SEC. ___. REVISION OF CRITERIA FOR DUTY ASSIGNMENTS WHICH QUALIFY FOR JOINT SERVICE CREDIT FOR MANAGEMENT OF OFFICERS OF THE ARMED FORCES.

(a) DEFINITION OF JOINT MATTERS.—Paragraph (1) of subsection (a) of section 668 of title 10, United States Code, is amended by striking "the term" and all that follows in that paragraph and inserting the following: "the term 'joint matters' means any of the following:

"(A) Matters related to developing or achieving strategic objectives through the synchronization, coordination, and organization of integrated forces in operations conducted across domains such as land, sea, or air, in space, or in the information environment, including matters relating to—

"(i) national military strategy;

"(ii) strategic planning and contingency planning;

"(iii) command and control, intelligence, fires, movement and maneuver, protection or sustainment of operations under unified command;

"(iv) national security planning with other departments and agencies of the United States; or

"(v) combined operations with military forces of allied nations.

"(B) Acquisition matters conducted by members of the armed forces serving in acquisition positions designated pursuant to section 1721 of this title providing support for acquisitions with participants from more than one military department.

"(C) Other matters designated in regulations prescribed by the Secretary of Defense with the advice of the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.".

(b) DEFINITION OF INTEGRATED MILITARY FORCES.—Subsection (a)(2) of such section is amended in the matter preceding subparagraph (A)—

(1) by striking "military" after "integrated"; and

(2) by striking "the planning or execution (or both) of operations involving" and inserting "military forces that are involved in achieving unified action with".

(c) DEFINITION OF JOINT DUTY ASSIGNMENT.—Subsection (b)(1)(A) of such section is amended by inserting "preponderance of an officer's duties involve in joint matters and in which the" after "shall be limited to assignments in which the".

(d) REPEAL OF DEFINITION OF CRITICAL OCCUPATIONAL SPECIALTY.—Subsection (d) of such section is repealed.

[The "Changes to Existing Law" section below also sets out in red-line format how the legislative text would amend existing law.]

Section-by-Section Analysis

The proposal would revise the statutory definition of "joint matters" in 10 U.S.C. 668(a) to reflect more accurately and clarify properly the types of joint duty positions for which an officer may receive joint credit. The statutory definition of joint matters serves as the basis of the Department of Defense process for awarding joint experience credit. However, the current definition does not capture the breadth of duties and positions that comprise joint matters experience. As a consequence, when the definition is applied in the Department's current process for crediting joint experience or validating joint assignments, the results are inconsistent. With the current definition, one officer assigned to a joint headquarters may receive joint credit, while another officer may not, even though they are performing similar duties.

This proposed revised definition of "joint matters" would correct the overly narrow focus on matters linked to planning and command and control by broadening the definition to account for the other essential joint functions including intelligence, fires, movement and maneuver, protection, and sustainment. The proposal would adapt the current joint matters definition to the changing nature of our national security environment and ensure the equitable treatment of joint experience by military offices across the full spectrum of joint missions.

Changes to Existing Law: This section would make the following changes in provisions of existing law:

TITLE 10, UNITED STATES CODE

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CHAPTER 38— JOINT OFFICER MANAGEMENT

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§ 668. Definitions

(a) JOINT MATTERS.—(1) In this chapter, the term "joint matters" means any of the following:

(A) Matters related to ~~the achievement of unified action by~~ developing or achieving strategic objectives through the synchronization, coordination, and organization of integrated ~~military~~ forces in operations conducted across domains such as land, sea, or air, in space, or in the information environment, including matters relating to—

(~~A~~i) national military strategy;

(~~B~~ii) strategic planning and contingency planning;

(~~C~~iii) command and control, intelligence, fires, movement and maneuver, protection or sustainment of operations under unified command;

(~~D~~iv) national security planning with other departments and agencies of the United States; or

(~~E~~v) combined operations with military forces of allied nations.

(~~F~~B) Acquisition matters ~~addressed~~ conducted by ~~military personnel~~ members of the armed forces serving in acquisition positions designated pursuant to section 1721 ~~and covered under chapter 87~~ of this title providing support for acquisitions with participants from more than one military department.

(C) Other matters designated in regulations prescribed by the Secretary of Defense with the advice of the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

(2) In the context of joint matters, the term "integrated ~~military~~ forces" refers to ~~the planning or execution (or both) of operations involving~~ military forces that are involved in achieving unified action with participants from—

(A) more than one military department; or

(B) a military department and one or more of the following:

(i) Other departments and agencies of the United States.

(ii) The military forces or agencies of other countries.

(iii) Non-governmental persons or entities.

(b) JOINT DUTY ASSIGNMENT.—(1) The Secretary of Defense shall by regulation define the term "joint duty assignment" for the purposes of this chapter. That definition—

(A) shall be limited to assignments in which the preponderance of an officer's duties are involved in joint matters in which the officer gains significant experience in joint matters; and

(B) shall exclude student assignments for joint training and education.

(2) The Secretary shall publish a joint duty assignment list showing--

(A) the positions that are joint duty assignment positions under such regulation and the number of such positions and, of those positions, those that are positions held by general or flag officers and the number of such positions; and

(B) of the positions listed under subparagraph (A), those that are critical joint duty assignment positions and the number of such positions and, of those positions, those that are positions held by general or flag officers and the number of such positions.

(c) CLARIFICATION OF "TOUR OF DUTY".—For purposes of this chapter, a tour of duty in which an officer serves in more than one joint duty assignment without a break between such assignments shall be considered to be a single tour of duty in a joint duty assignment.

~~(d) CRITICAL OCCUPATIONAL SPECIALTY.—(1) In this chapter, the term "critical occupational specialty" means a military occupational specialty involving com-bat operations within the combat arms, in the case of the Army, or the equivalent arms, in the case of the Navy, Air Force, and Marine Corps, that the Secretary of Defense designates as critical.~~

~~(2) At a minimum, the Secretary of Defense shall designate as a critical occupational specialty under paragraph (1) any military occupational specialty within a combat arms (or the equivalent) that is experiencing a severe shortage of trained officers in that specialty, as determined by the Secretary.~~