

(2) Regulations prescribed by the Secretary under paragraph (1) shall include the following:

(A) Policies and procedures to ensure the timely, efficient, and effective processing and administration of claims under this section, including—

(i) the filing, receipt, investigation, and evaluation of a claim;

(ii) the negotiation, settlement, and payment of a claim;

(iii) such other matters relating to the processing and administration of a claim, including an administrative appeals process, as the Secretary considers appropriate.

(B) Uniform standards consistent with generally accepted standards used in a majority of States in adjudicating claims under chapter 171 of title 28 (commonly known as the “Federal Tort Claims Act”) to be applied to the evaluation, settlement, and payment of claims under this section without regard to the place of occurrence of the medical malpractice giving rise to the claim or the military department or service of the member of the uniformed services, and without regard to foreign law in the case of claims arising in foreign countries, including uniform standards to be applied to determinations with respect to—

(i) whether an act or omission by a Department of Defense health care provider in the context of performing medical, dental, or related health care functions was negligent or wrongful, considering the specific facts and circumstances;

(ii) whether the personal injury or death of the member was caused by a negligent or wrongful act or omission of a Department of Defense health care provider in the context of performing medical, dental, or related health care functions, considering the specific facts and circumstances;

(iii) requirements relating to proof of duty, breach of duty, and causation resulting in compensable injury or loss, subject to such exclusions as may be established by the Secretary of Defense; and

(iv) calculation of damages.

(C) Such other matters as the Secretary considers appropriate.

(3) In order to implement expeditiously the provisions of this section, the Secretary may prescribe the regulations under this subsection—

(A) by prescribing an interim final rule; and

(B) not later than one year after prescribing such interim final rule and considering public comments with respect to such interim final rule, by prescribing a final rule.

(g) LIMITATION ON ATTORNEY FEES.—(1) No attorney shall charge, demand, receive, or collect for services rendered, fees in excess of 20 percent of any claim paid pursuant to this section.

(2) Any attorney who charges, demands, receives, or collects for services rendered in connection with a claim under this section any amount in excess of the amount allowed under paragraph (1), if recovery be had, shall be fined not more than \$2,000, imprisoned not more than one year, or both.

(h) ANNUAL REPORT.—Not less frequently than annually until 2025, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives a report—

(1) indicating the number of claims processed under this section;

(2) indicating the resolution of each such claim; and

(3) describing any other information that may enhance the effectiveness of the claims process under this section.

(i) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) COVERED MILITARY MEDICAL TREATMENT FACILITY.—The term “covered military medical treatment facility” means a facility described in subsection (b), (c), or (d) of section 1073d of this title.

(2) DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE HEALTH CARE PROVIDER.—The term “Department of Defense health care provider” means a member of the uniformed services, civilian employee of the Department of Defense, or personal services contractor of the Department (under section 1091 of this title) authorized by the Department to provide health care services and acting within the scope of employment of such individual.

(3) MEMBER OF THE UNIFORMED SERVICES.—The term “member of the uniformed services” includes a member of a reserve component of the armed forces if the claim by the member under this section is in connection with personal injury or death that occurred while the member was in Federal status.

(Added Pub. L. 116–92, div. A, title VII, §731(a)(1), Dec. 20, 2019, 133 Stat. 1457.)

Statutory Notes and Related Subsidiaries

EFFECTIVE DATE

Pub. L. 116–92, div. A, title VII, §731(d), Dec. 20, 2019, 133 Stat. 1460, provided that:

“(1) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section [enacting this section and amending section 2735 of this title and section 1304 of Title 31, Money and Finance] shall apply to any claim filed under section 2733a of such title, as added by subsection (a)(1), on or after January 1, 2020.

“(2) TRANSITION.—Any claim filed in calendar year 2020 shall be deemed to be filed within the time period specified in section 2733a(b)(4) of such title, as so added, if it is filed within three years after it accrues.”

