

§ 124. Combatant commands: establishment; composition; functions; administration and support

(a) With the advice and assistance of *the Chairman* of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the President, through the Secretary of Defense, shall—

(1) establish unified combatant commands or specified combatant commands to perform military missions; and

(2) prescribe the force structure of those commands.

(b) The military departments shall assign forces to combatant commands established under this section to perform the missions of those commands. A force so assigned is under the full operational command of the commander of the command to which it is assigned. It may be transferred from the command to which it is assigned only by authority of the Secretary and under procedures prescribed by the Secretary with the approval of the President. A force not so assigned remains, for all purposes, in the military department concerned.

(c)(1) Combatant commands established under this section are responsible to the President and to the Secretary for such military missions as may be assigned to them by the Secretary with the approval of the President.

(2) Subject to the authority, direction, and control of the Secretary, the Chairman **[acts as the spokesman for the commanders of the combatant commands]** *supervises the commanders of the combatant commands and acts as their spokesman* on operational requirements.

(d) Subject to the authority, direction, and control of the Secretary, each military department is responsible for the administration of forces assigned by that department to combatant commands established under this section. The Secretary shall assign the responsibility for the support of forces assigned to those commands to one or more of the military departments.

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CHAPTER 5—JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF

Sec.

141. Composition; functions

142. Chairman

142a. *Deputy Chairman.*

143. Joint Staff

§ 141. Composition; functions

[(a) There are in the Department of Defense the Joint Chiefs of Staff consisting of—

[(1) a Chairman;

[(2) the Chief of Staff of the Army;

[(3) the Chief of Naval Operations;

[(4) the Chief of Staff of the Air Force; and

[(5) the Commandant of the Marine Corps.**]**

(a) There are in the Department of Defense the Joint Chiefs of Staff, headed by the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. In addition to the Chairman, the Joint Chiefs of Staff consist of the following: