

geographical combatant commands that requires the commanders to collect sufficient and relevant data regarding the effectiveness of intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance measures in a manner that will—

“(1) enable the standardized, objective evaluation and analysis of that data with respect to the use and effectiveness of the intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance capabilities provided to the commanders; and

“(2) support recommendations made by the organization established under subsection (a)(2) to the Secretary of Defense regarding the allocation of intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance resources of the Department of Defense.”

#### INCREASED FLEXIBILITY IN USE OF FUNDS FOR JOINT STAFF EXERCISES

Pub. L. 109-364, div. A, title X, §1052, Oct. 17, 2006, 120 Stat. 2396, provided that:

“(a) IN GENERAL.—Amounts available to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff for joint staff exercises may be available for any expenses as follows:

“(1) Expenses of the Armed Forces in connection with such exercises, including expense relating to self-deploying watercraft under the jurisdiction of a military department.

“(2) Expenses relating to the costs of port support activities in connection with such exercises, including transportation and port handling.

“(3) Expenses relating to the breakout and operation of prepositioned watercraft and lighterage for joint logistics and over the shore exercises in connection with such exercises.

“(b) SUPPLEMENT NOT SUPPLANT.—Any amounts made available by the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff under subsection (a) for expenses covered by that subsection are in addition to any other amounts available under law for such expenses.”

#### ASSISTANTS TO CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF FOR NATIONAL GUARD MATTERS AND FOR RESERVE MATTERS

Pub. L. 105-85, div. A, title IX, §901, Nov. 18, 1997, 111 Stat. 1853, as amended by Pub. L. 109-163, div. A, title V, §515(h), Jan. 6, 2006, 119 Stat. 3237, which established the positions of Assistant to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff for National Guard Matters and Assistant to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff for Reserve Matters within the Joint Staff, was repealed and restated as former section 155a of this title by Pub. L. 112-239, §511(a), (c), Jan. 2, 2013, 126 Stat. 1717, 1718.

#### [§ 155a. Repealed. Pub. L. 114-328, div. A, title V, § 502(a)(1), Dec. 23, 2016, 130 Stat. 2102]

Section, added Pub. L. 112-239, div. A, title V, §511(a), Jan. 2, 2013, 126 Stat. 1717, related to Assistants to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff for National Guard matters and Reserve matters.

#### Editorial Notes

##### PRIOR PROVISIONS

Provisions similar to those formerly contained in this section were contained in Pub. L. 105-85, div. A, title IX, §901, Nov. 18, 1997, 111 Stat. 1853, which was set out as a note under section 155 of this title, prior to repeal by Pub. L. 112-239, §511(c).

#### Statutory Notes and Related Subsidiaries

##### RETENTION OF GRADE OF INCUMBENTS IN POSITIONS ON EFFECTIVE DATE

Pub. L. 114-328, div. A, title V, §502(tt), as added by Pub. L. 115-91, div. A, title V, §506(a)(1), Dec. 12, 2017, 131 Stat. 1374, provided that: “The grade of service of an officer serving as of the date of the enactment of this Act [Dec. 23, 2016, see below] in a position whose statu-

tory grade is affected by an amendment made by this section [see Tables for classification] may not be reduced after that date by reason of such amendment as long as the officer remains in continuous service in such position after that date.”

[Pub. L. 115-91, div. A, title V, §506(a)(2), Dec. 12, 2017, 131 Stat. 1374, provided that: “The amendment made by paragraph (1) [enacting section 502(tt) of Pub. L. 114-328, set out above] shall take effect as of December 23, 2016, and be treated as if included in the enactment of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2017 (Public Law 114-328).”]

#### § 156. Legal Counsel to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff

(a) IN GENERAL.—There is a Legal Counsel to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

(b) SELECTION FOR APPOINTMENT.—Under regulations prescribed by the Secretary of Defense, the officer selected for appointment to serve as Legal Counsel to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff shall be recommended by a board of officers convened by the Secretary of Defense that, insofar as practicable, is subject to the procedures applicable to selection boards convened under chapter 36 of this title.