§ 2734. Property loss; personal injury or death: incident to noncombat activities of the armed forces; foreign countries

(a) To promote and to maintain friendly relations through the prompt settlement of meritorious claims, the Secretary concerned, or an officer or employee designated by the Secretary, may appoint, under such regulations as the Secretary may prescribe, one or more claims commissions, each composed of one or more officers or employees or combination of officers or employees of the armed forces, to 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 of any foreign country or of any political subdivision or inhabitant of a foreign country, including damage or loss incident to use and occupancy;

- (2) damage to, or loss of, personal property of any foreign country or of any political subdivision or inhabitant of a foreign country, including property bailed to the United States; or
- (3) personal injury to, or death of, any inhabitant of a foreign country;

if the damage, loss, personal injury, or death occurs outside the United States, or the Commonwealths or possessions, and is caused by, or is otherwise incident to noncombat activities of, the armed forces under his jurisdiction, or is caused by a member thereof or by a civilian employee of the military department concerned or the Coast Guard, as the case may be. The claim of an insured, but not that of a subrogee, may be considered under this subsection. In this section, "foreign country" includes any place under the jurisdiction of the United States in a foreign country. An officer or employee may serve on a claims commission under the jurisdiction of another armed force only with the consent of the Secretary of his department, or his designee, but shall perform his duties under regulations of the department appointing the commission.

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

(1) it is presented within two years after it accrues;

(2) in the case of a national of a country at war with the United States, or of any ally of that country, the claimant is determined by the commission or by the local military commander to be friendly to the United States; and

(3) it did not arise from action by an enemy or result directly or indirectly from an act of the armed forces of the United States in combat, except that a claim may be allowed if it arises from an accident or malfunction incident to the operation of an aircraft of the armed forces of the United States, including its airborne ordnance, indirectly related to combat, and occurring while preparing for, going to, or returning from a combat mission.

(c) The Secretary concerned may appoint any officer or employee under the jurisdiction of the Secretary to act as an approval authority for claims determined to be allowable under subsection (a) in an amount in excess of \$10,000.

(d) If the Secretary concerned considers that a claim in excess of \$100,000 is meritorious, and the claim otherwise is payable under this section, the Secretary may pay the claimant \$100,000 and report any meritorious amount in excess of \$100,000 to the Secretary of the Treasury for payment under section 1304 of title 31.

(e) Except as provided in subsection (d), no claim may be paid under this section unless the amount tendered is accepted by the claimant in full satisfaction.

(f) Upon the request of the department concerned, a claim arising in that department and covered by subsection (a) may be settled and paid by a commission appointed under subsection (a) and composed of officers of an armed force under the jurisdiction of another department.

(g) Payment of claims against the Coast Guard arising while it is operating as a service in the

Department of Homeland Security shall be made out of the appropriation for the operating expenses of the Coast Guard.

(h) The Secretary of Defense may designate any claims commission appointed under subsection (a) to settle and pay, as provided in this section, claims for damage caused by a civilian employee of the Department of Defense other than an employee of a military department. Payments of claims under this subsection shall be made from appropriations as provided in section 2732 of this title.

(Aug. 10, 1956, ch. 1041, 70A Stat. 154; Pub. L. 85-861, §1(55), Sept. 2, 1958, 72 Stat. 1461; Pub. L. 86-223, §1(1), Sept. 1, 1959, 73 Stat. 453; Pub. L. 86-411, Apr. 8, 1960, 74 Stat. 16; Pub. L. 90-521, §§1, 3, Sept. 26, 1968, 82 Stat. 874; Pub. L. 91-312, §1, July 8, 1970, 84 Stat. 412; Pub. L. 93-336, §2, July 8, 1974, 88 Stat. 292; Pub. L. 96-513, title V, §511(95), Dec. 12, 1980, 94 Stat. 2928; Pub. L. 98-564, §2, Oct. 30, 1984, 98 Stat. 2918; Pub. L. 101-510, div. A, title XIV, §1481(j)(4)(A), Nov. 5, 1990, 104 Stat. 1709; Pub. L. 104-316, title II, §202(e), Oct. 19, 1996, 110 Stat. 3842; Pub. L. 107-296, title XVII, §1704(b)(1), Nov. 25, 2002, 116 Stat. 2314; Pub. L. 109-163, div. A, title X, §1057(a)(5), Jan. 6, 2006, 119 Stat. 3440.)

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES
1956 ACT

Revised section	Source (U.S. Code)	Source (Statutes at Large)
2734(a)	31:224d (less 98th through 109th words and provisos).	Jan. 2, 1942, ch. 645, §1 (less last proviso), 6, 7, 55 Stat. 880; restated Apr. 22, 1943, ch. 67, §1 (less last proviso), 6, 7, 57 Stat. 66, 67.
2734(b)	31:224d (1st and 3d provisos).	
2734(c)	31:224d (2d proviso, less words after semicolon).	
2734(d)	31:224d (words of 2d proviso after semicolon).	
2734(e)	31:224d (98th through 109th words).	
2734(f)	31:224i.	
2734(g)	31:224h.	

In subsection (a), the words "for such purposes", "or destruction", "public", "private", "Army * * * forces", and "whether under a lease, express or implied" are omitted as surplusage. The words "armed forces under his jurisdiction" are substituted for the words "Army, Air Force, Navy, or Marine Corps". The same words are substituted for the words "Army, Air Force, Navy, or Marine Corps forces" to reflect the opinion of the Judge Advocate General of the Army (JAGD/D-55-51000, 17 Jan. 55). The word "settle" is substituted for the words "consider, ascertain, adjust, determine", since the word "settle", as defined in section 2731 of this title, includes those actions. The words "a member thereof, or by a civilian employee of the department concerned" are substituted for the words "or individual members thereof, including military personnel and civilian employees". The last sentence is substituted for the words "including places located therein which are under the temporary or permanent jurisdiction of the United States".

In subsection (a)(2), the words "United States" are substituted for the word "Government".

In subsection (b), the word "accident" is omitted as surplusage. The words "except that claims arising out of accidents or incidents occurring after December 6, 1941, but prior to May 1, 1943, may be presented at any time prior to May 1, 1944" are omitted as executed. Clauses (2) and (3) are substituted for 31:224d (3d proviso).

In subsection (c), the first 28 words of the second proviso of 31:224d and the words "but does not exceed \$5,000" are omitted as covered by subsection (a). The

words “commanding officer or other” are omitted as surplusage. The word “commissioned” is inserted for clarity. The word “designated” is substituted for the words “may prescribe”.

In subsection (d), the word “may” is substituted for the words “shall have authority, if he deems”. The words “that would otherwise be covered by this section” are inserted for clarity. The words “to be meritorious” and “character of such” are omitted as surplusage.

In subsection (f), the words “a military department” are substituted for the words “service concerned” after the words “the request of the”. The words “or Commissions” and “even though not” are omitted as surplusage. The words “an armed force under the jurisdiction of another military department” are substituted for the words “service concerned” after the words “officers of the”. 31:2241 (last 19 words) is omitted, since all claims are paid from one appropriation made to the Department of Defense.

1958 ACT

Revised section	Source (U.S. Code)	Source (Statutes at Large)
2734(a)	31:224d.	July 28, 1956, ch. 769, § 1, 70 Stat. 703.
2734(d)	31:224d.	
2734(f)	31:224i.	
2734(h)	31:224i-1.	

In subsections (a)(1) and (2), the words “a foreign country” are substituted for the words “that country” to make clear that damage to a political subdivision or an inhabitant of a foreign country need not have occurred in that country.

In subsection (h), the word “settle” is substituted for the words “consider, ascertain, adjust, determine,”, since the word “settle”, as defined in section 2731 of this title, includes those actions. The words “as provided in this section” are substituted for the words “as described in section 224d of this title” and 31:224i-1 (2d sentence).

Editorial Notes

AMENDMENTS

2006—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 109-163 substituted “Commonwealths or possessions” for “Territories, Commonwealths, or possessions” in concluding provisions.

2002—Subsec. (g). Pub. L. 107-296 substituted “Department of Homeland Security” for “Department of Transportation”.

1996—Subsec. (d). Pub. L. 104-316 substituted “Secretary of the Treasury” for “Comptroller General”.

1990—Subsec. (h). Pub. L. 101-510 substituted “as provided in section 2732 of this title” for “available to the Office of the Secretary of Defense for the payment of claims”.

1984—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 98-564, §2(1), substituted “\$100,000” for “\$25,000” and inserted provisions whereby employees as well as officers of the Secretary may settle claims in text preceding par. (1).

Pub. L. 98-564, §2(2), inserted “or employee” after “An officer” in last sentence.

Subsec. (c). Pub. L. 98-564, §2(3), substituted provisions whereby the Secretary may appoint officers and employees to act as approval authority for claims in excess of \$10,000 for provisions which provided that allowance of a claim for more than \$2,500 may be subject to the approval of any commissioned officer designated by the Secretary concerned.

Subsec. (d). Pub. L. 98-564, §2(4), substituted provisions providing that if the Secretary considers a claim in excess of \$100,000 meritorious, the Secretary may pay \$100,000 and report any excess amount to the Comptroller General for provisions which provided that for claims in excess of \$25,000 the Secretary may pay \$25,000 and certify any excess to Congress as a legal claim to be paid from appropriations.

