

1 in one or more joint duty positions for a substantial period of  
2 time. The President may waive the requirement of the pre-  
3 ceding sentence in the case of any officer if the President  
4 determines such action is necessary in the national interest.

5       “(b) Each commander of a combatant command per-  
6 forms his duties under the authority, direction, and control of  
7 the Secretary of Defense and is directly responsible to the  
8 Secretary for the performance of his command and its pre-  
9 paredness to execute assigned missions.

10       “(c) Subject to the authority, direction, and control of  
11 the Secretary of Defense, each commander of a combatant  
12 command shall—

13               “(1) maintain the security of his command and  
14 protect the United States, its possessions, and bases  
15 against attack or hostile incursion;

16               “(2) carry out assigned missions, tasks, and re-  
17 sponsibilities; and

18               “(3) assign tasks to, and direct coordination  
19 among, his subordinate commanders so as to ensure  
20 unity of effort in the accomplishment of the missions  
21 assigned to his command.

22       “(d) Forces assigned to combatant commands are under  
23 the full operational command of the commander of the com-  
24 batant command to which they are assigned. Full operational  
25 command includes—