

§ 757.13 Responsibility for MCRA action.

(a) *JAG designees.* (1) Primary responsibility for investigating, asserting, and collecting Department of the Navy (DON) MCRA claims and properly forwarding MCRA claims to other Federal departments or agencies rests with the following officers:

(i) Commanding officers and officers in charge, Naval Legal Service Command (NLSC) activities, in their areas of geographic responsibility;

(ii) Officer in charge, U.S. Sending State Office, Rome in his area of geographic responsibility.

(2) JAG designees may assert and receive full payment on any MCRA claim. They may, however, agree to compromise or waive only claims for \$40,000.00 or less. Claims in excess of \$40,000.00 may be compromised or waived only with DOJ approval. Such claims will be forwarded to the Judge Advocate General in accordance with § 757.6. See § 757.7 for further discussion of waiver and compromise.

(b) *Navy Medical Treatment Facilities (MTF).* (1) Naval MTF's are responsible for ensuring potential MCRA claims are brought to the attention of the appropriate NLSC activity or U.S. Sending State Office (USSSO).

(2) The MTF reports all potential MCRA cases by forwarding a copy of the daily injury log entries and admissions records to the cognizant NLSC activity or USSSO within 7 days of treatment for which a third party may be liable. The NLSC activity or USSSO makes the determination of liability.

(i) MTF computes the value of the care it provided on NAVJAG Form 5890/12. Rates used to compute this value are published annually in the FEDERAL REGISTER by the Office of Management and Budget.

(ii) Block 4 of NAVJAG Form 5890/12 requires a statement from the patient describing the circumstances of the injury or disease.

(iii) An "interim" report is prepared for inpatients only. An interim report is prepared every 4 months until the patient is released, transferred or changed to an outpatient status.

(iv) A "final" report is prepared for all patients when inpatient and outpatient treatment is completed or the

patient's care is transferred to another facility. A narrative summary should accompany the final report in all cases involving inpatient care. In addition, the back side of NAVJAG Form 5890/12 is completed as part of the final report when the value of Federal Government care exceeds \$1,000.00.

(c) *The Office of Medical and Dental Affairs (OMA).* The office pays emergency civilian medical expenses incurred by active duty members. This office furnishes MCRA claims information to the NLSC activity or USSSO. The address is Bldg. 38H, U.S. Naval Training Center, Great Lakes, IL 60088-5200.

(d) *Civilian Health and Medical Program of the Uniformed Services (CHAMPUS) contractors.* CHAMPUS contractors forward reports of payments in injury cases to the appropriate NLSC activity. Responsible JAG designees should, however, initiate regular contact with contractors within their geographic area to ensure all relevant cases have been reported.

(e) *Department of Justice (DOJ).* Only the DOJ may authorize compromise or waiver of an MCRA claim in excess of \$40,000.00; settle an MCRA claim which was previously forwarded by the DON to DOJ for action; or settle an MCRA claim in which the third party has filed a suit against the United States or the injured person as a result of the incident which caused the injury.

§ 757.14 Claims asserted.

(a) *General.* The DON asserts MCRA claims when medical care is furnished to Navy and Marine Corps active duty personnel, retirees, or their dependents, and third-party tort liability for the injury or disease exists. Claims are asserted when the injured party is treated in a military MTF or when the DON is responsible for reimbursing a non-Federal care provider. Claims for medical care furnished are also asserted using alternate theories of recovery if the MCRA does not apply. See § 757.14(e).

(b) *Independent cause of action.* The MCRA creates an independent cause of action for the United States. The Government can administratively assert and litigate MCRA claims in its own