

§ 1181. Authority to establish procedures to consider the separation of officers for substandard performance of duty and for certain other reasons

(a) Subject to such limitations as the Secretary of Defense may prescribe, the Secretary of the military department concerned shall prescribe, by regulation, procedures for the review at any time of the record of any commissioned officer (other than a commissioned warrant officer or a retired officer) of the Regular Army, Regular Navy, Regular Air Force, Regular Marine Corps, or Regular Space Force to determine whether such officer shall be required, because his performance of duty has fallen below standards prescribed by the Secretary of Defense, to show cause for his retention on active duty.

(b) Subject to such limitations as the Secretary of Defense may prescribe, the Secretary of the military department concerned shall prescribe, by regulation, procedures for the review at any time of the record of any commissioned officer (other than a commissioned warrant officer or a retired officer) of the Regular Army, Regular Navy, Regular Air Force, Regular Marine Corps, or Regular Space Force to determine whether such officer should be required, because of misconduct, because of moral or professional dereliction, or because his retention is not clearly consistent with the interests of national security, to show cause for his retention on active duty.

(Added Pub. L. 96-513, title I, § 110, Dec. 12, 1980, 94 Stat. 2872; amended Pub. L. 98-525, title V, § 524(b)(1), Oct. 19, 1984, 98 Stat. 2524; Pub. L. 116-283, div. A, title IX, § 924(b)(4)(J), Jan. 1, 2021, 134 Stat. 3822.)

Editorial Notes

AMENDMENTS

2021—Pub. L. 116-283 substituted “Regular Marine Corps, or Regular Space Force” for “or Regular Marine Corps” in subssecs. (a) and (b).

1984—Pub. L. 98-525 substituted “Authority to establish procedures to consider the separation of officers for substandard performance of duty and for certain other reasons” for “Authority to convene boards of officers to consider separation of officers for substandard performance of duty or for certain other reasons” in section catchline.

Subsecs. (a), (b). Pub. L. 98-525 amended subssecs. (a) and (b) generally, substituting “Subject to such limitations as the Secretary of Defense may prescribe, the Secretary of the military department concerned shall prescribe, by regulation, procedures for the review at any time of the record” for “Under regulations prescribed by the Secretary of Defense, the Secretary of the military department concerned may at any time convene a board of officers to review the record”.

Statutory Notes and Related Subsidiaries

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1984 AMENDMENT

Pub. L. 98-525, title V, § 524(b)(3), Oct. 19, 1984, 98 Stat. 2524, provided that: “The amendments made by paragraphs (1) and (2) [amending this section and the analysis to this chapter] shall take effect on the first day of the first month that begins more than 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act [Oct. 19, 1984], but shall not apply to any case in which, before that date, a board of officers has been ordered to convene under the provisions of section 1181 of title 10, United States Code, as in effect before that date.”

EFFECTIVE DATE

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

TRANSITION PROVISIONS UNDER DEFENSE OFFICER PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT ACT

For provisions to prevent extinction or premature termination of rights, duties, penalties, or proceedings that existed or were begun prior to the effective date of Pub. L. 96-513 and otherwise to allow for an orderly transition to the system of officer personnel management put in place under Pub. L. 96-513, see section 601 et seq. of Pub. L. 96-513, set out as a note under section 611 of this title.

§ 1182. Boards of inquiry

(a) The Secretary of the military department concerned shall convene boards of inquiry at such times and places as the Secretary may prescribe to receive evidence and make findings and recommendations as to whether an officer who is required under section 1181 of this title to show cause for retention on active duty should be retained on active duty. Each board of inquiry shall be composed of not less than three officers having the qualifications prescribed by section 1187 of this title.

(b) A board of inquiry shall give a fair and impartial hearing to each officer required under section 1181 of this title to show cause for retention on active duty.

(c)(1) If a board of inquiry determines that the officer has failed to establish that he should be retained on active duty, it shall recommend to the Secretary concerned that the officer not be retained on active duty.

(2) Under regulations prescribed by the Secretary concerned, an officer as to whom a board of inquiry makes a recommendation under paragraph (1) that the officer not be retained on active duty may be required to take leave pending the completion of the officer's case under this chapter. The officer may be required to begin such leave at any time following the officer's receipt of the report of the board of inquiry, including the board's recommendation for removal from active duty, and the expiration of any period allowed for submission by the officer of a rebuttal to that report. The leave may be continued until the date on which action by the Secretary concerned on the officer's case is completed or may be terminated at any earlier time.

(d)(1)(A) If a board of inquiry determines that an officer should be retained, the officer's case is closed unless the board substantiated a basis for separation and, upon recommendation from the service chief, the Secretary of the military department determines that the board's retention recommendation is clearly erroneous in light of the evidence considered by the board, a miscarriage of justice, and inconsistent with the best interest of the service. In such cases, the Secretary of the military department may separate the officer after providing a written justification of the decision to separate.

