

In January 1985, Senator Barry Goldwater (R-Arizona) and Senator Sam Nunn (D-Georgia), the Chairman and Ranking Minority Member, gave increased emphasis to the Senate Armed Services Committee's ongoing study effort. In May 1985, a Task Force on Defense Organization, co-chaired by Senator Goldwater and Senator Nunn, was formed with nine committee members. The task force reviewed the drafts of the staff study and provided guidance for its completion. On October 16, 1985, the Committee staff's 645-page study, entitled "Defense Organization: The Need for Change" (Senate Print 99-86), was publicly released. During November and December 1985, 10 hearings were held on this study during which testimony was taken from 27 witnesses.

In 1985, the Investigations Subcommittee of the House Committee on Armed Services conducted a third series of hearings on JCS reorganization. The resulting bill, H.R. 3622, the Joint Chiefs of Staff Reorganization Act of 1985, passed the House of Representatives by a vote of 383-27 on November 20, 1985.

Based upon the Committee staff's study, related hearings and meetings, and H.R. 3622, the Committee staff prepared a bill for consideration by the Senate Committee on Armed Services. Markup of the bill, entitled the "Department of Defense Reorganization Act of 1986," began on February 4, 1986, and after 14 sessions, was completed on March 6th when the Committee approved the bill by a 19-0 vote. During its review, the Committee considered 80 written amendments and numerous oral amendments. This bill was substantially improved as a result of these amendments.

While the Senate Committee on Armed Services was conducting its markup sessions, Members of the House Committee on Armed Services introduced on February 26, 1986 four bills relating to provisions of the Senate Committee's bill. These bills were:

H.R. 4234, Armed Forces Combatant Command Reorganization Act

H.R. 4235, Joint Officer Capability Act

H.R. 4236, Military Department Reorganization Act of 1986

H.R. 4237, a bill relating to improved oversight of Defense Agencies

The Investigations Subcommittee of the House Committee on Armed Services conducted hearings on these four bills during late February and early March. On March 11, 1986, Members of the House Committee introduced H.R. 4370, entitled the "Department of Defense Reorganization Act of 1986." H.R. 4370 consolidated the four separate defense reorganization bills introduced during February 1986. The Investigations Subcommittee plans to markup H.R. 4370 in the near future.

On February 28, 1986, "An Interim Report to the President" was submitted by the President's Blue Ribbon Commission on Defense Management, headed by Mr. David Packard. During its markup sessions, the Senate Committee on Armed Services evaluated the Packard Commission's recommendations and found them to be consistent with the provisions of this bill.

This bill is the result of more than 3 years of deliberate and comprehensive research and study by the Senate Committee on Armed Services. The Committee has also benefited from an equally vigorous effort by the House Committee on Armed Services.