

2011, 124 Stat. 4314, 4322; amended Pub. L. 112–81, div. A, title VIII, §855, Dec. 31, 2011, 125 Stat. 1521; Pub. L. 112–239, div. A, title IX, §901(a), (b), title X, §1076(a)(13), (b)(3), Jan. 2, 2013, 126 Stat. 1863, 1864, 1948, 1949; Pub. L. 114–328, div. A, title X, §1081(b)(4)(A), Dec. 23, 2016, 130 Stat. 2419, related to Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Manufacturing and Industrial Base Policy.

A prior section 139c was renumbered section 139a of this title.

Another prior section 139c was renumbered section 2434 of this title.

[[§ 139d, 139e. Renumbered §§ 139b, 139c]

§ 140. General Counsel

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

(b) The General Counsel is the chief legal officer of the Department of Defense. He shall perform such functions as the Secretary of Defense may prescribe.

(Added Pub. L. 87–651, title II, §202, Sept. 7, 1962, 76 Stat. 519, §137; amended Pub. L. 88–426, title III, §305(9), Aug. 14, 1964, 78 Stat. 423; renumbered §139 and amended Pub. L. 99–433, title I, §§101(a)(7), 110(d)(11), Oct. 1, 1986, 100 Stat. 995, 1003; renumbered §140, Pub. L. 103–160, div. A, title IX, §901(a)(1), Nov. 30, 1993, 107 Stat. 1726.)

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

Revised section	Source (U.S. Code)	Source (Statutes at Large)
137(a)	[Uncodified: 1953 Reorg. Plan No. 6, eff. June 30, 1953, §4 (1st 25 words of 1st sentence), 67 Stat. 639].	1953 Reorg. Plan No. 6, eff. June 30, 1953, §4, 67 Stat. 639.
137(b)	[Uncodified: 1953 Reorg. Plan No. 6, eff. June 30, 1953, §4 (1st sentence, less 1st 25 words), 67 Stat. 639].	
137(c)	[Uncodified: 1953 Reorg. Plan No. 6, eff. June 30, 1953, §4 (2d sentence), 67 Stat. 639].	

In subsection (b), the words “from time to time” are omitted as surplusage.

Editorial Notes

PRIOR PROVISIONS

A prior section 140 was renumbered section 141 of this title.

Another prior section 140 was renumbered section 127 of this title.

AMENDMENTS

1993—Pub. L. 103–160 renumbered section 139 of this title as this section.

1986—Pub. L. 99–433, §§101(a)(7), 110(d)(11), renumbered section 137 of this title as this section, and struck out “: powers and duties” at end of section catchline.

1964—Subsec. (c). Pub. L. 88–426 repealed subsec. (c) which related to compensation of General Counsel. See section 5315 of Title 5, Government Organization and Employees.

Statutory Notes and Related Subsidiaries

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1964 AMENDMENT

For effective date of amendment by Pub. L. 88–426, see section 501 of Pub. L. 88–426.

[§ 140a. Renumbered § 422]

Editorial Notes

PRIOR PROVISIONS

A prior section 140a was renumbered section 421 of this title.

[§ 140b. Renumbered § 423]

Editorial Notes

PRIOR PROVISIONS

A prior section 140b was renumbered section 129 of this title.

[§ 140c. Renumbered § 130]

§ 141. Inspector General

(a) There is an Inspector General of the Department of Defense, who is appointed as provided in section 3 of the Inspector General Act of 1978 (Public Law 95–452; 5 U.S.C. App. 3).

(b) The Inspector General performs the duties, has the responsibilities, and exercises the powers specified in the Inspector General Act of 1978.

(Added Pub. L. 99–433, title I, §108, Oct. 1, 1986, 100 Stat. 998, §140; renumbered §141, Pub. L. 103–160, div. A, title IX, §901(a)(1), Nov. 30, 1993, 107 Stat. 1726.)

Editorial Notes

REFERENCES IN TEXT

The Inspector General Act of 1978, referred to in text, 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.

PRIOR PROVISIONS

A prior section 141 was renumbered section 138d of this title.

Another prior section 141 of this title was contained in chapter 5 of this title, prior to amendment by Pub. L. 99–433. See note preceding section 151 of this title.

AMENDMENTS

1993—Pub. L. 103–160 renumbered section 140 of this title as this section.

Statutory Notes and Related Subsidiaries

INSPECTOR GENERAL OVERSIGHT OF DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION IN DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE; SUPREMACIST, EXTREMIST, OR CRIMINAL GANG ACTIVITY IN THE ARMED FORCES

Pub. L. 116–283, div. A, title V, §554, Jan. 1, 2021, 134 Stat. 3633, as amended by Pub. L. 117–81, div. A, title V, §549K, Dec. 27, 2021, 135 Stat. 1731, provided that:

“(a) ESTABLISHMENT OF ADDITIONAL ASSISTANT INSPECTOR GENERAL OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act [Jan. 1, 2021], the Inspector General of the Department of Defense shall appoint, in the Office of the Inspector General of the Department of Defense, an additional Assistant Inspector General who—

“(A) shall be a member of the Senior Executive Service; and

“(B) shall be under the authority, direction, and control of the Inspector General.

“(2) DUTIES.—Subject to the Inspector General Act of 1978 (Public Law 95–452; 5 U.S.C. App.), the Deputy Inspector General shall have the following duties: