

“(d) POST-EDUCATION DUTY ASSIGNMENTS.—The Secretary of Defense 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 education school shall be assigned to a joint duty assignment for that officer’s next duty assignment; and

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

“§ 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 the case of any officer, 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. Such an assignment may not be counted for the purposes of determining the average length of joint duty assignments under subsection (b).

“(d) EXCEPTION.—(1) Subsection (a) does not apply in the case of an officer who fails to complete a joint duty assignment as the result of—

“(A) retirement;

“(B) separation from active duty; or

“(C) suspension from duty under section 155(f)(2) or 164(g) of this title.

“(2) In computing the average length of joint duty assignments for purposes of this section, the Secretary of Defense shall exclude joint duty assignments not completed because of a reason specified in paragraph (1).

“§ 665. Procedures for monitoring careers of joint officers

“(a) PROCEDURES.—(1) The Secretary of Defense, with the advice of the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, shall establish procedures for overseeing the careers of—

“(A) officers with the joint specialty; and

“(B) other officers who serve in joint duty assignments.

“(2) Such oversight shall include monitoring of the implementation of the career guidelines established under section 661(e) of this title.

“(b) FUNCTION OF JOINT STAFF.—The Secretary shall take such action as necessary to enhance the capabilities of the Joint Staff so that it can—