

therefore, has the endorsement of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and reflects my own philosophy of proceeding cautiously with changes in the system that has provided Presidents and Secretaries of Defense with competent military advice for more than 30 years, while maintaining effective civilian control of the military.

The criteria applied in the JCS study that led to our recommendations may be of interest. I directed the JCS to consider specifically the following questions:

- Can we conduct military operations better with a changed organization than with the present one? Will the transition to wartime operations be better than under the present system?
- Will we receive better advice?
- Will the advice be timely?
- Would the changed organization better support the requirements of the commanders of the unified and specified commands?
- Will it enable us to allocate resources more wisely and effectively than the present system?
- Will the suggested changes continue to maintain civilian control of the U.S. military?

You should know also that in applying these criteria the Joint Chiefs assessed the issues and arrived at their conclusions personally and without either Joint Staff or military staff involvement.

It is important to note before considering the detailed provisions in our bill that the legislative proposal is offered as a complement to various management initiatives that have and will be taken to ensure the continued effectiveness of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. Several of the management initiatives proposed by the JCS have already been put into effect; others remain under consideration.

Of the legislative changes recommended as a result of the study and proposed by the Administration, perhaps the most important are in sections 124 and 142 of Title 10 of the United States Code. These changes have the effect of formally inserting the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff in the chain of command. Under current procedures established by the Department of Defense, orders of the President or the Secretary of Defense are transmitted to the combatant commands