

“(4) COMMERCIAL SATELLITE COMMUNICATIONS SERVICES.—

“(A) AUTHORITY.—Beginning on the date specified in subparagraph (B), the Service Acquisition Executive for Space Systems and Programs shall be responsible for the procurement of commercial satellite communications services for the Department of Defense.

“(B) DATE SPECIFIED.—The date specified in this subparagraph is the date that is 120 days after the date on which the Service Acquisition Executive for Space Systems and Programs submits to the congressional defense committees [Committees on Armed Services and Appropriations of the Senate and the House of Representatives] a plan for delegating the authority under subparagraph (A) to a subordinate acquisition command within the Space Force.

“(C) RESPONSIBILITY DURING INTERIM PERIOD.—During the period preceding the date specified in subparagraph (B), the Chief of Space Operations shall be responsible for the procurement of commercial satellite communications services for the Department of Defense.”

§ 9017. Secretary of the Air Force: successors to duties

If the Secretary of the Air Force dies, resigns, is removed from office, is absent, or is disabled, the person who is highest on the following list, and who is not absent or disabled, shall perform the duties of the Secretary until the President, under section 3347¹ of title 5, directs another person to perform those duties or until the absence or disability ceases:

- (1) The Under Secretary of the Air Force.
- (2) The Assistant Secretaries of the Air Force, in the order prescribed by the Secretary of the Air Force and approved by the Secretary of Defense.
- (3) The General Counsel of the Department of the Air Force.
- (4) The Chief of Staff.
- (5) The Chief of Space Operations.

(Aug. 10, 1956, ch. 1041, 70A Stat. 489, §8017; Pub. L. 89-718, §23, Nov. 2, 1966, 80 Stat. 1118; Pub. L. 90-235, §4(a)(9), Jan. 2, 1968, 81 Stat. 760; Pub. L. 99-433, title V, §521(a)(4), Oct. 1, 1986, 100 Stat. 1058; Pub. L. 103-337, div. A, title IX, §902(c), Oct. 5, 1994, 108 Stat. 2823; renumbered §9017, Pub. L. 115-232, div. A, title VIII, §806(c), Aug. 13, 2018, 132 Stat. 1833; Pub. L. 116-283, div. A, title IX, §923(b)(3), Jan. 1, 2021, 134 Stat. 3808.)

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

Revised section	Source (U.S. Code)	Source (Statutes at Large)
8017(a)	5:626-1(b).	Sept. 19, 1951, ch. 407,
8017(b)	5:626-1(c).	§102 (less (a)), 65 Stat. 327.

In subsection (a), the word “person” is substituted for the words “officer of the United States”. The words “until a successor is appointed” are omitted as surplusage.

Subsection (b) is substituted for 5:626-1(c) and states the effect of section 8544(b) of this title.

REFERENCES IN TEXT

Section 3347 of title 5, referred to in text, was repealed and a new section 3347 was enacted by Pub. L. 105-277, div. C, title I, §151(b), Oct. 21, 1998, 112 Stat.

¹ See References in Text note below.

2681-611, and, as so enacted, no longer contains provisions authorizing the President to direct temporary successors to duties. See section 3345 of Title 5, Government Organization and Employees.

AMENDMENTS

2021—Par. (5). Pub. L. 116-283 added par. (5).

2018—Pub. L. 115-232 renumbered section 8017 of this title as this section.

1994—Pars. (3), (4). Pub. L. 103-337 added par. (3) and redesignated former par. (3) as (4).

1986—Pub. L. 99-433 struck out subsec. (a) designation, substituted in par. (2) “, in the order prescribed by the Secretary of the Air Force and approved by the Secretary of Defense” for “in order of their length of service as such”, and struck out subsec. (b) which read as follows: “Performance of the duties of the Secretary by the Chief of Staff or any officer of the Air Force designated under section 3347 of title 5 shall not be considered as the holding of a civil office within the meaning of section 973(b) of this title.”

1968—Subsec. (b). Pub. L. 90-235 substituted “section 973(b) of this title” for “section 8544(b) of this title”.

1966—Pub. L. 89-718 substituted “section 3347 of title 5” for “section 6 of title 5” 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.

ORDER OF SUCCESSION

For order of succession in event of death, permanent disability, or resignation of Secretary of the Air Force, see Ex. Ord. No. 12909, Apr. 22, 1994, 59 F.R. 21909, listed in a table under section 3345 of Title 5, Government Organization and Employees.

§ 9018. Administrative Assistant

The Secretary of the Air Force may appoint an Administrative Assistant in the Office of the Secretary of the Air Force. The Administrative Assistant shall perform such duties as the Secretary may prescribe.

(Added Pub. L. 99-433, title V, §521(a)(5), Oct. 1, 1986, 100 Stat. 1059, §8018; renumbered §9018, Pub. L. 115-232, div. A, title VIII, §806(c), Aug. 13, 2018, 132 Stat. 1833.)

AMENDMENTS

2018—Pub. L. 115-232 renumbered section 8018 of this title as this section.

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.

§ 9019. General Counsel

(a) There is a General Counsel of the Department of the Air Force, appointed from civilian life by the President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate.

(b) The General Counsel shall perform such functions as the Secretary of the Air Force may prescribe.

