

§ 143. Joint Staff

(a)(1) * * *

* * * * *

(f) The Chairman shall ensure that the Joint Staff is organized and staffed so as to provide the Chairman the necessary staff expertise to enable him to carry out section 141(a)(14) of this title.

CHAPTER 6—COMBATANT COMMANDS

161. Establishment.

162. Forces assigned to combatant commands.

163. Functions and supervision.

164. Administration and support of assigned forces.

165. Unified and specified commands: program and budget proposals; net assessments.

166. Combatant command subordinate commanders and CINC staff officers: selection and tenure.

167. Joint Commanders Council.

§ 161. Establishment

(a) UNIFIED AND SPECIFIED COMMANDS.—With the advice and assistance of the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the President, through the Secretary of Defense, shall—

(1) establish unified combatant commands and specified combatant commands to perform military missions; and

(2) prescribe the force structure of those commands.

(b) SPECIAL COMBATANT COMMANDS.—(1) If the President determines that a situation warrants the creation for a specific military mission of a force outside the existing unified and specified commands, the President, with the advice and assistance of the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and acting through the Secretary of Defense, may—

(A) establish a special combatant command to respond to that situation; and

(B) prescribe the mission, force structure, and support and administrative arrangements of that command.

(2) In the case of any such special combatant command, the President, with the advice and assistance of the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and acting through the Secretary of Defense, shall prescribe the chain of command from the President and Secretary of Defense to the commander of that command. Such chain of command shall be the shortest practicable for each force deployed consistent with proper supervision and support.

(c) PERIODIC REVIEW.—(1) The Chairman shall periodically (and not less often than every other year)—

(A) review the overall structure of the unified and specified combatant commands (including the relationship among their respective functions, missions, areas of responsibility, and chains of command); and

(B) recommend to the President, through the Secretary of Defense, any changes that the Chairman considers necessary or appropriate.

(2) The President shall promptly inform Congress of any action taken in response to recommendations made by the Chairman under paragraph (1)(B).