

**§ 9013. Secretary of the Air Force**

(a)(1) There is a Secretary of the Air Force, appointed from civilian life by the President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate. The Secretary shall, to the greatest extent practicable, be appointed from among persons most highly qualified for the position by reason of background and experience, including persons with appropriate management or leadership experience. The Secretary is the head of the Department of the Air Force.

(2) A person may not be appointed as Secretary of the Air Force within seven years after relief from active duty as a commissioned officer of a regular component of an armed force.

(b) Subject to the authority, direction, and control of the Secretary of Defense and subject to the provisions of chapter 6 of this title, the Secretary of the Air Force is responsible for, and has the authority necessary to conduct, all affairs of the Department of the Air Force, including the following functions:

- (1) Recruiting.
- (2) Organizing.
- (3) Supplying.
- (4) Equipping (including research and development).
- (5) Training.
- (6) Servicing.
- (7) Mobilizing.
- (8) Demobilizing.
- (9) Administering (including the morale and welfare of personnel).
- (10) Maintaining.

(11) The construction, outfitting, and repair of military equipment.

(12) The construction, maintenance, and repair of buildings, structures, and utilities and the acquisition of real property and interests in real property necessary to carry out the responsibilities specified in this section.

(c) Subject to the authority, direction, and control of the Secretary of Defense, the Secretary of the Air Force is also responsible to the Secretary of Defense for—

(1) the functioning and efficiency of the Department of the Air Force;

(2) the formulation of policies and programs by the Department of the Air Force that are fully consistent with national security objectives and policies established by the President or the Secretary of Defense;

(3) the effective and timely implementation of policy, program, and budget decisions and instructions of the President or the Secretary of Defense relating to the functions of the Department of the Air Force;

(4) carrying out the functions of the Department of the Air Force so as to fulfill the current and future operational requirements of the unified and specified combatant commands;

(5) effective cooperation and coordination between the Department of the Air Force and the other military departments and agencies of the Department of Defense to provide for more effective, efficient, and economical administration and to eliminate duplication;

(6) the presentation and justification of the positions of the Department of the Air Force

on the plans, programs, and policies of the Department of Defense; and

(7) the effective supervision and control of the intelligence activities of the Department of the Air Force.

(d) The Secretary of the Air Force is also responsible for such other activities as may be prescribed by law or by the President or Secretary of Defense.

(e) After first informing the Secretary of Defense, the Secretary of the Air Force may make such recommendations to Congress relating to the Department of Defense as he considers appropriate.

(f) The Secretary of the Air Force may assign such of his functions, powers, and duties as he considers appropriate to the Under Secretary of the Air Force and to the Assistant Secretaries of the Air Force. Officers of the Air Force and officers of the Space Force shall, as directed by the Secretary, report on any matter to the Secretary, the Under Secretary, or any Assistant Secretary.

(g) The Secretary of the Air Force may—

(1) assign, detail, and prescribe the duties of members of the Air Force, members of the Space Force, and civilian personnel of the Department of the Air Force;

(2) change the title of any officer or activity of the Department of the Air Force not prescribed by law; and

(3) prescribe regulations to carry out his functions, powers, and duties under this title.

(Added Pub. L. 99-433, title V, § 521(a)(3), Oct. 1, 1986, 100 Stat. 1055, § 8013; amended Pub. L. 99-661, div. A, title V, § 534, Nov. 14, 1986, 100 Stat. 3873; Pub. L. 108-136, div. A, title IX, § 901, Nov. 24, 2003, 117 Stat. 1558; Pub. L. 114-328, div. A, title IX, § 931(c), Dec. 23, 2016, 130 Stat. 2363; renumbered § 9013, 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)(1), Jan. 1, 2021, 134 Stat. 3807; Pub. L. 117-81, div. A, title IX, § 901(e), Dec. 27, 2021, 135 Stat. 1868.)

**Editorial Notes**

## AMENDMENTS

2021—Subsec. (a)(2). Pub. L. 117-81 substituted “seven” for “five”.

Subsec. (f). Pub. L. 116-283, § 923(b)(1)(A), inserted “and officers of the Space Force” after “Officers of the Air Force”.

Subsec. (g)(1). Pub. L. 116-283, § 923(b)(1)(B), inserted “, members of the Space Force,” after “members of the Air Force”.

2018—Pub. L. 115-232 renumbered section 8013 of this title as this section.

2016—Subsec. (a)(1). Pub. L. 114-328 inserted “The Secretary shall, to the greatest extent practicable, be appointed from among persons most highly qualified for the position by reason of background and experience, including persons with appropriate management or leadership experience.” after first sentence.

2003—Subsec. (c)(4). Pub. L. 108-136 struck out “(to the maximum extent practicable)” after “fulfill”.

