

“(A) The manner in which constructive service credit was calculated under each constructive credit authority.  
 “(B) The number of officers credited constructive service credit under each constructive credit authority.  
 “(C) A description and assessment of the utility of the constructive credit authorities in meeting the operational needs of the Armed Force concerned.  
 “(D) Such other matters in connection with the constructive credit authorities as the Secretary of the military department concerned considers appropriate.”

**RATIFICATION OF SERVICE CREDIT AWARDED PRIOR TO NOVEMBER 30, 1993**

Pub. L. 103-160, div. A, title V, § 509(e), Nov. 30, 1993, 107 Stat. 1648, provided that: “To the extent that service credit awarded before the date of the enactment of this Act [Nov. 30, 1993] under section 533, 3353, 5600, or 8353 of title 10, United States Code, based on advanced education in medicine or dentistry was awarded consistent with that section as amended by this section (whether or not properly awarded under that section as in effect before such amendment), the awarding of that service credit is hereby ratified.”

**TRANSITION PROVISION UNDER DEFENSE OFFICER PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT ACT**

For savings provision relating to constructive service previously granted, see section 625 of Pub. L. 96-513, set out as a note under section 611 of this title.

**§ 541. Graduates of the United States Military, Naval, and Air Force Academies**

(a) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, each cadet at the United States Military Academy or the United States Air Force Academy, and each midshipman at the United States Naval Academy, is entitled, before graduating from that Academy, to state his preference for appointment, upon graduation, as a commissioned officer in either the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, or Space Force.

(b) With the consent of the Secretary of the military department administering the Academy from which the cadet or midshipman is to be graduated, and of the Secretary of the military department having jurisdiction over the armed force for which that graduate stated his preference, the graduate is entitled to be accepted for appointment in that armed force. However, not more than 12½ percent of any graduating class at an Academy may be appointed in armed forces not under the jurisdiction of the military department administering that Academy.

(c) The Secretary of Defense shall, by regulation, provide for the equitable distribution of appointments in cases where more than 12½ percent of the graduating class of any Academy request appointment in armed forces not under the jurisdiction of the military department administering that Academy.

(Aug. 10, 1956, ch. 1041, 70A Stat. 19; Pub. L. 116-283, div. A, title IX, § 924(b)(3)(B), Jan. 1, 2021, 134 Stat. 3821.)

**HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES**

Revised section	Source (U.S. Code)	Source (Statutes at Large)
541(a) .....	10:1092c-1(a) (1st 59 words of 1st sentence).	Apr. 1, 1954, ch. 127, § 8, 68 Stat. 48.

**HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES—CONTINUED**

Revised section	Source (U.S. Code)	Source (Statutes at Large)
541(b) .....	10:1856(a) (1st 59 words of 1st sentence). 34:1057-1(a) (1st 59 words of 1st sentence). 10:1092c-1(a) (1st sentence, less 1st 59 words). 10:1856(a) (1st sentence, less 1st 59 words). 34:1057-1(a) (1st sentence, less 1st 59 words).	
541(c) .....	10:1092c-1 (less (a)). 10:1856 (less (a)). 34:1057-1 (less (a)).	

In subsection (a), the words “is entitled \* \* \* to” are substituted for the words “shall \* \* \* be afforded an opportunity to”.

In subsection (b), the words “is entitled” are substituted for the word “shall”.

In subsection (c), the words “and fair” are omitted as surplusage. 10:1092c-1(c), 10:1856(c), and 34:1057-1(c) are omitted as covered by section 51(a) of the bill.

**Editorial Notes**

**AMENDMENTS**

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

**Statutory Notes and Related Subsidiaries**

**EFFECTIVE DATE**

Act Aug. 10, 1956, ch. 1041, § 52(a), 70A Stat. 641, provided that: “Section 541 of title 10, United States Code, enacted by section 1 of this Act, takes effect (1) in the year in which the initial class graduates from the United States Air Force Academy, or (2) upon the rescission of the agreement under which graduates of the United States Military Academy and the United States Naval Academy may volunteer for appointment in the Air Force, whichever is earlier.”