1980—Subsec. (g). Pub. L. 96-513 substituted “Department of Transportation” for “Department of the Treasury”.

1974—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 93-336 substituted “\$25,000” for “\$15,000”.

Subsec. (d). Pub. L. 93-336 substituted “\$25,000” for “\$15,000” in two places.

1970—Subsec. (d). Pub. L. 91-312 authorized the Secretary to pay, without certification to Congress, up to \$15,000 towards the settlement of meritorious claims in excess of \$15,000.

Subsec. (e). Pub. L. 91-312 excepted claims under subsec. (d) from requirement that all claims paid be accepted by the claimant in full satisfaction, and struck out provision limiting the application of such requirement to claims payable under subsec. (a) of this section.

1968—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 90-521, §1, struck out “under his jurisdiction” after “armed forces” in text preceding cl. (1) and permitted an officer to serve on a claims commission under the jurisdiction of another armed force only with the consent of the Secretary of his department, or his designee, but required him to perform his duties under regulations of the department appointing the commission, respectively.

Subsec. (b)(3). Pub. L. 90-521, §3, provided for allowance of claim if it arises from an accident or malfunction incident to the operation of an aircraft of the armed forces of the United States, including the airborne ordnance, indirectly related to combat, and occurring while preparing for, going to, or returning from a combat mission.

1960—Subsec. (b). Pub. L. 86-411 substituted “two years” for “one year” in cl. (1).

1959—Pub. L. 86-223, §1(1)(A), substituted “the armed forces” for “Department of Army, Navy, or Air Force” in section catchline.

Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 86-223, §1(1)(B), substituted “concerned” and “the military department concerned or the Coast Guard, as the case may be” for “of a military department” and “the department concerned”, respectively.

Subsecs. (c), (d). Pub. L. 86-223, §1(1)(C), struck out “of the military department” after “Secretary”.

Subsec. (f). Pub. L. 86-223, §1(1)(D), substituted “the department concerned” for “a military department” and deleted “military” after “another”.

Subsec. (g). Pub. L. 86-223, §1(1)(E), substituted provision for payment of claims against the Coast Guard arising while it is operating as a service in the Department of the Treasury out of the appropriation for the operating expenses of the Coast Guard for provisions excluding such claims unless they arise, are settled and paid while the Coast Guard is operating as a service of the Navy and authorizing Coast Guard officers to serve on claims commissions or to approve settlements, only for claims against the Coast Guard.

1958—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 85-861, §1(55)(A)-(D), struck out “arising in foreign countries” after “meritorious claims”, and substituted “\$15,000” for “\$5,000”, “outside the United States, or the Territories, Commonwealths, or possessions,” for “in that country”, and “a foreign country” for “that country” in cls. (1) and (2).

Subsec. (d). Pub. L. 85-861, §1(55)(A), substituted “\$15,000” for “\$5,000”.

Subsec. (f). Pub. L. 85-861, §1(55)(E), substituted “Upon” for “In time of war and upon”.

Subsec. (h). Pub. L. 85-861, §1(55)(F), added subsec. (h).

Statutory Notes and Related Subsidiaries

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 2002 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 107-296 effective on the date of transfer of the Coast Guard to the Department of Homeland Security, see section 1704(g) of Pub. L. 107-296, set out as a note under section 101 of this title.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1980 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 96-513 effective Dec. 12, 1980, see section 701(b)(3) of Pub. L. 96-513, set out as a note under section 101 of this title.

§ 2734a. Property loss; personal injury or death; incident to noncombat activities of armed forces in foreign countries; international agreements

(a) When the United States is a party to an international agreement which provides for the settlement or adjudication and cost sharing of claims against the United States arising out of the acts or omissions of a member or civilian employee of an armed force of the United States done in the performance of official duty, or arising out of any other act, omission, or occurrence for which an armed force of the United States is legally responsible under the law of another party to the international agreement, and causing damage in the territory of such party, the Secretary of Defense or the Secretary of Homeland Security or their designees may—

(1) reimburse the party to the agreement for the agreed pro rata share of amounts, including any authorized arbitration costs, paid by that party in satisfying awards or judgments on claims, in accordance with the agreement; or

(2) pay the party to the agreement the agreed pro rata share of any claim, including any authorized arbitration costs, for damage to property owned by it, in accordance with the agreement.

(b) A claim arising out of an act of an enemy of the United States or arising, directly or indirectly, from an act of the armed forces, or a member thereof, while engaged in combat may not be considered or paid under this section.

