

(c) The Assistant Commandant has such authority and duties with respect to the Marine Corps as the Commandant, with the approval of the Secretary of the Navy, may delegate to or prescribe for him. Orders issued by the Assistant Commandant in performing such duties have the same effect as those issued by the Commandant.

(d) When there is a vacancy in the office of Commandant of the Marine Corps, or during the absence or disability of the Commandant—

(1) the Assistant Commandant of the Marine Corps shall perform the duties of the Commandant until a successor is appointed or the absence or disability ceases; or

(2) if there is a vacancy in the office of the Assistant Commandant of the Marine Corps or the Assistant Commandant is absent or disabled, unless the President directs otherwise, the most senior officer of the Marine Corps in the Headquarters, Marine Corps, who is not absent or disabled and who is not restricted in performance of duty shall perform the duties of the Commandant until a successor to the Commandant or the Assistant Commandant is appointed or until the absence or disability of the Commandant or Assistant Commandant ceases, whichever occurs first.

(Added Pub. L. 99-433, title V, §513(b), Oct. 1, 1986, 100 Stat. 1054.)

PRIOR PROVISIONS

Provisions similar to those in this section were contained in section 5202 of this title prior to enactment of Pub. L. 99-433.

§ 5045. Deputy Commandants

There are in the Headquarters, Marine Corps, not more than seven Deputy Commandants, detailed by the Secretary of the Navy from officers on the active-duty list of the Marine Corps.

(Added Pub. L. 99-433, title V, §513(b), Oct. 1, 1986, 100 Stat. 1054; amended Pub. L. 106-398, §1 [[div. A], title IX, §902(b)(1)], Oct. 30, 2000, 114 Stat. 1654, 1654A-224; Pub. L. 107-314, div. A, title IX, §934, Dec. 2, 2002, 116 Stat. 2626; Pub. L. 114-328, div. A, title V, §503(c), Dec. 23, 2016, 130 Stat. 2107.)

AMENDMENTS

2016—Pub. L. 114-328 substituted “seven” for “six”.

2002—Pub. L. 107-314 substituted “six” for “five”.

2000—Pub. L. 106-398 amended section catchline and text generally. Prior to amendment, text read as follows: “There are in the Headquarters, Marine Corps, a Chief of Staff, not more than five Deputy Chiefs of Staff, and not more than three Assistant Chiefs of Staff, detailed by the Secretary of the Navy from officers on the active-duty list of the Marine Corps.”

§ 5046. Staff Judge Advocate to the Commandant of the Marine Corps

(a) An officer of the Marine Corps who is a judge advocate and a member of the bar of a Federal court or the highest court of a State or territory and who has had at least eight years of experience in legal duties as a commissioned officer may be appointed by the President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, as Staff Judge Advocate to the Commandant of the Marine Corps.

(b)(1) Under regulations prescribed by the Secretary of Defense, the Secretary of the Navy, in

selecting an officer for recommendation to the President for appointment as the Staff Judge Advocate to the Commandant of the Marine Corps, shall ensure that the officer selected is recommended by a board of officers that, insofar as practicable, is subject to the procedures applicable to selection boards convened under chapter 36 of this title.

(2) If the Secretary of the Navy elects to convene a selection board under section 611(a) of this title to consider eligible officers for selection to appointment as Staff Judge Advocate, the Secretary may, in connection with such consideration for selection—

(A) treat any section in chapter 36 of this title referring to promotion to the next higher grade as if such section referred to promotion to a higher grade; and

(B) waive section 619(a)(2) of this title if the Secretary determines that the needs of the Marine Corps require the waiver.

(c) The Staff Judge Advocate to the Commandant of the Marine Corps, under the direction of the Commandant of the Marine Corps and the Secretary of the Navy, shall—

(1) perform such duties relating to legal matters arising in the Marine Corps as may be assigned to the Staff Judge Advocate;

(2) perform the functions and duties, and exercise the powers, prescribed for the Staff Judge Advocate to the Commandant of the Marine Corps in chapter 47 (the Uniform Code of Military Justice) and chapter 53 of this title; and

(3) perform such other duties as may be assigned to the Staff Judge Advocate.

