

prescribes and shall perform such duties under such procedures as the Chairman prescribes.

“(d) **OPERATION OF JOINT STAFF.**—The Secretary of Defense shall ensure that the Joint Staff is independently organized and operated so that the Joint Staff supports the Chairman of 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—

“(1) for the unified strategic direction of the combatant forces;

“(2) for their operation under unified command; and

“(3) for their integration into an efficient team of land, naval, and air forces.

“(e) **PROHIBITION OF FUNCTION AS ARMED FORCES GENERAL STAFF.**—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.

“(f) **TOUR OF DUTY OF JOINT STAFF OFFICERS.**—(1) An officer who is assigned or detailed to permanent duty on the Joint Staff may not serve for a tour of duty of more than four years. However, such a tour of duty may be extended with the approval of the Secretary of Defense.

“(2) In accordance with procedures established by the Secretary of Defense, the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff may suspend from duty and recommend the reassignment of any officer assigned to the Joint Staff. Upon receipt of such a recommendation, the Secretary concerned shall promptly reassign the officer.

“(3) An officer completing a tour of duty with the Joint Staff may not be assigned or detailed to permanent duty on the Joint Staff within two years after relief from that duty except with the approval of the Secretary.

“(4) Paragraphs (1) and (3) do not apply—

“(A) in time of war; or

“(B) during a national emergency declared by the President.

“(g) **LIMITATION ON SIZE OF JOINT STAFF.**—(1) Effective on October 1, 1988, the total number of members of the armed forces and civilian personnel assigned or detailed to permanent duty on the Joint Staff may not exceed 1,627.

“(2) Paragraph (1) does not apply—

“(A) in time of war; or

“(B) during a national emergency declared by Congress.

“(h) **COMPOSITION OF JOINT STAFF.**—(1) The Joint Staff is composed of all members of the armed forces and civilian employees assigned or detailed to permanent duty in the executive part of the Department of Defense to perform the functions and duties prescribed under subsections (a) and (c).

“(2) The Joint Staff does not include members of the armed forces or civilian employees assigned or detailed to permanent duty in a military department.”.

SEC. 202. PROVISIONS RELATING TO VICE CHAIRMAN

(a) **EXEMPTION OF VICE CHAIRMAN FROM 4-STAR GRADE LIMITATION.**—Section 525(b)(3) is amended by inserting “or Vice Chairman” after “Chairman”.

(b) **RANK OF VICE CHAIRMAN.**—Section 743 is amended—

(1) by striking out “and” after “Chief of Naval Operations,”;