

1 the Joint Chiefs of Staff for overseeing the activities of the
2 combatant commands. Such assignment by the Secretary to
3 the Chairman does not confer any command authority on the
4 Chairman and does not alter the responsibility of the combat-
5 ant commanders prescribed in section 164(b) of this title.

6 “(2) Subject to the authority, direction, and control of
7 the Secretary of Defense, the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of
8 Staff serves as the spokesman for the commanders of the
9 combatant commands on operational requirements. In per-
10 forming such responsibility, the Chairman shall—

11 “(A) confer with and obtain information from the
12 commanders of the combatant commands about the
13 operational requirements of their commands;

14 “(B) evaluate and integrate such information;

15 “(C) advise and make recommendations to the
16 Secretary of Defense about the operational require-
17 ments of the combatant commands, individually and
18 collectively; and

19 “(D) perform such other activities as may be re-
20 quired to communicate clearly the operational require-
21 ments of the combatant commands.

22 **“§ 164. Commanders of combatant commands: assign-**
23 **ment; powers and duties**

24 “(a) The President may assign to serve as commanders
25 of unified combatant commands only officers who have served