

1 as the commander of a unified or specified command may
2 have an opportunity to provide formal comments on any
3 report or recommendation of the Joint Staff prepared for sub-
4 mittal to the Joint Chiefs of Staff before such report or rec-
5 ommendation is submitted to the Joint Chiefs of Staff. A
6 copy of any such comment shall, at the discretion of the offi-
7 cer submitting the comment, be included as an appendix in
8 the submittal of such report or recommendation to the Joint
9 Chiefs of Staff. For purposes of this paragraph, the chiefs of
10 service are the Chief of Staff of the Army, the Chief of Naval
11 Operations, the Chief of Staff of the Air Force, and the Com-
12 mandant of the Marine Corps.

13 “(2) The Secretary of Defense shall ensure that the
14 Joint Staff is independently organized and operated so that
15 the Joint Staff, and the members of the Joint Staff, support
16 the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and the Joint
17 Chiefs of Staff in meeting the congressional purpose set forth
18 in the last clause of section 2 of the National Security Act of
19 1947 (50 U.S.C. 401) to provide for the unified strategic
20 direction of the combatant forces, for their operation under
21 unified command, and for their integration into an efficient
22 team of land, naval, and air forces.

23 “(f)(1) The Secretary of Defense, in consultation with
24 the Chairman, shall ensure that officer personnel policies of
25 the armed forces concerning promotion, retention, and as-