

than the rate for all officers of the same armed force in the same grade and competitive category.

“(b) *REPORT.*—The Secretary of Defense shall periodically (and not less often than every six months) report to Congress on the promotion rates of officers who are serving in, or have served in, joint duty assignments, especially with respect to the record of officer selection boards in meeting the objectives of clauses (1), (2), and (3) of subsection (a). If such promotion rates fail to meet such objectives, the Secretary shall immediately notify Congress of such failure and of what action the Secretary has taken or plans to take to prevent further failures.

### “§ 663. Education

“(a) *CAPSTONE COURSE FOR NEW GENERAL AND FLAG OFFICERS.*—(1) Each officer selected for promotion to the grade of brigadier general or, in the case of the Navy, rear admiral (lower half) shall be required, after such selection, to attend a military education course designed specifically to prepare new general and flag officers to work with the other armed forces.

“(2) Subject to paragraph (3), the Secretary of Defense may waive paragraph (1)—

“(A) in the case of an officer whose immediately previous assignment was in a joint duty assignment and who is thoroughly familiar with joint matters;

“(B) when necessary for the good of the service;

“(C) in the case of an officer whose proposed selection for promotion is based primarily upon scientific and technical qualifications for which joint requirements do not exist (as 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, or chaplain.

“(3) The authority of the Secretary of Defense to grant a waiver under paragraph (2) may only be delegated to the Deputy Secretary of Defense, an Under 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, with the advice and assistance of the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, shall periodically review and revise the curriculum of each school of the National Defense University (and of any other joint professional military education school) to enhance the education and training of officers in joint matters. The Secretary shall require such schools 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 curriculum for senior and intermediate grade officers in order to strengthen the focus on—

“(1) joint matters; and

“(2) preparing officers for joint duty assignments.