(c) DUTIES.—(1) The Legal Counsel of the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff shall perform such legal duties in support of the responsibilities of the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff as the Chairman may prescribe.

(2) No officer or employee of the Department of Defense may interfere with the ability of the Legal Counsel to give independent legal advice to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and to the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

(Added Pub. L. 110-181, div. A, title V, §543(e)(1), Jan. 28, 2008, 122 Stat. 115; amended Pub. L. 110-417, [div. A], title V, §591, Oct. 14, 2008, 122 Stat. 4474; Pub. L. 111-84, div. A, title V, §501(a), Oct. 28, 2009, 123 Stat. 2272; Pub. L. 114-328, div. A, title V, §502(b), Dec. 23, 2016, 130 Stat. 2102.)

#### Editorial Notes

##### AMENDMENTS

2016—Subsecs. (c), (d). Pub. L. 114-328 redesignated subsec. (d) as (c) and struck out former subsec. (c). Prior to amendment, text of subsec. (c) read as follows: “An officer appointed to serve as Legal Counsel to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff shall be appointed in the regular grade of brigadier general or rear admiral (lower half).”

2009—Subsec. (c). Pub. L. 111-84 substituted “be appointed in the regular” for “, while so serving, hold the”.

2008—Subsec. (d). Pub. L. 110-417 designated existing provisions as par. (1) and added par. (2).

#### Statutory Notes and Related Subsidiaries

##### EFFECTIVE DATE OF 2009 AMENDMENT

Pub. L. 111-84, div. A, title V, §501(b), Oct. 28, 2009, 123 Stat. 2272, provided that: “The amendment made by subsection (a) [amending this section] shall take effect on the date of the enactment of this Act [Oct. 28, 2009], and shall apply with respect to individuals appointed as Legal Counsel to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff on or after that date.”

#### CHAPTER 6—COMBATANT COMMANDS

Sec.

161. Combatant commands: establishment.

- Sec.  
162. Combatant commands: assigned forces; chain of command.  
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167. Unified combatant command for special operations forces.  
[167a. Repealed.]  
167b. Unified combatant command for cyber operations.  
[168, 169. Repealed.]

### Editorial Notes

#### PRIOR PROVISIONS

Prior to enactment of this chapter by Pub. L. 99-433, provisions relating to combat commands were contained in section 124 of this title.

#### AMENDMENTS

2019—Pub. L. 116-92, div. A, title XVI, §1601(b)(1), title XVII, §1731(a)(9), Dec. 20, 2019, 133 Stat. 1722, 1812, inserted period at end of item 169 “Subordinate unified command of the United States Strategic Command” and then struck it out.

2018—Pub. L. 115-232, div. A, title VIII, §812(a)(1)(B), title XVI, §1601(a)(2), Aug. 13, 2018, 132 Stat. 1846, 2103, struck out item 167a “Unified combatant command for joint warfighting experimentation: acquisition authority” and added item 169.

2016—Pub. L. 114-328, div. A, title IX, §923(b), title XII, §1253(a)(2)(A), Dec. 23, 2016, 130 Stat. 2358, 2532, added item 167b and struck out item 168 “Military-to-military contacts and comparable activities”.

2003—Pub. L. 108-136, div. A, title VIII, §848(a)(2), Nov. 24, 2003, 117 Stat. 1555, added item 167a.

2001—Pub. L. 107-107, div. A, title XV, §1512(b), Dec. 28, 2001, 115 Stat. 1273, added item 166b.

1994—Pub. L. 103-337, div. A, title XIII, §1316(a)(2), Oct. 5, 1994, 108 Stat. 2899, added item 168.

1991—Pub. L. 102-190, div. A, title IX, §902(b), Dec. 5, 1991, 105 Stat. 1451, added item 166a.