**APPOINTMENT OF UNITED STATES MILITARY ACADEMY GRADUATES IN AIR FORCE**

Act Aug. 10, 1956, ch. 1041, § 44, 70A Stat. 637, provided that a cadet who had graduated from the United States Military Academy could, upon graduation and before the effective date of section 541 of this title, be appointed a second lieutenant in the Regular Air Force, and set forth provisions relating to date of appointment, service credit, rank among graduates, and increase in authorized strength.

**[§§ 555 to 565. Repealed. Pub. L. 102-190, div. A, title XI, § 1112(a), Dec. 5, 1991, 105 Stat. 1492]**

Section 555, acts Aug. 10, 1956, ch. 1041, 70A Stat. 20; Sept. 7, 1962, Pub. L. 87-649, §§ 6(f)(2), 14c(2), 76 Stat. 494, 501; July 30, 1977, Pub. L. 95-79, title III, § 302(a)(4), 91 Stat. 326; Nov. 8, 1985, Pub. L. 99-145, title V, § 531(a), title XIII, § 1303(a)(5), 99 Stat. 633, 739, related to warrant officer grades. See section 571(a) and (b) of this title.

Section 556, act Aug. 10, 1956, ch. 1041, 70A Stat. 20, related to credit for service of persons originally appointed in regular warrant officer grades under section 555 of this title. See section 572 of this title.

Section 557, act Aug. 10, 1956, ch. 1041, 70A Stat. 20, related to qualifications for promotion of regular warrant officers.

Section 558, act Aug. 10, 1956, ch. 1041, 70A Stat. 20, related to appointment of selection boards to consider promotions of regular warrant officers. See section 573(a), (b), (e), and (f) of this title.

Section 559, act Aug. 10, 1956, ch. 1041, 70A Stat. 21, related to eligibility of regular warrant officers for promotion.

Section 560, acts Aug. 10, 1956, ch. 1041, 70A Stat. 21; Sept. 2, 1958, Pub. L. 85-861, §33(a)(3), 72 Stat. 1564, related to selection procedure for promotion of warrant officers. See section 576(a) to (e) of this title.

Section 561, act Aug. 10, 1956, ch. 1041, 70A Stat. 22, related to effect of failure of selection of regular warrant officers for promotion. See section 577 of this title.

Section 562, act Aug. 10, 1956, ch. 1041, 70A Stat. 22, related to disapproval of promotion of regular warrant officers by Secretary concerned, President, or Senate. See section 579 of this title.

Section 563, act Aug. 10, 1956, ch. 1041, 70A Stat. 22, related to effective date of promotion of regular warrant officer.

Section 564, acts Aug. 10, 1956, ch. 1041, 70A Stat. 22; Sept. 7, 1962, Pub. L. 87-649, §6(f)(3), 76 Stat. 494; Nov. 2, 1966, Pub. L. 89-718, §3, 80 Stat. 1115; Dec. 12, 1980, Pub. L. 96-513, title V, §501(6), 94 Stat. 2907, related to effect of second failure of promotion for regular warrant officers. See section 580(a) to (d) of this title.

Section 565, act Aug. 10, 1956, ch. 1041, 70A Stat. 24, related to suspension of laws for promotion or mandatory retirement or separation of regular warrant officers during war or emergency.

### Statutory Notes and Related Subsidiaries

#### EFFECTIVE DATE OF REPEAL

Repeal effective Feb. 1, 1992, see section 1132 of Pub. L. 102-190, set out as an Effective Date of 1991 Amendment note under section 521 of this title.

#### PRESERVATION OF EXISTING LAW FOR COAST GUARD

Pub. L. 102-190, div. A, title XI, §1125(a), Dec. 5, 1991, 105 Stat. 1505, provided that sections 555 to 565 of this title, as in effect on the day before Feb. 1, 1992, would continue to apply to the Coast Guard on and after that date, prior to repeal by Pub. L. 103-337, div. A, title V, §541(f)(1), Oct. 5, 1994, 108 Stat. 2766.

