

their administration and support is provided. The committee does not intend this legislation to interfere with or make difficult the many actions, such as readiness reporting, the providing of guidance for individual and unit training, and the introduction of new equipment, that are necessary for the execution of these military department and service responsibilities. The committee intends, however, to ensure that the execution of all these actions by the services and military departments takes place in a manner entirely consistent with the responsibilities of the unified commander for the forces assigned to him and with his authority over those forces.

The unified commander's responsibilities, and his authority, must be dominant and overriding; he needs full and unswerving support from the military departments and services to meet them. The committee intends this legislation to ensure both that the unified commander has the full authority he needs to meet these responsibilities and that service and military department actions take place within the framework of that unified command responsibility and authority.

UNIFIED AND SPECIFIED COMMANDERS' "OPERATIONS" BUDGET

Section 165 of the new chapter 6 would require that the Secretary of Defense include a separate budget proposal for unified and specified commanders in the annual Department of Defense budget submission to Congress. The Secretary of Defense is given complete discretion over the contents of the combatant commanders' budgets. The bill, however, indicates several activities "for which funding may be requested . . .": joint exercises, force training, contingencies, and selected operations.

The committee recommends that the unified and specified commanders have an "operations" budget for two reasons. First, on the merits, the argument for a limited combatant commanders budget—on the order of far less than 1 percent of the defense budget—is that the theater commander should control resources to focus the activities of his command that directly affect his ability to accomplish his mission. A second reason for the combatant commanders to be given a budget is that influence within the Department of Defense comes with control over resources. At present, the combatant commanders control no resources. The committee is recommending in Title I that the Congress increase the influence of the unified and specified commanders. Giving them control of resources, however limited, would be an effective way to contribute to that objective.

JOINT COMMANDERS COUNCIL

Subsection 167(a) of the new chapter 6 would establish a council consisting of the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and the commanders of each of the unified and specified commands. The council would advise the chairman on the execution of his responsibilities, and the President and Secretary of Defense on matters on which they requested advice.

Witnesses appearing before the committee have emphasized that those who will be charged with carrying out a decision should provide advice to decision makers because the advice they render