

(b) NUMBERS AND SELECTION.—

(1) **NUMBER.**—The number of officers with the joint specialty shall be determined by the Secretary. Such number shall be large enough to meet the requirements of subsection (d).

(2) **SELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR JOINT SPECIALTY.**—Officers shall be selected for the joint specialty by the Secretary of Defense with the advice of the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. The Secretaries of the military departments shall nominate officers for selection for the joint specialty. Nominations shall be made from among officers—

(A) who meet qualifications prescribed by the Secretary of Defense; and

(B) who—

(i) are senior captains or, in the case of the Navy, lieutenants; or

(ii) are serving in the grade of major or lieutenant commander or a higher grade.

(c) TRAINING AND EXPERIENCE REQUIREMENTS.—

(1) **GENERAL RULE.**—An officer who is nominated for the joint specialty may not be selected for the joint specialty until the officer—

(A) successfully completes an appropriate program at a joint professional military education school; and

(B) after completing such program of education, successfully completes a full tour of duty in a joint duty assignment.

(2) **EXCEPTION FOR OFFICERS WITH CRITICAL SKILLS.**—An officer who has a critical occupational specialty involving combat operations (as designated by the Secretary of Defense) who is nominated for the joint specialty may be selected for the joint specialty after successful completion of a joint duty assignment of not less than two years and successful completion of a program under paragraph (1)(A). An officer selected for the joint specialty under this paragraph shall be required to complete the generally applicable requirements for selection under paragraph (1)(B) as soon as practicable after such officer's selection.

(d) JOINT DUTY ASSIGNMENTS.—

(1) **50 PERCENT REQUIREMENT.**—The Secretary of Defense shall ensure that approximately one-half of the joint duty assignment positions in grades above captain or, in the case of the Navy, lieutenant are filled at any time by officers who have (or have been nominated for) the joint specialty.

(2) **CRITICAL ASSIGNMENTS.**—The Secretary of Defense shall designate not fewer than 1,000 joint duty assignment positions as critical joint duty assignment positions. Each such position shall be held only by officers with the joint specialty.

(e) **CAREER GUIDELINES.**—The Secretary, with the advice of the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, shall establish career guidelines for officers with the joint specialty. Such guidelines shall include guidelines for—

(1) selection;

(2) training;

(3) military education;

(4) types of duty assignments;