(B) An officer considered for separation under this section must be notified and afforded the opportunity to present matters for the Secretary of the military department to consider

when making the separation determination. The Secretary of the military department shall review the case to determine whether the retention recommendation of the board is clearly contrary to the substantial weight of the evidence in the record and whether the officer's conduct discredits the Service, adversely affects good order and discipline, and adversely affects the officer's performance of duty.

(C) Exercise of authority to separate an officer under this section shall be reserved for unusual cases where such action is essential to the interests of justice, discipline, and proper administration of the service.

(2) Authority to direct administrative separation after a board of inquiry's recommendation to retain an officer may only be delegated to a civilian official within a military department appointed by the President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate. The least favorable characterization in such cases will be general (under honorable conditions).

(3) An officer who is required to show cause for retention on active duty under subsection (a) of section 1181 of this title and who is determined under paragraph (1) to have established that he should be retained on active duty may not again be required to show cause for retention on active duty under such subsection within the one-year period beginning on the date of that determination.

(4)(A) Subject to subparagraph (B), an officer who is required to show cause for retention on active duty under subsection (b) of section 1181 of this title and who is determined under paragraph (1) to have established that he should be retained on active duty may again be required to show cause for retention at any time.

(B) An officer who has been required to show cause for retention on active duty under subsection (b) of section 1181 of this title and who is thereafter retained on active duty may not again be required to show cause for retention on active duty under such subsection solely because of conduct which was the subject of the previous proceedings, unless the findings or recommendations of the board of inquiry that considered his case are determined to have been obtained by fraud or collusion.

(Added Pub. L. 96-513, title I, § 110, Dec. 12, 1980, 94 Stat. 2872; amended Pub. L. 105-261, div. A, title V, § 503(b)(1), Oct. 17, 1998, 112 Stat. 2003; Pub. L. 106-398, § 1 [[div. A], title X, § 1087(d)(2)], Oct. 30, 2000, 114 Stat. 1654, 1654A-292; Pub. L. 107-314, div. A, title V, § 506(a), Dec. 2, 2002, 116 Stat. 2534; Pub. L. 118-159, div. A, title V, § 508, Dec. 23, 2024, 138 Stat. 1871.)

Editorial Notes

AMENDMENTS

2024—Subsec. (d)(1). Pub. L. 118-159, § 508(1), amended par. (1) generally. Prior to amendment, par. (1) read as follows: "If a board of inquiry determines that the officer has established that he should be retained on active duty, the officer's case is closed."

Subsec. (d)(2) to (4). Pub. L. 118-159, § 508(2), (3), added par. (2) and redesignated former pars. (2) and (3) as (3) and (4), respectively.

2002—Subsec. (c). Pub. L. 107-314 designated existing provisions as par. (1) and added par. (2).

2000—Subsec. (c). Pub. L. 106-398 made technical correction to directory language of Pub. L. 105-261, § 503(b)(1). See 1998 Amendment note below.

1998—Subsec. (c). Pub. L. 105-261, § 503(b)(1), as amended by Pub. L. 106-398, substituted "recommend to the Secretary concerned that the officer not be retained on active duty" for "send the record of its proceedings to a board of review convened under section 1183 of this title".

Statutory Notes and Related Subsidiaries

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 2000 AMENDMENT

Pub. L. 106-398, § 1 [[div. A], title X, § 1087(d)], Oct. 30, 2000, 114 Stat. 1654, 1654A-292, provided that the amendment made by section 1 [[div. A], title X, § 1087(d)(2)] is effective Oct. 17, 1998, and as if included in the Strom Thurmond National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1999, Pub. L. 105-261, as enacted.

EFFECTIVE DATE

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

[§ 1183. Repealed. Pub. L. 105-261, div. A, title V, § 503(a), Oct. 17, 1998, 112 Stat. 2003]

Section, added Pub. L. 96-513, title I, § 110, Dec. 12, 1980, 94 Stat. 2873, related to convening and determinations of boards of review.

§ 1184. Removal of officer: action by Secretary upon recommendation of board of inquiry

The Secretary of the military department concerned may remove an officer from active duty if the removal of such officer from active duty is recommended by a board of inquiry convened under section 1182 of this title.

(Added Pub. L. 96-513, title I, § 110, Dec. 12, 1980, 94 Stat. 2874; amended Pub. L. 105-261, div. A, title V, § 503(b)(2), (c)(1), Oct. 17, 1998, 112 Stat. 2003.)

Editorial Notes

AMENDMENTS

1998—Pub. L. 105-261 substituted "inquiry" for "review" in section catchline and "board of inquiry convened under section 1182 of this title" for "board of review convened under section 1183 of this title" in text.

Statutory Notes and Related Subsidiaries

EFFECTIVE DATE

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

§ 1185. Rights and procedures

(a) Under regulations prescribed by the Secretary of Defense, each officer required under section 1181 of this title to show cause for retention on active duty—

(1) shall be notified in writing, at least 30 days before the hearing of his case by a board of inquiry, of the reasons for which he is being required to show cause for retention on active duty;

(2) shall be allowed a reasonable time, as determined by the board of inquiry, to prepare his showing of cause for his retention on active duty;