



## **MEDICAL CARE RECOVERY CLAIMS**

Soldiers, dependants and retirees enjoy the valuable benefit of free medical care for illness or injury. However, the fact that this care is free to the individual does not mean it is without cost to the Army. One way to offset the cost of medical expenses is to recover money from liable parties such as an insurance company or the person who is legally responsible for causing injury to a beneficiary. For example, if a Soldier injured in a motor vehicle accident is treated at Evans Army Community Hospital, the Army may recover the cost of that treatment if the other party is legally liable for the injury. Money for lost wages may also be recovered if the Soldier misses work due to the injury.

The law that authorizes such recovery is the Federal Medical Care Recovery Act (FMCRA). The FMCRA does not allow for recovery from the injured beneficiary. Rather, the money is recovered from the responsible party or their insurance company. Locally, the Claims Division at the Office of the Staff Judge Advocate is responsible for recovering the money, which is returned directly to the budget of the military treatment facility. Money recovered for lost wages is returned to operation and maintenance fund of the Soldier's unit.

The FMCRA provides a great way to put some money back into our health care facility. This is money that can be used to improve the facility and care of other patients. Your assistance is vital to the success of this program. The FMCRA requires that all beneficiaries cooperate with the Claims Division in pursuing recovery. Locally, we ask that you contact us with information regarding the accident, including the name of the other party and all insurance companies involved, and provide a short description of the circumstances of the accident and description of your injuries. If you retain a private attorney to represent you, he or she must contact the Claims Division regarding your case.

The Claims Division also asserts claims to recover the value of government property that has been damaged, lost or destroyed by a civilian due to negligence, theft or vandalism. If you are aware of such an incident, contact the Claims Division at 526-1381 or 526-2462, or stop by the Claims Office at building 6222.