

internal organization shall continue to be the responsibility of the Military Departments. The Committee believes that the combatant commanders must have the flexibility provided by this authority to organize their commands if they are to effectively prepare for and carry out assigned missions. The President's Blue Ribbon Commission on Defense Management has also recommended this authority for combatant commanders:

Subject to the review and approval of the Secretary of Defense, Unified Commanders should be given broader authority to structure subordinate commands, joint task forces, and support activities in a way that best supports their missions and results in a significant reduction in the size and numbers of military headquarters. (page 11)

Duties for the JCS Chairman

Subsection (d) of section 163 would prescribe two duties for the JCS Chairman with respect to the combatant commands. Paragraph (1) would authorize the Secretary of Defense to assign responsibility to the JCS Chairman for overseeing the activities of the combatant commands. Such an assignment to the JCS Chairman, however, would not (1) confer any command authority, or (2) alter the direct responsibility of the combatant commanders to the Secretary of Defense. Because the Secretary's span of control is great and the time that he can devote to supervisory activities is limited, the Committee believes that the JCS Chairman could usefully assist the Secretary in overseeing the combatant commands.

Paragraph (2) would clarify the provision of law, currently in subsection (c)(2) of the repealed section 124, that designates the JCS Chairman as the spokesman for the combatant commanders on their operational requirements. Because of the geographic separation of the combatant commanders from the Washington Headquarters of DoD, it is difficult for them to provide a continuous representation of their positions on policy, planning, and resource allocation issues. In the physical absence from Washington of the combatant commanders, the JCS Chairman is tasked with the responsibility of serving as their spokesman. While the Committee recommends that this responsibility be assigned to the JCS Chairman, it does not intend to preclude the Chairman from assigning this specific responsibility to the JCS Vice Chairman as the President's Blue Ribbon Commission on Defense Management has recommended:

The Vice Chairman should assist the Chairman by representing the interests of the CINCs [CINCs is an abbreviation for Commanders in Chief of the unified and specified combatant commands] * * * (page 11)

Sec. 164. Commanders of combatant commands: assignment; powers and duties

Section 164 of Chapter 6 would prescribe the assignment and powers and duties of the commanders of the unified and specified combatant commands. In particular, the Committee recommends in this section that the powers and command authority of the combat-