

tion of the combatant forces, for their operation under unified command, and for their integration into an effective team of land, naval, and air forces. And it requires 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. The bill would also require the Chairman to evaluate all nominations for three- and four-star ranks of 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 10 retired generals or admirals who, while on active duty, served on the Joint Chiefs of Staff or as a commander of a unified or specified command. They would receive no salary, but would be reimbursed for travel expenses. A chairman of the board would be designated by the President. The board would provide such advice and recommendations on military strategy and tactics as it considered appropriate to the President, the Secretary of Defense, and the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

Mr. Chairman, after Gen. David C. Jones, the former Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and Gen. Edward C. Meyer, Chief of Staff, U.S. Army, published proposals for reorganization of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, this subcommittee began hearings in April. Since then we have taken testimony from more than 40 witnesses, including the chairman and all current members of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, former Secretaries of Defense, former Deputy Secretaries of Defense, former chairmen and members of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, former Directors of the Joint Staff, commanders of unified commands, as well as other civilian and military witnesses. The recommendations of those witnesses have ranged from leaving the Joint Chiefs of Staff exactly as it is, to abolishing the body and replacing it with a single military adviser to the President, the National Security Council, and the Secretary of Defense, while establishing a body of senior military advisers for long-range planning. I might say that each of those witnesses had given the matter much study and supported their proposals with well-reasoned statements.

As compared to the recommendations presented to the subcommittee during the hearings, this bill is modest, since it attempts to accommodate the reservations of those who have opposed any organizational change; yet it addresses almost all the major problems that were identified. While the bill deals with most of the major areas of concern emphasized by General Jones, its provisions would not result in such far-reaching changes as he, and some of our other witnesses, had advocated. The powers and changes provided in this bill would strengthen the advisory processes of the Joint Chiefs of Staff without diminishing the role of the respective services.

The subcommittee believes that this legislation should improve the functioning of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and the Department of Defense.

Accordingly, we recommend a favorable report by the committee.
[H.R. 6954 is as follows:]