



# CAMP CASEY CLAIMS OFFICE INFORMATION PAPER

## **SUBJECT: CLAIMS FOR LOSSES DUE TO THEFT**

Under AR 27-20 and DA Pamphlet 27-162, proper claimants may be compensated only if they have made reasonable efforts to safeguard personal property kept in their quarters. Quarters include on-post family housing, barracks, BOQ/BEQs, and government approved and provided quarters off-post. DA Pam 27-162, paragraph 11-5(a)(4) sets out the specifics for compensation for loss due to theft.

### ■ PROPER CLAIMANTS

Claims for losses due to theft are payable under the Personnel Claims Act. Proper claimants are set forth in paragraph 11-4(a) of AR 27-20.

### ■ FACTORS TO CONSIDER

1. The primary factor to consider in determining compensation for property loss due to theft is whether the claimant took reasonable efforts to safeguard his/her personal property. This would include ensuring, at a minimum, that the doors and windows of quarters were locked or that the claimant took other actions, which a reasonable person would take under the circumstances to secure the property. However, minimal precautions may not be enough. For example, if a claimant is living in quarters with sliding glass doors accessible to passers-by, and if the doors have only a

simple lock, he/she should also take the reasonable precaution of placing a stick or bar along the rail to prevent the door from being opened.

2. There are also reasonable ways to secure specific kinds of personal property to prevent loss. For example, small, high-value items such as cash, valuable jewelry, or expensive cameras should be secured area. Soldiers, living in the barracks could use wall lockers to store such items. Also, because quarters typically do not have sufficient security to reasonably protect large amounts of cash, the appropriate place to keep large sums of money is in a bank.

3. Another type of personal property loss for which the Army could compensate is theft of privately owned vehicle (POVs), bicycles, motorcycles, and mopeds. Compensations may be allowed for the theft of these vehicles if they are located at on-post or assigned off-post quarters. However, regardless of the type of vehicle or its location, the vehicle must be insured and registered on post in accordance with local regulations. If the vehicle is not insured and properly registered on post, a claim cannot be paid for theft. A claimant is expected to chain his/her bicycle, motorcycle, or moped to a fixed object such as a post, even if the claimant must walk a greater distance to a parking place because there is no fixed object in the immediate vicinity. Locking the vehicle's wheels or handlebars together is not a sufficient security measure.

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***\*\*Camp Casey Claims Office is available to assist you in filing your claim with an appropriate claims packet and guidance. Please contact 730-3687, Bldg S-2440, Room 235 at Maude Hall in Camp Casey.\*\****