

(4) Only the Department of Justice may approve claims involving:

(i) Compromise or waiver of a claim asserted for more than \$20,000 exclusive of interest, penalties and administrative fees.

(ii) Settlement actions previously referred to the Department.

(iii) Settlement where a third party files suit against the United States or the individual federal tortfeasor arising but of the same incident.

(k) *Releases.* The RJA who receives payment of the claim in full, or who receives full satisfaction of an approved compromise settlement, is authorized to execute a release. A standard form furnished by the prospective defendant or his insurer may be executed, provided no indemnity agreement is included.

(l) *Receipts.* The RJA may execute and deliver to a prospective defendant a receipt for payment in full, installment payment or an offered compromise payment, subject to approval of the SJA. DA Form 2135-R (Receipt for Payment for Damage to or Loss of Government Property) be used.

**§ 537.2 Recovery of property unlawfully detained by civilians.**

Whenever information is received that any property belonging to the military service of the United States is unlawfully in the possession of any person not in the military service, the procedures contained in AR 735-11, Para. 3-15, Unit Supply UPDATE 10, should be followed.

**§ 537.6 Maritime casualties; claims in favor of the United States.**

See 32 CFR 536.60, which covers claims on behalf of the United States as well as claims against the United States.

**§ 537.7 Maritime claims.**

(a) *Statutory authority.* Administrative settlement or compromise of admiralty and maritime claims in favor of and against the United States by the Secretary of the Army or his designee, under the direction of the Secretary of Defense, is authorized by Army Maritime Claims Settlement Act of 1956 (70A Stat. 270), as amended (10 U.S.C. 4801-4804, 4806).

(b) *Related statutes.* This statute authorizes the administrative settlement or compromise of maritime claims and supplements the following statutes under which suits in admiralty may be brought; the Suits in Admiralty Act of 1920 (41 Stat. 525, 46 U.S.C. 741-752); the Public Vessels Act of 1925 (43 Stat. 1112, 46 U.S.C. 781-790); the Extension of the Admiralty Act of 1948 (62 Stat. 496, 46 U.S.C. 740). Similar maritime claims settlement authority is exercised by the Department of the Navy under title 10, United States Code (U.S.C.), sections 7365, 7621-7623, and by the Department of the Air Force under 10 U.S.C. 9801 through 9804, 9806.

(c) *Scope.* (1) Section 4803 of title 10, U.S.C., provides for the settlement or compromise of claims of a kind that are within the admiralty jurisdiction of a district court of the United States and of claims for damage caused by a vessel or floating object to property under the jurisdiction of the DA or property for which the Department has assumed an obligation to respond in damages, where the net amount payable to the United States does not exceed \$500,000.

(2) Section 4804 of title 10, U.S.C., for the settlement or compromise of claims in any amount for salvage services (including contract salvage and towage) performed by the DA for any vessel. The amounts of claims for salvage services are based upon per diem rates for the use of salvage vessels and other equipment; and materials and equipment damaged or lost during the salvage operation. The sum claimed is intended to compensate the United States for operational costs only, reserving, however, the right of the Government to assert a claim on a salvage bonus basis, in accordance with commercial practice, in an appropriate case.

(d) *Amounts exceeding \$500,000.* Maritime claims in favor of the United States, except claims for salvage services, may not be settled or compromised under this section at a net amount exceeding \$500,000 payable to the United States. However, all such claims otherwise within the scope of this section will be investigated and reported to the Commander, USARCS.

(e) *Civil works activities.* Rights of the United States to fines, penalties, forfeitures, or other special remedies in connection with the protection of navigable waters, the control and improvement of rivers and harbors, flood control, and other functions of the Corps of Engineers involving civil works activities, are not dealt with in this section. However, claims for money damages which are civil in nature, arising out of civil works activities of the Corps of Engineers and otherwise under this section, for which an adequate remedy is not available to the Chief of Engineers, may be processed under this section.

(f) *Delegation of authority.* Where the amount to be received by the United States is not more than \$10,000, claims under this section, except claims for salvage services, paragraph (c)(2) of this section, may be settled or compromised by the Commander, USARCS, or designee, subject to such limitations as may be imposed by the Commander, USARCS and by engineer area claims offices, subject to such limitations as may be imposed by the Chief of Engineers.

(g) *Demands.* Demand for the payment of claims in favor of the United States under this section may be made by the Commander, USARCS, or designee.

### Subpart B—Claims for the Reasonable Value of Medical Care Furnished by the Army

#### § 537.21 General.

(a) *Authority.* The regulations in §§ 537.21 through 537.24 are in implementation of the Act of September 25, 1962 (76 Stat. 593, 42 U.S.C. 2651-3), Executive Order Number 11060 (27 FR 10925), and Attorney General's Order Number 289-62, as amended (28 CFR part 43), providing for the recovery of the reasonable value of medical care furnished or to be furnished by the United States to a person on account of injury or disease incurred after December 31, 1962, under circumstances creating a tort liability upon some third person.

(b) *Applicability and scope.* (1) Sections 537.21 through 537.24 apply to all claims for the reasonable value of medical services furnished by or at the ex-

pense of the Army which result from incidents occurring on or after March 1, 1969. Cases which arise from incidents occurring prior to that date:

(i) And which are the responsibility of an SJA or JA who is designated an RJA will be processed under §§ 537.21 through 537.24;

(ii) And which are the responsibility of an SJA or JA not so designated will be processed under the predecessor regulation until either completed or transferred.

(2) The procedures prescribed herein are to be employed within the DA for the investigation, determination, assertion, and collection, including compromise and waiver, in whole or in part, of claims in favor of the United States for the reasonable value of medical services furnished by or at the expense of DA. TJAG provides general supervision and control of the investigation and assertion of claims arising under the Federal Medical Care Recovery Act.

(3) In Continental U.S., Army SJA's and RJA's will be assigned responsibility under §§ 537.21 through 537.24 on a geographical area basis.

(4) The commander of any major overseas command specified in paragraph (c)(5) of this section is authorized to modify the procedures prescribed herein to accommodate any special circumstances which may exist in the command.

(5) Claims for medical care furnished by the DA on a reimbursable basis (see table 1, AR 40-3) ordinarily will be forwarded for processing directly to the Federal department or agency responsible for reimbursement.

(c) *Definitions.* For the purpose of §§ 537.21 through 537.24 only, the following terms have the meaning indicated.

(1) *Claim.* The Government's right to recover from a prospective defendant the reasonable value of medical care furnished to each injured party.

(2) *Medical care.* Includes hospitalization, out-patient treatment, dental care, nursing service, drugs, and other adjuncts such as prostheses and medical appliances furnished by or at the expense of the United States.

(3) *Injured party.* The person who received an injury or contracted a disease which resulted in the medical