

VII. Joint Chiefs of Staff

The Joint Chiefs of Staff, in existence since 1942, gained statutory sanction within the National Military Establishment by the National Security Act of 1947. The JCS consisted of the chief of staff, U.S. Army; the chief of naval operations; the chief of staff, U.S. Air Force; and the chief of staff to the commander in chief, if there should be such a position. The act also established a Joint Staff under the JCS, limiting it to 100 officers, to be headed by a director appointed by the Joint Chiefs.

The 1949 amendments to the National Security Act of 1947 established the position of chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, to be appointed from the regular officers of the armed services for a term of two years with eligibility for a second two-year term. The chairman was to preside over the meetings of the JCS but was to have no vote. Moreover, he was not to exercise military command over the JCS or any of the military services. The amendments also increased the size of the Joint Staff to 210 officers.

In 1952, PL 82-416 authorized the commandant of the Marine Corps to meet with the JCS as a coequal whenever any matter of concern to the Marine Corps was under consideration. PL 95-485, 20 October 1978, made the commandant a permanent and fully participating member of the JCS.

Reorganization Plan No. 6 of 1953 made the selection of members of the Joint Staff by the JCS and their tenure subject to the approval of the chairman and gave him management control of the Joint Staff. At the same time it accorded the secretary of defense approval authority over the selection of the director of the Joint Staff and his tenure. The Department of Defense Reorganization Act of 1958 increased the Joint Staff to 400 officers and limited their tours of Joint Staff duty to three years except in time of war. The act specified that the Joint Staff "shall not operate or be organized as an overall Armed Forces General Staff and shall have no executive authority." The 1958 act also gave the chairman of the JCS a vote in JCS meetings.

Congress in PL 90-22, 5 June 1967, set the terms of the chiefs of the Army, Navy, Air Force, and Marine Corps at four years, with provision for possible reappointment for four years in time of war or emergency.

The Goldwater-Nichols Act of 1986 prescribed the most important changes in the Joint Chiefs of Staff organization since 1947. It increased the responsibilities of the chairman, naming him the principal adviser to the president, the National Security Council, and the secretary of defense and prescribing a two-year term with possibility of two additional terms other than during wartime, when there would be no limitation. The chairman's responsibilities included assisting the president in providing strategic direction of the armed forces, preparing strategic plans and joint logistic and mobility plans, and advising the secretary of defense on requirements, programs, and budgets, particularly a budget proposal for activities of each unified and specified combatant command.

The act created the position of vice chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, to rank after the chairman and ahead of all other officers of the armed forces and to come from a service other than that of the chairman. The vice chairman could participate in meetings of the JCS, although he was not a member. In the absence or disability of the chairman, the vice chairman was to replace him. He was to perform such duties as prescribed by the chairman. The National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1993, PL 102-484, 23 October 1992, made the vice chairman a full member of the JCS.

Chairman, JCS

Gen. Omar N. Bradley, USA	16 August 1949-15 August 1953
Adm. Arthur W. Radford, USN	15 August 1953-15 August 1957
Gen. Nathan F. Twining, USAF	15 August 1957-30 September 1960
Gen. Lyman L. Lemnitzer, USA	1 October 1960-30 September 1962
Gen. Maxwell D. Taylor, USA	1 October 1962-1 July 1964

Gen. Earle G. Wheeler, USA	3 July 1964-2 July 1970
Adm. Thomas H. Moorer, USN	2 July 1970-1 July 1974
Gen. George S. Brown, USAF	1 July 1974-20 June 1978
Gen. David C. Jones, USAF	21 June 1978-18 June 1982
Gen. John W. Vessey, Jr., USA	18 June 1982-30 September 1985
Adm. William J. Crowe, Jr., USN	1 October 1985-30 September 1989
Gen. Colin L. Powell, USA	1 October 1989-30 September 1993
Adm. David E. Jeremiah, USN (Act)	1 October 1993-24 October 1993
Gen. John M. D. Shalikashvili, USA	25 October 1993-1 October 1997
Gen. Henry H. Shelton, USA	1 October 1997-1 October 2001
Gen. Richard B. Myers, USAF	1 October 2001-

Vice Chairman, JCS

Gen. Robert T. Herres, USAF	6 February 1987-28 February 1990
Adm. David E. Jeremiah, USN	1 March 1990-28 February 1994
Adm. William A. Owens, USN	1 March 1994-29 February 1996
Gen. Joseph W. Ralston, USAF	1 March 1996-1 March 2000
Gen. Richard B. Myers, USAF	1 March 2000-10 October 2001
Gen. Peter Pace, USMC	1 October 2001-

