**Congressional Submission** 

# FOREIGN CLAIMS SETTLEMENT COMMISSION

U.S. Department of Justice FY 2008 PERFORMANCE BUDGET

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### I. Overview for the Foreign Claims Settlement Commission

The principal mission of the Foreign Claims Settlement Commission is to adjudicate claims of U.S. nationals against foreign governments, exercising jurisdiction conferred by the International Claims Settlement Act of 1949, as amended, and other authorizing legislation. The Commission is requesting a total of 11 permanent positions, 11 FTE, and \$1,709,000 for FY 2008.

Beginning in FY 2007, electronic copies of the Department of Justice's congressional budget justifications and Capital Asset Plan and Business Case exhibits can be viewed or downloaded from the Internet using the Internet address: <u>http://www.usdoj.gov/imd/2008justification/</u>.

This request represents an increase of \$292,000 above the FY 2007 estimated level of \$1,417,000. This will enable the Commission to continue evaluating American claims against foreign governments under current claims programs as well as maintaining the records of past claims programs, and continue building and modernizing both current and past claims programs by creating and updating databases.

To date, the Commission has compiled and administered 45 international and war-related claims programs involving claims against 18 countries: Yugoslavia, Panama, Bulgaria, Hungary, Romania, Italy, the former Soviet Union, the former Czechoslovakia, Poland, Cuba, China, the former German Democratic Republic, Vietnam, Ethiopia, Egypt, Iran, Albania, and the Federal Republic of Germany.

The Commission consists of a Chairman and two part-time Commissioners, who are appointed by the President with the advice and consent of the Senate. The part-time Commissioners receive compensation at the Executive Level V rate of pay for performance of official business of the Commission at the direction of the Chairman.

The operating expenses of the Commission ultimately are borne only partially, if at all, by the taxpayer. In virtually all instances, the legislation authorizing the adjudication of claims has provided for deduction of a percentage of the funds obtained from foreign governments for payment of the Commission's awards to the credit of miscellaneous receipts in the United States Treasury to defray the administrative expenses of conducting the claims programs.

The Commission has not been selected for review under the Program Assessment Rating Tool (PART) process.

### 2. Issues, Outcomes, and Strategies

In 2008, the Commission will continue to have authority under the International Claims Settlement Act of 1949, as amended, and the 1995 U.S.-Albanian claims settlement agreement, to make awards in any additional claims against Albania that are filed. In addition, the Commission will continue to reopen and reconsider claims it had previously denied, taking into account the modification of the claims agreement effected in 2006.

The Commission will also research and respond to requests for information concerning properties expropriated by the Castro regime in Cuba, in support of the Department of State's continuing implementation of the Cuban Liberty and Democratic Solidarity (LIBERTAD) Act of

1996 (the "Helms-Burton Act"). In this regard, the Commission is continuing to maintain and update a computerized database of some 18,000 records containing the specifics on all of the claims adjudicated in its Cuban Claims Program. This now enables the Commission to respond much more quickly and accurately to the State Department's information requests.

The Commission will continue to engage in preliminary planning for a possible future program involving claims against Iraq. The Commission also will provide, upon request, technical assistance to the Department of State in conducting government-to-government claims settlement negotiations. Under the War Claims Act of 1948, as amended, the Commission will continue to have authority to award compensation to any previously uncompensated American servicemen held as prisoners of war in Southeast Asia during the Vietnam conflict, or their survivors, for inadequate rations and inhumane treatment while in captivity.

In addition, the Commission will continue to furnish information contained in the records pertaining to the 45 completed international and war-related claims programs it has conducted, as requested by claimants, their heirs, attorneys, researchers, and other members of the public. Upon request, it will also provide other U.S. agencies advice on policy determinations, preliminary planning, evaluation of pending claims legislation, and liaison with Congressional committees considering legislation intended to provide for adjudication of additional types or classes of claims.

