

Preface

This volume is a supplement to *The Department of Defense: Documents on Establishment and Organization, 1944-1978*, edited by Alice C. Cole et al, published by the OSD Historical Office in 1978. That compilation presented commentary and documents pertaining to the origin and content of the National Security Act of 1947 and major changes to the act between 1947 and 1958—the amendments of 1949, Reorganization Plan No. 6 of 1953, and the Department of Defense Reorganization Act of 1958. It also included documents detailing other organizational and legislative modifications from 1958 to 1978 and the evolving functions of the Armed Services and the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

This book covers organizational changes in the Office of the Secretary of Defense between 1978 and the end of 2003. During this period there were frequent and substantial adjustments, some directed by congressional action and some by the secretary of defense. There were changes in the titles and functions of OSD statutory officials and their number. Whereas in 1978 there were two under secretaries of defense, by 2003 there were five. In 1978 there were seven assistant secretaries of defense; at the end of 2003 there were nine. Congress approved a number of new statutory positions—for an inspector general, a director of operational test and evaluation, three under secretaries of defense, and four deputy under secretaries—between 1982 and 2002.

The most important legislation affecting the Department of Defense between 1978 and 2003, the Goldwater-Nichols Department of Defense Reorganization Act of 1986, received its impetus primarily from Congress rather than the Department of Defense. This law joins the amendments of 1949, Reorganization Plan No. 6 of 1953, and the Department of Defense Reorganization Act of 1958 as one of the four major changes to the National Security Act of 1947. Because of its significance, the entire text of the Goldwater-Nichols Act is included in this publication, as well as important documents preceding its passage, including the report of the Packard Commission (1986).

This collection includes documents detailing the functions of the Armed Forces and the Joint Chiefs of Staff as well as those pertaining to the roles and missions of the Armed Forces. As in the 1978 volume, changes in the organization of the military services are not covered in this compilation, which emphasizes the Office of the Secretary of Defense and the Department of Defense in general. Versions of chapter 4 (Office of the Secretary of Defense) and chapter 5 (Joint Chiefs of Staff) of the United States Code, Title 10, Armed Forces as of 31 December 2003, are printed in Appendix II.

The chief editor, Roger R. Trask, was the co-author of *The Department of Defense: Organization and Leaders* (1997). Co-editor John P. Glennon has assisted on seven previous publications of the OSD Historical Office. Former OSD Historian Alfred Goldberg oversaw the early preparation of the manuscript. Diane Putney,

Ronald D. Landa, and Nancy Berlage provided valuable critiques of the arrangement and contents of the volume. For their usual able help and guidance, the OSD Historical Office is grateful to the staff of OSD Graphics, in particular Colleen Wiatt for her sound advice and skillful execution of the book's layout and composition.

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