

of Pub. L. 115-232, set out as a note preceding section 3001 of this title.

TRANSFER OF FUNCTIONS

Transfer of functions of Offices of Bureau Chiefs, see note set out under section 5111 of this title.

§ 8077. Surgeon General: appointment; duties

(a) APPOINTMENT.—The Surgeon General of the Navy shall be appointed by the President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, for a term of four years, from officers on the active-duty list of the Navy in any corps of the Navy Medical Department.

(b) DUTIES.—(1) The Surgeon General serves as the Chief of the Bureau of Medicine and Surgery and serves as the principal advisor to the Secretary of the Navy and the Chief of Naval Operations on all health and medical matters of the Navy and the Marine Corps, including strategic planning and policy development relating to such matters.

(2) The Surgeon General serves as the chief medical advisor of the Navy and the Marine Corps to the Director of the Defense Health Agency on matters pertaining to military health readiness requirements and safety of members of the Navy and the Marine Corps.

(3) The Surgeon General, acting under the authority, direction, and control of the Secretary of the Navy, shall recruit, organize, train, and equip, medical personnel of the Navy and the Marine Corps.

(Aug. 10, 1956, ch. 1041, 70A Stat. 286, §5137; Pub. L. 89-288, §4, Oct. 22, 1965, 79 Stat. 1050; Pub. L. 96-513, title V, §503(10), Dec. 12, 1980, 94 Stat. 2912; Pub. L. 104-106, div. A, title V, §506(b), Feb. 10, 1996, 110 Stat. 296; Pub. L. 114-328, div. A, title VII, §702(b)(2)(A), Dec. 23, 2016, 130 Stat. 2195; renumbered §8077, Pub. L. 115-232, div. A, title VIII, §807(a)(2), Aug. 13, 2018, 132 Stat. 1834.)

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

Revised section	Source (U.S. Code)	Source (Statutes at Large)
5137(a)	5 U.S.C. 432. 5 U.S.C. 438. 5 U.S.C. 440 (less applicability to Paymaster General).	R.S. 421. R.S. 426. R.S. 1471 (less applicability to Paymaster General); June 20, 1940, ch. 400, §1(a), 54 Stat. 492.
5137(b)	5 U.S.C. 451 (less last 10 words).	R.S. 1375 (less last 10 words); Feb. 27, 1877, ch. 69, §1, 19 Stat. 244.

In subsection (a) the words “from officers on the active list of the Navy in the Medical Corps” are substituted for the words “from the list of Surgeons of the Navy” to conform to present statutory terminology, and the words “or from officers having the rank of captain in the staff corps of the Navy” are omitted as obsolete in view of the subsequent changes in staff corps grades and the establishment of grades and ranks higher than captain in the staff corps. R.S. 421 and 426 were derived from the Act of July 5, 1862, ch. 134, 12 Stat. 510, and the Act of Mar. 3, 1871, ch. 117, §10, 16 Stat. 537. The Act of July 5, 1862, provided that the Chief of the Bureau of Medicine and Surgery should be appointed from the list of surgeons in the Navy. At that time the senior medical officers were “surgeons” who “ranked with” commanders. Next junior to them were “surgeons” who “ranked with” lieutenants. The rank of lieutenant commander did not exist. The Act of Mar. 3, 1871, established five grades in the Medical Corps of which two, medical director and medical inspector,