1986—Pub. L. 99-500, §101(c) [title IX, §9115(b)(2)], Oct. 18, 1986, 100 Stat. 1783-82, 1783-124, and Pub. L. 99-591, §101(c) [title IX, §9115(b)(2)], Oct. 30, 1986, 100 Stat. 3341-82, 3341-124; Pub. L. 99-661, div. A, title XIII, §1311(b)(2), Nov. 14, 1986, 100 Stat. 3985, amended analysis identically adding item 167.

Pub. L. 99-433, title II, §211(a), Oct. 1, 1986, 100 Stat. 1012, added chapter 6 heading and analysis.

### § 161. Combatant commands: establishment

(a) UNIFIED AND SPECIFIED COMBATANT COMMANDS.—With the advice and assistance of the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the President, through the Secretary of Defense, shall—

(1) establish unified combatant commands and specified combatant commands to perform military missions; and

(2) prescribe the force structure of those commands.

(b) PERIODIC REVIEW.—(1) The Chairman periodically (and not less often than every two years) shall—

(A) review the missions, responsibilities (including geographic boundaries), and force structure of each combatant command; and

(B) recommend to the President, through the Secretary of Defense, any changes to such

missions, responsibilities, and force structures as may be necessary.

(2) Except during time of hostilities or imminent threat of hostilities, the President shall notify Congress not more than 60 days after—

(A) establishing a new combatant command; or

(B) significantly revising the missions, responsibilities, or force structure of an existing combatant command.

(c) DEFINITIONS.—In this chapter:

(1) The term “unified combatant command” means a military command which has broad, continuing missions and which is composed of forces from two or more military departments.

(2) The term “specified combatant command” means a military command which has broad, continuing missions and which is normally composed of forces from a single military department.

(3) The term “combatant command” means a unified combatant command or a specified combatant command.

(Added Pub. L. 99-433, title II, §211(a), Oct. 1, 1986, 100 Stat. 1012.)

### Statutory Notes and Related Subsidiaries

#### CHANGE OF NAME

Pub. L. 115-232, div. A, title XII, §1251(a), Aug. 13, 2018, 132 Stat. 2053, provided that: “The combatant command known as the United States Pacific Command shall be known as the ‘United States Indo-Pacific Command’. Any reference to the United States Pacific Command in any law, regulation, map, document, record, or other paper of the United States shall be considered to be a reference to the United States Indo-Pacific Command.”

#### MATTERS TO BE CONSIDERED IN NEXT ASSESSMENT OF CURRENT MISSIONS, RESPONSIBILITIES, AND FORCE STRUCTURE OF UNIFIED COMBATANT COMMANDS

Pub. L. 104-201, div. A, title IX, §905, Sept. 23, 1996, 110 Stat. 2619, required the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff to consider, as part of the next periodic review after Sept. 23, 1996, pursuant to subsec. (b) of this section: (1) whether there was an adequate distribution of responsibilities among the regional unified combatant commands; (2) whether fewer or differently configured commands would permit the United States to better execute warfighting plans; (3) whether any assets or activities were redundant; (4) whether warfighting requirements were adequate to justify current commands; (5) whether exclusion of certain nations from the Areas of Responsibility presented difficulties with respect to national security objectives in those areas; and (6) whether the boundary between the United States Central and European Commands could create command conflicts in the context of a major regional conflict in the Middle East.

#### INITIAL REVIEW OF COMBATANT COMMANDS

Pub. L. 99-433, title II, §212, Oct. 1, 1986, 100 Stat. 1017, set out 10 areas to be covered in first review of missions, responsibilities, and force structure of unified combatant commands under subsec. (b) of this section, and directed that first report to President be made not later than Oct. 1, 1987.

### Executive Documents

#### DISESTABLISHMENT OF UNITED STATES JOINT FORCES COMMAND

Memorandum of President of the United States, Jan. 6, 2011, 76 F.R. 1977, provided: