

The House recedes. For clarification, the authority of a combatant commander provided by this provision of the conference substitute amendment would apply to each officer of his command at any level. The conferees agreed that procedures required by this provision pertain solely to the relationships between a combatant commander and the Military Department concerned with respect to service by an officer in a combatant command. The conferees agreed that nothing in this provision confers on an officer assigned to a combatant command any procedural rights concerning suspension from duty or reassignment.

#### Sec. 165. Combatant commands: administration and support

The Senate amendment contained a provision (section 112) that would assign to the Secretary of Defense, with the advice and assistance of the JCS Chairman, responsibility for providing for the administration and support of forces assigned to each combatant command.

The House amendment contained a provision (section 101) that would require that the functions of the Secretary of Defense regarding the administration and support of forces assigned to combatant commands be carried out with the advice and assistance of the JCS Chairman.

The House recedes.

The Senate amendment contained a provision (section 112) that would continue the current responsibility of the Secretaries of the Military Departments, subject to the authority, direction, and control of the Secretary of Defense, to provide administration and support for the forces that they have assigned to combatant commands. This provision would require this responsibility to be exercised consistent with the authority assigned to the combatant commanders for coordinating and approving certain aspects of administration and support.

The House amendment contained a similar provision (section 101) except that it would only cover the administration of forces assigned to combatant commands and that it would not make the exercise of the responsibility of the Secretaries of the Military Departments consistent with the authority assigned to combatant commanders.

The House recedes. The conferees agreed that, if there is a disagreement as to whether a particular disciplinary matter should be handled by a Military Department or a combatant command, the Secretary of Defense has ample authority to resolve the matter with respect to a particular case or class of cases.

The Senate amendment contained a provision (section 112) that would authorize the Secretary of Defense, after consultation with the Secretaries of the Military Departments, to assign responsibility (or any part of the responsibility) for the administration and support of forces assigned to combatant commands to other components of the Department of Defense. Such responsibility would be exercised under the authority, direction, and control of the Secretary of Defense and consistent with the authority assigned to combatant commanders.