1986—Subsec. (a)(2). Pub. L. 99-661 substituted “five years” for “10 years”.

**Statutory Notes and Related Subsidiaries**

## EFFECTIVE DATE OF 2021 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 117-81 applicable with respect to appointments made on or after Dec. 27, 2021, see sec-

tion 901(g) of Pub. L. 117-81, set out as a note under section 113 of this title.

#### 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.

#### RATING CHAINS FOR SYSTEM PROGRAM MANAGERS

Pub. L. 112-239, div. A, title III, § 323, Jan. 2, 2013, 126 Stat. 1696, provided that: "The Secretary of the Air Force, in managing system program management responsibilities for sustainment programs not assigned to a program executive officer or a direct reporting program manager, shall comply with the Department of Defense Instructions regarding assignment of program responsibility."

### Executive Documents

#### 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.

### § 9014. Office of the Secretary of the Air Force

(a) There is in the Department of the Air Force an Office of the Secretary of the Air Force. The function of the Office is to assist the Secretary of the Air Force in carrying out his responsibilities.

(b) The Office of the Secretary of the Air Force is composed of the following:

(1) The Under Secretary of the Air Force.

(2) The Assistant Secretaries of the Air Force.

(3) The General Counsel of the Department of the Air Force.

(4) The Inspector General of the Department of the Air Force.

(5) The Chief of Legislative Liaison.

(6) The Air Reserve Forces Policy Committee.

(7) Such other offices and officials as may be established by law or as the Secretary of the Air Force may establish or designate.

(c)(1) The Office of the Secretary of the Air Force shall have sole responsibility within the Office of the Secretary, the Air Staff, and the Office of the Chief of Space Operations for the following functions:

(A) Acquisition.

(B) Auditing.

(C) Comptroller (including financial management).

(D) Information management.

(E) Inspector General.

(F) Legislative affairs.

(G) Public affairs.

(2) Subject to paragraph (6), the Secretary of the Air Force shall establish or designate a single office or other entity within the Office of the Secretary of the Air Force to conduct each function specified in paragraph (1). No office or other entity may be established or designated within the Air Staff or the Office of the Chief of Space Operations to conduct any of the functions specified in paragraph (1).

(3) The Secretary shall prescribe the relationship of each office or other entity established or designated under paragraph (2) to the Chief of Staff of the Air Force and the Air Staff, and to the Chief of Space Operations and the Office of the Chief of Space Operations, and shall ensure that each such office or entity provides the Chief of Staff and Chief of Space Operations such staff support as the Chief concerned considers necessary to perform the Chief's duties and responsibilities.

(4) The vesting in the Office of the Secretary of the Air Force of the responsibility for the conduct of a function specified in paragraph (1) does not preclude other elements of the executive part of the Department of the Air Force (including the Air Staff and the Office of the Chief of Space Operations) from providing advice or assistance to the Chief of Staff and the Chief of Space Operations or otherwise participating in that function within the executive part of the Department under the direction of the office assigned responsibility for that function in the Office of the Secretary of the Air Force.

(5) The head of the office or other entity established or designated by the Secretary to conduct the auditing function shall have at least five years of professional experience in accounting or auditing. The position shall be considered to be a career reserved position as defined in section 3132(a)(8) of title 5.

(6) Notwithstanding section 1702 of title 41, the Secretary of the Air Force may assign to the Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Space Acquisition and Integration duties and authorities of the senior procurement executive that pertain to space systems and programs.

(d)(1) Subject to paragraph (2), the Office of the Secretary of the Air Force shall have sole responsibility within the Office of the Secretary, the Air Staff, and the Office of the Chief of Space Operations for the function of research and development.

(2) The Secretary of the Air Force may assign to the Air Staff and the Office of the Chief of Space Operations responsibility for those aspects of the function of research and development that relate to military requirements and test and evaluation.

(3) The Secretary shall establish or designate a single office or other entity within the Office of the Secretary of the Air Force to conduct the function specified in paragraph (1).

(4) The Secretary shall prescribe the relationship of the office or other entity established or designated under paragraph (3) to the Chief of Staff of the Air Force and the Air Staff, and to the Chief of Space Operations and the Office of the Chief of Space Operations, and shall ensure that each such office or entity provides the Chief of Staff and Chief of Space Operations such staff support as the Chief concerned considers necessary to perform the Chief's duties and responsibilities.

(e) The Secretary of the Air Force shall ensure that the Office of the Secretary of the Air Force, the Air Staff, and the Office of the Chief of Space Operations do not duplicate specific functions for which the Secretary has assigned responsibility to any of the others.

(f)(1) The total number of members of the armed forces and civilian employees of the De-