

The House amendment contained a provision (section 101) that would authorize the Secretary of Defense to assign responsibility (or any part of the responsibility) for the support of forces assigned to a combatant command to one or more of the Military Departments, other agencies of the Department of Defense, or the combatant commander concerned. Unless the Secretary of Defense directs otherwise, the Secretary of each Military Department would be responsible for the support of forces assigned by that department to combatant commands.

The House recedes with an amendment to clarify that other components of the Department of Defense include Defense Agencies and combatant commands.

The House amendment contained a provision (section 101) that would provide that a combatant commander may submit to the Secretary of Defense a proposal for his command to perform a support function.

The Senate amendment contained no similar provision.

The House recedes. The conferees agreed that combatant commanders should actively identify support functions that their commands should, in their judgment, perform and forward appropriate recommendations to the Secretary of Defense. However, the conferees believed that this provision of the House amendment need not be specified in law.

Sec. 166. Combatant commands: budget proposals

The House amendment contained a provision (section 101) that would require the Secretary of Defense, after consultation with the JCS Chairman, to submit to the Congress a separate budget proposal for activities of the combatant commands which may include joint exercises, force training, contingencies, and selected operations.

The Senate amendment contained no similar provision.

The Senate recedes.

The House amendment contained a provision (section 101) that would assign various responsibilities to the combatant commanders, the JCS Chairman, and the Secretary of Defense for submission and preparation of, and guidance for, the budget proposal for the activities of combatant commands.

The Senate amendment contained no similar provision.

The House recedes. The conferees believed that this provision of the House amendment was too detailed to include in statute. The conferees agreed, however, that the procedure specified in the House provision should be followed. In particular, the Chairman should review and analyze requests submitted by the combatant commanders, establish priorities in accordance with guidance provided by the Secretary, and recommend a budget for each command.

The House amendment contained a provision (section 101) that would specify that combatant commanders may have access to any net assessment conducted by an organization of the Department of Defense, may request assistance in preparing net assessments, and must include the results of net assessments performed by their commands in certain submissions.