

man does not confer any command authority on the Chairman and does not alter the responsibility of the commanders of the combatant commands prescribed in section 164(b)(2) of this title.

"(2) Subject to the authority, direction, and control of the Secretary of Defense, the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff serves as the spokesman for the commanders of the combatant commands, especially on the operational requirements of their commands. In performing such function, the Chairman shall—

"(A) confer with and obtain information from the commanders of the combatant commands with respect to the requirements of their commands;

"(B) evaluate and integrate such information;

"(C) advise and make recommendations to the Secretary of Defense with respect to the requirements of the combatant commands, individually and collectively; and

"(D) communicate, as appropriate, the requirements of the combatant commands to other elements of the Department of Defense.

"§ 164. Commanders of combatant commands: assignment; powers and duties

"(a) ASSIGNMENT AS COMBATANT COMMANDER.—(1) The President may assign an officer to serve as the commander of a unified or specified combatant command only if the officer—

"(A) has the joint specialty under section 661 of this title; and

"(B) has served in at least one joint duty assignment (as defined under section 668(b) of this title) as a general or flag officer.

"(2) The President may waive paragraph (1) in the case of an officer if the President determines that such action is necessary in the national interest.

"(b) RESPONSIBILITIES OF COMBATANT COMMANDERS.—(1) The commander of a combatant command is responsible to the President and to the Secretary of Defense for the performance of missions assigned to that command by the President or by the Secretary with the approval of the President.

"(2) Subject to the direction of the President, the commander of a combatant command—

"(A) performs his duties under the authority, direction, and control of the Secretary of Defense; and

"(B) is directly responsible to the Secretary for the preparedness of the command to carry out missions assigned to the command.

"(c) COMMAND AUTHORITY OF COMBATANT COMMANDERS.—(1) Unless otherwise directed by the President or the Secretary of Defense, the authority, direction, and control of the commander of a combatant command with respect to the commands and forces assigned to that command include the command functions of—

"(A) giving authoritative direction to subordinate commands and forces necessary to carry out missions assigned to the command, including authoritative direction over all aspects of military operations, joint training, and logistics;

"(B) prescribing the chain of command to the commands and forces within the command;