



UNITED STATES
CIVILIAN BOARD OF CONTRACT APPEALS

August 13, 2014

CBCA 3925-RELO

In the Matter of JAIME J. BESTARD

Jaime J. Bestard, DPO, Area Europe, Claimant.

Chief, DPIDOE Section, Department of the Air Force, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, OH, appearing for the Department of the Air Force.

SHERIDAN, Board Judge.

The claimant, Jaime J. Bestard, is a Department of the Air Force (AF) civilian employee on an overseas assignment. Claimant asserts he is “seeking a solution by the [Civilian Board of Contract Appeals] (CBCA),” for “a long series of mistakes at various levels in the human resources and financial systems and the intricate bureaucracy does not seem to find a timely solution to the problems it created.”

Claimant refers to a series of actions taken by his servicing civilian personnel office at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base (WPAFB) and states that he had been assured that the Defense Finance and Accounting Services (DFAS) was working to solve the problem. Evidently, DFAS has been making unwarranted deductions to claimant’s pay. However, claimant goes on to state that, after two months and no solution, he “think[s] it is time for the CBCA to intercede.” Claimant concludes: “Since there is no claim that has been denied, but rather a series of mistakes that do not seem to be solved, I am submitting contact information on all the staff that have processed my civilian personnel file, orders, or financial matters at WPAFB and my organization.”

On July 8, 2014, the Board ordered the section chief of the Delegated Examining Unit (DPIDOE) at WPAFB, the approving official on one of claimant’s DD 1614s, to provide the agency’s position on this matter. However, WPAFB did not respond to the Board’s order.

Discussion

Notwithstanding the agency's failure to respond to the Board's order, we have sufficient facts from claimant's filings to address this submission.

The Board's authority to resolve claims of federal civilian employees for certain travel and relocation claims derives from chapter 57 of title 5 of the United States Code. Chapter 3702 of title 31 vests the authority to resolve these claims in the Administrator of General Services, who has delegated that function to the CBCA. The CBCA has authority to review two types of employee claims, claims of reimbursement for expenses incurred while on official temporary duty travel and claims of reimbursement for expenses incurred in connection with relocation to a new duty station. 48 CFR pt. 6104 (2013). Before we can review any claim for entitlement to travel or relocation expenses, the claim must first be filed at claimant's own department or agency. 48 CFR 6104.401(c).

By filing at this Board, claimant seems to be taking the approach that perhaps the CBCA will have better luck straightening out the morass of bureaucracy that he has been facing in attempting to resolve issues regarding payments of certain temporary quarters subsistence allowance (TQSA) expenses and locality pay that, ultimately, do not appear even to be in dispute. That agencies may on occasion make mistakes associated with their employees' payment and payroll is a given. Correcting those mistakes can be time-consuming and annoying for the employee. However, addressing agency administration of payment and payroll issues goes well beyond the scope of the Board's authority to resolve travel and relocation claims. Because we lack the authority to provide such assistance, we are dismissing this matter from our docket.

PATRICIA J. SHERIDAN
Board Judge