

**§ 5032. Office of the Chief of Naval Operations: general duties**

(a) *The Office of the Chief of Naval Operations shall furnish professional assistance to the Secretary, the Under Secretary, and the Assistant Secretaries of the Navy, and the Chief of Naval Operations.*

(b) *Under the authority, direction, and control of the Secretary of the Navy, the Office of the Chief of Naval Operations shall—*

(1) *prepare for such employment of the Navy, and for such recruiting, organizing, supplying, equipping (including research and development), training, servicing, mobilizing, demobilizing, administering, and maintaining of the Navy, as will assist in the execution of any power, duty, or function of the Secretary or the Chief of Naval Operations;*

(2) *investigate and report upon the efficiency of the Navy and its preparation to support military operations by combatant commands;*

(3) *prepare detailed instructions for the execution of approved plans and supervise the execution of those plans and instructions;*

(4) *act as agent of the Secretary and the Chief of Naval Operations in coordinating the actions of all organizations of the Navy; and*

(5) *perform such other duties, not otherwise assigned by law, as may be prescribed by the Secretary.*

**§ 5033. Chief of Naval Operations: appointment; term of office; powers and duties**

(a) *There is a Chief of Naval Operations appointed by the President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate. The Chief of Naval Operations shall be appointed for a term of four years, from officers on the active-duty list in the line of the Navy who are eligible to command at sea and who hold the grade of rear admiral or above. He serves at the pleasure of the President. In time of war or during a national emergency declared by Congress, he may be reappointed for a term of not more than four years.*

(b) *The Chief of Naval Operations, while so serving, has the grade of admiral without vacating his regular or reserve grade. In the performance of his duties within the Department of the Navy, the Chief of Naval Operations takes precedence above all other officers of the naval service.*

(c) *Except as otherwise prescribed by law and subject to section 5013(f) of this title, the Chief of Naval Operations performs his duties under the authority, direction, and control of the Secretary of the Navy and is directly responsible to the Secretary.*

(d) *Subject to the authority, direction, and control of the Secretary of the Navy, the Chief of Naval Operations shall—*

(1) *preside over the Office of the Chief of Naval Operations;*

(2) *transmit the plans and recommendations of the Office of the Chief of Naval Operations to the Secretary and advise the Secretary with regard to such plans and recommendations;*

(3) *after approval of the plans or recommendations of the Office of the Chief of Naval Operations by the Secretary, act as the agent of the Secretary in carrying them into effect;*