

to protests lodged with GAO, the contracting officer shall handle each protest on a priority basis. The DPCO shall prepare the report and submit it and the protest file to GAO in accordance with FAR 33.104(a)(4)(i).

(6) Since the DPCO will furnish the report to GAO, the protestor, and other interested parties, comments on the report from the protestor and other interested parties will be requested to be sent to the DPCO.

(7) The Office of Acquisition Management (Division of Acquisition Policy (DAP)) has been designated as the headquarters office, and the DPCO as the individual, that GAO should contact concerning all protests lodged with GAO.

(b) *Protests before award.* (1) To make an award notwithstanding a protest, the contracting officer shall prepare a finding using the criteria in FAR 33.104(b)(1), have it executed by the head of the contracting activity (HCA)(not delegable), and forward it, along with a written request for approval to make the award, to the Director, Office of Acquisition Management and Policy (Director, OAMP).

(2) If the request to make an award notwithstanding the protest is approved by the Director, OAMP, the DPCO shall notify GAO. Whether the request is approved or not, the DPCO shall telephonically notify the contracting activity's protest control officer of the decision of the Director, OAMP, and the contracting activity's protest control officer shall immediately notify the contracting officer. The DPCO shall confirm the decision by memorandum to the contracting activity's protest control officer.

(4) The contracting officer shall prepare the protest file in accordance with paragraph (a)(3) of this section, and forward the required number of copies to the DPCO (see paragraph (a)(5) of this section).

(c) *Protests after award.* (2) If the contracting officer believes performance should be allowed to continue notwithstanding the protest, a finding shall be prepared by the contracting officer using the criteria in FAR 33.104(c)(2), executed by the HCA (not delegable), and forwarded, along with a written request for approval, to the Director, Di-

vision of Acquisition Policy (DAP). The same procedures for notification stated in paragraph (b)(2) of this section shall be followed.

(6) The contracting officer shall prepare the protest file in accordance with paragraph (a)(3) of this section, and forward the required number of copies to the DPCO (see paragraph (a)(5) of this section).

(d) *Findings and notice.* The contracting officer shall perform the actions required by FAR 33.104 (d); however, notification to GAO and other interested parties shall be made by the DPCO.

(g) *Notice to GAO.* The Director, Office of Acquisition Management and Policy shall be the official to comply with the requirements of FAR 33.104 (g).

(i) *Express option.* When GAO invokes the express option, the contracting officer shall prepare the complete protest file as described in paragraph (a)(3) of this section, to include the item in paragraph (a)(3)(i), and deliver it (hand-carry, if necessary) to the DPCO in time to meet the submittal date established by GAO. The DPCO will notify the contracting officer of the submittal date after GAO has finalized its requirements.

Subpart 333.2—Disputes and Appeals

333.203 Applicability.

(c) The Armed Services Board of Contract Appeals (ASBCA) has been designated by the Secretary as the authorized "Board" to hear and determine disputes for the Department.

333.209 Suspected fraudulent claims.

The contracting officer shall submit any instance of a contractor's suspected fraudulent claim to the Office of the Inspector General for investigation.

333.211 Contracting officer's decision.

(a)(2) The contracting officer shall refer a proposed final decision to the Office of General Counsel, Business and Administrative Law Division (OGCBAL), for advice as to the legal sufficiency and format before sending the final decision to the contractor. The

contracting officer shall provide OGC-BAL with the pertinent documents with the submission of each proposed final decision.

(a)(4)(v) When using the paragraph in FAR 33.211 (a)(4)(v), the contracting officer shall insert the words "Armed Services" before each mention of the term "Board of Contract Appeals".

(h) At any time within the period of appeal, the contracting officer may modify or withdraw his/her final decision. If an appeal from the final decision has been taken to the ASBCA, the contracting officer will forward his/her recommended action to OGC-BAL with the supplement to the contract file which supports the recommended correction or amendment.

333.212 Contracting officer's duties upon appeal.

(a) Appeals shall be governed by the rules set forth in the "Rules of the Armed Services Board of Contract Appeals", or by the rules established by the U.S. Court of Federal Claims, as appropriate.

(b) OGC-BAL is designated as the Government Trial Attorney to represent the Government in the defense of appeals before the ASBCA. A decision by the ASBCA will be transmitted by the Government Trial Attorney to the appropriate contracting officer for compliance in accordance with the ASBCA's decision.

(c) If an appeal is filed with the ASBCA, the contracting officer shall assemble a file within 30 days of receipt of an appeal, or advice that an appeal has been filed, that consists of all documents pertinent to the appeal, including:

(1) The decision and findings of fact from which the appeal is taken;

(2) The contract, including specifications and pertinent modifications, plans and drawings;

(3) All correspondence between the parties pertinent to the appeal, including the letter or letters of claim in response to which the decision was issued;

(4) Transcripts of any testimony taken during the course of proceedings, and affidavits or statements of any witness on the matter in dispute made

prior to the filing of the notice of appeal with the Board; and

(5) Any additional information considered pertinent. The contracting officer shall furnish the appeal file to the Government Trial Attorney for review and approval. After approval, the contracting officer shall prepare four copies of the file, one for the ASBCA, one for the appellant, one for the Government Trial Attorney, and one for the contracting office.

(d) At all times after the filing of an appeal, the contracting officer shall render whatever assistance is requested by the Government Trial Attorney. When an appeal is set for hearing, the concerned contracting officer, acting under the guidance of the Government Trial Attorney, shall be responsible for arranging for the presence of Government witnesses and specified physical and documentary evidence at both the pre-hearing conference and hearing.

(e) If a contractor which has filed an appeal with the ASBCA elects to accept fully the decision from which the appeal was taken, or any modification to it, and gives written notification of acceptance to the Government Trial Attorney or the concerned contracting officer, the Government Trial Attorney will notify the ASBCA of the disposition of the dispute in accordance with Rule 27 of the ASBCA.

(f) If the contractor has elected to appeal to the U.S. Court of Federal Claims, the U.S. Department of Justice will represent the Department. However, the contracting officer shall still coordinate all actions through OGC-BAL.

333.212-70 Formats.

(a) The following format is suggested for use in transmitting appeal files to the ASBCA:

Your reference: _____
(Docket No.)

(Name)

Recorder, Armed Services Board of Contract Appeals

Skyline Six
5109 Leesburg Pike
Falls Church, Virginia 22041

Dear (Name):

Transmitted herewith are documents relative to the appeal under Contract No. _____ with the _____