

man's evaluation and the promotion recommendation would be submitted to the President at the same time.

The Committee recommends this new duty for the Chairman in the expectation that it will encourage highly qualified officers to seek joint assignments and to perform their duties in these positions with objectivity. It would formalize the informal role that the Chairman now plays in the evaluation of senior officers for promotion.

The second new subsection added by section 115 would require the Secretary of Defense to inform the President of the qualifications needed by officers to serve in certain senior military positions. The positions encompassed by new subsection (e) would be those designated by the President under section 601(a) of title 10 as positions of importance and responsibility to carry the grade of general or admiral or lieutenant general or vice admiral.

Like another similar provision (section 133(f) as added by section 103 of this bill) affecting civilian political appointees, this provision is intended to ensure that the Secretary of Defense is involved in the selection of military officers to fill key positions. It should also encourage the Secretary of Defense and other senior civilian decision-makers to consider more explicitly the military experience and skills needed in positions of importance and responsibility.

#### SEC. 116. SERVICE OF OFFICERS IN JOINT DUTY POSITIONS

Section 116 of this bill would amend section 646 of title 10 to direct the Secretary of Defense to ensure that the Services' personnel policies enhance the ability of officers to perform joint duties. In carrying out this important duty, the Secretary would be required to achieve certain specified goals. One of the Secretary's goals would be to ensure that officers are well prepared to serve in joint duty positions as the result of previous experience, formal education, and training. The Committee expects the Secretary of Defense to always consider previous joint duty experience in ensuring that officers with such experience are well prepared to assume joint duty positions.

The Committee expects the Secretary of Defense to undertake serious efforts to improve the ability of officers to perform joint duties. Although the Defense Department has made some helpful changes in this long neglected personnel area, much more can be done to enhance incentives for joint service within the Services' personnel management systems. In deciding not to mandate particular personnel changes in this bill, the Committee offers the Secretary the opportunity to take whatever action he believes is necessary to achieve the goals specified in section 646 of title 10, as amended by section 116 of this bill.

#### SEC. 117. DEFENSE AGENCIES AND DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE FIELD ACTIVITIES

Section 117 of this bill would amend chapter 8 of title 10 to add a new section 191 dealing with common supply and service activities and to redesignate current sections 191 and 192 as sections 195 and 196, respectively. In addition, section 117 would create two subchapters in chapter 8: Subchapter I—Common Supply and Service