdiction of the Air Force in an amount not to exceed \$500,000, and to settle claims for salvage services performed by the Air Force in any amount.

(2) HQ USAF/JACC refers all claims for damage to property under the jurisdiction of the Air Force for more than \$500,000 to the Department of Justice.

(3) The following individuals have delegated authority to settle claims for \$100,000 or less and deny them in any amount:

(i) The Judge Advocate General.

(ii) The Deputy Judge Advocate General.

(iii) The Director of Civil Law.

(iv) The Chief and Deputy Chief, Claims and Tort Litigation Staff.

[55 FR 2809, Jan. 29, 1990, as amended at 55 FR 32077, Aug. 7, 1990; 56 FR 1574, Jan. 16, 1991]

§ 842.85 Reconsidering claims against the United States.

This section provides the policy and procedures to reconsider any maritime claim made against the United States.

(a) The settlement authority may reconsider any claim previously disapproved in whole or in part when either:

(1) The claimant submits new evidence in support of the claim.

(2) There were errors or irregularities in the submission or settlement of the claim.

(b) There is no right of appeal to higher authority under this subpart.

Subpart K—Claims Under the Federal Tort Claims Act (28 U.S.C. 1346(b), 2402, 2671, 2672, 2674–2680)

§ 842.86 Scope of this subpart.

This subpart governs claims against the United States for property damage, personal injury, or death, from the negligent or wrongful act or omission of Air Force military or civilian personnel while acting within the scope of their employment. It also covers similar tort claims generated by Air National Guard (ANG) members performing specified duty under 32 U.S.C. on or after 29 December 1981.

§ 842.87 Definitions.

(a) *Compromise.* An agreed settlement based upon the facts, the law, and the application of the law to the facts.

(b) *Final denial.* A letter the settlement authority mails to the claimant or authorized agent advising him or her that the Air Force denies his or her claim.

(c) *Reconsideration.* A request by the claimant or claimant's authorized agent to reevaluate a final decision. A request for reconsideration and an appeal are the same thing.

(d) *Negligence.* A departure from the conduct expected from a reasonably