

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES,  
*Washington, DC, February 11, 1986.*

HON. CASPAR WEINBERGER,  
*Secretary of Defense,*  
*The Pentagon, Washington, DC.*

DEAR MR. SECRETARY: The Investigations Subcommittee of the House Armed Services Committee will hold hearings on the organization of the Department of Defense (DOD) beginning immediately after the February congressional recess. It is intended that these hearings be concluded in time for the subcommittee to draft legislation, if such action is deemed necessary, for the consideration of the full committee during the mark-up of the FY 1987 Defense Authorization Bill.

As you are aware, the House has already passed a Joint Chiefs of Staff reorganization bill. The purpose of the organization hearings this year is to consider other elements of the defense structure. Specifically, the hearings will focus on the following areas:

(1) The unified and specified commands. The subcommittee will seek to determine whether the unified commanders (CINCs) should be strengthened and, if so, in what ways. The subcommittee will examine the adequacy of the command authority exercised by the CINCs; whether each CINC should have greater control over the chain of command within this command; the assignment of forces to the combatant commands; the adequacy of arrangements for combatant command support and administration; whether the CINCs have sufficient influence in DOD resource allocation decisions, the organizational structure of their commands, and the training, equipping, and structuring of their forces; whether each CINC should have his own "operational force" budget for selected training, operations, C3I, etc.; the adequacy of CINC staffs; the CINCs' capability to evaluate the adequacy of their forces to accomplish assigned missions; and arrangements for reviewing and altering the unified command structure to meet changing worldwide conditions.

(2) The military personnel system as it relates to officers who perform joint military duties. The subcommittee has received testimony over the years since the JCS hearings began in 1982 suggesting that the education, training, and experience of joint officers has been insufficient to equip them for the crucial tasks they perform. Some witnesses also claimed that the subsequent careers of joint officers in terms of promotions, assignments, and other factors affecting future advancement and retention have not, as a group, equalled those of their peers who avoided joint duty. The subcommittee will explore various measures to institutionalize the recognition of joint duty as among the most important of assignments including: creation of a joint speciality similar to that proposed in the *Report for the Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff by the Chairman's Special Study Group*, April 1982; giving the joint military arena an official voice through the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff in service promotions and assignment of officers who have served in joint billets; requiring that a joint assignment be a prerequisite for promotion to star rank; and revamping professional