

1 **“§ 153. Vice Chairman**

2       “(a)(1) There is a Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of  
3 Staff. The Vice Chairman shall be appointed by the Presi-  
4 dent, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, from  
5 the officers of the regular components of the armed forces.

6       “(2) The Chairman and Vice Chairman may not be  
7 members of the same armed force. However, the Secretary of  
8 Defense may waive the restriction in the preceding sentence  
9 for a limited period of time in order to effect the orderly  
10 transition of officers appointed to serve in the positions of  
11 Chairman and Vice Chairman.

12       “(3) The Vice Chairman serves at the pleasure of the  
13 President for a term of two years and may be reappointed in  
14 the same manner for two additional terms. However, in time  
15 of war declared by Congress there is no limit on the number  
16 of reappointments.

17       “(b)(1) The Vice Chairman exercises such duties as may  
18 be delegated by the Chairman with the approval of the Sec-  
19 retary of Defense.

20       “(2) When there is a vacancy in the office of Chairman  
21 or in the absence or disability of the Chairman, the Vice  
22 Chairman, unless otherwise directed by the President or the  
23 Secretary of Defense, acts as Chairman and performs the  
24 duties of the Chairman until a successor is appointed or the  
25 absence or disability ceases.