### 3. Challenges

### External Challenges

The Commission's external challenges include a workload that is dictated mostly by current and future claims programs enacted by Congress or requested by the Department of State and by the number of claims filed. Its challenges are to assist U.S. nationals in filing and documenting their claims, and understanding the Commission's claims process, and to respond efficiently to all inquiries by the public, Congress, and other federal agencies about current and past programs.

### Internal Challenges

The internal challenges the Commission faces include focusing the skills, expertise, and experience of its staff to assist U.S. nationals with claims against foreign governments as well as to provide technical assistance in this area to the Department of State and other federal entities upon request, while at the same time continuing its modernization effort by improving and updating the information of its databases and its Web page.

## 4. Performance Challenges

The Commission is an independent agency, yet its budget is fully integrated with its own priorities and corresponds best to the Department's Strategic Goal 2: Enforce Federal Laws and Represent the Rights and Interests of the American People.

### 5. Performance of Commercial Activities

The Commission has not completed and does not have an A-76 commercial activities study underway.

### **III.** Appropriation Language and Analysis of Appropriation Language

#### **Appropriation Language**

The 2008 budget estimates include proposed changes in the appropriation language listed below. New language is italicized and underlined, and language proposed for deletion is bracketed.

### SALARIES AND EXPENSES, FOREIGN CLAIMS SETTLEMENT COMMISSION

*For expenses necessary to carry out the activities of the Foreign Claims Settlement Commission, including services as authorized by 5 U.S.C. 3109, \$1,709,000.*<sup>1</sup>

### **Analysis of Appropriation Language**

No substantive changes are proposed.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> The FY 2008 President's Budget uses the FY 2007 President's Budget language as a base so all language is presented as new.

### **IV. Decision Unit Justification**

### A. Foreign Claims

Foreign Claims TOTAL	Perm. Pos.	FTE	Amount
2006 Enacted with Rescissions	11	11	\$1,303
2007 Estimate	11	11	1,417
Adjustments to Base and Technical			292
Adjustments			292
2008 Current Services	11	11	1,709
2008 Program Increases			-
2008 Offsets			-
2008 Request	11	11	1,709
Total Change 2007-2008	-	-	292

### 1. Program Description

The Commission has a single Decision Unit, and its mission is to protect the property rights of U.S. citizens abroad and promote the international rule of law through adjudication of claims by United States citizens against foreign governments.

The Commission pursues the following organizational goals:

- To adjudicate claims and award compensation to any previously uncompensated U.S. claimants for property losses in Albania, to conduct outreach to inform American citizens who were unaware of its Albanian claims program, and to research and interpret Albanian property and inheritance law.
- To research and respond to requests for information concerning decisions in the Commission's first Cuban Claims Program (conducted from 1965-72), in aid of the Department of State's continuing implementation of the Cuban Liberty and Democratic Solidarity (LIBERTAD) Act of 1996 (the "Helms-Burton Act").
- To prepare to adjudicate the outstanding claims of U.S. nationals against the Government of Iraq, upon enactment of authorizing legislation or referral to the Commission by the Secretary of State.
- Upon request, to assist the Department of State in negotiations for the settlement of claims against foreign governments, including, in particular, U.S. claims against Russia and the other original constituent republics of the former Soviet Union, which were adjudicated under Public Law 285, 84th Congress.
- To award compensation to any previously uncompensated American POWs held in Southeast Asia during the Vietnam conflict, or their survivors, for inadequate rations and inhumane treatment while in captivity, and to conduct outreach to make known the existence of the POW compensation program to persons previously unaware of it.
- To advise other agencies and Congress concerning potential future claims programs and to analyze and comment on pending legislation.
- To advise other agencies on policy determinations relating to the settlement of international claims.

- To assist the Department of the Treasury in making distributions on past awards certified by the Commission.
- To provide executive departments and private attorneys with legal precedents issued by the Commission.
- To provide general information concerning past programs and to respond to requests about specific decisions the Commission has made on past claims.
- To maintain and continuously update a comprehensive database of pending and active claims programs to ensure it is accurate and useful to the public and other U.S. agencies.
- To maintain a Commission Web site that explains claims programs, with downloadable claims program instructions and claim forms as well as statistical information on past programs, general information on the Commission and how to contact the staff with questions.

