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## DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

OFFICE OF THE STAFF JUDGE ADVOCATE
HEADQUARTERS, 101ST AIRBORNE DIVISION (AIR ASSAULT)
OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM, COB SPEICHER
TIKRIT, IRAQ APO AE 09393

AFZB-JA-C 18 March 2006

MEMORANDUM OF OPINION

SUBJECT: Claim of 2 06-IR8-408

1. Identifying Data:

- 2. Date and place the incident occurred giving rise to the claim: The claim occurred on 13 February 2006 in Tikrit, Iraq.
- 3. Amount of claim and date it was filed: Claimant filed a claim for \$15,000 on 13 March. 2006.
- 4. **Jurisdiction:** This request is presented for consideration under the provisions of the Foreign Claims Act, 10 USC Section 2734, as implemented by Chapter 10, Army Regulation 27-20. This claim was properly filed in a timely manner.
- 5. Facts: The Claimant, and Iraqi Army Lieutenant, alleges that CF shot and killed his cousin, while he was fishing on the Tigris river in the early morning hours of 13 February 2006. The deceased was allegedly in his fishing boat when a CF helicopter shown a spotlight on them. They held up the fish in the air and shouted in English "Fish! Fish!" to show that they meant no harm. A patrol of HUMVEEs arrived on the scene. The deceased bent over to turn the motor off of the boat, but CF shot him in the head as he bent down. CF transported the deceased to LSA Anaconda where he later died. CF did not secure the boat and it drifted away up the river, along with a cellular phone and a fishnet inside. A SIGACTS investigation confirmed the events as alleged by the claimant.
- 6. **Opinion:** "Under AR 27-20, paragraph 10-3, liability under the FCA may be based on acts or omissions of U.S. soldiers or civilian employees of a U.S. military department only if they are considered negligent or wrongful."
- (1) Here, there is sufficient evidence of negligence attributable to CF with regard to the failure to secure the boat to the shoreline after the incident. As a result, the boat drifted away and was not recovered. The claimant has presente receipts for the boat, cell phone, engine a fishing net retrival mechanism totaling \$5,600, however, the actual value of these items is less.
- (2) With regard to the killing of the claim is not compensable under the FCA. "Under AR 27-20, paragraph 10-3, Claims arising "directly or

indirectly" from combat activities of the U.S. Armed Forces are not payable. AR 27-20 defines combat activities as, "Activities resulting directly or indirectly from action by the enemy, or by the U.S. Armed Forces engaged in armed conflict, or in immediate preparation for impending armed conflict." Here, the deceased was shot because he was reaching for the motor, but it appeared to the soldiers on the scene that he was reaching for a weapon. The alleged damage resulted from actions taken in self defense. This constitutes combat activity and as such is not compensable.

CPT, JA

Claims Judge Advocate

7. Recommendation: The claim is approved in the amount of \$3,500.

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List in detail the amount of property damage and itemized expenses resulting from the property damage or personal injury: (Attach bills and receipts, if applicable.)	
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