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(c) Inserted in any envelope or publication the contents of which may be construed to be inappropriate for association with the missing children program.

(d) Inserted in any envelope where the insertion would increase the postage cost for the item being mailed.

(e) Placed on letter-size envelopes on the official indicia, the area designated for optical character readers (OCRs), bar code read area, and return address area in accordance with the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention guidelines and U.S. Postal Service standards.

(Authority: 39 U.S.C. 3220(a)(2), 5 U.S.C. 301 [52 FR 10889, Apr. 6, 1987, as amended at 60 FR 48388, Sept. 19, 1995])

HOMELESS CLAIMANTS

§ 1.710 Homeless claimants: Delivery of benefit payments and correspondence.

(a) All correspondence and all checks for benefits payable to claimants under laws administered by the Department of Veterans Affairs shall be directed to the address specified by the claimant. The Department of Veterans Affairs will honor for this purpose any address of the claimant in care of another person or organization or in care of general delivery at a United States post office. In no event will a claim or payment of benefits be denied because the claimant provides no mailing address.

(Authority: 38 U.S.C. 5103; 5120)

(b) To ensure prompt delivery of benefit payments and correspondence, claimants who seek personal assistance from Veterans Benefits Counselors when filing their claims shall be counseled as to the importance of providing his or her current mailing address and, if no address is provided, the procedures for delivery described in paragraph (d) of this section.

(Authority: 38 U.S.C. 5103; 5120)

(c) The Department of Veterans Affairs shall prepare and distribute to organizations specially serving the needs of veterans and the homeless, including but not limited to shelters, kitchens and private outreach facilities, infor-

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mation encouraging such organizations to counsel individuals on the importance of providing mailing addresses to the Department of Veterans Affairs and advising them of this regulation.

(Authority: 38 U.S.C. 5103; 5120)

(d) If a claimant fails or refuses to provide a current mailing address to the Department of Veterans Affairs, all correspondence and any checks for benefits to which the claimant is entitled will be delivered to the Agent Cashier of the regional office which adjudicated or is adjudicating the claim in the case of compensation, pension or survivors' benefits, to the Agent Cashier of the Department of Veterans Affairs facility closest to the educational institution or training establishment attended by a claimant in the case of education benefits, or to the Agent Cashier of any other Department of Veterans Affairs facility deemed by the Agency to be appropriate under the circumstances of the particular case. The claimant, within 30 days after issuance, may obtain delivery of any check or correspondence held by an Agent Cashier upon presentation of proper identification. Checks unclaimed after 30 days will be returned to the Department of the Treasury and the correspondence to the regional office or facility of jurisdiction. Thereafter, the claimant must request the reissuance of any such check or item of correspondence by written notice to the Department of Veterans Affairs.

(Authority: 38 U.S.C. 5103; 5120)

[53 FR 22654, June 17, 1988]

APPEALS FROM DECISIONS OF CONTRACTING OFFICERS UNDER THE CONTRACT DISPUTES ACT OF 1978

AUTHORITY: Sections 1.780 through 1.783 issued under 41 U.S.C. 601-613, 38 U.S.C. 501.

SOURCE: 47 FR 12340, Mar. 23, 1982, unless otherwise noted.

§ 1.780 Board of Contract Appeals—jurisdiction.

The Department of Veterans Affairs Board of Contract Appeals (referred to in §§1.780 through 1.783 as the *Board*) shall consider and determine appeals from decisions of contracting officers

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pursuant to the Contract Disputes Act of 1978 (41 U.S.C. 601-613) relating to contracts made by (a) the Department of Veterans Affairs or (b) any other executive agency when such agency or the Administrator for Federal Procurement Policy has designated the Board to decide the appeal.

[47 FR 12340, Mar. 23, 1982, as amended at 54 FR 34980, Aug. 23, 1989]

§ 1.781 Organization and address of the Board.

(a) The Board consists of a Chair, Vice Chair, and other members, all of whom are attorneys at law duly licensed by any State, commonwealth, territory, or the District of Columbia. In general, the appeals are assigned to a panel of at least 3 members who decide the case by a majority vote. Board Members are designated Administrative Judges.

(b) The Board's mailing address is 810 Vermont Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20420.

§ 1.782 Policy and procedure.

(a) *Rules of procedure.* Appeals to the Board are processed in accordance with Rules of Procedure adopted by the Board in compliance with the guidelines issued by the Office of Federal Procurement Policy under the provisions of the Contract Disputes Act of 1978 (41 U.S.C. 601, 607(h)). There is no further administrative appeal within the Department of Veterans Affairs from final decisions rendered by the Board.

(b) *Application and interpretation of rules.* It is impracticable to articulate a rule to fit every possible circumstance which may be encountered. The rules, therefore, are applied and interpreted to provide, to the fullest extent practicable, informal expeditious, and inexpensive resolution of disputes. For that purpose, the Board is authorized to require contracting officers and other Department of Veterans Affairs officials to furnish the Board with such information, technical data, and other assistance as the Board may require in the performance of its duties.

§ 1.783 Rules of the Board.

(a) *Rule 1; appeals from final decisions and requests for final decisions—(1) No-*

tice of appeal. Notice of an appeal shall be in writing and mailed to or otherwise furnished the Board within 90 days from the date of receipt of a contracting officer's final decision. A copy thereof shall be furnished the contracting officer from whose decision the appeal is taken.

(2) *Failure to issue a final decision.* (i) Where the contractor has submitted a claim of \$50,000 or less to the contracting officer and, in writing, has requested a decision within 60 days from receipt of the request, and the contracting officer has not done so, the contractor may file a notice of appeal as provided in paragraph (a)(1) of this section, citing the failure of the contracting officer to issue a decision.

(ii) Where the contractor has submitted a properly certified claim in excess of \$50,000 to the contracting officer, or pursuant to the Disputes Clause, has requested a decision by the contracting officer which presently involves no monetary amount, and the contracting officer has failed to issue a decision within a reasonable time, taking into account such factors as the size and complexity of the claim, the contractor may file a notice of appeal as provided in paragraph (a)(1) of this section, citing the failure of the contracting officer to issue a decision.

(3) *Stay of proceedings.* Upon the docketing of an appeal filed pursuant to the provisions of paragraph (a)(2) of this section, the Board may, at its option, stay further proceedings pending issuance of a final decision by the contracting officer within such period of time as determined by the Board.

(4) *Request for final decision.* In lieu of filing a notice of appeal under paragraph (a)(2) of this section, the contractor, in the event of undue delay or refusal on the part of the contracting officer, may request that the Board direct the contracting officer to issue a decision in a specified period of time, as determined by the Board.

(b) *Rule 2; notice of appeal, contents of.* A notice of appeal should indicate that an appeal is being taken and should identify the contract by number, the department, agency, or bureau involved in the dispute, the decision from which the appeal is taken, and the