

# Lockheed Is Sued For \$200-Million In 'Babylift' Crash

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SPRINGFIELD, Ill., June 14 (AP)—A sister of a woman who died in the crash of a C-5A Galaxy aircraft carrying Vietnamese children from Saigon to the United States has filed a \$200-million class action lawsuit against the Lockheed Aircraft Corporation charging negligence.

The Lockheed-built United States Air Force Galaxy, the world's largest airplane, crashed in a rice paddy on the outskirts of Saigon on April 4 after taking off from Tan Son Nhut Air Base in South Vietnam. It was carrying Vietnamese children to Travis Air Force Base in California in an evacuation dubbed Operation Babylift.

The lawsuit filed Friday in Federal District Court by the sister of Marilyn Eichen, 49 years old, of Carlinville, Ill., seeks a declaratory judgment on Lockheed's liability, according to an attorney, Carl E. Casten. It asks for \$100-million in punitive damages and at least \$10,000 for each of 155 American and Vietnamese passengers who died in the crash.

Officials said after the crash that more than 300 persons, including 243 infants and children, had been aboard the plane.

The suit charges that Lockheed was negligent in construction of the aircraft. Shortly after taking off the plane plummeted to the ground from 23,000 feet when a rear cargo door blew open and the pilot lost elevator, rudder and flap controls.

The Pentagon announced Thursday that a mechanical malfunctioning of the ramp locking mechanism had caused the crash.

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