

The House amendment contained no similar provision.

The House recedes with an amendment to apply the Senate requirement to offices for which the required grade is specified in law.

SEC. 404. JOINT DUTY ASSIGNMENT AS PREREQUISITE FOR PROMOTION
TO GENERAL OR FLAG OFFICER GRADE

The House amendment contained a provision (section 303) that would require, subject to a case-by-case waiver by the Secretary of Defense, that an officer may not be promoted to brigadier general or rear admiral (lower half) unless he has served in a joint duty assignment.

The Senate amendment contained no similar provision.

The Senate recedes.

SEC. 405. ANNUAL REPORT ON IMPLEMENTATION

The House amendment contained a provision (section 304) that would require the Secretary of Defense to include in his annual report to the Congress a report on the implementation of the joint personnel policy title of the House amendment.

The Senate amendment contained no similar provision.

The Senate recedes. The conferees request that the information required by this provision be included in a portion of the annual report of the Secretary to the Congress relating to management of the Department of Defense.

SEC. 406. TRANSITION

Joint Duty Assignments

The House amendment contained a provision (section 305) that would require the Secretary of Defense to ensure that about one-half of the joint duty assignments in grades above captain or Navy lieutenant are always filled by officers who have (or have been nominated for) the joint specialty as rapidly as possible and not later than 2 years after the date of enactment.

The Senate amendment contained no similar provision.

The Senate recedes.

Joint Specialty

The House amendment contained a provision (section 305) that would provide special rules for the Secretary of Defense to apply in making the initial selection of officers for the joint specialty during a 2-year transition period.

The Senate amendment contained no similar provision.

The Senate recedes with an amendment that modifies the procedures for the initial selection of joint specialty officers in several ways.

The amendment deletes the requirement that the Secretary of Defense make the initial selection of officers from among officers in such grades as the Secretary determines. The conferees agreed that the conference substitute amendment makes this requirement unnecessary. The Senate amendment eliminates the distinction between general and flag officers and all other officers in the "special rules" for initial selections in the House amendment. The conferees