### CHAPTER 33A—APPOINTMENT, PROMOTION, AND INVOLUNTARY SEPARATION AND RETIREMENT FOR MEMBERS ON THE WARRANT OFFICER ACTIVE-DUTY LIST

Sec.	
571.	Warrant officers: grades.
572.	Warrant officers: original appointment; service credit.
573.	Convening of selection boards.
574.	Warrant officer active-duty lists; competitive categories; number to be recommended for promotion; promotion zones.
575.	Recommendations for promotion by selection boards.
576.	Information to be furnished to selection boards; selection procedures.
577.	Promotions: effect of failure of selection for.
578.	Promotions: how made; effective date.
579.	Removal from a promotion list.
580.	Regular warrant officers twice failing of selection for promotion: involuntary retirement or separation.
580a.	Enhanced authority for selective early discharges.
581.	Selective retirement.
582.	Warrant officer active-duty list: exclusions.
583.	Definitions.

#### Editorial Notes

##### AMENDMENTS

1993—Pub. L. 103-160, div. A, title V, §504(b), Nov. 30, 1993, 107 Stat. 1645, added item 580a.

1992—Pub. L. 102-484, div. A, title X, §1052(6), Oct. 23, 1992, 106 Stat. 2499, inserted “to be” after “Information” in item 576 and substituted “Promotions:” for “Promotions;” in item 578.

### § 571. Warrant officers: grades

(a) The regular warrant officer grades in the armed forces corresponding to the pay grades prescribed for warrant officers by section 201(b) of title 37 are as follows:

Warrant officer grade:

- Chief warrant officer, W-5.
- Chief warrant officer, W-4.
- Chief warrant officer, W-3.
- Chief warrant officer, W-2.
- Warrant officer, W-1.

(b) Appointments in the grade of regular warrant officer, W-1, shall be made by warrant, except that with respect to an armed force under the jurisdiction of the Secretary of a military department, the Secretary concerned may provide by regulation that appointments in that grade in that armed force shall be made by commission. Appointments in regular chief warrant officer grades shall be made by commission by the President, and appointments (whether by warrant or commission) in the grade of regular warrant officer, W-1, shall be made by the President, except that appointments in that grade in the Coast Guard shall be made by the Secretary concerned.

(c) An appointment may not be made in any of the armed forces in the regular warrant officer grade of chief warrant officer, W-5, if the appointment would result in more than 5 percent of the warrant officers of that armed force on active duty being in the grade of chief warrant officer, W-5. In computing the limitation prescribed in the preceding sentence, there shall be excluded warrant officers described in section 582 of this title.

(Added Pub. L. 102-190, div. A, title XI, §1112(a), Dec. 5, 1991, 105 Stat. 1493; amended Pub. L. 102-484, div. A, title X, §1052(2), Oct. 23, 1992, 106 Stat. 2499; Pub. L. 103-337, div. A, title V, §541(a)(2), Oct. 5, 1994, 108 Stat. 2764; Pub. L. 111-383, div. A, title V, §502(a), Jan. 7, 2011, 124 Stat. 4207.)

#### Editorial Notes

##### PRIOR PROVISIONS

Provisions similar to those in this section were contained in section 555 of this title prior to repeal by Pub. L. 102-190, §1112(a).

##### AMENDMENTS

2011—Subsec. (b). Pub. L. 111-383 substituted “, except that with respect to an armed force under the jurisdiction of the Secretary of a military department, the Secretary concerned may provide by regulation that appointments in that grade in that armed force shall be made by commission” for “by the Secretary concerned” and inserted “, and appointments (whether by warrant or commission) in the grade of regular warrant officer, W-1, shall be made by the President, except that appointments in that grade in the Coast Guard shall be made by the Secretary concerned” after “commission by the President”.

1994—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 103-337 substituted “armed forces” for “Army, Navy, Air Force, and Marine Corps”.

1992—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 102-484 inserted a period at end of each item in table.