opinion, which is in disagreement with the military advice of the Chairman, or the Joint Chiefs of Staff, to the attention of the Secretary of Defense, or to the President, after having first informed the Secretary of Defense. It would also provide authority for the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff to furnish military advice in his own right.

This legislation would establish a Deputy Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff who would act as Chairman in the absence or disability of the Chairman, but who would vote only in the Chairman's absence. The Deputy Chairman would be appointed for a two-year term and could be reappointed for one additional term. The Deputy would have to come from a different armed force than the Chairman.

The bill would authorize the Chairman to select the officers of the Joint Staff from those officers nominated by their respective armed force. It would also eliminate the current three-year limitation on service on the Joint Staff by providing for appointment for a three-year term, and possible reappointment for an additional three years. It would also increase to 100 the number of officers who could, with the approval of the Secretary of Defense, be recalled to Joint Staff duty within three years of the date of their last service on the Joint Staff. The bill further provides that the Chairman may utilize some of the staff, a power he did not previously expressly have.

The bill would establish a procedure whereby, under guidelines established by the Secretary of Defense, each chief of service, or commander of a unified or specified command, could provide comments on any report or recommendation of the Joint Staff before submission to the Joint Chiefs of Staff. It also would require that the Secretary of Defense ensure that the Joint Staff is independently organized and operated so that it supports the Chairman and the members of the Joint Chiefs of Staff in providing unified strategic direction of the combatant forces, for their operation under unified command, and for their integration into an effective team of land, naval and air forces. The bill would also require the Secretary of Defense to ensure that armed forces personnel policies give appropriate consideration to the performance of an officer as a member of the Joint Staff in his promotion, retention and assignments. Also; the Chairman would be required to evaluate all nominations for three- and four-star officers who have served on the Joint Staff, before they are submitted to the President.

H.R. 6954 would also establish a Senior Strategy Advisory Board consisting of ten retired generals or admirals who, while on active duty, served on the Joint Chiefs of Staff or as commander of a unified or specified command. They would receive only a per diem and travel expenses during meeting periods. A Chairman of the Board would be designated by the President. The Board would provide to the President, the Secretary of Defense and the Joint Chiefs of Staff such advice and recommendations on military strategy and tactics as it considered appropriate.

Background and Discussion

On February 3, 1982, Gen. David C. Jones, the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, in a hearing before the Armed Services Committee, announced his concern about basic shortcomings in the organization of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. He further stated that he intended to sub-