

§ 537.15

claims services, will deposit money recovered from any payor, under any provision of law, for medical care provided or paid for by, in or through an MTF into the MTF's O&M account.

(2) *Deposits when TRICARE paid directly for treatment.* The account in which to deposit affirmative claims recoveries when TRICARE has paid directly for the medical treatment is a Defense Health Program (DHP) account for reallocation to the services. This replaces the general treasury miscellaneous receipts account published in AR 37-100 (obsolete). Deposit to TRICARE using this new account for recoveries pending deposit, and recoveries for any claim settled on or after October 1, 2002. Retroactive claims depositing is not necessary.

(3) *Apportionment of medical care recovery between accounts.* Claims offices will often have to apportion recovered money among different accounts.

(i) *Apportioning money between accounts.* If care was provided by an MTF and paid for by or through the MTF and/or directly by TRICARE and/or a unit account for military lost wages if any, and the amount recovered is less than the amount asserted, deposit a prorated amount of money into each TRICARE account.

(ii) *Apportioning money between two or more medical treatment facility accounts.* If care was provided by two or more MTFs and the claims office recovers less than the amount asserted, the claims office should give each MTF a pro rata share of the money recovered. For example, if MTF one provided \$2,000 worth of care and MTF two provided \$1,000 worth of care, the claims office will deposit \$800 of a \$1,200 recovery to MTF one's account and the remaining \$400 to MTF two's account. Similarly, if the claims office recovers an amount less than that asserted for medical care expenses and costs of pay provided, the claims office should give a pro rata share of the money recovered to both the MTF and the appropriation account that supports the injured soldier's unit.

(d) *Fiscal integrity.* Field claims offices must reconcile the property damage and medical care recovery accounts with their servicing defense accounting office. Field claims offices

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must ensure that their deposits have been credited to the proper accounts and that these accounts have not been improperly charged. All accounts must be reconciled at the end of the fiscal year.

§ 537.15 Statutory authority for maritime claims and claims involving civil works of a maritime nature.

(a) *The Army Maritime Claims Settlement Act.* The sections pertinent to maritime affirmative claims are set out at 10 U.S.C. 4803-4804.

(b) *The Rivers and Harbors Act.* The section of the Act pertinent to affirmative claims involving civil works of a maritime nature is set out at 33 U.S.C. 408.

§ 537.16 Scope for maritime claims.

The Army Maritime Claims Settlement Act (10 U.S.C. 4803-4804) applies worldwide and includes claims that arise on high seas or within the territorial waters of a foreign country.

(a) 10 U.S.C. 4803 provides for agency settlement or compromise of claims for damage to:

(1) DA-accountable properties of a kind that are within the federal maritime jurisdiction.

(2) Property under the DA's jurisdiction or DA property damaged by a vessel or floating object.

(b) 10 U.S.C. 4804 provides for the settlement or compromise of claims in any amount for salvage services (including contract salvage and towage) performed by the DA. Claims for salvage services are based upon labor cost, per diem rates for the use of salvage vessels and other equipment, and repair or replacement costs for materials and equipment damaged or lost during the salvage operation. The sum claimed is usually intended to compensate the United States for operational costs only, reserving, however, the government's right to assert a claim on a salvage bonus basis in accordance with commercial practice.

(c) The United States has three years from the date a maritime claim accrues under this section to file suit against the responsible party or parties.