

SEC. 102. ORGANIZATION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

At present, the composition of the Department of Defense is not prescribed in title 10. Section 102 of this bill would amend section 131 of title 10 to prescribe the composition of the Department of Defense.

SEC. 103. POWERS AND DUTIES OF THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

Section 103 of this bill would amend section 133 of title 10 to modify the required contents of the Secretary of Defense's annual report to the Congress and to specify three additional duties for the Secretary of Defense. Regarding the annual report, subsection (e) of section 133 would be amended to require the Secretary to include a discussion and justification of major military missions (e.g., strategic deterrence, NATO defense) and a discussion of the relationship of foreign policy, major military missions, and military force structure to each other. The Committee believes that the Washington Headquarters of the Department of Defense gives insufficient attention to major military missions. The requirement that missions be a key component of the Secretary's annual report may help increase attention to this neglected area.

The Department of Defense has often suffered from inexperienced political appointees who lack a substantial background in military strategy, operations, and resource allocation, which are so important if one is to contribute immediately to effective policy formulation and management. To help remedy this situation, section 103 would amend section 133 of title 10 to add a new subsection (f) that would require the Secretary of Defense to inform the President, whenever a vacancy in a political position occurs, of the qualifications needed by an appointee to carry out effectively the duties and responsibilities of that position. This requirement is intended to foster a greater involvement by the Secretary of Defense in the selection of his key civilian subordinates and more explicit consideration of the experience and skills needed in each position. The Committee fully expects the Secretary of Defense to give serious attention to this new duty. DoD can no longer afford to fill senior civilian positions with on-the-job trainees. In a field as complex as national defense, inexperienced political appointees are a fundamental weakness in achieving sound and effective management.

The second additional duty that would be specified for the Secretary of Defense is a requirement that he provide annually to the JCS Chairman written policy guidance for the preparation and review of contingency plans. Each year, the JCS system and the unified and specified combatant commands prepare plans for the actual employment of military forces in contingencies that can reasonably be anticipated. The utility of these contingency plans in an actual crisis would be improved if they were based upon policies and political assumptions approved by the President and Secretary of Defense. Therefore, section 133 of title 10 would be amended by section 103 of this bill to add a new subsection (g) that would require the Secretary of Defense to provide each year written policy guidance for contingency plans.