

forces assigned to the command. The requirement for officers from each Military Department with assigned forces is designed to ensure that the combatant commander has staff support that can provide a comprehensive understanding of the tactics, techniques, capabilities, needs, and limitations of the forces from each Service. Paragraph (2) would provide that all joint staff officers in the grade of colonel or Navy captain and above are selected only with the concurrence of the unified combatant commander and only in accordance with procedures established by the Secretary of Defense. The Committee has specified only the unified combatant commander's authority to select these members of his joint staff. Through the normal evaluation system, the combatant commander already has the necessary authority to motivate those joint staff members who report directly to him.

Subsection (h) of section 164 would provide authority for combatant commanders to suspend from duty and recommend the reassignment of any officer assigned to their commands. While this power is inherent in command authority, the Committee believes that it would be useful to state clearly that it applies to combatant commanders with officers from more than one Service assigned to their commands.

*Sec. 165. Combatant commands: administration and support*

Section 165 relates to the administration and support of forces assigned to combatant commands. Subsection (a) would assign to the Secretary of Defense the responsibility of providing for the administration and support of forces assigned to each combatant command. As the operational and administrative chains of command are joined only at the level of the Secretary of Defense, it is appropriate that he have clear authority to provide for administrative support of the operational dimension of DoD.

Subsection (b) of section 165 would continue the current responsibility of the Secretaries of the Military Departments to provide administration and support for the forces that they have assigned to the combatant commands. This responsibility is to be exercised, however, in a manner consistent with the authority assigned by the Secretary of Defense to the combatant commanders for coordination and approval of certain aspects of administration and support.

Subsection (c) of section 165 would provide a new authority to the Secretary of Defense. It would authorize the Secretary to assign the responsibility or any part of the responsibility for the administration and support of forces assigned to the combatant commands to other DoD components. This authority would be provided primarily to permit the Secretary of Defense to assign such responsibility to Defense Agencies. As the Defense Agencies provide for the performance of a supply or service activity which is common to more than one Military Department, the Secretary of Defense may determine that such support could be more effectively, economically, or efficiently provided directly to the combatant commands.