Chief of Staff, U.S. Army

Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower	19 November 1945-7 February 1948
Gen. Omar N. Bradley	7 February 1948-15 August 1949
Gen. J. Lawton Collins	16 August 1949-14 August 1953
Gen. Matthew B. Ridgway	15 August 1953-29 June 1955
Gen. Maxwell D. Taylor	30 June 1955-30 June 1959
Gen. Lyman L. Lemnitzer	1 July 1959-30 September 1960
Gen. George H. Decker	1 October 1960-30 September 1962
Gen. Earle G. Wheeler	1 October 1962-2 July 1964
Gen. Harold K. Johnson	3 July 1964-2 July 1968
Gen. William C. Westmoreland	3 July 1968-30 June 1972
Gen. Bruce Palmer, Jr. (Acting)	1 July 1972-11 October 1972
Gen. Creighton W. Abrams	12 October 1972-4 September 1974
Gen. Fred C. Weyand	3 October 1974-1 October 1976
Gen. Bernard W. Rogers	1 October 1976-21 June 1979
Gen. Edward C. Meyer	22 June 1979-21 June 1983
Gen. John A. Wickham, Jr.	22 June 1983-22 June 1987
Gen. Carl E. Vuono	23 June 1987-21 June 1991
Gen. Gordon R. Sullivan	21 June 1991-19 June 1995
Gen. Dennis J. Reimer	20 June 1995-20 June 1999
Gen. Eric K. Shinseki	21 June 1999-11 June 2003
Gen. Peter J. Schoomaker	1 August 2003-

Chief of Naval Operations

Fleet Adm. Chester W. Nimitz	15 December 1945-15 December 1947
Adm. Louis Denfeld	15 December 1947-2 November 1949
Adm. Forrest P. Sherman	2 November 1949-22 July 1951
Adm. William M. Fechteler	16 August 1951-16 August 1953
Adm. Robert B. Carney	17 August 1953-17 August 1955
Adm. Arleigh A. Burke	17 August 1955-1 August 1961

Adm. George W. Anderson, Jr.	1 August 1961-1 August 1963
Adm. David L. McDonald	1 August 1963-1 August 1967
Adm. Thomas H. Moorer	1 August 1967-1 July 1970
Adm. Elmo R. Zumwalt, Jr.	1 July 1970-1 July 1974
Adm. James L. Holloway III	1 July 1974-1 July 1978
Adm. Thomas B. Hayward	1 July 1978-30 June 1982
Adm. James D. Watkins	30 June 1982-30 June 1986
Adm. Carlisle A. H. Trost	1 July 1986-29 June 1990
Adm. Frank B. Kelso II	1 July 1990-23 April 1994
Adm. Jeremy M. Boorda	23 April 1994-16 May 1996
Adm. Jay L. Johnson (Acting)	16 May 1996-4 August 1996
Adm. Jay L. Johnson	4 August 1996-21 July 2000
Adm. Vernon E. Clark	21 July 2000-

Chief of Staff, U.S. Air Force

Gen. Carl Spaatz	26 September 1947-29 April 1948
Gen. Hoyt S. Vandenberg	30 April 1948-29 June 1953
Gen. Nathan F. Twining	30 June 1953-30 June 1957
Gen. Thomas D. White	1 July 1957-30 June 1961
Gen. Curtis E. LeMay	30 June 1961-31 January 1965
Gen. John P. McConnell	1 February 1965-31 July 1969
Gen. John D. Ryan	1 August 1969-31 July 1973
Gen. George S. Brown	1 August 1973-30 June 1974
Gen. David C. Jones	1 July 1974-20 June 1978
Gen. Lew Allen, Jr.	1 July 1978-30 June 1982
Gen. Charles A. Gabriel	1 July 1982-30 June 1986
Gen. Larry D. Welch	1 July 1986-30 June 1990
Gen. Michael J. Dugan	1 July 1990-17 September 1990
Gen. John M. Loh (Acting)	18 September 1990-27 October 1990
Gen. Merrill A. McPeak	27 October 1990-25 October 1994
Gen. Ronald R. Fogleman	26 October 1994-2 October 1997
Gen. Michael E. Ryan	2 October 1997-6 September 2001
Gen. John J. Jumper	6 September 2001-

Commandant of the Marine Corps

Gen. Alexander A. Vandegrift	1 January 1944-31 December 1947
Gen. Clifton B. Cates	1 January 1948-31 December 1951
Gen. Lemuel C. Shepherd, Jr.*	1 January 1952-31 December 1955
Gen. Randolph McC. Pate	1 January 1956-31 December 1959
Gen. David M. Shoup	1 January 1960-31 December 1963
Gen. Wallace M. Greene, Jr.	1 January 1964-31 December 1967
Gen. Leonard F. Chapman, Jr.	1 January 1968-31 December 1971
Gen. Robert E. Cushman, Jr.	1 January 1972-30 June 1975
Gen. Louis H. Wilson**	1 July 1975-30 June 1979
Gen. Robert H. Barrow	1 July 1979-30 June 1983
Gen. Paul X. Kelley	1 July 1983-30 June 1987

* General Shepherd was the first commandant to sit with the JCS on matters of concern to the Marine Corps, beginning in 1952.

