AUTHENTICATED
U.S. GOVERNMENT
INFORMATION
GPO

will be followed. Other Government benefits, funded by general treasury revenues and not by the claimant's contributions, may also be used as a setoff against the settlement. (See, *Overton* v. *United States*, 619 F.2d 1299 (8th Cir. 1980)).

(2) As the incident to service issue is determinative as to whether this type of claim may be processed administratively at all, the applicable law and facts should be carefully considered before deciding that injury or death was not incident to service. Such claims also are often difficult to settle on the issue of quantum and thus more likely to end in litigation. Moreover, the United States may well elect to defend the lawsuit on the basis of the incident to service exclusion, and this defense could be prejudiced by a contrary administrative determination that a service member's personal injuries or death were not incident to service. Doubtful cases will be forwarded to the Commander, USARCS without action along with sufficient factual information to permit a determination of the incident to service question.

§536.8 Use of appraisers and independent medical examinations.

(a) *Appraisers.* Appraisers should be used in all claims where an appraisal is reasonably necessary and useful in effectuating the administrative settlement of the claims. The decision to use an appraiser is at the discretion of DA.

(b) *Independent medical examinations.* In claims involving serious personal injuries, for example, normally those cases in which there is an allegation of temporary or permanent disability, the claimant should be examined by an independent physician, or other medical specialist, depending upon the nature and extent of the injuries. The decision to conduct an independent medical examination is at the discretion of DA.

§536.9 Effect on award of other payments to claimant.

The total award to which the claimant (and subrogee) may be entitled normally will be computed as follows:

(a) Determine the total of the loss or damage suffered.

(b) Deduct from the total loss or damage suffered any payment, compensation, or benefit the claimant has received from the following sources:

(1) The U.S. or ARNG employee/member who caused the damage.

(2) The U.S. or ARNG employee's/member's insurer.

(3) Any person or agency in a surety relationship with the U.S. employee; or

(4) Any joint tortfeasor or insurer, to include Government contractors under contracts or in jurisdictions where it is permissible to obtain contribution or indemnity from the contractor in settlement of claims by contractor employees and third parties.

(5) Any advance payment made pursuant to §536.13.

(6) Any benefit or compensation based directly or indirectly on an employer-employee relationship with the United States or Government contractor and received at the expense of the United States including but not limited to medical or hospital services, burial expenses, death gratuities, disability payment, or pensions.

(7) The State (Commonwealth, etc.) whose employee or ARNG member caused or generated an incident that was a proximate cause of the resulting damages.

(8) Value of Federal medical care.

(9) Benefits paid by the Veterans Administration (VA) that are intended to compensate the same elements of damage. When the claimant is receiving money benefits from the VA under 38 U.S.C. 351 for a non-service connected disability or death based on the injury that is the subject of the claim, acceptance of a settlement or an award under the FTCA (§536.50) will discontinue the VA monetary benefits until the amount that would have otherwise been received in VA monetary benefits is equal to the total amount of the agreement or award including attorney fees. While monetary benefits received under 38 U.S.C. 351 must be discontinued as above, medical benefits, that is, VA medical care may continue provided the settlement or award expressly provides for such continuance and the appropriate VA official is informed of such continuance.

(10) When the claimant is receiving money benefits under 38 U.S.C. 410(b)

for non-service connected death, arising from the injury that is the subject of the claim, acceptance of a settlement or award under the FTCA (§ 536.50) or under any other tort procedure will discontinue the VA benefits until the amount that would have otherwise been received in VA benefits is equal to the amount of the total settlement or award including attorney fees. The discontinuation of monetary benefits under 38 U.S.C. 410(b) has no effect on the receipt of other VA benefits. The claimant should be informed of the foregoing prior to the conclusion of any settlement and thus afforded an opportunity to make appropriate adjustment in the amount being negotiated.

(11) Value of other Federal benefits to which the claimant did not contribute, or at least to the extent they are funded from general revenue appropriation.

(12) Collateral sources where permitted by State law (for example, State or Federal workers' compensation, social security, private health, accident, and disability benefits paid as a result of injuries caused by a health care provider).

(c) No deduction will be made for any payment the claimant has received by way of voluntary contributions, such as donations of charitable organizations.

(d) Where a payment has been made to the claimant by his insurer or other subrogee, or under workmen's compensation insurance coverage, as to which subrogated interests are allowable, the award based on total damages will be apportioned as their separate interests are indicated (see § 536.5(b)).

(e) After deduction of permissible collateral and non-collateral sources, also deduct that portion of the loss or damage believed to have been caused by the negligence of the claimant, third parties whose negligence can be imputed to the claimant, or joint tortfeasors who are liable for their share of the negligence (for example, where some form of the Uniform Contribution Among Joint Tortfeasors Act has been passed).

