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the scope of this chapter and select the best course of procedure in each case.

(a) *Financial limitations which preclude actual restoration.* In view of the limitations of the Government's restoration obligations to amounts not in excess of the fee value of the leased property, or the difference in values of the leased property with and without restoration, actual performance of restoration work is precluded where these amounts would be exceeded, and a settlement in lieu of restoration is in order in amounts not to exceed the limitations indicated.

(b) *Settlement where property enhanced in value by improvements.* Where the leased property has been enhanced in value by the Government's improvements, no restoration should be performed nor payment by the Government made in lieu thereof. Instead, effort should first be made to obtain from the lessor a cash payment to the Government equal to the in place value of the improvements, together with a full release of the Government from any restoration obligations. If the lessor is not willing to pay the in place value, but will offer a lesser amount in excess of the estimated net salvage value, settlement may be reached on that basis. If the lessor will not agree to make payment of any amount, or will offer only an amount which is less than the net salvage value of the improvements, consideration should be given to selling the improvements for removal and accomplishing any remaining restoration by payment in lieu thereof or by actual performance of the work. If it becomes necessary or advisable to arrange for separate sale of any or all of the improvements, the sale should be accomplished in accordance with §§ 644.540 through 644.557. The terms of sale in such case will require the removal of the improvements on or before the expiration or termination of the lease and contains any other special requirements applicable to the particular case, including site restoration. Bids received should be compared with the highest price offered by the lessor, due consideration being given to the cost of restoration, if any, which would remain after removal of the improvements. It must always be borne in mind that the disposition of public property to private parties must be at prices which can be shown to be in the best interests of the Government.

(c) *Reaching agreement on estimates of cost.* The terminal survey and condition reports specify the items to be restored and the lessor's estimate of cost. Those items reflected on the ENG Form 1440–R (part 3) afford comparison between the lessor's and the Government's estimates. Where there is a variance in the estimates and the lessor's total estimate is lower, effort will be made to settle on the basis of his estimate. If the lessor's overall estimate is higher than the Government's, effort will be made to reach agreement on acceptance of the Government's total estimate. If the lessor's estimate is substantially higher on specific items, it may be desirable to disclose the basis on which the Government's estimate is predicated in order to demonstrate its reasonableness. The Government's estimate of cost for items of restoration may be made available to the lessor upon request. When the lessor requests items of work not shown on the Government's estimate, careful consideration will be given to his request, further inspection of the premises made, when necessary, and a determination made as to whether the Government is obligated under the lease to perform the work. If no liability is determined to exist, the lessor will be fully informed as to the reasons for noninclusion in the estimate. If liability is determined to exist, the estimate will be adjusted accordingly. In any case where the existence or extent of the legal obligation of the Government to restore is questionable, the DE will submit the facts, in writing, to DAEN-REM together with his recommendation. No lease restoration settlement will be allowed to become involved in litigation or formal claims procedure without the matter having been submitted to DAEN-REM for review. When a satisfactory cash settlement by the Government cannot be negotiated, the DE is authorized to perform the actual restoration work.

§ 644.455 Claims for loss or damage of personal property.

In some cases, owners have been allowed to store personal property,

owned by them or under their control, on premises leased from such owners by the Government, the personal property not being covered by the lease. The rooms in which this property was stored have been broken into and, upon termination of the lease, it has been found that much of the property is damaged or is missing. Unless the lease specifically places some responsibility on the Government, payment for such damaged or missing property cannot be included in restoration settlements for payment. In the event the lessor refuses to sign a full release, a provision may be included in the supplemental agreement releasing the Government from all liability except for claims for damage, loss, or destruction of personal property stored on the leased premises and not covered by the lease, and the lessor advised that he may submit a claim for the amounts which he considers due him.

§ 644.456 Rent during the period required for restoration.

A sufficent period of time for performance of the restoration, commencing on the date premises are vacated by the Government, will be specified in the Government's estimate, and rent allowed in the settlement during such period to the extent that the lessor is actually deprived of beneficial use. If there is an outstanding maintenance and operation contract with the lessor, contained in either the lease or in an independent instrument, which fixes compensation in addition to the rent, the settlement agreement with the lessor will include the rent and such part of the compensation for maintenance and operation as will be necessarily incurred by the lessor during the performance of restoration.

§ 644.457 Settlement where part of the premises is surrendered.

Where there is a partial reduction of area in a lease requiring restoration, the supplemental agreement may contain a settlement in lieu of restoration of the area surrendered. A waiver of further claims covering the space released will be contained in the supplemental agreement.

§ 644.458 Documenting lease terminations and restoration settlements.

In the case of leases in which there is no obligation to restore, and in all cases of leases where terminal survey discloses no damage to the premises for which the Government is liable, an effort will be made to obtain an unqualified release from the lessor as of the date the premises are vacated and Government improvements removed. Releases will also be obtained as indicated in § 644.462.

(a) *Form to be used.* Releases will be executed, in triplicate, on ENG Form 232–R, Release (Corporation), or ENG Form 231, Release (Partnership), according to whether the lessor is a corporation or partnership. If signed by an attorney or agent, evidence of authority should be attached to the release. If the lessor is an individual, a letter incorporating a Notice of Termination and a Release Clause will be sent. The letter will substantially follow the form shown in Figure 11–16 in ER 405–1–12. Distribution of releases will be accomplished in the same manner as set forth in § 644.460.

(b) *Qualified release.* In case the lessor declines to sign an unqualified release, he should be requested to execute an appropriate release subject to exceptions. The exceptions may be enumerated on the reverse side of the form.

§ 644.459 Preparation of supplemental agreements effecting settlement.

The terms of settlement in lieu of restoration, negotiated with the lessor, will be embodied in a supplemental agreement to the lease, antedating termination, substantially in accordance with ENG Form 341, Supplemental Agreement Transferring Improvements to Lessor. Supplemental agreements may be used to effect restoration settlements of obligations incurred under permits, trespass right agreements, and other unnumbered contracts for the temporary use of land. Restoration settlements may also be effected even though the premises were occupied rent free and without formal contract, provided use of the premises was authorized properly by the Government (Decision of the Comptroller General B-63340, February 1947). Care should be exercised in determining the existence