

2734), or title 31, U.S.C. section 3721 (Personnel Claims), will be considered first under the latter statutes. If not payable under any of those latter statutes, the claim will be considered under §§ 536.20 through 536.35.

(b) *Claims in litigation.* Disposition under §§ 536.20 through 536.35 of any claim of the type covered by this section that goes into litigation in any State or Federal court under any State or Federal statute or ordinance will be suspended pending disposition of such litigation and the claim file will be forwarded to the Commander, USARCS. The Commander, USARCS, in coordination with the U.S. Department of Justice, may determine that final disposition under §§ 536.20 through 536.35 during pendency of the litigation is in the best interests of the United States. This section will also apply to any litigation brought against any agent of the United States in his or her individual capacity which is based upon the same acts or incidents upon which a claim under §§ 536.20 through 536.35 is based.

§ 536.26 Presentation of claims.

(a) *When claim must be presented.* A claim may be settled under §§ 536.20 through 536.35 only if presented in writing within 2 years after it accrues, except that if it accrues in time of war or armed conflict, or if war or armed conflict intervenes within 2 years after it accrues, and if good cause is shown, the claim may be presented not later than 2 years after war or armed conflict is terminated. As used in this section, a war or armed conflict is one in which any Armed Force of the United States is engaged. The dates of commencement and termination of an armed conflict must be as established by concurrent resolution of Congress or by determination of the President.

(b) *Where claim must be presented.* A claim must be presented to an agency or instrumentality of the DA. However, the statute of limitations is tolled if a claim is filed with another agency of the Government and is forwarded to the DA within 6 months, or if the claimant makes inquiry of the DA concerning his or her claim within 6 months after it was filed with another agency of the Government. If a claim is

received by an official of the DA who is not a claims approval or settlement authority under §§ 536.20 through 536.35, the claim will be transmitted without delay to the nearest claims office or JA office for delivery to such an authority.

§ 536.27 Procedures.

So far as not inconsistent with §§ 536.20 through 536.35, the procedures set forth in §§ 536.1 through 536.13 will be followed. Subrogated claims will be processed as prescribed in § 536.5(b).

§ 536.28 Law applicable.

(a) As to claims arising in the United States, its territories, commonwealths, and possessions, the law of the place where the act or omission occurred will be applied in determining liability and the effect of contributory negligence on claimant's right to recover damages.

(b) In claims arising in a foreign country, liability of the United States will be assessed by reference to general principles of tort law common to the majority of United States jurisdictions. Absolute liability and similar theories are not a basis for liability under this section. Damages will be determined under § 536.29. If the negligence of the claimant was a partial cause of the injury, loss or damage, recovery will be barred if the negligence of the claimant is greater than that of the United States. In traffic accident cases, questions of negligence, and the degree of the claimant's comparative negligence, will be evaluated based on the traffic and vehicle safety laws and regulations of the country in which the accident occurred, but only to the extent they are not specifically superseded or preempted by the United States military traffic regulations.

§ 536.29 Compensation for property damage, personal injury, or death.

(a) *Measure of damages for property claims—(1) General.* The measure of damages in property claims arising in the United States or its possessions will be determined in accordance with the law of the place where the incident occurred. The measure of damages in property claims arising overseas will

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be determined in accordance with general principles of United States tort law.

(2) *Proof of damage.* The information listed below (similar to that required by 28 CFR 14.4(c)) will be submitted by a claimant to substantiate a claim.

- (i) Proof of ownership.
- (ii) Detailed statement of amount claimed for each item of property.
- (iii) Itemized receipt of estimate for all repairs.
- (iv) Statement giving date of purchase, price and, where not economically repairable, the salvage value.

(3) *Appraisals.* The assistance of appraisers should be used in all claims where, in the opinion of the claims officer, an appraisal is reasonably necessary and useful in reaching an administrative settlement of claims.

(b) *Measure of damages in injury or death claims arising in the United States or its possessions.* Where an injury or an injury resulting in death arises within the United States or its possessions, the measure of damages will be determined in accordance with the law of the State or possession wherein the injury arises.

(1) The information listed below (similar to that required by 28 CFR 14.4(a)) will be submitted by a claimant to substantiate a wrongful death claim.

- (i) Authenticated death certificate or other competent evidence showing date and cause of death and age of decedent.
- (ii) Decedent's employment and occupation at time of death, including salary or earnings and duration of last employment or occupation.
- (iii) Names, addresses, birthdates, kinship and marital status of survivors.
- (iv) Identification of persons dependent on decedent for support at time of death and the degree of support provided.
- (v) Decedent's general physical and mental condition at time of death.
- (vi) Itemized bills or receipt for medical and burial expenses.
- (vii) If damages for pain and suffering are claimed, a physician's statement specifying the injuries suffered, duration of pain and suffering, drugs administered and decedent's physical condition between time of injury and time of death.

