



**The Comptroller General
of the United States**

Washington, D.C. 20548

Decision

Matter of: Lieutenant Colonel Tommy B. Tompkins (Retired)

File: B-236330.2

Date: February 14, 1990

DIGEST

An Army officer whose initial claim against the government was allowed is not entitled to interest on the amount paid in the absence of a statute authorizing such payment.

DECISION

Lieutenant Colonel Tommy B. Tompkins' claim for \$473.79 for the purchase of drinking water for his detachment in Saudi Arabia in 1981 was allowed by our decision Lieutenant Colonel Tommy B. Tompkins, B-236330, Aug. 14, 1989. Colonel Tompkins now seeks interest on the amount of his claim because of the time which elapsed between the accrual of his claim and its payment.

As a general rule, in the absence of a statute authorizing it, interest cannot be recovered against the United States. 65 Comp. Gen. 598 (1986). We are not aware of any statute or other authority which would authorize the payment of interest in this case. The passage of time between the date the claim accrued and the date it was paid, while unfortunate, does not provide any legal basis upon which the claim for interest may be paid.

Shelton J. Jacobson

Acting Comptroller General
of the United States

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