

determined under regulations prescribed under section 619(e)(4) of this title); and

(D) in the case of a medical officer, dental officer, veterinary officer, medical service officer, nurse, biomedical science officer, chaplain, or judge advocate.

(3) **LIMITATION ON WAIVER AUTHORITY.**—The authority of the Secretary of Defense to grant a waiver under paragraph (2) may only be delegated to the Deputy Secretary of Defense or an Assistant Secretary of Defense. Such a waiver may be granted only on a case-by-case basis in the case of an individual officer.

(b) **JOINT MILITARY EDUCATION SCHOOLS.**—The Secretary of Defense shall periodically review and revise the curriculum of schools of the National Defense University (and of any other joint professional military education school) to enhance the education and training of officers in joint military matters. Such schools shall be required to maintain rigorous standards for the military education of officers with the joint specialty.

(c) **OTHER PROFESSIONAL MILITARY EDUCATION SCHOOLS.**—The Secretary of Defense shall require that each Department of Defense school concerned with professional military education periodically review and revise its curricula for senior and intermediate grade officers in order to strengthen the focus on—

(1) joint military operations; and

(2) preparing officers for joint duty assignments.

(d) **POST-TRAINING DUTY ASSIGNMENTS.**—The Secretary shall ensure that—

(1) unless waived by the Secretary in an individual case, each officer with the joint specialty who graduates from a joint professional military school shall be assigned to a joint duty assignment for that officer's next duty assignment; and

(2) a high proportion (which shall be significantly greater than 50 percent) of the other officers graduating from a joint professional military school also receive assignments to a joint duty assignment as their next duty assignment.

(e) **OTHER REQUIREMENTS FOR SENIOR OFFICERS.**—The Secretary shall take all other practicable measures to improve the training and experience of officers serving in senior joint duty assignments.

§ 664. Length of joint duty assignments

(a) **GENERAL RULE.**—The length of a joint duty assignment—

(1) for general and flag officers shall be not less than three years; and

(2) for other officers shall be not less than three and one half years.

(b) **WAIVER AUTHORITY.**—The Secretary of Defense may waive subsection (a) in any case, but the Secretary shall ensure that the average length of joint duty assignments meets the standards prescribed in that subsection.

(c) **CERTAIN OFFICERS WITH CRITICAL COMBAT OPERATIONS SKILLS.**—Joint duty assignments of less than the period prescribed by subsection (a), but not less than two years, may be authorized for the purposes of section 661(c)(2) of this title. Any such assignment shall not be counted for the purposes of determining the average length of joint duty assignments under subsection (b).