

thority to conduct military operations. Therefore, the ambiguous language concerning the Navy would be removed from the law, and the Navy would be placed on the same footing as the other three services.

The bill would require that the total number of headquarters staff positions not increase as a result of implementing the provisions of this legislation. Instead, the bill specifies that the realignment of authorities, responsibilities, and functions should result in a corresponding realignment of the various staffs involved. (Title IV would require a net reduction of 15 percent in the military headquarters staffs.)

The bill restates for completeness two provisions that appear in current law. One provision specifies that the unified and specified commanders are responsible to the President and to the Secretary of Defense for such missions as may be assigned to them by the Secretary with the approval of the President. This provision establishes the national military chain of command. The other provision assigns the Secretary of each military department responsibility for the administration of forces assigned by that department to combatant commands, subject to the authority, direction, and control of the Secretary of Defense.

TITLE II—DEFENSE AGENCIES

Title II would require a fundamental reassessment of the defense agencies. It also contains other provisions intended to focus defense agencies with a combat support mission on the wartime requirements of that mission.

The bill would continue the authority of the Secretary of Defense to create a defense agency when he determines that an agency would more effectively, economically, or efficiently provide a supply or service activity common to more than one military department. The bill would require periodic review to ensure that the rationale for each agency's establishment (effectiveness, economy, or efficiency) continues to apply. Moreover, the legislation would require that the initial review consist of a fundamental reappraisal of the functions and organizational structure of the defense agencies to determine whether the existing allocation of functions to, and organizational structure of, the defense agencies meets the statutory criteria for their establishment, to examine alternative allocations of authority and functions now assigned to defense agencies, and to examine other related matters including improvement in the application of computer systems to defense agency functions.

Several defense agencies that are assigned support and service responsibilities for the unified and specified commands would be designated "combat support agencies." The legislation includes provisions intended to ensure that these agencies are prepared to fulfill their wartime missions.

The chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff would be required to submit periodic reports to the Secretary of Defense on the combat support agencies that include a determination of the responsiveness and readiness of each agency to support operating forces in the event of war. In preparing the report, the chairman would be