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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Term</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gen. Omar N. Bradley, USA</td>
<td>16 August 1949-15 August 1953</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gen. Lyman L. Lemnitzer, USA</td>
<td>1 October 1960-30 September 1962</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gen. Maxwell D. Taylor, USA</td>
<td>1 October 1962-1 July 1964</td>
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</table>
Gen. Earle G. Wheeler, USA  
Adm. Thomas H. Moorer, USN  
Gen. George S. Brown, USAF  
Gen. David C. Jones, USAF  
Gen. John W. Vessey, Jr., USA  
Adm. William J. Crowe, Jr., USN  
Gen. Colin L. Powell, USA  
Adm. David E. Jeremiah, USN (Act)  
Gen. John M. D. Shalikashvili, USA  
Gen. Henry H. Shelton, USA  
Gen. Richard B. Myers, USAF

3 July 1964-2 July 1970  
2 July 1970-1 July 1974  
1 July 1974-20 June 1978  
21 June 1978-18 June 1982  
18 June 1982-30 September 1985  
1 October 1985-30 September 1989  
1 October 1989-30 September 1993  
1 October 1993-24 October 1993  
25 October 1993-1 October 1997  
1 October 1997-1 October 2001  
1 October 2001- 

Vice Chairman, JCS

Gen. Robert T. Herres, USAF  
Adm. David E. Jeremiah, USN  
Adm. William A. Owens, USN  
Gen. Joseph W. Ralston, USAF  
Gen. Richard B. Myers, USAF  
Gen. Peter Pace, USMC

6 February 1987-28 February 1990  
1 March 1990-28 February 1994  
1 March 1994-29 February 1996  
1 March 1996-1 March 2000  
1 March 2000-10 October 2001  
1 October 2001-

Chief of Staff, U.S. Army

Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower  
Gen. Omar N. Bradley  
Gen. J. Lawton Collins  
Gen. Matthew B. Ridgway  
Gen. Maxwell D. Taylor  
Gen. Lyman L. Lemnitzer  
Gen. George H. Decker  
Gen. Earle G. Wheeler  
Gen. Harold K. Johnson  
Gen. William C. Westmoreland  
Gen. Bruce Palmer, Jr. (Acting)  
Gen. Creighton W. Abrams  
Gen. Fred C. Weyand  
Gen. Bernard W. Rogers  
Gen. Edward C. Meyer  
Gen. John A. Wickham, Jr.  
Gen. Carl E. Vuono  
Gen. Gordon R. Sullivan  
Gen. Dennis J. Reimer  
Gen. Eric K. Shinseki  
Gen. Peter J. Schoomaker

19 November 1945-7 February 1948  
7 February 1948-15 August 1949  
16 August 1949-14 August 1953  
15 August 1953-29 June 1955  
30 June 1955-30 June 1959  
1 July 1959-30 September 1960  
1 October 1960-30 September 1962  
1 October 1962-2 July 1964  
3 July 1964-2 July 1968  
3 July 1968-30 June 1972  
1 July 1972-11 October 1972  
12 October 1972-4 September 1974  
3 October 1974-1 October 1976  
1 October 1976-21 June 1979  
22 June 1979-21 June 1983  
22 June 1983-22 June 1987  
23 June 1987-21 June 1991  
21 June 1991-19 June 1995  
20 June 1995-20 June 1999  
21 June 1999-11 June 2003  
1 August 2003-

Chief of Naval Operations

Fleet Adm. Chester W. Nimitz  
Adm. Louis Denfield  
Adm. Forrest P. Sherman  
Adm. William M. Fechteler  
Adm. Robert B. Carney  
Adm. Arleigh A. Burke

15 December 1945-15 December 1947  
15 December 1947-2 November 1949  
2 November 1949-22 July 1951  
16 August 1951-16 August 1953  
17 August 1953-17 August 1955  
17 August 1955-1 August 1961
Department of Defense Key Officials

