

### *Combatant Command Staff*

The Senate amendment contained a provision (section 112) that would require each unified combatant command to have a joint staff with officers in key positions of responsibility from each Military Department having forces assigned to the command.

The House amendment contained no similar provision.

The House recedes with two amendments. The first House amendment requires the specified combatant commands to have such a staff as well. This provision of the conference substitute amendment does not use the term "joint staff" as was used in the Senate amendment. Because the House amendment broadened this provision to include specified combatant commands, the term "staff" is more appropriate. Under certain circumstances, a specified combatant command may not have a joint staff.

The second House amendment specifies that positions of responsibility on the staff of the combatant command shall be filled by officers from each of the Armed Forces having significant forces assigned to the command. If significant forces of the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, or Air Force are assigned to the combatant command, the unified or specified combatant commander should be assisted by officers in positions of responsibility from that Armed Force.

The Senate amendment contained a provision (section 112) that would require that all officers on the staff of a unified combatant command in the grade of colonel or Navy captain and above may be selected only with the concurrence of the unified combatant commander and only in accordance with procedures established by the Secretary of Defense.

The House amendment contained a provision (section 101) that would require the selection or the selection for recommendation to the President of all officers on the staffs of a unified or specified combatant command to be made by the combatant commander. The selection would be made from a list of officers submitted by the Secretary of the Military Department concerned, with the number of officers on such list to be specified by the combatant commander.

The House recedes with amendments to apply the Senate provision to the staffs of specified combatant commands as well as to the staffs of unified combatant commands, to apply the Senate provision to officers of all grades, to require the concurrence of the combatant commander in the selection or recommendation for nomination of each officer, and to provide authority for the Secretary of Defense to waive this requirement.

### *Authority to Suspend Subordinates*

The Senate amendment contained a provision (section 112) that would authorize combatant commanders to suspend from duty and recommend the reassignment of any officer assigned to their commands.

The House amendment contained a provision (section 101) that would make the tenure of an officer assigned to a combatant command subject to the approval of the combatant commander.