

the Secretary of each military department conduct separate, independent studies and submit them to the Secretary of Defense for his use in fulfilling his requirements under this section. For the same reason, the legislation would require, as a part of the Secretary's study, consultation with the directors of the Defense Agencies and other DOD officials as the Secretary considers appropriate. The committee intends that independent positions of DOD elements be conveyed to the Secretary on the several matters to be considered set out in subsection 202(d) and in section 203 of the bill. The committee also intends that the Congress receive each of the materials specified in section 202 and section 203 as required by subsection 202(f).

CAPABILITIES OF DEFENSE AGENCIES THAT SUPPORT COMBAT FORCES

Several defense agencies provide services or support to combat forces. These "combat support agencies" would be so designated in new section 195 of the bill: the Defense Communications Agency, Defense Intelligence Agency, Defense Logistics Agency, and Defense Mapping Agency. One of the principal criticisms of defense agencies is that they are not sufficiently responsive to their customers—the services, combatant commands, and other Department of Defense organizations for whom the agencies perform supply or service functions. The combat support agencies have been criticized for being peacetime oriented organizations, too independent of combat-related concerns. This allegation is particularly troublesome to the committee. If the combat-support agencies fail to perform adequately in a crisis or in wartime, the consequences for U.S. forces could be disastrous.

New section 193 of the bill contains several measures intended to ensure that the combat support agencies are responsive to the requirements of their combat related missions. The section would require periodic evaluation of the readiness and crisis planning of each agency by the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, participation of the combat support agencies in joint training exercises, and development of an agency readiness reporting system similar to that in effect for the services.

The National Security Agency responds to other government entities outside of the Department of Defense, including the Director of Central Intelligence, as well as the Secretary of Defense. In other respects, however, the National Security Agency has the characteristics of a combat support agency in that its responsibilities include support of combat commanders. Consequently, although the legislation would not designate the National Security Agency as a combat support agency, the legislation would include appropriate provisions in Title II so that the National Security Agency could be included in the review of defense agencies and to ensure that the combat support functions performed by the Agency respond to the needs of combat commanders.

POLICY COUNCILS

As a further response to the criticism that the defense agencies are not sufficiently responsive to the customers they are chartered to serve, the committee considered including in the legislation a