

The Senate recedes. The conferees determined that these basic responsibilities would be more appropriately prescribed by administrative regulation.

*Command Authority of Combatant Commanders*

The Senate amendment contained a provision (section 112) that would assign to each combatant commander the following authority over forces assigned to his command:

- (1) exercising full operational command over assigned forces, including all aspects of military operations and joint training,
- (2) prescribing the chain of command to, and organizational relationship among, the commands and forces within the command; and
- (3) coordinating and approving, as assigned by the Secretary of Defense after consultation with the Secretaries of the Military Departments and the combatant commander, those aspects of administration and support necessary for accomplishment of the missions assigned to the command.

The House amendment contained a provision (section 101) that would assign to each combatant commander the following authority over forces assigned to his command:

- (1) exercising command over assigned forces, meaning the authority to give authoritative direction to subordinate forces necessary to accomplish assigned missions;
- (2) training assigned forces; and
- (3) employing assigned forces to accomplish assigned missions.

The conferees determined that neither the term "full operational command" nor the term "command", as currently used within the Department of Defense, accurately described the authority that combatant commanders need to carry out effectively their duties and responsibilities. Accordingly, the conferees agreed to avoid the use of either term in the conference substitute amendment, but instead to specify the authority that the conferees believe a combatant commander needs.

The conference substitute amendment would provide that, unless otherwise directed by the President or the Secretary of Defense, the authority, direction, and control of the combatant commander over assigned commands and forces would include the command functions of:

- (1) giving authoritative direction to subordinate commands and forces necessary to carry out assigned missions, including authoritative direction over all aspects of military operations, joint training, and logistics;
- (2) prescribing the chain of command to the commands and forces within the command;
- (3) organizing commands and forces within the command as he considers necessary to carry out assigned missions;
- (4) employing forces within the command as he considers necessary to carry out assigned missions;
- (5) assigning command functions to subordinate commanders;
- (6) coordinating and approving those aspects of administration and support (including control of resources and equip-