

## 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