

ant commanders be significantly expanded and strengthened. These commanders currently have insufficient power and authority to effectively carry out their vast responsibilities. One of the principal purposes of this bill is to correct this serious deficiency. The President's Blue Ribbon Commission on Defense Management reached a similar conclusion:

The measure of command now accorded the nation's combatant commanders is not always sufficient for our forces to perform with high confidence of success and coherence of effort. Unified Commanders require broader authority than "operational command," as now understood and practiced, in order to meet the heavy responsibilities that their missions place on them. (page 10)

Subsection (a) of section 164 would specify that the President may assign to serve as unified commanders only officers who have served in one or more joint duty positions for a substantial period of time. Subsection (a) would, however, authorize the President to waive this requirement if he determines such action is necessary in the national interest. This requirement is based upon the Committee's belief that the unified combatant commanders should be prepared by previous joint experience for their responsibilities.

Subsection (b) of section 164 would clearly specify that the combatant commanders are directly responsible to the Secretary of Defense. This specification is designed to eliminate lingering confusion over this relationship.

Subsection (c) of section 164 would prescribe the basic responsibilities of a combatant commander. These responsibilities are: (1) to maintain the security of his command and protect the United States, its possessions, and bases against attack or hostile incursion; (2) to carry out assigned missions, tasks, and responsibilities; and (3) to assign tasks to, and direct coordination among, his subordinate commanders so as to ensure unity of effort in the accomplishment of the missions assigned to his command. These responsibilities are included among the primary responsibilities of combatant commanders in JCS Publication 2, "Unified Action Armed Forces."

#### *Command Authority of Combatant Commanders*

Subsection (d) would give the combatant commanders full operational command over all assigned forces as currently provided in subsection (b) of repealed section 124. However, unlike the current provision, subsection (d) would define full operational command. Full operational command would be specified as including (1) all aspects of military operations and joint training and (2) authority as assigned by the Secretary of Defense for coordination and approval of those aspects of administration and support, including planning for wartime logistics, necessary for the accomplishment of the missions assigned to the command. This specification of full operational command would substantially expand the command authority currently exercised by the unified and specified combatant commanders. Currently, the combatant commanders do not have authority over joint training or over any aspect of support and administration. The Committee believes that the expanded command au-