#### PERFORMANCE AND RESOURCES TABLE

Decision Unit: Foreign Claims

#### **DOJ Strategic Goal/Objective:** Corresponds to Strategic Goal 2, Objective 2.5

WORKLOAD	D/ RESOURCES	Final	Target	Act	tual		Estimate	Cł	nanges	Req	uested (Total)	
		FY 2006		FY 2006			FY 2007	Adjustm	nt Services nents and FY gram Changes	FY 2008 Reques		
Workload												
Total Costs (reimbursable	and FTE FTE are included, but reimbursable costs are	FTE	\$000	FTE	\$000	FTE	\$000	FTE	\$000	FTE	\$000	
bracketed and	racketed and not included in the total)		\$1,303	11	\$1,168	11	\$1,417	0	\$292	11	\$1,709	
TYPE/ STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE	PERFORMANCE	FY	2006	FY 2	2006	FY 20	07 President's Budget	Adjustm	nt Services nents and FY Program	FY 2008 Request		
Program		FTE	\$000	FTE	\$000	FTE	\$000	FTE	\$000	FTE	\$000	
Activity	Adjudication of Claims	11*	\$1,303	11	\$1,168	11	\$1,417	0	\$292	11	\$1,709	
Performance Measure												
Performance Measure												
OUTCOME												

Data Definition, Validation, Verification, and Limitations: Not applicable.

	PERFORMANCE MEASURE TABLE													
Decision Unit: F	oreign Claims													
Performance	Report and Performance Plan Targets	FY 2000	FY 2000         FY 2001         FY 2002         FY 2003         FY 2004         FY 2005         FY 2005				2006	FY 2007	FY 2008					
		Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	Target	Actual	Target	Target			
Performance Measure		NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA			
Performance Measure		NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA			
Performance Measure		NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA			
Efficiency Measure		NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA			
OUTCOME Measure		NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA			

N/A = Data unavailable

## 3. Performance, Resources, and Strategies

The Commission is an independent agency, yet its budget is fully integrated with its own priorities and corresponds best to the Department's Strategic Goal 2: Enforce Federal Laws and Represent the Rights and Interests of the American People.

# a. Performance Plan and Report for Outcomes

The Commission's activities are not presented in the Department's performance plans or reports. However, in addition to its principal function of adjudicating United States nationals' claims against foreign governments, the Commission provides continuing informational services to claimants (and, where applicable, their legal successors) with regard to the 45 completed international and war claims programs it has conducted. It also provides advice to other Federal agencies on policy determinations, preliminary planning, and evaluation of proposed legislation intended to authorize adjudication of claims of new categories of claimants, and liaison with congressional committees considering such legislation.

# b. Strategies to Accomplish Outcomes

In 2008, under the International Claims Settlement Act of 1949, as amended, and the 1995 U.S.-Albanian claims settlement agreement, the Commission will continue to have authority to make awards in any additional claims against Albania that may be filed.

The Commission will also research and respond to requests for information concerning properties expropriated by the Castro regime in Cuba, in support of the Department of State's continuing implementation of the Cuban Liberty and Democratic Solidarity (LIBERTAD) Act of 1996 (the "Helms-Burton Act"). In addition, the Commission will continue to engage in preliminary planning for a program involving claims against Iraq. The Commission also will provide, upon request, technical assistance to the Department of State in conducting government-to-government claims settlement negotiations.

Under the War Claims Act of 1948, as amended, the Commission will continue to have authority to award compensation to any previously uncompensated American servicemen held as prisoners of war in Southeast Asia during the Vietnam conflict, or their survivors, for inadequate rations and inhumane treatment while in captivity.

# c. Results of Program Assessment Rating Tool (PART) Reviews

The Commission has not been selected for review under the Program Assessment Rating Tool (PART) process.

