

2008—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 110-181 and Pub. L. 110-417, § 932(a)(12), amended subsec. (a) identically, substituting “Director of National Intelligence” for “Director of Central Intelligence”. Pub. L. 110-417, § 932(a)(12), was repealed by Pub. L. 111-84. See 2009 Amendment note above.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 2009 AMENDMENT

Pub. L. 111-84, div. A, title X, § 1073(c), Oct. 28, 2009, 123 Stat. 2474, provided in part that the amendment made by section 1073(c)(10) is effective as of Oct. 14, 2008, and as if included in Pub. L. 110-417 as enacted.

CHAPTER 163—MILITARY CLAIMS

- Sec.
- 2731. Definition.
- 2732. Payment of claims: availability of appropriations.
- 2733. Property loss; personal injury or death: incident to noncombat activities of Department of Army, Navy, or Air Force.
- 2734. Property loss; personal injury or death: incident to noncombat activities of the armed forces; foreign countries.
- 2734a. Property loss; personal injury or death: incident to noncombat activities of armed forces in foreign countries; international agreements.
- 2734b. Property loss; personal injury or death: incident to activities of armed forces of foreign countries in United States; international agreements.
- 2735. Settlement: final and conclusive.
- 2736. Property loss; personal injury or death: advance payment.
- 2737. Property loss; personal injury or death: incident to use of property of the United States and not cognizable under other law.
- 2738. Property loss: reimbursement of members for certain losses of household effects caused by hostile action.
- 2739. Amounts recovered from third parties for loss or damage to personal property shipped or stored at Government expense: crediting to appropriations.
- 2740. Property loss: reimbursement of members and civilian employees for full replacement value of household effects when contractor reimbursement not available.

AMENDMENTS

2011—Pub. L. 111-383, div. A, title III, § 354(a)(2), Jan. 7, 2011, 124 Stat. 4195, added item 2740.

1998—Pub. L. 105-261, div. A, title X, § 1010(a)(2), Oct. 17, 1998, 112 Stat. 2117, added item 2739.

1994—Pub. L. 103-337, div. A, title V, § 557(b), Oct. 5, 1994, 108 Stat. 2776, added item 2738.

1990—Pub. L. 101-510, div. A, title XIV, § 1481(j)(2), Nov. 5, 1990, 104 Stat. 1708, added item 2732.

1984—Pub. L. 98-525, title XIV, § 1405(42)(B), Oct. 19, 1984, 98 Stat. 2625, substituted “in foreign countries” for “; foreign countries” in item 2734a.

1968—Pub. L. 90-521, § 2, Sept. 26, 1968, 82 Stat. 874, substituted “advance payment” for “incident to aircraft or missile operation” in item 2736.

1966—Pub. L. 89-718, § 21(b), Nov. 2, 1966, 80 Stat. 1118, substituted “2737” for “2736” as item number for “Property loss; personal injury or death: incident to use of property of the United States and not cognizable under other law”.

1964—Pub. L. 88-558, § 5(2), Aug. 31, 1964, 78 Stat. 768, struck out item 2732 “Property loss: incident to service; members of Army, Navy, Air Force, or Marine Corps and civilian employees”, effective two years after Aug. 31, 1964. Pub. L. 88-558, was itself repealed by Pub. L. 97-258, § 5(b), Sept. 13, 1982, 96 Stat. 1068.

1962—Pub. L. 87-769, § 1(1)(B), Oct. 9, 1962, 76 Stat. 768, added item 2736 “Property loss; personal injury or death: incident to use of property of the United States and not cognizable under other law”.

Pub. L. 87-651, title I, § 113(b), Sept. 7, 1962, 76 Stat. 513, added items 2734a and 2734b.

1961—Pub. L. 87-212, § 1(2), Sept. 8, 1961, 75 Stat. 488, added item 2736 “Property loss; personal injury or death: incident to aircraft or missile operation”.

1959—Pub. L. 86-223, § 1(2), Sept. 1, 1959, 73 Stat. 454, substituted “armed forces” for “Department of Army, Navy, or Air Force” in item 2734.