(c) A reimbursement or payment under this section shall be made by the Secretary of Defense out of appropriations as provided in section 2732 of this title except that payment of claims against the Coast Guard arising while it is operating as a service of the Department of Homeland Security shall be made out of the appropriations for the operating expenses of the Coast Guard. The appropriations referred to in this subsection may be used to buy foreign currencies required for the reimbursement or payment.

(d) Upon the request of the Secretary of Homeland Security or his designee, any payments made relating to claims arising from the activities of the Coast Guard and covered by subsection (a) may be reimbursed or paid to the foreign country concerned by the authorized representative of the Department of Defense out of appropriations as provided in section 2732 of this title, subject to reimbursement from the Department of Homeland Security.

(Added Pub. L. 87-651, title I, §113(a), Sept. 7, 1962, 76 Stat. 512; amended Pub. L. 90-521, §4, Sept. 26, 1968, 82 Stat. 874; Pub. L. 94-390, §1(1), Aug. 19, 1976, 90 Stat. 1191; Pub. L. 98-525, title XIV, §1405(42)(A), Oct. 19, 1984, 98 Stat. 2625; Pub. L. 101-510, div. A, title XIV, §1481(j)(4)(B), Nov. 5, 1990, 104 Stat. 1709; Pub. L. 107-296, title XVII, §1704(b)(1), Nov. 25, 2002, 116 Stat. 2314.)

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

Revised section	Source (U.S. Code)	Source (Statutes at Large)
2734a(a) ...	31:224i-2 (less proviso).	Aug. 31, 1954, ch. 1152, §§1
2734a(b) ...	31:224i-2 (proviso, as applicable to 31:224i-2).	(less proviso, as applicable to §2, 4 (as applicable to §1), 68 Stat. 1006, 1007.
2734a(c) ...	31:224i-5 (as applicable to 31-224i-2).	

In subsection (a), the following substitutions are made: “Under” for “Pursuant to the terms”; “country” for “government”; “under its laws and regulations” for “in accordance with the laws and regulations of such foreign government”; “may” for “is authorized”; “amounts” for “sums”; and “spent” for “expended”. The words “now or may hereafter be” are omitted as surplusage.

In subsection (b), the following substitutions are made: “act” for “action” and “may” for “shall”.

In subsection (c), the words “pro rata” are omitted as surplusage. The following substitutions are made: “under this section” for “by the United States with respect to a settlement, award, or compromise made pursuant to sections 224i-2 to 224i-5 of this title”; “to buy” for “for the purchase of”; and “needed” for “necessary”. The words “which appropriations are authorized” are omitted as unnecessary.

Editorial Notes

AMENDMENTS

2002—Subsecs. (a), (c), (d). Pub. L. 107-296 substituted “of Homeland Security” for “of Transportation” wherever appearing.

1990—Subsec. (c). Pub. L. 101-510, §1481(j)(4)(B)(i), substituted “as provided in section 2732 of this title” for “for that purpose”.

Subsec. (d). Pub. L. 101-510, §1481(j)(4)(B)(ii), substituted “appropriations as provided in section 2732 of this title” for “the appropriation for claims of the Department of Defense”.

1984—Pub. L. 98-525 substituted “in foreign countries” for “; foreign countries” in section catchline.

1976—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 94-390 substituted provisions authorizing the Secretary of Defense or the Secretary of Transportation to reimburse or pay, including arbitration costs, claims arising under international agreements to which the United States is a party and providing for settlement or adjudication and cost sharing based on the responsibility of the United States under the law of the other party to the international agreement, for provisions authorizing the Secretary of Defense to reimburse or pay claims arising under international agreements to which the United States is a party and providing for adjudication by the other country under its laws and regulations.

1968—Subsec. (c). Pub. L. 90-521, §4(a), provided for payment of claims against the Coast Guard arising while it is operating as a service of the Department of Transportation out of appropriations for operating expenses of the Coast Guard.

Subsec. (d). Pub. L. 90-521, §4(b), added subsec. (d).

Statutory Notes and Related Subsidiaries

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 2002 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 107-296 effective on the date of transfer of the Coast Guard to the Department of Homeland Security, see section 1704(g) of Pub. L. 107-296, set out as a note under section 101 of this title.

§ 2734b. Property loss; personal injury or death; incident to activities of armed forces of foreign countries in United States; international agreements

(a) When the United States is a party to an international agreement which provides for the settlement or adjudication by the United States