



OFFICE OF THE UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
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OCT 20 2003

PERSONNEL AND
READINESS

The Honorable Duncan Hunter
Chairman
Committee on Armed Services
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20510-6050

Dear Mr. Chairman:

This is an interim response to the following Joint Officer Management provisions included in the FY 2002 National Defense Authorization Act:

Section 522, NDAA FY 2002 Joint Duty Credit

Section 523, NDAA FY 2002 Retroactive Joint Service Credit For Duty In
Certain Joint Task Forces

Section 525, NDAA FY 2002 Requirement For Selection For Joint Specialty
Before Promotion To General or Flag Officer

To date, the Secretary of Defense has not approved Joint Task Force eligibility for joint credit under the provisions of section 522. The Department anticipates the considerations afforded by section 522 will provide equitable award of joint credit to personnel serving in Joint Task Force assignments. The Secretary of Defense will notify Congress upon each approval. In addition, and in anticipation of future recurring utilization, the Department has added to its Annual Defense Report to Congress a table, in the Joint Officer Management appendix, to provide the required notification for any considerations authorized under section 522.

In compliance with section 523, the Department has established a procedure to award officers retroactive joint credit for qualified service in Joint Task Forces. Officers can send a written request, or use a Department of Defense website that verifies eligibility and simultaneously submits an application to award retroactive joint credit. Application procedures were widely disseminated through mass media channels. The Department is receiving retroactive credit applications and approving as appropriate. The Department has further added to the Annual Defense Report a table, which will convey the number of officers given joint service credit by service, grade, and operation for any given fiscal year. This data will be reported in future Annual Defense Reports for any year in which the Department approves retroactive credit in accordance with section 523.



The Department has included a requirement to develop proposed legislation that would require officers to be selected for the Joint Specialty before promotion to general and flag officer grade for appointments after 30 September 2007, in the contract to meet the congressionally mandated independent study (section 526, FY 2002 National Defense Authorization Act) of joint officer management. A copy of the applicable section of the "*Independent Study of Joint Officer Management and Joint Professional Education*" as prepared by the firm Booze, Allen, Hamilton, which was submitted to you on 17 March 2003, is also enclosed.

The Department trusts that its actions to date are in the best interests toward full compliance with sections 522, 523 and 525 of the FY 2002 NDAA.

Sincerely,



Charles S. Abell
Principal Deputy

Enclosure:
As stated

cc:
The Honorable Ike Skelton
Ranking Member

