

**§ 630. Discharge of commissioned officers with less than six years of active commissioned service or found not qualified for promotion for first lieutenant or lieutenant (junior grade)**

The Secretary of the military department concerned, under regulations prescribed by the Secretary of Defense—

(1) may discharge any officer on the active-duty list who—

(A) has less than six years of active commissioned service; or

(B) is serving in the grade of second lieutenant or ensign and has been found not qualified for promotion to the grade of first lieutenant or lieutenant (junior grade); and

(2) shall, unless the officer has been promoted, discharge any officer described in paragraph (1)(B) at the end of the 18-month period beginning on the date on which the officer is first found not qualified for promotion.

(Added Pub. L. 96-513, title I, §105, Dec. 12, 1980, 94 Stat. 2861; amended Pub. L. 98-525, title XIV, §1405(11), Oct. 19, 1984, 98 Stat. 2622; Pub. L. 107-107, div. A, title V, §505(d)(2), (4)(A), Dec. 28, 2001, 115 Stat. 1088; Pub. L. 108-136, div. A, title V, §505(b), Nov. 24, 2003, 117 Stat. 1457; Pub. L. 110-181, div. A, title V, §503(a)(1), (2), Jan. 28, 2008, 122 Stat. 95.)

AMENDMENTS

2008—Pub. L. 110-181, §503(a)(2), substituted “six years” for “five years” in section catchline.

Par. (1)(A). Pub. L. 110-181, §503(a)(1), substituted “six years” for “five years”.

2003—Par. (2). Pub. L. 108-136 substituted “paragraph” for “clause”.

2001—Pub. L. 107-107, §505(d)(4)(A), struck out “regular” before “commissioned officers” in section catchline.

Par. (1). Pub. L. 107-107, §505(d)(2), struck out “regular” before “officer” in introductory provisions and before “grade of first lieutenant” in subpar. (B).

1984—Par. (2). Pub. L. 98-525 substituted “18-month” for “eighteen-month”.

EFFECTIVE DATE

Section effective Sept. 15, 1981, but the authority to prescribe regulations under this section effective on Dec. 12, 1980, see section 701 of Pub. L. 96-513, set out as an Effective Date of 1980 Amendment note under section 101 of this title.

**§ 631. Effect of failure of selection for promotion: first lieutenants and lieutenants (junior grade)**

(a) Except an officer of the Navy and Marine Corps who is an officer designated for limited duty (to whom section 8146(e) or 8372 of this title applies), each officer of the Army, Air Force, Marine Corps, or Space Force on the active-duty list who holds the grade of first lieutenant and has failed of selection for promotion to the grade of captain for the second time, and each officer of the Navy on the active-duty list who holds the grade of lieutenant (junior grade) and has failed of selection for promotion to the grade of lieutenant for the second time, whose name is not on a list of officers recommended for promotion to the next higher grade shall—

(1) be discharged on the date requested by him and approved by the Secretary of the

military department concerned, which date shall be not later than the first day of the seventh calendar month beginning after the month in which the President approves the report of the board which considered him for the second time;

(2) if he is eligible for retirement under any provision of law, be retired under that law on the date requested by him and approved by the Secretary concerned, which date shall be not later than the first day of the seventh calendar month beginning after the month in which the President approves the report of the board which considered him for the second time; or

(3) if on the date on which he is to be discharged under paragraph (1) he is within two years of qualifying for retirement under section 7311, 8323, or 9311 of this title, be retained on active duty until he is qualified for retirement and then be retired under that section, unless he is sooner retired or discharged under another provision of law.

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

(c) An officer who is subject to discharge under subsection (a)(1) is not eligible for further consideration for promotion.