# **V. EXHIBITS**

A: Organizational Chart

# FOREIGN CLAIMS SETTLEMENT COMMISSION

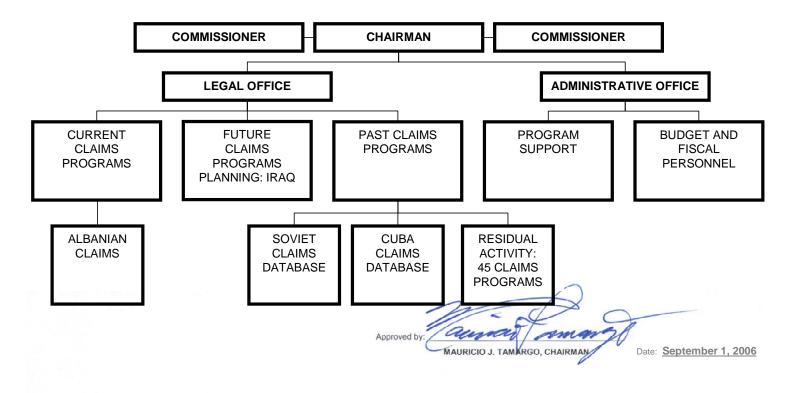


Exhibit A – Organizational Chart

#### Summary of Requirements Foreign Claims Settlement Commission Salaries and Expenses (Dollars in Thousands)

	F	FY 2	007 Pres.	Budget
		Perm. Pos.	FTE	Amount
2006 Enacted (with Rescissions)		11	11	\$1,303
2006 Supplementals				
Total 2006 Enacted (with Rescissions and Supplementals)		11	11	1,303
2007 President's Budget (Information only)		11	11	1,559
2007 Continuing Resolution Level (as reflected in the 2008 President's Budget; Information Only)		11	11	1,303
2007 Estimate*		11	11	1,417
2007 Rescission Against Balances				
2007 Estimate (with Rescissions)		11	11	1,417
Adjustments to Base				
Increase:				 I
2008 pay raise (3.0%)				223
2007 pay raise annualization (2.2%)				12
Change in compensable days				9
Thrift Savings Plan			_	5
Health Insurance Rental payments to GSA				2 40
DHS Security				40
Subtotal Increases				292
Total Adjustments to Base				292
2008 Current Services		11	11	1,709
Total Program Changes				
2008 Total Request		11	11	1,709
2007 - 2008 Total Change				292

\*The Department of Justice 2008 budget request was built on a starting point that recognized progress in enacting the FY 2007 appropriation. The starting point used (referred to throughout this document as the "Estimate") is the average of the Senate Committee and House passed marks, less one percent, unless noted otherwise.

#### Summary of Requirements Foreign Claims Settlement Commission Salaries and Expenses (Dollars in Thousands)

	2006 App	ropration	n Enacted					2008			2008			2008			2008			2008	
	w/Res	scissions	s and		2007 Estir	nate	Adjustm	ents to	Base and	(	Current Se	rvices		Increas	ies		Offsets		Request		
	Sup	pplement	tals				Technic	al Adju	ustments												
Estimates by budget activity	Pos. I	FTE	Amount	Pos.	FTE	Amount	Pos.	FTE	Amount	Pos.	FTE	Amount	Pos.	FTE	Amount	Pos.	FTE A	mount	Pos.	FTE	Amount
Foreign Claims	11	11	1,303	11	11	1,417			292	11	11	1,709							11	11	1,709
Total	11	11	1,303	11	11	1,417			292	11	11	1,709							11	11	1,709
Reimbursable FTE																					
Total FTE		11			11						11									11	
Other FTE:																					
LEAP																					
Overtime																					
Total Comp. FTE		11			11						11									11	

#### D: Resources by DOJ Strategic Goals/Objective

#### Resources by Department of Justice Strategic Goal/Objective Foreign Claims Settlement Commission (Dollars in Thousands)

