

cers, and allegations of non-compliance with any provisions in this title do not provide a basis for invalidating any personnel action.

Sec. 661. Management policies for joint specialty officers

The House amendment contained a provision (section 301) that would establish an occupational category, referred to in the amendment as the "joint specialty", for officers trained in and oriented toward joint military matters. In addition, the provision would set out various requirements pertaining to the specialty: (1) how the total number of joint specialty officers would be determined and the number and type of joint duty assignments to which they would be assigned; (2) how joint specialty officers would be selected, including the nomination procedure and education and experience requirements; and (3) career guidelines for joint specialty officers.

The Senate amendment contained a provision (section 115) that would require the Secretary of Defense to ensure that officers are well prepared to assume joint duty positions as a result of previous experience, formal education, and training.

The Senate recedes with an amendment that would change the requirement for the Secretary of Defense to establish "an occupational category" for joint officers to a requirement to establish "policies, procedures, and practices for the effective management of officers . . . trained in, and oriented toward, joint matters. . . ." The conferees noted that the paragraph changed by the Senate amendment was intended to give the Secretary of Defense sufficient latitude in establishing the "joint specialty", including designating it with another term. The conferees believe that the Senate amendment provides the necessary latitude and unambiguously states the intent of the Congress that an effective system for the management of joint specialty officers be established.

Under section 661(c) of title 10 (as added by section 401 of the conference substitute amendment), an officer who is nominated for the joint specialty may not be selected for the specialty until he (1) successfully completes an appropriate program at a joint professional military education school, and (2) after completing such a program, successfully completes a full joint duty assignment. The purpose of this precise sequence is to ensure that qualified officers are assigned to joint duty assignments. The conferees agreed, however, that implementation of these particular requirements may demonstrate the need for flexibility in the sequence in which they must be fulfilled. Therefore, the conferees agreed that the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and House of Representatives would more closely examine during the next year whether a limited number of officers should be exempted from the required sequence.

The conferees request that the Secretary of Defense consult with the Secretary of Transportation and advise the Congress whether any provision of chapter 38 of title 10, as added by title IV of the conference substitute amendment, should be applied to officers of the Coast Guard.

The second Senate amendment would transfer to section 402 of the conference substitute amendment the requirement that career guidelines for joint specialty officers established by the Secretary of