

Similarly, the bill would amend section 143(b) of title 10 and add section 143(e) to extend the maximum peacetime tour of duty of the Director of the Joint Staff from three to four years, and to remove the prohibition against reassignment of the Director to the Staff in peacetime after completion of his tour. These changes would contribute to greater institutional stability and afford the Government the full use of those officers who have demonstrated a high level of competence in staff work.

In addition, the legislative proposal would amend section 143(a) of title 10 to remove the limit of 400 officers on the size of the Joint Staff. In the context of a continuously increasing workload, greater demands for sophisticated military planning, and the organization of our combatant forces into unified and specified commands, arbitrary numerical limitations are no longer appropriate. In the case of the Joint Staff, as well as other assignments to duty, the goal should be the wisest use of military manpower among competing requirements, with due recognition to the increasingly joint utilization of personnel in the combatant commands.

Cost and Budget Data

Enactment of this legislation would cause no increase in budgetary requirements for the Department of Defense.

Sincerely,



William H. Taft, IV

Enclosures

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