	2006 Ei	nacted	2007 Est	timate	20	08		20	)08		20	008
	w/ Resciss					a .				200 <i>i</i>	Re	quest
·	Suppler				Current		Inci	reases	0	fsets		0
Strategic Goal and Strategic Objective	FTE	Amount <u>\$000s</u>	FTE	Amount <u>\$000s</u>	FTE	Amount <u>\$000s</u>	FTE	Amount <u>\$000s</u>	FTE	Amount <u>\$000s</u>	FTE	Amount <u> \$000s</u>
Goal 1: Prevent Terrorism and Promote the Nation's Security 1.1: Prevent, disrupt, and defeat terrorist operations before they occur 1.2: Investigate and prosecute those who have committed, or intend ot commit, terrorist acts in the United States Subtotal, Goal 1		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Goal 2: Enforce Federal Laws and Represent the Rights and Interests of the American People 2.5 Subtotal, Goal 2	<u>11</u> 11	1,303 <b>1,303</b>	11 11	1,417 <b>1,417</b>	11 <b>11</b>	1,709 <b>1,709</b>	-	-	-	-	11 11	1,709 <b>1,709</b>
Goal 3: Assist State, Local, and Tribal Efforts to Prevent or Reduce Crime and Violence 3.1: Subtotal, Goal 3				<u> </u>	<u> </u>	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Goal 4: Ensure the Fair and Efficient Operation of the Federal Justice System 4.1: Subtotal, Goal 4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	<u> </u>	-	-	-	-
GRAND TOTAL	11	\$ 1,303	11	\$ 1,417	11	\$ 1,709	-	-	-	<b>\$</b> -	11	\$ 1,709

#### E. Justification for Base Adjustments\*

#### Justification for Base Adjustments Foreign Claims Settlement Commission (Dollars in Thousands)

#### **Increases**

<u>2008 pay raise</u>. This request provides for a proposed 3.0 percent pay raise to be effective in January 2008. This increase includes locality pay adjustments as well as the general pay raise. The amount requested, \$223, represents the pay amounts for 3/4 of the fiscal year plus appropriate benefits.

<u>Annualization of 2007 pay raise</u>. This pay annualization represents first quarter amounts (October through December) of the 2007 pay increase of 2.2 percent. The amount requested, \$12, represents the pay amounts for 1/4 of the fiscal year plus appropriate benefits.

<u>Changes in Compensable Days</u>: The increase costs of two more compensable days in FY 2008 compared to FY 2007 is calculated by dividing the FY 2007 estimated personnel compensation \$794 and applicable benefits \$135 by 260 compensable days. The cost increase of two compensable days is \$9.

<u>Thrift Saving Plan (TSP):</u> The cost of agency contributions to the Thrift Savings Plan will also rise as FERS participation increases. The contribution rate is 4.3 percent and the increase of the TSP is \$5.

Health Insurance: For employees health insurance pemiums, the additional amount required is \$2.

<u>General Services Administration (GSA) Rent:</u> GSA will continue to charge rental rates that approximate those charged to commercial tenants for equivalent space and related services. The requested increase for \$40 is required to meet our commitment to GSA.

<u>DHS Security Charges:</u> The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) will continue to charge Basic Security and Building Specific Security. The requested increase of \$1 is required to meet our commitment to DHS, and cost estimates were developed by DHS.

\*ATBs must be recalculated following final FY 2007 action.

#### F: Crosswalk of 2006 Availability

#### **Crosswalk of 2006 Availability** Foreign Claims Settlement Commission Salaries and Expenses (Dollars in Thousands)

		2006 Enacted out Rescissions	Rescissions			Su	ppleme	entals	Rep	rogram Transf	mings / ers		Carryo Recove		2006 Availabilit		ability
Decision Unit	Pos.	FTE Amount	Pos.	FTE A	mount	Pos.	FTE	Amount	Pos.	FTE	Amount	Pos.	FTE	Amount	Pos.	FTE	Amount
Foreign Claims	11	11 1,320			(17)										11	11	1,303
TOTAL	11	11 \$1,320			(\$17)			\$0			\$0			\$0	11	11	\$1,303
Reimbursable FTE																	
Total FTE		11														11	
Other FTE																	
LEAP																	
Overtime																	
Total Compensable FTE		11														11	

Enacted Recissions: Funding rescinded as required by the Department of Justice Appropriations Act, 2006 (P.L. 109-108) and the Department of Defense Appropriations Act (P.L. 109-148).