(Added Pub. L. 99-433, title V, §521(a)(5), Oct. 1, 1986, 100 Stat. 1059, §8019; amended Pub. L. 100-456, div. A, title VII, §703(a), Sept. 29, 1988, 102 Stat. 1996; renumbered §9019, Pub. L. 115-232,

div. A, title VIII, § 806(c), Aug. 13, 2018, 132 Stat. 1833.)

AMENDMENTS

2018—Pub. L. 115-232 renumbered section 8019 of this title as this section.

1988—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 100-456 inserted “, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate” before period at end.

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 1988 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 100-456 applicable to appointments made under this section on and after Sept. 29, 1988, see section 703(c) of Pub. L. 100-456, set out as a note under section 7019 of this title.

§ 9020. Inspector General

(a) There is an Inspector General of the Department of the Air Force who shall be detailed to such position by the Secretary of the Air Force from the general officers of the Air Force or the general, flag, or equivalent officers of the Space Force. An officer may not be detailed to such position for a tour of duty of more than four years, except that the Secretary may extend such a tour of duty if he makes a special finding that the extension is necessary in the public interest.

(b) When directed by the Secretary, the Chief of Staff of the Air Force, or the Chief of Space Operations, the Inspector General shall—

(1) inquire into and report upon the discipline, efficiency, and economy of the Department of the Air Force; and

(2) perform any other duties prescribed by the Secretary, the Chief of Staff, or the Chief of Space Operations.

(c) The Inspector General shall periodically propose programs of inspections to the Secretary of the Air Force and shall recommend additional inspections and investigations as may appear appropriate.

(d) The Inspector General shall cooperate fully with the Inspector General of the Department of Defense in connection with the performance of any duty or function by the Inspector General of the Department of Defense under the Inspector General Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App. 3) regarding the Department of the Air Force.

(e) The Inspector General shall have such deputies and assistants as the Secretary of the Air Force may prescribe. Each such deputy and assistant shall be an officer detailed by the Secretary to that position from the officers of the Air Force or the Space Force for a tour of duty of not more than four years, under a procedure prescribed by the Secretary.

(Added Pub. L. 99-433, title V, § 521(a)(5), Oct. 1, 1986, 100 Stat. 1059, § 8020; renumbered § 9020, Pub. L. 115-232, div. A, title VIII, § 806(c), Aug. 13, 2018, 132 Stat. 1833; amended Pub. L. 116-283, div. A, title IX, § 923(b)(4), Jan. 1, 2021, 134 Stat. 3808.)

REFERENCES IN TEXT

The Inspector General Act of 1978, referred to in subsec. (d), is Pub. L. 95-452, Oct. 12, 1978, 92 Stat. 1101, as

amended, which is set out in the Appendix to Title 5, Government Organization and Employees.

AMENDMENTS

2021—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 116-283, § 923(b)(4)(A), inserted “Department of the” after “Inspector General of the” and “or the general, flag, or equivalent officers of the Space Force” after “general officers of the Air Force”.

Subsec. (b). Pub. L. 116-283, § 923(b)(4)(B)(i), substituted “, the Chief of Staff of the Air Force, or the Chief of Space Operations” for “or the Chief of Staff”.

Subsec. (b)(1). Pub. L. 116-283, § 923(b)(4)(B)(ii), inserted “Department of the” before “Air Force”.

Subsec. (b)(2). Pub. L. 116-283, § 923(b)(4)(B)(iii), substituted “, the Chief of Staff, or the Chief of Space Operations” for “or the Chief of Staff”.

Subsec. (e). Pub. L. 116-283, § 923(b)(4)(C), inserted “or the Space Force” before “for a tour of duty”.

2018—Pub. L. 115-232 renumbered section 8020 of this title as this section.

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.

SERVICE OF INCUMBENTS IN CERTAIN POSITIONS WITHOUT REAPPOINTMENT

Pub. L. 116-283, div. A, title IX, § 923(f), Jan. 1, 2021, 134 Stat. 3820, provided that:

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The individual serving in a position under a provision of law specified in paragraph (2) as of the date of the enactment of this Act [Jan. 1, 2021] may continue to serve in such position after that date without further appointment as otherwise provided by such provision of law, notwithstanding the amendment of such provision of law by subsection (b).

“(2) PROVISIONS OF LAW.—The provisions of law specified in this paragraph are the provisions of title 10, United States Code, as follows:

“(A) Section 9020, relating to the Inspector General of the Department of the Air Force.

“(B) Section 9036. [sic] relating to the Surgeon General of the Air Force.

“(C) Section 9037(a), relating to the Judge Advocate General of the Air Force.

“(D) Section 9037(d), relating to the Deputy Judge Advocate General of the Air Force.

“(E) Section 9039, relating to the Chief of Chaplains for the Air Force and the Space Force.”

§ 9021. Space Force Acquisition Council

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is in the Office of the Secretary of the Air Force a council to be known as the “Space Force Acquisition Council” (in this section referred to as the “Council”).

(b) MEMBERS.—The members of the Council are as follows:

(1) The Under Secretary of the Air Force.

(2) The Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Space Acquisition and Integration, who shall act as chair of the Council.

(3) The Assistant Secretary of Defense for Space Policy.

(4) The Director of the National Reconnaissance Office.

(5) The Chief of Space Operations.

(6) The Commander of the United States Space Command.

(c) DUTIES.—The Council shall oversee, direct, and manage acquisition and integration of the