

1       “(b) **COMMAND OF ASSIGNED FORCES.**—(1) A force as-  
2 signed to a combatant command under this section is under  
3 the command of the commander of the command to which it  
4 is assigned. In this section, ‘command’ means the authority  
5 to give authoritative direction to subordinate forces necessary  
6 to accomplish assigned missions.

7       “(2) The commanders of forces assigned to a combatant  
8 command are under the command of the commander of the  
9 command. Such commanders shall communicate with other  
10 elements of the Department of Defense only through the  
11 commander of the combatant command or in accordance with  
12 procedures approved by the commander.

13       “(3) The Secretary of Defense shall ensure that com-  
14 manders of combatant commands have sufficient authority  
15 over the forces assigned to their commands to exercise effec-  
16 tive command over those forces.

17       “(4) If a commander of a combatant command at any  
18 time considers his authority over any of the forces assigned to  
19 that command to be insufficient to command effectively, the  
20 commander shall promptly inform the Secretary of Defense.

21       “(c) **ORGANIZATION, TRAINING, AND EMPLOYMENT OF**  
22 **ASSIGNED FORCES.**—(1) The commander of each combatant  
23 command shall prescribe the chain of command and organiza-  
24 tional structure of forces assigned to that command. To the  
25 extent practicable, the structure established should be the