were higher than the grade of surgeon. Medical directors were given the relative rank of captain, medical inspectors the relative rank of commander, and surgeons the relative rank of lieutenant commander or lieutenant. The 1871 Act further provided that chiefs of bureaus might be appointed from officers having the relative rank of captain in the staff corps. This provision was probably intended to insure that the assignment of new grades and titles to senior staff corps officers should not be construed as a bar to their appointment as bureau chiefs. However, it was interpreted by the Commissioners who drafted the Revised Statutes as setting up a new category of officers from which bureau chiefs could be appointed, and it was therefore stated, in R.S. 421, as an alternative to each of the other categories specified for the various Bureaus in the 1862 Act and reenacted in R.S. 422-426. Thus the Chief of the Bureau of Medicine and Surgery could be appointed from surgeons, who had the relative rank of lieutenant commander or lieutenant in the Medical Corps, or from officers having the relative rank of captain in the Medical Corps, Pay Corps, or Engineer Corps. Section 405 of the Officer Personnel Act of 1947 (34 U.S.C. 10a) abolished the grade of surgeon and other staff corps grades and replaced them with grades having the same titles as the grades and ranks in the line. Officers who were “surgeons” are now “lieutenant commanders and lieutenants in the Medical Corps.” If this literal translation is made in R.S. 426 and the eligibility of all staff corps captains, as stated in R.S. 421, is retained, an absurd result is reached; i.e., lieutenants, lieutenant commanders, and captains in the Medical Corps are eligible for appointment as Chief of the Bureau of Medicine and Surgery; but commanders and rear admirals in that corps are ineligible; captains, but not rear admirals, in other staff corps are eligible by virtue of their rank alone, regardless of their lack of training in medicine. It appears, therefore, that the only reasonable meaning that can be given to R.S. 421 and 426 at the present time is that the Chief of the Bureau of Medicine and Surgery must be an officer of the Medical Corps.

In subsection (b) the words “Deputy Chief of the Bureau” are substituted for the words “assistant to the Bureau” for uniformity. The words “An officer on the active list of the Navy in the Medical Corps” are substituted for the words “A surgeon, assistant surgeon, or passed assistant surgeon” to conform to present statutory terminology and to describe clearly the class of officers eligible for detail under this subsection. When the source statute was enacted there was no class of officers exactly corresponding to officers of the present Naval Reserve, and retired officers could be called to active duty only in time of war, so that the detailing of an officer not on the active list as assistant to the bureau chief was probably not contemplated. Further, since the assistant or deputy must at times perform the duties of the chief, it is reasonable to assume that he was intended to be in the same category of officers. Later statutes relating to the Assistant Chiefs of the Bureau of Aeronautics and the Bureau of Ships, enacted at a time when there were Reserve officers and when retired officers could be called to duty at any time with their consent, specify that the assistant chiefs shall be officers on the active list.

PRIOR PROVISIONS

A prior section 8077, act Aug. 10, 1956, ch. 1041, 70A Stat. 496, related to composition of Air National Guard of United States, prior to repeal by Pub. L. 103-337, div. A, title XVI, §§1661(a)(3)(A), 1691, Oct. 5, 1994, 108 Stat. 2980, 3026, effective Dec. 1, 1994. See section 10111 of this title.

AMENDMENTS

2018—Pub. L. 115-232 renumbered section 5137 of this title as this section.

2016—Pub. L. 114-328 amended section generally. Prior to amendment, section related to Chief and Deputy Chief of the Bureau of Medicine and Surgery.

1996—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 104-106, §506(b)(1), substituted “in any corps of the Navy Medical Department” for “in the Medical Corps”.

Subsec. (b). Pub. L. 104-106, §506(b)(2), substituted “who is qualified to be the Chief of the Bureau of Medicine and Surgery” for “in the Medical Corps”.

1980—Pub. L. 96-513 substituted “active-duty list” for “active list” wherever appearing.

1965—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 89-288 provided the Surgeon General, while so serving, with the grade of vice admiral.

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 1980 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 96-513 effective Sept. 15, 1981, see section 701 of Pub. L. 96-513, set out as a note under section 101 of this title.

§ 8078. Bureau of Medicine and Surgery: Dental Corps; Chief; functions

(a) An officer of the Dental Corps shall be detailed as Chief of the Dental Corps.

(b) The Chief of the Dental Corps is entitled to the same privileges of retirement as provided for chiefs of bureaus in section 5133¹ of this title.

(c) All matters relating to dentistry shall be referred to the Chief of the Dental Corps.

(d) The Chief of the Dental Corps shall—

(1) establish professional standards and policies for dental practice;

(2) initiate and recommend action pertaining to complements, strength, appointments, advancement, training assignment, and transfer of dental personnel; and

(3) serve as the advisor for the Bureau on all matters relating directly to dentistry.

