

*of not less than three years following their previous tour of duty on the Joint Staff, except that selected officers may be recalled to Joint Staff duty in less than three years with the approval of the Secretary of Defense in each case. The number of such officers recalled to Joint Staff duty in less than three years shall not exceed 100 serving on the Joint Staff at any one time.*

(b) The Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff in consultation with the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and with the approval of the Secretary of Defense, shall select the Director of the Joint Staff. Except in time of war, the tour of duty of the Director may not exceed three years. Upon the completion of a tour of duty as Director of the Joint Staff, the Director, except in time of war, may not be reassigned to the Joint Staff. The Director must be an officer junior in grade to each member of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

(c) The Joint Staff shall perform such duties as the Joint Chiefs of Staff or the Chairman prescribes. The Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff manages the Joint Staff and its Director [ ], on behalf of the Joint Chiefs of Staff] *in the performance of those duties.*

(d) The Joint Staff shall not operate or be organized as an overall Armed Forces General Staff and shall have no executive authority. The Joint Staff may be organized and may operate along conventional staff lines to support the Joint Chiefs of Staff *and the Chairman* in discharging their assigned responsibilities.

(e) (1) *Subject to guidelines established by the Secretary of Defense, each officer serving as a chief of service or as the commander of a unified or specified command may have an opportunity to provide formal comments on any report or recommendation of the Joint Staff prepared for submittal to the Joint Chiefs of Staff before such report or recommendation is submitted to the Joint Chiefs of Staff. A copy of any such comment shall, at the discretion of the officer submitting the comment, be included as an appendix in the submittal of such report or recommendation to the Joint Chiefs of Staff. For purposes of this paragraph, the chiefs of service are the Chief of Staff of the Army, the Chief of Naval Operations, the Chief of Staff of the Air Force, and the Commandant of the Marine Corps.*

(2) *The Secretary of Defense shall ensure that the Joint Staff is independently organized and operated so that the Joint Staff, and the members of the Joint Staff, support the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and the Joint Chiefs of Staff in meeting the congressional purpose set forth in the last clause of section 2 of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 401) to provide for the unified strategic direction of the combatant forces, for their operation under unified command, and for their integration into an efficient team of land, naval, and air forces.*

(f) (1) *The Secretary of Defense, in consultation with the Chairman, shall ensure that officer personnel policies of the armed forces concerning promotion, retention, and assignment give appropriate consideration to the performance of an officer as a member of the Joint Staff.*

(2) *In the case of an officer who has served on the Joint Staff and who is selected for recommendation to the President for appointment to a grade above major general or rear admiral, the Chairman shall submit to the President, at the same time as the recommendation for such appointment is submitted, the evaluation of the Chairman of the performance of that officer as a member of the Joint Staff.*