(f) Claims with more than one potential source of recovery. (1) The Government seeks to avoid multiple recovery, that is, claimants seeking recovery from more than one potential source, and to minimize the award it must make. The claims investigation should therefore identify other parties potentially liable to the claimant and/or their insurance carriers; indicate the status of any claims made or include a statement that none has been made so that it can be assured there is only one recovery and the Government does not pay a disproportionate share. Where no claim has been made by the claimant against others potentially liable, if applicable State law grants the Government the right to indemnity or contribution, and it is felt the Government may be entitled to either under the facts developed by the claims investigation, the claims officer or attorney should formally notify the other parties of their potential liability, the Government's willingness to share information, and its expectation of shared responsibility for any settlement. Furthermore, the claimant may be receiving or entitled to receive benefits from collateral and non-collateral sources, which can be deducted from the total loss or damage. Accordingly, a careful review must be made of applicable State laws regarding joint and several liability, indemnity, contribution, comparative negligence, and the collateral source doctrine.

(2) If a demand by a claimant or an inquiry by a potential claimant is directed solely to the Army, in a situation where it appears that the responsible Army employee may have applicable insurance coverage, inquiry should be made of the employee as to whether he has liability insurance.

(i) If so, determine if the insurer has made or will make any payment to claimant. Under applicable State law, the United States may be an additional named insured entitled to coverage under the employee's liability policy. (See 16 ALR3d 1411; *United States* v. *State Farm Mutual Ins. Co.,* 245 F. Supp. 58 (D. Ore. 1965.)) Therefore, where there may be applicable insurance coverage, there should be a review of the policy language together with the rules and regulations of the State insurance regulatory body to determine whether the United States comes within the definition of ''insured,'' and whether

the exclusion of the United States from policy coverage conforms with state law and policy.

(ii) If the employee refuses to cooperate in providing this information, he or she should be advised to comply with the notice requirements of the insurance policy and to request the insurance carrier contact the claims officer or attorney. In addition, other sources of information, such as vehicle registration records, will be checked to ascertain the employee's insurer. The case should be followed to ascertain whether the employee's insurer has made or will make any payment to the claimant before deciding whether to settle the claim against the Government. Normally, the award, if any, to the claimant will be reduced by the amount of the payment of the employee's insurance carrier.

(3) If the employee is the sole target of the claim and Army claims authorities arrange to have the claim made against the Government, the member or employee should be required to notify his or her insurance carrier according to the policy and inform DA claims authorities as to the details of the insurance coverage, including the name of the insurance carrier. Except when the ''Drivers Act'' is applicable, the insurance carrier is expected to participate in the negotiation of the claims settlement and to pay its fair share of any award to the claimant.

(4) Where the responsible Army employee is ''on loan'' to another employer other than the United States, for example, civilian institution for ROTC instructor, or performing duties for a foreign government, inquiry should be made to determine whether there is applicable statutory or insurance coverage concerning the acts of the responsible employee and contribution or indemnification sought, as appropriate. In the case of foreign governments, applicable treaties or agreements are considered controlling.

(5) A great many claims cognizable under the FTCA (§ 536.50) are now settled on a compromise basis. A major consideration in many such settlements is the identification of other sources of recovery. This is true in a variety of factual situations where there is a potential joint tortfeasor; for example, multi-vehicle accidents with multiple drivers and guest passengers, State or local government involvement, contractors performing non-routine tasks for the Government, medical treatment rendered to a claimant by non-Government employees, or incidents caused by a member or employee of the military department of a State or Commonwealth with whom the DA does not have a cost-sharing agreement. The law of the jurisdiction regarding joint and several liability, indemnity and contribution may permit shared financial responsibility, but even in jurisdictions which do not permit contribution, a compromise settlement can often be reached with the other tortfeasor's insurance company paying a portion of the total amount of the claim against the Government. For these reasons, every effort should be made to identify the insurance of all potential tortfeasors involved and the status of any claims made, and to demand contribution or indemnity where there is a substantial reason to believe that liability for the loss or damage should be shared.

(6) Whenever a claim is filed against the Government under a statute which does not permit the payment of a subrogated interest, it is important to ensure that full information is obtained from the claimant regarding insurance coverage, if any, since it is the clear legislative intent of such statutes that insurance coverage be fully utilized before using appropriated funds to pay the claims.

§ 536.10 Settlement agreement.

(a) *General.* Except under 31 U.S.C. 3721, if a claim is determined to be meritorious in an amount less than claimed, or if a claim involving personal injuries or death is approved in full, a settlement agreement will be obtained prior to payment. Acceptance by a claimant of an award constitutes a full and final settlement and release of any and all claims against the United States and against the military or civilian personnel whose act or omission gave rise to the claim.

(b) *Claims involving workmen's compensation carriers.* The settlement of a claim involving a claimant who has