§ 2731. Definition

In this chapter, “settle” means consider, ascertain, adjust, determine, and dispose of a claim, whether by full or partial allowance or by disallowance.

(Aug. 10, 1956, ch. 1041, 70A Stat. 152.)

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

Revised section	Source (U.S. Code)	Source (Statutes at Large)
2731	[No source].	[No source].

The revised section is inserted for clarity and is based on usage in the source laws for this revised chapter.

CONGRESSIONAL DEFENSE COMMITTEES DEFINED

Pub. L. 115-31, div. C, title VIII, § 8027, May 5, 2017, 131 Stat. 252, provided that: “For the purposes of this Act [div. C of Pub. L. 115-31, see Tables for classification], the term ‘congressional defense committees’ means the Armed Services Committee of the House of Representatives, the Armed Services Committee of the Senate, the Subcommittee on Defense of the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate, and the Subcommittee on Defense of the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives.”

Similar provisions were contained in the following prior appropriation acts:

Pub. L. 114-113, div. C, title VIII, § 8026, Dec. 18, 2015, 129 Stat. 2356.

Pub. L. 113-235, div. C, title VIII, § 8026, Dec. 16, 2014, 128 Stat. 2258.

Pub. L. 113-76, div. C, title VIII, § 8025, Jan. 17, 2014, 128 Stat. 109.

EX GRATIA PAYMENTS

Pub. L. 115-31, div. C, title VIII, § 8107, May 5, 2017, 131 Stat. 272, provided that:

“(a) Of the funds appropriated in this Act [div. C of Pub. L. 115-31, see Tables for classification] for the Department of Defense, amounts may be made available, under such regulations as the Secretary of Defense may prescribe, to local military commanders appointed by the Secretary, or by an officer or employee designated by the Secretary, to provide at their discretion ex gratia payments in amounts consistent with subsection (d) of this section for damage, personal injury, or death that is incident to combat operations of the Armed Forces in a foreign country.

“(b) An ex gratia payment under this section may be provided only if—

“(1) the prospective foreign civilian recipient is determined by the local military commander to be friendly to the United States;

“(2) a claim for damages would not be compensable under chapter 163 of title 10, United States Code (commonly known as the ‘Foreign Claims Act’); and

“(3) the property damage, personal injury, or death was not caused by action by an enemy.

“(c) NATURE OF PAYMENTS.—Any payments provided under a program under subsection (a) shall not be considered an admission or acknowledgement of any legal obligation to compensate for any damage, personal injury, or death.

“(d) AMOUNT OF PAYMENTS.—If the Secretary of Defense determines a program under subsection (a) to be appropriate in a particular setting, the amounts of payments, if any, to be provided to civilians determined to

have suffered harm incident to combat operations of the Armed Forces under the program should be determined pursuant to regulations prescribed by the Secretary and based on an assessment, which should include such factors as cultural appropriateness and prevailing economic conditions.

“(e) LEGAL ADVICE.—Local military commanders shall receive legal advice before making ex gratia payments under this subsection. The legal advisor, under regulations of the Department of Defense, shall advise on whether an ex gratia payment is proper under this section and applicable Department of Defense regulations.

“(f) WRITTEN RECORD.—A written record of any ex gratia payment offered or denied shall be kept by the local commander and on a timely basis submitted to the appropriate office in the Department of Defense as determined by the Secretary of Defense.

“(g) REPORT.—The Secretary of Defense shall report to the congressional defense committees [Committees on Armed Services and Subcommittees on Defense of the Committees on Appropriations of the Senate and the House of Representatives] on an annual basis the efficacy of the ex gratia payment program including the number of types of cases considered, amounts offered, the response from ex gratia payment recipients, and any recommended modifications to the program.”

Similar provisions were contained in the following prior appropriation acts:

Pub. L. 114-113, div. C, title VIII, §8111, Dec. 18, 2015, 129 Stat. 2377.

Pub. L. 113-235, div. C, title VIII, §8121, Dec. 16, 2014, 128 Stat. 2281.

Pub. L. 113-76, div. C, title VIII, §8127, Jan. 17, 2014, 128 Stat. 134.

