

“CHAPTER 6—COMBATANT COMMANDS

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“§ 161. Combatant commands: establishment

President of U.S.

“(a) UNIFIED AND SPECIFIED COMBATANT COMMANDS.—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 and specified combatant commands to perform military missions; and

“(2) prescribe the force structure of those commands.

“(b) PERIODIC REVIEW.—(1) The Chairman periodically (and not less often than every two years) shall—

“(A) review the missions, responsibilities (including geographic boundaries), and force structure of each combatant command; and

“(B) recommend to the President, through the Secretary of Defense, any changes to such missions, responsibilities, and force structures as may be necessary.

“(2) Except during time of hostilities or imminent threat of hostilities, the President shall notify Congress not more than 60 days after—

“(A) establishing a new combatant command; or

“(B) significantly revising the missions, responsibilities, or force structure of an existing combatant command.

“(c) DEFINITIONS.—In this chapter:

“(1) The term ‘unified combatant command’ means a military command which has broad, continuing missions and which is composed of forces from two or more military departments.

“(2) The term ‘specified combatant command’ means a military command which has broad, continuing missions and which is normally composed of forces from a single military department.

“(3) The term ‘combatant command’ means a unified combatant command or a specified combatant command.

“§ 162. Combatant commands: assigned forces; chain of command

“(a) ASSIGNMENT OF FORCES.—(1) Except as provided in paragraph (2), the Secretaries of the military departments shall assign all forces under their jurisdiction to unified and specified combatant commands to perform missions assigned to those commands. Such assignments shall be made as directed by the Secretary of Defense, including direction as to the command to which forces are to be assigned. The Secretary of Defense shall ensure that such assignments are consistent with the force structure prescribed by the President for each combatant command.

“(2) Except as otherwise directed by the Secretary of Defense, forces to be assigned by the Secretaries of the military departments to the combatant commands under paragraph (1) do not include forces assigned to carry out functions of the Secretary of a military department listed in sections 3013(b), 5013(b), and 8013(b) of this title.

President of U.S.