(d) No officer or employee of the Department of Defense may interfere with—

(1) the ability of the Staff Judge Advocate to the Commandant of the Marine Corps to give independent legal advice to the Commandant of the Marine Corps; or

(2) the ability of judge advocates of the Marine Corps assigned or attached to, or performing duty with, military units to give independent legal advice to commanders.

(Added Pub. L. 99-661, div. A, title V, §509(a)(1), Nov. 14, 1986, 100 Stat. 3868; amended Pub. L. 103-337, div. A, title V, §504(b)(4), Oct. 5, 1994, 108 Stat. 2751; Pub. L. 108-375, div. A, title V, §574(b)(2), Oct. 28, 2004, 118 Stat. 1922; Pub. L. 110-417, [div. A], title V, §504(a), Oct. 14, 2008, 122 Stat. 4434; Pub. L. 112-239, div. A, title V, §531(a), (b), Jan. 2, 2013, 126 Stat. 1725, 1726; Pub. L. 114-328, div. A, title V, §502(x), Dec. 23, 2016, 130 Stat. 2104; Pub. L. 115-91, div. A, title V, §508(a), Dec. 12, 2017, 131 Stat. 1375.)

AMENDMENTS

2017—Subsec. (b). Pub. L. 115-91 designated existing provisions as par. (1) and added par. (2).

2016—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 114-328 struck out last sentence which read as follows: “If the officer to be appointed as the Staff Judge Advocate to the Commandant of the Marine Corps holds a grade lower than the grade of major general immediately before the appointment, the officer shall be appointed in the grade of major general.”

2013—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 112-239, §531(a), substituted “appointed by the President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate,” for “detailed” and “If the

officer to be appointed as the Staff Judge Advocate to the Commandant of the Marine Corps holds a grade lower than the grade of major general immediately before the appointment, the officer shall be appointed in the grade of major general.” for “The Staff Judge Advocate to the Commandant of the Marine Corps, while so serving, has the grade of major general.”

Subsecs. (c), (d). Pub. L. 112-239, § 531(b), added subsec. (c) and redesignated former subsec. (c) as (d).

2008—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 110-417 substituted “The Staff Judge Advocate to the Commandant of the Marine Corps, while so serving, has the grade of major general.” for “If an officer appointed as the Staff Judge Advocate to the Commandant of the Marine Corps holds a lower regular grade, the officer shall be appointed in the regular grade of brigadier general.”

2004—Subsec. (c). Pub. L. 108-375 added subsec. (c).

1994—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 103-337, § 504(b)(4)(A), added second sentence and struck out former second sentence which read as follows: “While so serving, a judge advocate who holds a grade lower than brigadier general shall hold the grade of brigadier general if appointed to that grade by the President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate.”

Subsec. (b). Pub. L. 103-337, § 504(b)(4)(B), added subsec. (b) and struck out former subsec. (b) which read as follows: “An officer retiring from the position of Staff Judge Advocate to the Commandant of the Marine Corps, after serving at least three years in that position, shall be retired in the highest grade in which that officer served on active duty satisfactorily, as determined by the Secretary of the Navy.”

EFFECTIVE DATE

Pub. L. 99-661, div. A, title V, § 509(b), Nov. 14, 1986, 100 Stat. 3868, provided that: “Section 5046 of title 10, United States Code, as added by subsection (a), shall apply only with respect to appointments as Staff Judge Advocate to the Commandant of the Marine Corps made on or after the date of the enactment of this Act [Nov. 14, 1986].”

TRANSITION PROVISION FOR RETIREMENT OF STAFF JUDGE ADVOCATES

Pub. L. 99-661, div. A, title V, § 509(d), Nov. 14, 1986, 100 Stat. 3868, provided that: “Notwithstanding section 1370(a)(2) of title 10, United States Code, an officer serving in the position of Staff Judge Advocate to the Commandant of the Marine Corps, or an equivalent position, on the day before the date of the enactment of this Act [Nov. 14, 1986], if retired after having served in such position (or equivalent position) at least three years, including any service in such position (or its equivalent) before such date, shall be retired in the highest grade in which the officer served on active duty satisfactorily, as determined by the Secretary of the Navy.”

§ 5047. Legislative Assistant to the Commandant

There is in the Marine Corps a Legislative Assistant to the Commandant.

(Added Pub. L. 107-314, div. A, title V, § 504(d)(3)(A), Dec. 2, 2002, 116 Stat. 2532; amended Pub. L. 114-328, div. A, title V, § 502(y), Dec. 23, 2016, 130 Stat. 2104.)

AMENDMENTS

2016—Pub. L. 114-328 struck out second sentence which read as follows: “An officer assigned to that position shall be in a grade above colonel.”

CHAPTER 507—COMPOSITION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

Sec.
5061. Department of the Navy: composition.
5062. United States Navy: composition; functions.

Sec.
5063. United States Marine Corps: composition; functions.

AMENDMENTS

1986—Pub. L. 99-433, title V, § 511(b)(1), Oct. 1, 1986, 100 Stat. 1042, inserted heading for new chapter 507 relating to composition of the Department of the Navy, and items 5061 to 5063. The heading for former chapter 507, relating to Office of the Comptroller of the Navy, and former items 5061 to 5064 were struck out as part of the repeal of former chapter 507 by Pub. L. 99-433, title V, § 511(a), Oct. 1, 1986, 100 Stat. 1042.

§ 5061. Department of the Navy: composition

The Department of the Navy is composed of the following:

- (1) The Office of the Secretary of the Navy.
- (2) The Office of the Chief of Naval Operations.
- (3) The Headquarters, Marine Corps.
- (4) The entire operating forces, including naval aviation, of the Navy and of the Marine Corps, and the reserve components of those operating forces.
- (5) All field activities, headquarters, forces, bases, installations, activities, and functions under the control or supervision of the Secretary of the Navy.
- (6) The Coast Guard when it is operating as a service in the Navy.

(Added Pub. L. 99-433, title V, § 511(b)(1), Oct. 1, 1986, 100 Stat. 1043.)

PRIOR PROVISIONS

Provisions similar to those in this section were contained in section 5011 of this title prior to enactment of Pub. L. 99-433.

A prior section 5061, act Aug. 10, 1956, ch. 1041, 70A Stat. 280, related to appointment and functions of Comptroller of the Navy, prior to repeal by Pub. L. 99-433, § 511(a).

TRANSFER OF FUNCTIONS

For transfer of authorities, functions, personnel, and assets of the Coast Guard, including the authorities and functions of the Secretary of Transportation relating thereto, to the Department of Homeland Security, and for treatment of related references, see sections 468(b), 551(d), 552(d), and 557 of Title 6, Domestic Security, and the Department of Homeland Security Reorganization Plan of November 25, 2002, as modified, set out as a note under section 542 of Title 6.

§ 5062. United States Navy: composition; functions

(a) The Navy, within the Department of the Navy, includes, in general, naval combat and service forces and such aviation as may be organic therein. The Navy shall be organized, trained, and equipped primarily for prompt and sustained combat incident to operations at sea. It is responsible for the preparation of naval forces necessary for the effective prosecution of war except as otherwise assigned and, in accordance with integrated joint mobilization plans, for the expansion of the peacetime components of the Navy to meet the needs of war.

(b) The naval combat forces of the Navy shall include not less than 11 operational aircraft carriers. For purposes of this subsection, an operational aircraft carrier includes an aircraft carrier that is temporarily unavailable for world-