** A law effective in October 1978 made the commandant a full member of the JCS. General Wilson was the first commandant with this status.

Gen. Alfred M. Gray, Jr.	1 July 1987-1 July 1991
Gen. Carl E. Mundy, Jr.	1 July 1991-30 June 1995
Gen. C. C. Krulak	1 July 1995-30 June 1999
Gen. James L. Jones, Jr.	1 July 1999-13 January 2003
Gen. Michael W. Hagee	13 January 2003-

Director, Joint Staff

Maj. Gen. Alfred M. Gruenther, USA	17 September 1947-19 September 1949
Vice Adm. Arthur C. Davis, USN	20 September 1949-1 November 1951
Lt. Gen. Charles P. Cabell, USAF	2 November 1951-23 April 1953
Lt. Gen. Frank F. Everest, USAF	24 April 1953-18 March 1954
Lt. Gen. Lemuel Mathewson, USA	19 March 1954-14 March 1956
Vice Adm. Bernard L. Austin, USN	15 March 1956-31 March 1958
Lt. Gen. Oliver S. Picher, USAF	1 April 1958-31 March 1960
Lt. Gen. Earle G. Wheeler, USA	1 April 1960-24 February 1962
Vice Adm. Herbert D. Riley, USN	25 February 1962-23 February 1964
Lt. Gen. David A. Burchinal, USAF	24 February 1964-31 July 1966
Lt. Gen. Andrew J. Goodpaster, USA	1 August 1966-31 March 1967
Lt. Gen. Berton E. Spivy, Jr., USA	1 April 1967-31 July 1968
Vice Adm. Nels C. Johnson, USN	1 August 1968-19 July 1970
Lt. Gen. John W. Vogt, USAF	20 July 1970-7 April 1972
Rear Adm. Mason B. Freeman, USN (Acting)	8 April 1972-11 June 1972
Lt. Gen. George M. Seignious II, USA	12 June 1972-31 May 1974
Vice Adm. Harry D. Train II, USN	1 June 1974-30 June 1976
Lt. Gen. Ray B. Sitton, USAF	1 July 1976-30 June 1977
Vice Adm. Patrick J. Hannifin, USN	1 July 1977-20 June 1978
Maj. Gen. John A. Wickham, Jr., USA (Acting)	1 July 1978-21 August 1978
Lt. Gen. John A. Wickham, Jr., USA	22 August 1978-22 June 1979
Vice Adm. Carl Thor Hanson, USN	22 June 1979-30 June 1981
Lt. Gen. James E. Dalton, USAF	1 July 1981-30 June 1983
Lt. Gen. Jack N. Merritt, USA	1 July 1983-30 June 1985
Vice Adm. Powell F. Carter, Jr., USN	1 July 1985-14 August 1987
Lt. Gen. Robert W. RisCassi, USA	15 August 1987-30 November 1988
Lt. Gen. Hansford T. Johnson, USAF	1 December 1988-20 September 1989
Maj. Gen. Gene A. Deegan, USMC (Acting)	21 September 1989-26 September 1989
Lt. Gen. Michael P. C. Carns, USAF	27 September 1989-16 May 1991
Lt. Gen. Henry Viccellio, Jr., USAF	17 May 1991-1 December 1992
Vice Adm. Richard C. Macke, USN	1 December 1992-18 July 1994
Maj. Gen. Charles T. Robertson, Jr., USAF (Acting)	19 July 1994-24 July 1994
Lt. Gen. Walter Kross, USAF	25 July 1994-12 July 1996
Maj. Gen. Stephen T. Rippe, USA (Acting)	13 July 1996-13 September 1996
Vice Adm. Dennis C. Blair, USN	14 September 1996-12 December 1998
Vice Adm. Vernon E. Clark, USN	12 December 1998-26 July 1999
Lt. Gen. Carlton W. Fulford, USMC	26 July 1999-14 July 2000
Lt. Gen. John P. Abizaid, USA	16 October 2001-23 January 2003
Vice Adm. Timothy J. Keating, USN	13 October 2003-