

1 “(c) Combatant commands established under this section
2 are responsible to the President and to the Secretary of De-
3 fense for the performance of such military missions as may be
4 assigned to such commands by the Secretary with the ap-
5 proval of the President.

6 **“§ 163. Operational chain of command**

7 “(a) Unless otherwise directed by the President, the
8 chain of command for the operational direction of the combat-
9 ant commands runs from the President to the Secretary of
10 Defense to the commanders of the unified and specified com-
11 batant commands.

12 “(b) Subject to the limitations of section 152(c) of this
13 title, the President or the Secretary of Defense may direct
14 the channel of command communications to run from the
15 Secretary of Defense to the commanders of the unified and
16 specified combatant commands through the Chairman of the
17 Joint Chiefs of Staff.

18 “(c) Unless otherwise directed by the President or the
19 Secretary of Defense, the commander of a combatant com-
20 mand shall prescribe the chain of command to, and the orga-
21 nizational relationship among, the commands and forces
22 within that command.

23 “(d)(1) As a means of providing for more effective con-
24 trol and coordination of the combatant commands, the Secre-
25 tary of Defense may assign responsibility to the Chairman of