(d) For the purposes of this chapter, an officer of the Army, Air Force, Marine Corps, or Space Force who holds the grade of first lieutenant, and an officer of the Navy who holds the grade of lieutenant (junior grade), shall be treated as having failed of selection for promotion if the Secretary of the military department concerned determines that the officer would be eligible for consideration for promotion to the next higher grade by a selection board convened under section 611(a) of this title if such a board were convened but is not fully qualified for promotion when recommending for promotion under section 624(a)(3) of this title all fully qualified officers of the officer’s armed force in such grade who would be eligible for such consideration.

(Added Pub. L. 96-513, title I, §105, Dec. 12, 1980, 94 Stat. 2861; amended Pub. L. 98-525, title V, §525(c), Oct. 19, 1984, 98 Stat. 2525; Pub. L. 107-107, div. A, title V, §505(a)(2), (d)(3), (4)(B), Dec. 28, 2001, 115 Stat. 1086, 1088; Pub. L. 108-136, div. A, title V, §505(b), Nov. 24, 2003, 117 Stat. 1457; Pub. L. 115-232, div. A, title VIII, §809(a), Aug. 13, 2018, 132 Stat. 1840; Pub. L. 116-283, div. A, title IX, §924(b)(3)(I), Jan. 1, 2021, 134 Stat. 3821.)

AMENDMENTS

2021—Subsecs. (a), (d). Pub. L. 116-283 substituted “Marine Corps, or Space Force” for “or Marine Corps” in introductory provisions in subsec. (a) and in subsec. (d).

2018—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 115-232 substituted “section 8146(e) or 8372” for “section 5596(e) or 6383” in introductory provisions and “section 7311, 8323, or 9311” for “section 3911, 6323, or 8911” in par. (3).

2003—Subsec. (a)(3). Pub. L. 108-136 substituted “paragraph” for “clause”.

2001—Pub. L. 107-107, §505(d)(4)(B), struck out “regular” before “first lieutenants” in section catchline.

Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 107-107, §505(d)(3), in introductory provisions, substituted “Army, Air Force, or Marine

Corps on the active-duty list” for “Regular Army, Regular Air Force, or Regular Marine Corps” and “Navy on the active-duty list” for “Regular Navy” and struck out “regular” before “grade” wherever appearing.

Subsec. (d). Pub. L. 107–107, § 505(a)(2), added subsec. (d).

1984—Subsec. (c). Pub. L. 98–525 added subsec. (c).

#### EFFECTIVE DATE OF 2018 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 115–232 effective Feb. 1, 2019, with provision for the coordination of amendments and special rule for certain redesignations, see section 800 of Pub. L. 115–232, set out as a note preceding section 3001 of this title.

#### EFFECTIVE DATE

Section effective Sept. 15, 1981, but the authority to prescribe regulations under this section effective on Dec. 12, 1980, see section 701 of Pub. L. 96–513, set out as an Effective Date of 1980 Amendment note under section 101 of this title.

### § 632. Effect of failure of selection for promotion: captains and majors of the Army, Air Force, and Marine Corps and lieutenants and lieutenant commanders of the Navy

(a) Except an officer of the Navy and Marine Corps who is an officer designated for limited duty (to whom section 8146(e) or 8372 of this title applies) and except as provided under section 637(a) of this title, each officer of the Army, Air Force, Marine Corps, or Space Force on the active-duty list who holds the grade of captain or major, and each officer of the Navy on the active-duty list who holds the grade of lieutenant or lieutenant commander, who has failed of selection for promotion to the next higher grade for the second time and whose name is not on a list of officers recommended for promotion to the next higher grade shall—

(1) except as provided in paragraph (3) and in subsection (c), be discharged on the date requested by him and approved by the Secretary concerned, which date shall be not later than the first day of the seventh calendar month beginning after the month in which the President approves the report of the board which considered him for the second time;

(2) if he is eligible for retirement under any provision of law, be retired under that law on the date requested by him and approved by the Secretary concerned, which date shall be not later than the first day of the seventh calendar month beginning after the month in which the President approves the report of the board which considered him for the second time; or

(3) if on the date on which he is to be discharged under paragraph (1) he is within two years of qualifying for retirement under section 7311, 8323, or 9311 of this title, be retained on active duty until he is qualified for retirement and then retired under that section, unless he is sooner retired or discharged under another provision of law.