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. Frank B. Kelso II 1 July 1990-23 April 1994
Adm. James L. Johnson (Acting) 16 May 1996-4 August 1996
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. Thomas D. White 1 July 1957-30 June 1961
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. 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 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. 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. Louis H. Wilson** 1 July 1975-30 June 1979

* 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.
Gen. Carl E. Mundy, Jr.
Gen. C. C. Krulak
Gen. James L. Jones, Jr.
Gen. Michael W. Hagee

Director, Joint Staff

Maj. Gen. Alfred M. Gruenther, USA
Vice Adm. Arthur C. Davis, USN
Lt. Gen. Charles P. Cabell, USAF
Lt. Gen. Frank F. Everest, USAF
Lt. Gen. Lemuel Mathewson, USA
Vice Adm. Bernard L. Austin, USN
Lt. Gen. Oliver S. Picher, USAF
Lt. Gen. Charles P. Cabell, USAF
Lt. Gen. Frank F. Everest, USAF
Lt. Gen. Lemuel Mathewson, USA
Vice Adm. Bernard L. Austin, USN
Lt. Gen. Oliver S. Picher, USAF
Lt. Gen. Earle G. Wheeler, USA
Vice Adm. Herbert D. Riley, USN
Lt. Gen. David A. Burchinal, USAF
Lt. Gen. Andrew J. Goodpaster, USA
Lt. Gen. Bert E. Spivy, Jr., USA
Vice Adm. Nels C. Johnson, USN
Rear Adm. Mason B. Freeman, USN
(Acting)
Lt. Gen. George M. Seignious II, USA
Vice Adm. Harry D. Train II, USN
Lt. Gen. Ray B. Sitton, USAF
Vice Adm. Patrick J. Hannifin, USN
Maj. Gen. John A. Wickham, Jr., USA
(Acting)
Lt. Gen. John A. Wickham, Jr., USA
Vice Adm. Carl Thor Hanson, USN
Lt. Gen. James D. Dalton, USAF
Lt. Gen. Jack N. Merritt, USA
Vice Adm. Powell F. Carter, Jr., USN
Lt. Gen. Robert W. RisCassi, USA
(Acting)
Lt. Gen. Michael P. C. Carns, USAF
Lt. Gen. Henry Viscelio, Jr., USAF
Vice Adm. Richard C. Macke, USAF
Maj. Gen. Charles T. Robertson, Jr., USAF
(Acting)
Lt. Gen. Walter Kross, USAF
Maj. Gen. Stephen T. Rippe, USA
(Acting)
Vice Adm. Dennis C. Blair, USN
Vice Adm. Vernor E. Clark, USN
Lt. Gen. Carlton W. Fullford, USMC
Lt. Gen. John P. Abizaid, USA
Vice Adm. Timothy J. Keating, USN

1 July 1987-1 July 1991
1 July 1991-30 June 1995
1 July 1995-30 June 1999
1 July 1999-13 January 2003
13 January 2003-

17 September 1947-19 September 1949
20 September 1949-1 November 1951
2 November 1951-23 April 1953
24 April 1953-18 March 1954
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24 February 1964-31 July 1966
1 August 1966-31 March 1967
1 April 1967-31 July 1968
1 August 1968-19 July 1970
20 July 1970-7 April 1972
8 April 1972-11 June 1972
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1 June 1974-30 June 1976
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1 July 1977-20 June 1978
1 July 1978-21 August 1978
22 August 1978-22 June 1979
22 June 1979-30 June 1981
1 July 1981-30 June 1983
1 July 1983-30 June 1985
1 July 1985-14 August 1987
15 August 1987-30 November 1988
1 December 1988-20 September 1989
21 September 1989-26 September 1989
27 September 1989-16 May 1991
17 May 1991-1 December 1992
1 December 1992-18 July 1994
25 July 1994-12 July 1996
13 July 1996-13 September 1996
14 September 1996-12 December 1998
12 December 1998-26 July 1999
26 July 1999-14 July 2000
16 October 2001-23 January 2003
13 October 2003-