(2) The information listed below (similar to that required by 28 CFR 14.4(b)) will be submitted by a claimant to substantiate a personal injury claim.

- (i) Written report by attending the physician or dentist setting forth the:
 - (A) Nature and extent of injury;
 - (B) Nature and extent of treatment;
 - (C) Degree of temporary or permanent disability;
 - (D) Prognosis;
 - (E) Period of hospitalization; and
 - (F) Diminished earning capacity.
- (ii) Itemized bills or receipts for medical, dental and hospital expenses.
- (iii) If the prognosis includes future treatment, a statement of expected expenses for such treatment.
- (iv) If the claim includes lost time from employment, a statement by the employer showing the actual time lost and wages and/or salary lost.
- (v) If the claim includes lost income by a self-employed claimant, documentary evidence of such loss.

(c) *Measure of damages in injury or death claims arising in foreign countries.*

(1) Subject to the limitations in § 636.29e, where an injury, or injury resulting in death arises in a foreign country, the measure of damages will be determined in accordance with established principles of general maritime law (see generally, *Moragne v. United States Lines, Inc.*, 398 U.S. 375 (1970), as interpreted by Federal Court decisions). Where general maritime law provides no interpretation of allowable damages under a particular theory of liability (e.g., wrongful birth), damages will be determined in accordance with general principles of United States tort law.

(2) The information listed in § 536.29(b) (1) and (2), as appropriate, will be submitted by the claimant to substantiate a claim.

(3) A claimant who suffers serious personal injury, resulting in temporary or permanent disability should be examined by an independent physician or other medical specialist (See § 536.8(b)).

(d) *Failure to substantiate a claim.* (1) The government is not obligated to take final action on a claim until it has been supported by the claimant

with specific facts substantiated by appropriate documentary evidence, reports of investigation, medical records or witness statements. Upon request, the claimant must:

(i) Provide the documentation required by paragraphs (a), (b) and (c) of this section;

(ii) Undergo necessary medical examinations;

(iii) Permit questioning of the claimant, his or her witness, and treating medical personnel;

(iv) Submit an expert opinion in a professional negligence action.

(2) Failure to comply with these requirements may provide a basis for denial of a claim, in full or in part.

(e) *Damages not payable.* The following damages are not payable in any claim arising under the Military Claims Act:

(1) Punitive or exemplary damages, including damages punitive in nature under 28 U.S.C. 2674.

(2) Interest on any claim settlement.

§ 536.30 Structured settlements.

(a) The use of the structured settlement device by approval and settlement authorities is encouraged in all appropriate cases. A structured settlement should not be used when contrary to the desires of the claimant.

(b) Notwithstanding the above, the Commander, USARCS may require or recommend to higher authority that an acceptable structured settlement be made a condition of award notwithstanding objection by the claimant or his or her representative where—

(1) Necessary to ensure adequate and secure care and compensation to a minor or otherwise incompetent claimant over a period of years;

(2) Where a trust device is necessary to ensure the long-term availability of funds for anticipated further medical care;

(3) Where the injured party's life expectancy cannot be reasonably determined.

§ 536.31 Claims over \$100,000.

Claims cognizable under 10 U.S.C. 2733 and §§ 536.20 through 536.35, which are meritorious in amounts in excess of \$100,000, will be forwarded to the Commander, USARCS who will negotiate a

settlement subject to approval by the Secretary of the Army or designee, or require the claimant to state the lowest amount that will be acceptable and provide appropriate justification. Tender of a final offer by the Commander, USARCS constitutes an action subject to appeal. The Commander, USARCS will prepare a memorandum of law with recommendations and forward the claim to the Secretary of the Army, or designee, for final action. The Secretary or designee will either disapprove the claim or approve it in whole or in part.

§ 536.32 Settlement procedures.

(a) *Procedures.* Approval and settlement authorities will follow the procedures set forth in §§ 536.1 through 536.13 in paying, denying or making final offers on claims. A copy of the notification will be forwarded to Commander, USARCS. The settlement authority will notify the claimant by certified mail (return receipt registered) of a denial or final action and the reason therefore. The letter of notification will inform the claimant of the following:

(1) He or she may appeal, and that no form is prescribed for the appeal.

(2) The title of the authority who will act on the appeal and that the appeal will be addressed to the settlement authority who last acted on the claim.

(3) The claimant must fully set forth the grounds for appeal, or state that he or she appeals on the basis of the record as it exists at the time of denial or final offer.

(4) The appeal must be postmarked not later than 60 days after receipt of notice of action on the claim. If the 60th day falls on a day on which the post office is closed, the next day on which it is open for business will be considered the final day of the appeal period. The 60 day appeal period starts on the day following claimant's receipt of the letter from the settlement authority informing the claimant of the action taken and of the appellant rights. For good cause shown, the Commander, USARCS, or designee, or the chief of a command claims service (if the appellate authority), may extend the time for appeal, but normally such extension will not exceed 90 days.