

It [the Navy] is responsible for the preparation of Naval forces necessary for the effective prosecution of war except as otherwise assigned and is generally responsible for naval reconnaissance, anti-submarine warfare, and protection of shipping.

Each of the other services is charged with a responsibility comparable to the first part of the sentence. None of the other services, however, is assigned a responsibility in law comparable to that contained in the second part of the sentence. The committee believes that the statement that the Navy "is generally responsible for naval reconnaissance, anti-submarine warfare, and protection of shipping" could be interpreted to authorize the Navy to conduct military operations autonomously, i.e., independent of the command authority of any unified or specified commander. Because a major purpose of this bill is to focus the services on preparing forces and to ensure the unified and specified commanders' authority to conduct operations, the ambiguous language concerning the Navy would be deleted by this bill. It is not the intent of the committee, however, with this change to title 10, to effect any alteration of the roles performed by the Navy.

NET ASSESSMENT

Subsection 102(a) of the bill would add a provision to section 141(c) of Title 10 that would make the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff responsible for performing net assessments. Subsection 102(c) of the bill would add a provision to section 143 of Title 10 that would make the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff responsible for ensuring that the Joint Staff has the capability to assist the chairman in performing his net assessment responsibilities. Subsection 165(f) of the new chapter 6 of Title 10 would ensure that unified and specified commanders have access to net assessments conducted within the Department of Defense; would require that the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff establish procedures whereby the Joint Staff would assist the combatant commanders with respect to net assessments and the commanders, in turn, could contribute to the development of Joint Staff net assessments; and would require other Department of Defense organizations to assist combatant commanders with net assessments.

The committee believes that defense decisionmakers should act on the basis of a balanced appreciation of the threats to U.S. interests and military forces posed by potential adversaries, on the one hand, and the capabilities the United States and its allies possess to counter those threats, on the other. In 1970 the Blue Ribbon Defense Panel recommended creation of a net assessment capability "for the purpose of conducting and reporting net assessments of United States and foreign military capabilities and potentials." The Packard Commission recently recommended, in effect, that the existing Department of Defense net assessment capability be expanded and focused on the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff in light of his increased strategic planning responsibilities.

At the direction of the Secretary of Defense, the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, with the assistance of the other members of the JCS and the CINCs, and in consultation with the