

(2) The Staff Judge Advocate attached to Naval Supply Center, Oakland is authorized to adjudicate and pay claims up to \$25,000.00.

(3) The Staff Judge Advocate attached to Naval Station, Panama Canal is authorized to adjudicate and pay claims up to \$10,000.00.

(4) The following are authorized to adjudicate and authorize payment of personnel claims up to \$5,000.00:

(i) Officers in charge of Naval Legal Service Office Detachments;

(ii) The Staff Judge Advocate attached to Naval Station, Keflavik; and

(iii) Any personnel attached to a Naval Legal Service Office when specifically designated by the commanding officer of that Naval Legal Service Office.

(5) Any individual, when personally designated by the Judge Advocate General, may be authorized to adjudicate and authorize payment of personnel claims up to any delegated amount, not to exceed \$40,000.00.

(b) *Claims by Marine Corps personnel.*

(1) The following individuals are authorized to adjudicate and authorize payment of personnel claims up to \$40,000.00:

(i) Commandant of the Marine Corps;

(ii) Deputy Chief of Staff, Manpower and Reserve Affairs Department;

(iii) Director, Human Resources Division;

(iv) Head, Personal Affairs Branch;

(v) Deputy Head, Personal Affairs Branch;

(vi) Head, Personnel Claims Section; and

(vii) Any individual, when personally designated by the Commandant of the Marine Corps, may be authorized to adjudicate and authorize payment of personnel claims up to any delegated amount, and not to exceed \$40,000.00.

(2) The following individuals are authorized to adjudicate and authorize payment of personnel claims up to \$25,000.00:

(i) Head, Adjudication Unit;

(ii) Head, Carrier Recovery Unit; and

(iii) Head, Administration Unit.

§ 751.9 Presentment of claim.

(a) *General.* A claim shall be submitted in writing and, if practicable, be presented to the claims office or per-

sonal property office serving the installation where the claimant is stationed, or nearest to the point where the loss or damage occurred. If submission in accordance with the foregoing is impractical under the circumstances, the claim may be submitted in writing to any installation or establishment of the Armed Forces which will forward the claim to the appropriate Navy or Marine Corps claims office for processing. To constitute a filing under this regulation, a claim must be presented in writing to one of the military departments. Claims that are incomplete will not be refused and shall be logged in as received. Claimants submitting such claims, however, shall be informed in writing that properly completed forms or necessary substantiation must be received within a fixed period of time (normally 30 days), otherwise the claim will be denied or paid only in the amount substantiated.

(b) *Statute of limitations.* A claim must be presented in writing to a military installation within 2 years after it accrues. This requirement is statutory and may only be waived if a claim accrues during armed conflict, or armed conflict intervenes before the 2 years have run, and good cause is shown. In this situation, a claim may be presented not later than 2 years after the end of the armed conflict. A claim accrues on the day the claimant knows or should know of the loss. For losses that occur in shipment of personal property, normally the day of delivery or the day the claimant loses entitlement to storage at Government expense (whichever occurs first) is the day the claim accrues. If a claimant's entitlement to Government storage terminates, but the property is later delivered at Government expense, the claim accrues on delivery. In computing the 2 years, exclude the first day (day of delivery or incident) and include the last day. If the last day falls on a non-workday, extend the 2 years to the next workday.

(c) *Substantiation.* The claimant is responsible for substantiating ownership or possession, the fact of loss or damage, and the value of property. Claimants are expected to report losses promptly. The greater the delay in reporting a loss, the more substantiation the claimant is expected to provide.

(1) *Obviously damaged or missing inventory items that are not reported at delivery.* Claimants are expected to list missing inventory items and obvious damage at time of delivery. Claimants who do not should be questioned. Obviously some claimants will simply not notice readily apparent damage. If, however, the claimant cannot provide an explanation or lacks credibility, payment should be denied based on lack of evidence that the item was lost or damaged in shipment.

(2) *Later-discovered shipment loss or damage.* A claimant has 70 days to unpack, discover, and report loss and damage that is not obvious at delivery. In most cases, loss and damage that is discovered later and reported in a timely manner should be deemed to have been incurred in shipment.

(3) *Damage to POV's in shipment.* Persons shipping POV's are expected to list damage on DD Form 788 (Private Vehicle Shipping Document for Automobile) when they pick up the vehicle. Obvious external damage that is not listed is not payable. Damage the claimant could reasonably be expected not to notice at the pickup point should be considered if the claimant reports the damage to claims personnel within a short time, normally a few days, after arriving at the installation.

(4) *Credibility.* Most claimants are honest. Most claimants objectively attempt to claim only what is due them. These persons are entitled to the presumption that what they list is honest, although it may not be correct. Some claimants lack credibility and their claims require careful scrutiny. Factors that indicate a claimant's credibility is questionable include amounts claimed that are exaggerated in comparison with the cost of similar items, insignificant or almost undetectable damage, very recent purchase dates for most items claimed, and statements that appear incredible. Such claimants should be required to provide more evidence than is normally expected.

(5) *Inspections.* Whenever a question arises about damage to property, the best way to determine a proper award is to examine the item closely to determine that nature of the damage. For furniture, undersurfaces and the edges of drawers and doors should be exam-

ined to determine whether the material is solid hardwood, fine quality veneer over hardwood, veneer over pressed wood, or other types of material. If the inspection is conducted at the claimant's quarters, the general quality of property should be determined. Claimants should routinely be directed to bring in vehicles and small broken items of value such as figurines for inspection, and inspections should be conducted on all large claims. Observations by repairmen and transportation inspectors are very valuable, but on occasion, claims personnel must go out of the office and inspect items themselves. Such inspections are necessary to reduce the number of reconsiderations and fraudulent claims and are invaluable in enabling claims personnel to understand the facts in many situations.

§ 751.10 Form of claim.

The claim should be submitted on DD Form 1842 (Claim for Personal Property) accompanied by DD Form 1844 (List of Property). If DD Forms 1842 and 1844¹ are not available, any writing will be accepted and considered if it asserts a demand for a specific sum and substantially describes the facts necessary to support a claim cognizable under these regulations. The claim must be signed by a proper claimant (see § 751.5) or by a person with a power of attorney for a proper claimant. A copy of the power of attorney must be included with the claim.

§ 751.11 Investigation of claim.

Upon receipt of a claim filed under the Personnel Claims Act, the claim shall be stamped with the date and receiving office, and be referred to a claims investigating officer. The investigating officer shall consider all information and evidence submitted with the claim and shall conduct such further investigation as may be necessary and appropriate.

¹Copies of these forms may be obtained by contacting the claims office or personal property office serving the installation where the claimant is stationed, or nearest to the point where the loss or damage occurred.