

sponses to, and management of, any crisis, however unique, that may occur.

Sec. 162. Combatant commands: assigned forces; chain of command

*Assignment of Forces*

The Senate amendment contained a provision (section 112) that would require all combatant forces of the Military Departments to be assigned to combatant commands, unless otherwise directed by the Secretary of Defense. This provision would also require each Secretary of a Military Department, with the approval of the Secretary of Defense and consistent with the force structure prescribed by the President for each combatant command, to assign combatant forces of his Military Department to combatant commands.

The House amendment contained a provision (section 101) that would require the Secretaries of the Military Departments to assign all forces under their jurisdiction, except for forces assigned to the recruiting, organizing, training, or supplying of the armed forces, to combatant commands. This provision would also require such assignments to be made as directed by the Secretary of Defense, including direction as to the command to which forces are to be assigned. In addition, this provision would specify that a force not assigned to a combatant command remains in the Military Department concerned.

The Senate recedes with amendments to: (1) require the Secretary of Defense to ensure that assignments of forces to combatant commands are consistent with the force structure prescribed by the President; (2) provide that forces required to be assigned to combatant commands do not include forces assigned to carry out the functions of the Secretaries of the Military Departments; and (3) delete the specification that a force not assigned to a combatant command remains in the Military Department concerned. The conferees agreed to the third amendment because this specification was unnecessary.

The House amendment contained a provision (section 101) that would require the commanders of combatant commands (hereafter referred to as "combatant commanders") and the Secretaries of the Military Departments, as directed by the Secretary of Defense, to assign forces under their jurisdiction to special combatant commands.

The Senate amendment contained no similar provision.

The House recedes.

The House amendment contained a provision (section 101) that would provide, unless otherwise directed by the Secretary of Defense, that all forces operating within the geographic area of a unified combatant command would be assigned to and under the command of the commander of that command. This provision would also provide that this requirement would apply to forces of specified or special combatant commands only as prescribed by the Secretary of Defense.

The Senate amendment contained no similar provision.

The Senate recedes with an amendment to delete the portion of the House provision relating to special combatant commands.