

(D) by inserting after paragraph (7) the following new paragraph (8):

“(8) formulate program recommendations and budget proposals to the Secretary during each budget cycle based on—

“(A) guidance provided by the Secretary;

“(B) program and budget proposals submitted by the commanders of the unified and specified combatant commands; and

“(C) recommendations (as appropriate) submitted by the military departments and other components of the Department of Defense; and”.

EXPLANATION OF THE COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

An amendment added by the committee would require the chairman, subject to the overall authority and direction of the President and the Secretary of Defense, to submit program recommendations and budget proposals to the Secretary based on (1) the Secretary's guidance, (2) program and budget proposals submitted by the unified and specified commanders and, (3) recommendations, as appropriate, from other Defense Department Components.

H.R. 3622

The committee reported H.R. 3622, to supersede H.R. 2265, the original Joint Chiefs of Staff legislation referred to the committee.

PURPOSE

The fundamental purpose of this bill is to refine the role of the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. The bill would enable the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, subject to the authority and direction of the President and the Secretary of Defense, to transcend the service-orientation of the respective service chiefs to provide clear-cut, objective military advice to the national command authorities. The bill would achieve its purpose by assigning to the chairman—in his individual capacity—certain responsibilities currently assigned to the Joint Chiefs collectively. In addition to acting as spokesman for the collective entity, the bill would require that the chairman exercise his personal professional judgment as the principal military advisor to the President, the National Security Council, and the Secretary of Defense and as the head of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. The bill would require the chairman to consult with the other members of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and with the commanders of the unified and specified commands as appropriate.

The bill does not seek to alter the basic structure of which the Joint Chiefs of Staff are a part. The milieu in which the Joint Chiefs of Staff and its chairman operate would remain subject to the overall authority and direction of the President and the Secretary of Defense. The bill dwells on aspects of the joint military organization and the relationships within that organization among the chairman, the other members of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the Joint Staff, and the unified and specified commanders.