(Aug. 10, 1956, ch. 1041, 70A Stat. 286, §5138; Pub. L. 87-649, §14c(17), Sept. 7, 1962, 76 Stat. 501; Pub. L. 96-513, title III, §342, Dec. 12, 1980, 94 Stat. 2901; Pub. L. 97-86, title IV, §405(b)(1), Dec. 1, 1981, 95 Stat. 1105; Pub. L. 99-145, title V, §514(b)(1), Nov. 8, 1985, 99 Stat. 628; Pub. L. 109-364, div. A, title V, §593(a)-(d)(1), Oct. 17, 2006, 120 Stat. 2234; Pub. L. 114-328, div. A, title V, §502(aa), Dec. 23, 2016, 130 Stat. 2105; renumbered §8078, Pub. L. 115-232, div. A, title VIII, §807(a)(2), Aug. 13, 2018, 132 Stat. 1834.)

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

Table with 3 columns: Revised section, Source (U.S. Code), Source (Statutes at Large). Row 1: 5138, 5 U.S.C. 456b, Dec. 28, 1945, ch. 604, §2, 59 Stat. 666. Row 2: 5138, 5 U.S.C. 456c, Dec. 28, 1945, ch. 604, §3, 59 Stat. 666; Aug. 7, 1947, ch. 512, §427, 61 Stat. 880; Oct. 18, 1951, ch. 513, 65 Stat. 450.

REFERENCES IN TEXT

Section 5133 of this title, referred to in subsec. (b), was repealed by Pub. L. 114-328, div. A, title V, §502(z)(1), Dec. 23, 2016, 130 Stat. 2104.

PRIOR PROVISIONS

A prior section 8078, act Aug. 10, 1956, ch. 1041, 70A Stat. 496, provided that Air National Guard is compo-

¹ See References in Text note below.

ment of Air Force when in service of United States, prior to repeal by Pub. L. 103-337, div. A, title XVI, §§1661(a)(3)(A), 1691, Oct. 5, 1994, 108 Stat. 2980, 3026, effective Dec. 1, 1994. See section 10112 of this title.

AMENDMENTS

2018—Pub. L. 115-232 renumbered section 5138 of this title as this section.

2016—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 114-328, §502(aa)(1), struck out “not below the grade of rear admiral (lower half)” after “officer of the Dental Corps”.

Subsec. (c). Pub. L. 114-328, §502(aa)(2), struck out first sentence which read as follows: “The dental functions of the Bureau of Medicine and Surgery shall be defined and prescribed by Bureau directives, and if necessary by regulations of the Secretary of the Navy, so that all such functions are under the direction of the Dental Corps.”

2006—Pub. L. 109-364, §593(d)(1), substituted “Dental Corps” for “Dental Division” in section catchline.

Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 109-364, §593(a)(1), substituted “Chief of the Dental Corps” for “Chief of the Dental Division” and struck out first sentence which read as follows: “There is a Dental Division in the Bureau of Medicine and Surgery.”

Subsec. (b). Pub. L. 109-364, §593(a)(2), substituted “Dental Corps” for “Dental Division”.

Subsec. (c). Pub. L. 109-364, §593(c), substituted “shall be defined” for “shall be so defined” and “so that all such functions are” for “that all such functions will be”.

Pub. L. 109-364, §593(a)(3), substituted “Dental Corps” for “Dental Division” in first sentence and “the Chief of the Dental Corps” for “that Division” in second sentence.

Subsec. (d). Pub. L. 109-364, §593(b), amended subsec. (d) generally. Prior to amendment, subsec. (d) read as follows: “The Dental Division shall—

“(1) establish professional standards and policies for dental practice;

“(2) conduct inspections and surveys for maintenance of such standards;

“(3) initiate and recommend action pertaining to complements, appointments, advancement, training assignment, and transfer of dental personnel; and

“(4) serve as the advisory agency for the Bureau on all matters relating directly to dentistry.”

1985—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 99-145 substituted “rear admiral (lower half)” for “commodore”.

1981—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 97-86 substituted “commodore” for “commodore admiral”.

1980—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 96-513 substituted “not below the grade of commodore admiral” for “in the grade of rear admiral”.

1962—Subsec. (b). Pub. L. 87-649 struck out “pay, allowances, and” after “entitled to the same”. See Title 37, Pay and Allowances of the Uniformed Services.

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 1981 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 97-86 effective Sept. 15, 1981, see section 405(f) of Pub. L. 97-86, set out as a note under section 101 of this title.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1980 AMENDMENT

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

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1962 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 87-649 effective Nov. 1, 1962, see section 15 of Pub. L. 87-649, set out as an Effective