

percent of the officers considered in each competitive category, but may not be more than 30 percent of the number of officers considered in each grade.

(3) The total number of officers described in subsection (b)(4) from any of the armed forces (or from any of the armed forces in a particular grade) who may be recommended during a fiscal year for discharge by a selection board convened pursuant to the authority of that subsection may not exceed 70 percent of the decrease, as compared to the preceding fiscal year, in the number of officers of that armed force (or the number of officers of that armed force in that grade) authorized to be serving on active duty as of the end of that fiscal year.

(4) An officer who is recommended for discharge by a selection board convened pursuant to the authority of subsection (b)(4) and whose discharge is approved by the Secretary concerned shall be discharged on a date specified by the Secretary concerned.

(5) Selection of officers for discharge under this subsection shall be based on the needs of the service.

(e) The discharge or retirement of an officer pursuant to this section shall be considered to be involuntary for purposes of any other provision of law.

(Added Pub. L. 101-510, div. A, title V, § 521(a)(1), Nov. 5, 1990, 104 Stat. 1559; amended Pub. L. 102-190, div. A, title V, § 503(b), Dec. 5, 1991, 105 Stat. 1355; Pub. L. 102-484, div. A, title V, § 503, title LXIV, § 4403(g)(2), Oct. 23, 1992, 106 Stat. 2402, 2703; Pub. L. 103-160, div. A, title V, § 561(b), Nov. 30, 1993, 107 Stat. 1667; Pub. L. 105-261, div. A, title V, § 561(c), Oct. 17, 1998, 112 Stat. 2025; Pub. L. 106-398, § 1 [[div. A], title V, § 571(c)], Oct. 30, 2000, 114 Stat. 1654, 1654A-134; Pub. L. 109-364, div. A, title VI, § 623(b), Oct. 17, 2006, 120 Stat. 2256.)

#### REFERENCES IN TEXT

Section 4403 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1993, referred to in subsec. (b)(4)(C), is section 4403 of Pub. L. 102-484, which is set out as a note under section 1293 of this title.

#### AMENDMENTS

2006—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 109-364, § 623(b)(1), inserted “and for the purpose of subsection (b)(4) during the period beginning on October 1, 2006, and ending on December 31, 2012,” after “December 31, 2001.”

Subsec. (d)(2)(A). Pub. L. 109-364, § 623(b)(2)(A), inserted “, except that during the period beginning on October 1, 2006, and ending on December 31, 2012, such number may be more than 30 percent of the officers considered in each competitive category, but may not be more than 30 percent of the number of officers considered in each grade” before “; or” at end.

Subsec. (d)(2)(B). Pub. L. 109-364, § 623(b)(2)(B), inserted “, except that during the period beginning on October 1, 2006, and ending on December 31, 2012, such number may be more than 30 percent of the officers considered in each competitive category, but may not be more than 30 percent of the number of officers considered in each grade” before period at end.

2000—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 106-398 substituted “December 31, 2001” for “September 30, 2001”.

1998—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 105-261 substituted “during the period beginning on October 1, 1990, and ending on September 30, 2001” for “during the nine-year period beginning on October 1, 1990”.

1993—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 103-160 substituted “nine-year period” for “five-year period”.

1992—Subsec. (b)(4)(C). Pub. L. 102-484, § 4403(g)(2), inserted “(other than by reason of eligibility pursuant to section 4403 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1993)” after “any provision of law”.

Subsec. (c)(3). Pub. L. 102-484, § 503, added par. (3).

1991—Subsec. (b)(2)(C). Pub. L. 102-190, § 503(b)(1), amended subpar. (C) generally. Prior to amendment, subpar. (C) read as follows: “Officers holding a regular grade below the grade of colonel or, in the case of the Navy, captain who are not eligible for retirement under section 3911, 6323, or 8911 of this title but who after two additional years of active service as a commissioned officer would be eligible for retirement under one of those sections and whose names are not on a list of officers recommended for promotion.”

Subsec. (c). Pub. L. 102-190, § 503(b)(2), designated existing provisions as par. (1) and added par. (2).

#### § 638b. Voluntary retirement incentive

(a) INCENTIVE FOR VOLUNTARY RETIREMENT FOR CERTAIN OFFICERS.—The Secretary of Defense may authorize the Secretary of a military department to provide a voluntary retirement incentive payment in accordance with this section to an officer of the armed forces under that Secretary’s jurisdiction who is specified in subsection (c) as being eligible for such a payment.

(b) LIMITATIONS.—(1) Any authority provided the Secretary of a military department under this section shall expire as specified by the Secretary of Defense, but not later than December 31, 2018.

(2) The total number of officers who may be provided a voluntary retirement incentive payment under this section may not exceed 675 officers.

(c) ELIGIBLE OFFICERS.—(1) Except as provided in paragraph (2), an officer of the armed forces is eligible for a voluntary retirement incentive payment under this section if the officer—

(A) has served on active duty for more than 20 years, but not more than 29 years, on the approved date of retirement;

(B) meets the minimum length of commissioned service requirement for voluntary retirement as a commissioned officer in accordance with section 3911, 6323, or 8911 of this title, as applicable to that officer;

(C) on the approved date of retirement, has 12 months or more remaining on active-duty service before reaching the maximum retirement years of active service for the member’s grade as specified in section 633 or 634 of this title;

(D) on the approved date of retirement, has 12 months or more remaining on active-duty service before reaching the maximum retirement age under any other provision of law; and

(E) meets any additional requirements for such eligibility as is specified by the Secretary concerned, including any requirement relating to years of service, skill rating, military specialty or competitive category, grade, any remaining period of obligated service, or any combination thereof.

(2) The following officers are not eligible for a voluntary retirement incentive payment under this section:

(A) An officer being evaluated for disability under chapter 61 of this title.

(B) An officer projected to be retired under section 1201 or 1204 of this title.

(C) An officer projected to be discharged with disability severance pay under section 1212 of this title.

(D) A member transferred to the temporary disability retired list under section 1202 or 1205 of this title.

(E) An officer subject to pending disciplinary action or subject to administrative separation or mandatory discharge under any other provision of law or regulation.

(d) AMOUNT OF PAYMENT.—The amount of the voluntary retirement incentive payment paid an officer under this section shall be an amount determined by the Secretary concerned, but not to exceed an amount equal to 12 times the amount of the officer's monthly basic pay at the time of the officer's retirement. The amount may be paid in a lump sum at the time of retirement.

(e) REPAYMENT FOR MEMBERS WHO RETURN TO ACTIVE DUTY.—(1) Except as provided in paragraph (2), a member of the armed forces who, after having received all or part of a voluntary retirement incentive under this section, returns to active duty shall have deducted from each payment of basic pay, in such schedule of monthly installments as the Secretary concerned shall specify, until the total amount deducted from such basic pay equals the total amount of voluntary retirement incentive received.

(2) Members who are involuntarily recalled to active duty or full-time National Guard duty under any provision of law shall not be subject to this subsection.

(3) The Secretary of Defense may waive, in whole or in part, repayment required under paragraph (1) if the Secretary determines that recovery would be against equity and good conscience or would be contrary to the best interest of the United States. The authority in this paragraph may be delegated only to the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness and the Principal Deputy Under Secretary of Defense of Personnel and Readiness.

(Added Pub. L. 112-81, div. A, title V, §504(a)(1), Dec. 31, 2011, 125 Stat. 1389.)

**§ 639. Continuation on active duty to complete disciplinary action**

When any action has been commenced against an officer with a view to trying such officer by court-martial and such officer is to be separated or retired in accordance with this chapter, the Secretary of the military department concerned may delay the separation or retirement of the officer, without prejudice to such action, until the completion of the action.

(Added Pub. L. 96-513, title I, §105, Dec. 12, 1980, 94 Stat. 2866.)

**§ 640. Deferment of retirement or separation for medical reasons**

(a) If the Secretary of the military department concerned determines that the evaluation of the physical condition of an officer and determination of the officer's entitlement to retirement or separation for physical disability require hos-

pitalization or medical observation and that such hospitalization or medical observation cannot be completed with confidence in a manner consistent with the member's well being before the date on which the officer would otherwise be required to retire or be separated under this title, the Secretary may defer the retirement or separation of the officer under this title.

(b) A deferral of retirement or separation under subsection (a) may not extend for more than 30 days after completion of the evaluation requiring hospitalization or medical observation.

(Added Pub. L. 96-513, title I, §105, Dec. 12, 1980, 94 Stat. 2866; amended Pub. L. 107-107, div. A, title V, §507, Dec. 28, 2001, 115 Stat. 1090.)

AMENDMENTS

2001—Pub. L. 107-107 amended text generally. Prior to amendment, text read as follows: "The Secretary of the military department concerned may defer the retirement or separation under this title of any officer if the evaluation of the physical condition of the officer and determination of the officer's entitlement to retirement or separation for physical disability require hospitalization or medical observation that cannot be completed before the date on which the officer would otherwise be required to retire or be separated under this title."

SUBCHAPTER V—ADDITIONAL PROVISIONS RELATING TO PROMOTION, SEPARATION, AND RETIREMENT

- Sec. 641. Applicability of chapter.
- 642. Entitlement of officers discharged or retired under this chapter to separation pay or retired pay.
- 643. Chaplains: discharge or retirement upon loss of professional qualifications.
- [644. Repealed.]
- 645. Definitions.
- 646. Consideration of performance as a member of the Joint Staff.
- 647. Force shaping authority.

AMENDMENTS

2004—Pub. L. 108-375, div. A, title V, §501(c)(1)(B), Oct. 28, 2004, 118 Stat. 1874, added item 647.

1994—Pub. L. 103-337, div. A, title XVI, §1671(b)(5), Oct. 5, 1994, 108 Stat. 3013, struck out item 644 "Authority to suspend officer personnel laws".

1984—Pub. L. 98-525, title XIII, §1301(d)(2), Oct. 19, 1984, 98 Stat. 2612, added item 646.

**§ 641. Applicability of chapter**

Officers in the following categories are not subject to this chapter (other than section 640 and, in the case of warrant officers, section 628):

- (1) Reserve officers—
  - (A) on active duty authorized under section 115(a)(1)(B) or 115(b)(1) of this title, or excluded from counting for active duty end strengths under section 115(i) of this title;
  - (B) on active duty under section 3038, 5143, 5144, 8038, 10211, 10301 through 10305, 10502, 10505, 10506(a), 10506(b), 10507, or 12402 of this title or section 708 of title 32; or
  - (C) on full-time National Guard duty.

(2) The director of admissions, dean, and permanent professors at the United States Military Academy, the registrar, dean, and permanent professors at the United States Air Force