

organized and operated as a General Staff. These prohibitions are fully preserved in the conferees' action.

Authority to Suspend Joint Staff Officers

As part of the action of the conference committee on part B of title II of the conference substitute amendment, the conferees agreed to authorize the commander of a unified or specified combatant command to suspend from duty and recommend the reassignment of any officer within his command. The conferees believe that the JCS Chairman should be able to exercise similar authority over Joint Staff officers.

Therefore, the conferees agreed to clarify existing section 143(a)(3) of title 10 to authorize the Chairman to suspend from duty and recommend the reassignment of any officer assigned to the Joint Staff. However, the conferees agreed that procedures required by this provision pertain solely to the relationships between the Chairman and the Military Department concerned with respect to service by an officer on the Joint Staff. The conferees agreed that nothing in this provision confers on an officer assigned to the Joint Staff any procedural rights concerning suspension from duty or reassignment.

Organization of the Joint Staff to Perform Net Assessments

The House amendment contained a provision (section 102) that would require the JCS Chairman to ensure that the Joint Staff was organized and staffed so as to enable the Chairman to perform net assessments.

The Senate amendment contained no similar provision.

The House recedes. The conferees did not believe it was necessary to specify in statute that the JCS Chairman should ensure that the Joint Staff is capable of assisting him in performing net assessments. Section 201 of the conference substitute amendment includes the performance of net assessments among the duties of the Chairman. Therefore, the conferees fully expect the Chairman to organize and operate the Joint Staff so that it is able to assist him in carrying out this important responsibility.

Limitation on Size of Joint Staff

The Senate amendment contained a provision (section 111) that would impose, as of October 1, 1988, a limitation of 1,617 on the number of civilian and military personnel serving on the Joint Staff. The Joint Staff would be defined to include all civilian and military personnel assigned or detailed to permanent duty to assist the JCS Chairman and Vice Chairman in carrying out their responsibilities and to assist the other JCS members in carrying out their JCS responsibilities.

The House amendment contained no similar provision. Therefore, it would continue the limitation specified in existing section 143(a)(1) of title 10 of 400 officers on the size of the Joint Staff (without defining the Joint Staff).

The House recedes with the following two amendments: to set the limitation at 1,627 and to clarify the definition of the Joint Staff to include only those personnel assigned or detailed to permanent duty in the executive part of the Defense Department to per-