### I: Detail of Permanent Positions by Category

#### Detail of Permanent Positions by Category Foreign Claims Settlement Commission Salaries and Expenses

		w/Rescissions and								
		upps		ent's Request			1	2008 Request		
	Total	Total	Total	Total		Program	Program	Total	Total	Total
Category	Authorized	Reimbursable	Authorized	Reimbursable	ATBs	Increases	Decreases	Pr. Changes	Authorized	Reimbursable
Attorneys (905)	4		4						4	
Paralegals / Other Law (900-998)	3		3						3	
Personnel Management (200-299)										
Clerical and Office Services (300-399)	4		4						4	
Accounting and Budget (500-599)										
Information & Arts (1000-1099)										
Business & Industry (1100-1199)										
Library (1400-1499)										
Equipment/Facilities Services (1600-1699)										
Supply Services (2000-2099)										
Security Specialists (080)										
Motor Vehicle Operations (5703)										
Information Technology Mgmt (2210)										
Miscellaneous Operations (010-099)										
Total	11		11						11	
Headquarters (Washington, D.C.)	11		11						11	
U.S. Field										
Foreign Field										
Total	11		11						11	

#### Summary of Requirements by Grade

Foreign Claims Settlement Commission

Salaries and Expenses

	2006 Actual	2007 Estimate	2008 Request	Increase/Decrease
Grades and Salary Ranges	Pos. Amount	Pos. Amount	Pos. Amount	Pos. Amount
EX-V, \$136,200	2	2	2	
GS-15, \$110,363 - 143,471	2	2	2	
GS-14, \$93,822 - 121,967				
GS-13, \$79,397 - 103,220	2	2	2	
GS-12, \$66,767 - 86,801	2	2	2	
GS-11, \$55,706 - 72,421	2	2	2	
GS-10, 50,703 - 65,912				
GS-9, \$46,041 - 59,852	1	1	1	
GS-8, 41,686 - 54,194				
GS-7, \$37,640 - 48,933				
GS-6, \$33,872 - 44,032				
GS-5, \$30,386 - 39,501				
GS-4, \$27,159 - 35,303				
GS-3, \$24,194 - 31,451				
GS-2, \$22,174 - 27,901				
GS-1, \$19,722 - 24,664				
Total, appropriated positions	11	11	11	••••
Average SES Salary				
Average GS Salary	\$ 72,583	\$ 74,542	\$ 76,182	
Average GS Grade	12.33	12.33	12.33	

#### Summary of Requirements by Object Class

Foreign Claims Settlement Commission

Salaries and Expenses

(Dollars in Thousands)

	2006 Actual	Obligations	2007 Est	imate	2008 Rec	quest	Increase/Decrease		
Object Classes	FTE	Amount	FTE	Amount	FTE	Amount	FTE	Amount	
11.1 Direct FTE & personnel compensation	9	639	9	718	9	962	9	244	
11.3 Other than full-time permanent	2	16	2	76		76	2		
11.5 Total, Other personnel compensation					2				
Overtime									
Other Compensation									
11.8 Special personal services payments									
Total	11	655	11	794	11	1,038	11	244	
Reimbursable FTE:									
Full-time permanent									
Other Object Classes:									
12.0 Personnel benefits		127		135		142		7	
21.0 Travel and transportation of persons		8		18		18			
22.0 Transportation of things		8		12		12			
23.2 GSA Rent		267		348		388		40	
23.3 Comm., util., & other misc. charges		19		30		30			
24.0 Printing and reproduction		8		5		5			
25.1 Advisory and assistance services									
25.2 Other services		23		37		38		1	
25.3 Purchases of goods & services from Government accounts		37		20		20			
25.4 Operation and maintenance of facilities									
25.5 Research and development contracts									
25.7 Operation and maintenance of equipment									
26.0 Supplies and materials		16		12		12			
31.0 Equipment				6		6			
Total obligations		\$1,168		\$1,417		\$1,709		\$292	