REPORT ON DEPARTMENT POLICY ON PAYMENT OF CLAIMS FOR LOSS OF PERSONAL PROPERTY

Pub. L. 105-85, div. A, title X, §1013(b), Nov. 18, 1997, 111 Stat. 1874, provided that: “The Secretary of Defense shall submit to Congress a report describing the Department of Defense policy regarding the payment of a claim by a member of the Armed Forces who is not assigned to quarters of the United States for losses and damage to personal property of the member incurred at the member’s residence as a result of a natural disaster. The report shall include a description of the number of such claims received over the past 10 years, the number of claims paid, and the number of claims rejected. If the Secretary determines the Department of Defense should modify its policy in order to accept additional claims by members who are not assigned to quarters of the United States for losses and damage to personal property, the Secretary shall also include in the report any legislative changes that the Secretary considers necessary to enable the Secretary to implement the policy change.”

PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE

Authority vested by this chapter in “military departments”, “the Secretary concerned”, or “the Secretary of Defense” to be exercised, with respect to commissioned officers of Public Health Service, by Secretary of Health and Human Services or his designee, see section 213a of Title 42, The Public Health and Welfare.

NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION

Authority vested by sections 2731, 2732, and 2735 of this title in “military departments”, “the Secretary concerned”, or “the Secretary of Defense” to be exercised, with respect to commissioned officer corps of National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, by Secretary of Commerce or his designee, see section 3071 of Title 33, Navigation and Navigable Waters.

§ 2732. Payment of claims: availability of appropriations

Appropriations available to the Department of Defense for operation and maintenance may be

used for payment of claims authorized by law to be paid by the Department of Defense (except for civil functions), including—

(1) claims for damages arising under training contracts with carriers; and

(2) repayment of amounts determined by the Secretary concerned to have been erroneously collected—

(A) from military and civilian personnel of the Department of Defense; or

(B) from States or territories or the District of Columbia (or members of the National Guard units thereof).

(Added Pub. L. 101-510, div. A, title XIV, §1481(j)(1), Nov. 5, 1990, 104 Stat. 1708.)

PRIOR PROVISIONS

Provisions similar to those in this section were contained in Pub. L. 100-463, title VIII, §8098, Oct. 1, 1988, 102 Stat. 2270-35, which was set out as a note under section 2241 of this title, prior to repeal by Pub. L. 101-510, §1481(j)(3).

A prior section 2732, acts Aug. 10, 1956, ch. 1041, 70A Stat. 152; Sept. 2, 1958, Pub. L. 85-861, §§1(53), 33(a)(16), 72 Stat. 1461, 1565; Sept. 15, 1965, Pub. L. 89-185, §1, 79 Stat. 789, related to settlement of property loss incident to service, prior to repeal by Pub. L. 88-558, §5(3), Aug. 31, 1964, 78 Stat. 768, effective two years from Aug. 31, 1964. See section 3701 et seq. of Title 31, Money and Finance.

§ 2733. Property loss; personal injury or death: incident to noncombat activities of Department of Army, Navy, or Air Force

(a) Under such regulations as the Secretary concerned may prescribe, he, or, subject to appeal to him, the Judge Advocate General of an armed force under his jurisdiction, or the chief Counsel of the Coast Guard, as appropriate, if designated by him, may settle, and pay in an amount not more than \$100,000, a claim against the United States for—

(1) damage to or loss of real property, including damage or loss incident to use and occupancy;

(2) damage to or loss of personal property, including property bailed to the United States and including registered or insured mail damaged, lost, or destroyed by a criminal act while in the possession of the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, or Coast Guard, as the case may be; or

(3) personal injury or death;

either caused by a civilian officer or employee of that department, or the Coast Guard, or a member of the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, or Coast Guard, as the case may be, acting within the scope of his employment, or otherwise incident to noncombat activities of that department, or the Coast Guard.

(b) A claim may be allowed under subsection (a) only if—

(1) it is presented in writing within two years after it accrues, except that if the claim accrues in time of war or armed conflict or if such a war or armed conflict intervenes within two years after it accrues, and if good cause is shown, the claim may be presented not later than two years after the war or armed conflict is terminated;

(2) it is not covered by section 2734 of this title or section 2672 of title 28;