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

(c)(1) If a health professions officer described in paragraph (3) is subject to discharge under subsection (a)(1) and, as of the date on which the

officer is to be discharged under that subsection, the officer has not completed a period of active duty service obligation that the officer incurred under section 2005, 2114, 2123, or 2603 of this title, the officer shall be retained on active duty until completion of such active duty service obligation, and then be discharged under that subsection, unless sooner retired or discharged under another provision of law.

(2) The Secretary concerned may waive the applicability of paragraph (1) to any officer if the Secretary determines that completion of the active duty service obligation of that officer is not in the best interest of the service.

(3) This subsection applies to a medical officer or dental officer or an officer appointed in a medical skill other than as a medical officer or dental officer (as defined in regulations prescribed by the Secretary of Defense).

(Added Pub. L. 96–513, title I, § 105, Dec. 12, 1980, 94 Stat. 2862; amended Pub. L. 107–107, div. A, title V, § 505(d)(3), (4)(C), Dec. 28, 2001, 115 Stat. 1088; Pub. L. 108–136, div. A, title V, § 505(a), (b), Nov. 24, 2003, 117 Stat. 1457; Pub. L. 108–375, div. A, title X, § 1084(d)(6), Oct. 28, 2004, 118 Stat. 2061; Pub. L. 115–232, div. A, title VIII, § 809(a), Aug. 13, 2018, 132 Stat. 1840; Pub. L. 116–283, div. A, title IX, § 924(b)(3)(J), Jan. 1, 2021, 134 Stat. 3821.)

#### AMENDMENTS

2021—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 116–283 substituted “Marine Corps, or Space Force” for “or Marine Corps” in introductory provisions.

2018—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 115–232 substituted “section 8146(e) or 8372” for “section 5596(e) or 6383” in introductory provisions and “section 7311, 8323, or 9311” for “section 3911, 6323, or 8911” in par. (3).

2004—Subsec. (c)(1). Pub. L. 108–375 substituted “paragraph (3)” for “paragraph (2)” and “under that subsection” for “under that paragraph” before “, the officer has not”.

2003—Subsec. (a)(1). Pub. L. 108–136, § 505(a)(1), inserted “except as provided in paragraph (3) and in subsection (c),” before “be discharged”.

Subsec. (a)(3). Pub. L. 108–136, § 505(b), substituted “paragraph” for “clause”.

Subsec. (c). Pub. L. 108–136, § 505(a)(2), added subsec. (c).

2001—Pub. L. 107–107, § 505(d)(4)(C), struck out “regular” before “captains and majors” and before “lieutenants and lieutenant commanders” in section catchline.

Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 107–107, § 505(d)(3), in introductory provisions, substituted “Army, Air Force, or Marine Corps on the active-duty list” for “Regular Army, Regular Air Force, or Regular Marine Corps” and “Navy on the active-duty list” for “Regular Navy” and struck out “regular” before “grade” wherever appearing.

#### EFFECTIVE DATE OF 2018 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 115–232 effective Feb. 1, 2019, with provision for the coordination of amendments and special rule for certain redesignations, see section 800 of Pub. L. 115–232, set out as a note preceding section 3001 of this title.

#### EFFECTIVE DATE OF 2003 AMENDMENT

Pub. L. 108–136, div. A, title V, § 505(c), Nov. 24, 2003, 117 Stat. 1457, provided that: “The amendments made by subsection (a) [amending this section] shall not apply in the case of an officer who as of the date of the enactment of this Act [Nov. 24, 2003] is required to be discharged under section 632(a)(1) of title 10, United States Code, by reason of having failed of selection for promotion to the next higher regular grade a second time.”