SEC. ___. AUTHORITY FOR PERMANENT PROFESSORS AT THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE ACADEMY TO HOLD COMMAND POSITIONS WHILE ON PERIODS OF SABBATICAL.

Section 9334(b) of title 10, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new sentence: "However, a permanent professor who is on an operational tour or sabbatical duty away from the Academy may, if so authorized by the Secretary of the Air Force, exercise command of units to which assigned while on such duty.".

Section-by-Section Analysis

This proposal would amend section 9334(b) of title 10, United States Code, to allow permanent professors at the United States Air Force Academy (USAFA), at the discretion of the Secretary of the Air Force, to exercise command in units to which they are assigned, eligible to command and present for duty, while on sabbatical.

Section 9334(b) states that "The permanent professors and the director of admissions exercise command only in the academic departments of the Academy." By implication, this subsection appears to prohibit permanent professors from exercising command elsewhere. The legislative history of section 9334(b) is silent regarding the intent of Congress in this regard. However, the placement of this subsection immediately following a subsection which addresses the supervisory responsibilities of the Superintendent suggests that Congress's concern was the prevention of permanent professors from assuming command only of the Academy in the absence of the Superintendent (or the Commandant or the Dean of the Faculty). Keeping these military officers from being appointed to other command positions was an unintended result of this Congressional Act. Therefore, the proposed change to section 9334(b) would allow permanent professors to exercise command while away from USAFA on sabbatical (assigned or attached to other commands), at the direction of the Secretary of the Air Force. This command opportunity would not be limited to Air Force units, but rather would include any unit (joint or otherwise) to which the permanent professor is assigned, present for duty, and eligible to command. This would benefit the Air Force by emphasizing force development through better integration of academic and operational environments. It further provides the expeditionary Air Force with more options in a resource constrained environment.

The 2003 Agenda for Change recommended USAFA permanent professors to serve away from USAFA every five years in order to maintain currency with Air Force operations. Increasingly, USAFA personnel including permanent professors are supporting AEF deployments, including some for short-term command positions (not Air Force command boarded positions) and Air Force other operational requirements. This change would provide "real world" operational experience that would benefit both the individual and the cadets when

the professors return to the Academy and provide stronger operational links to the "Air Force's Academy."

Changes to Existing Law: This proposal would make the following changes to 10 U.S.C. 9334:

§ 9334. Command and supervision

(a) The immediate government of the Academy is under the Superintendent, who is also the commanding officer of the Academy and of the military post.

(b) The permanent professors and the director of admissions exercise command only in the academic department of the Academy. <u>However, a permanent professor who is on an operational tour or sabbatical duty away from the Academy may, if so authorized by the Secretary of the Air Force, exercise command of units to which assigned while on such duty.</u>