

V, §515(h), Jan. 6, 2006, 119 Stat. 3237, which established the positions of Assistant to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff for National Guard Matters and Assistant to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff for Reserve Matters within the Joint Staff, was repealed and restated as former section 155a of this title by Pub. L. 112-239, §511(a), (c), Jan. 2, 2013, 126 Stat. 1717, 1718.

**[§ 155a. Repealed. Pub. L. 114-328, div. A, title V, § 502(a)(1), Dec. 23, 2016, 130 Stat. 2102]**

Section, added Pub. L. 112-239, div. A, title V, §511(a), Jan. 2, 2013, 126 Stat. 1717, related to Assistants to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff for National Guard matters and Reserve matters.

PRIOR PROVISIONS

Provisions similar to those formerly contained in this section were contained in Pub. L. 105-85, div. A, title IX, §901, Nov. 18, 1997, 111 Stat. 1853, which was set out as a note under section 155 of this title, prior to repeal by Pub. L. 112-239, §511(c).

RETENTION OF GRADE OF INCUMBENTS IN POSITIONS ON EFFECTIVE DATE

Pub. L. 114-328, div. A, title V, §502(tt), as added by Pub. L. 115-91, div. A, title V, §506(a)(1), Dec. 12, 2017, 131 Stat. 1374, provided that: “The grade of service of an officer serving as of the date of the enactment of this Act [Dec. 23, 2016, see below] in a position whose statutory grade is affected by an amendment made by this section [see Tables for classification] may not be reduced after that date by reason of such amendment as long as the officer remains in continuous service in such position after that date.”

[Pub. L. 115-91, div. A, title V, §506(a)(2), Dec. 12, 2017, 131 Stat. 1374, provided that: “The amendment made by paragraph (1) [enacting section 502(tt) of Pub. L. 114-328, set out above] shall take effect as of December 23, 2016, and be treated as if included in the enactment of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2017 (Public Law 114-328).”]

**§ 156. Legal Counsel to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff**

(a) IN GENERAL.—There is a Legal Counsel to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

(b) SELECTION FOR APPOINTMENT.—Under regulations prescribed by the Secretary of Defense, the officer selected for appointment to serve as Legal Counsel to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff shall be recommended by a board of officers convened by the Secretary of Defense that, insofar as practicable, is subject to the procedures applicable to selection boards convened under chapter 36 of this title.

(c) DUTIES.—(1) The Legal Counsel of the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff shall perform such legal duties in support of the responsibilities of the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff as the Chairman may prescribe.

(2) No officer or employee of the Department of Defense may interfere with the ability of the Legal Counsel to give independent legal advice to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and to the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

(Added Pub. L. 110-181, div. A, title V, §543(e)(1), Jan. 28, 2008, 122 Stat. 115; amended Pub. L. 110-417, [div. A], title V, §591, Oct. 14, 2008, 122 Stat. 4474; Pub. L. 111-84, div. A, title V, §501(a), Oct. 28, 2009, 123 Stat. 2272; Pub. L. 114-328, div. A, title V, §502(b), Dec. 23, 2016, 130 Stat. 2102.)

AMENDMENTS

2016—Subsecs. (c), (d). Pub. L. 114-328 redesignated subsec. (d) as (c) and struck out former subsec. (c).

Prior to amendment, text of subsec. (c) read as follows: “An officer appointed to serve as Legal Counsel to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff shall be appointed in the regular grade of brigadier general or rear admiral (lower half).”

2009—Subsec. (c). Pub. L. 111-84 substituted “be appointed in the regular” for “, while so serving, hold the”.

2008—Subsec. (d). Pub. L. 110-417 designated existing provisions as par. (1) and added par. (2).

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 2009 AMENDMENT

Pub. L. 111-84, div. A, title V, §501(b), Oct. 28, 2009, 123 Stat. 2272, provided that: “The amendment made by subsection (a) [amending this section] shall take effect on the date of the enactment of this Act [Oct. 28, 2009], and shall apply with respect to individuals appointed as Legal Counsel to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff on or after that date.”

**CHAPTER 6—COMBATANT COMMANDS**

Sec.	
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[168.	Repealed.]

PRIOR PROVISIONS

Prior to enactment of this chapter by Pub. L. 99-433, provisions relating to combat commands were contained in section 124 of this title.

AMENDMENTS

2016—Pub. L. 114-328, div. A, title IX, §923(b), title XII, §1253(a)(2)(A), Dec. 23, 2016, 130 Stat. 2358, 2532, added item 167b and struck out item 168 “Military-to-military contacts and comparable activities”.

2003—Pub. L. 108-136, div. A, title VIII, §848(a)(2), Nov. 24, 2003, 117 Stat. 1555, added item 167a.

2001—Pub. L. 107-107, div. A, title XV, §1512(b), Dec. 28, 2001, 115 Stat. 1273, added item 166b.

1994—Pub. L. 103-337, div. A, title XIII, §1316(a)(2), Oct. 5, 1994, 108 Stat. 2899, added item 168.

1991—Pub. L. 102-190, div. A, title IX, §902(b), Dec. 5, 1991, 105 Stat. 1451, added item 166a.

1986—Pub. L. 99-500, §101(c) [title IX, §9115(b)(2)], Oct. 18, 1986, 100 Stat. 1783-82, 1783-124, and Pub. L. 99-591, §101(c) [title IX, §9115(b)(2)], Oct. 30, 1986, 100 Stat. 3341-82, 3341-124; Pub. L. 99-661, div. A, title XIII, §1311(b)(2), Nov. 14, 1986, 100 Stat. 3985, amended analysis identically adding item 167.

Pub. L. 99-433, title II, §211(a), Oct. 1, 1986, 100 Stat. 1012, added chapter 6 heading and analysis.

**§ 161. Combatant commands: establishment**

(a) UNIFIED AND SPECIFIED COMBATANT COMMANDS.—With the advice and assistance of the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the President, through the Secretary of Defense, shall—

(1) establish unified combatant commands and specified combatant commands to perform military missions; and