

Other interconnections are extensive.

Current Joint Chiefs and prospective replacements all profess open minds concerning JCS reform. Admiral Watkins does not share the sentiments of his predecessors, who opposed many proposed amendments at hearings conducted in May 1982 by the House Armed Services Committee. ^{1/}

The Joint Chiefs as a corporate body presently have better relationships with the President than they have since the Bay of Pigs operation 22 years ago. This group already has met with him more times than the last three sets combined, according to General Vessey. They are compatible with the current SECDEF, who seeks their counsel and is sympathetic to reform efforts.

The U.S. defense planning system, however, cannot count on such happy happenstances as a matter of course. Congress at some later date therefore might want to consider optional means of institutionalizing professional excellence of, and close relationships among, the five Joint Chiefs of Staff.

NATIONAL DEFENSE UNIVERSITY

The National Defense University (NDU), established on January 16, 1976, is subsidiary to, and provides direct academic/research support for, the Joint Chiefs of Staff. Lieutenant General John S. Pustay, who is NDU President, explained his many initiatives to me in correspondence dated January 31, 1983 and in a colloquy on March 11, 1983. The Joint Chiefs are personally supervising proposals and progress.

^{1/} U.S. Congress. House. Reorganization Proposals for The Joint Chiefs of Staff. Hearings Before the Investigations Subcommittee of the Committee on Armed Services, 97th Congress, 2d Session. Washington, U.S. Govt. Print. Off., 1982, p. 97-105, 244-256 (Admiral Hayward); 155-175 (Admiral Moorer); 211-217 (Admiral Holloway).