

A BRIEF HISTORY OF

THE DEFENSE BASE ACT

The **Defense Base Act** extends workers compensation insurance coverage to contractor employees performing under government contracts outside of the United States.

AUGUST 16, 1941

In anticipation of possible attacks, the **77th Congress of the United States** enacts the **Defense Base Act** in order to extend protective coverage to contractor employees working overseas. Previously, defense contractors who worked outside of the US risked their lives and sustained serious injuries without receiving disability benefits.

OCTOBER 10, 1951

Signed into law by **President Truman**, the **Mutual Security Act** authorized \$7.5 billion annually to provide foreign military aid and economic aid in an attempt to grow poor countries and stunt the growth of communism.

1958

The greatest number of amendments is added to the **Defense Base Act**. Coverage is now extended welfare organizations, non-citizens, and service contracts under the **United Service Organization**.

MAY, 2013

Defense contractors account for at least 50% of the total military force serving overseas in The War on Terror: all are covered under the Defense Base Act.

AUGUST 9, 1941

President Roosevelt meets with **Winston Churchill** to discuss military goals for the Allied Powers. World War II continues to rage and growing pressure is placed on the US to join the fray. The US may be looking at deploying soldiers and non-military personnel.

DECEMBER 7, 1941

Pearl Harbor is attacked by the **Imperial Japanese Navy**, killing nearly 2,500 people and launching the US into World War II. Both military personnel and non-military personnel are deployed overseas. Because of the **Defense Base Act**, the non-military personnel received lifelong medical benefits, and compensation benefits, if injured.

1954

Coverage under the **Defense Base Act** is extended to those working under, and funded by, the **Mutual Security Act**, adding public works contracts to the **Defense Base Act** from this point forward.

1995

Following the **Dayton Peace Accords**, coverage for US contractors under contract with foreign governments is included under the **Defense Base Act**.

2017

The Defense Base Act continues to offer full coverage benefits and insurance policies to any person working as a contract employee outside of the United States