

different capabilities of the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, and Air Force.

### *Term of Office of the Chairman*

Paragraph (1) of subsection (a) would permit the President to reappoint the JCS Chairman for two additional 2-year terms, instead of only the one additional 2-year term now authorized by law, after the completion of the Chairman's initial 2-year term. Because the Chairman would be assigned responsibility for many new and important duties, the Committee believes that it is important to improve continuity and stability in this position. Therefore, the Committee recommends that the President be authorized to retain his principal military adviser for up to 6 years.

Paragraph (2) of subsection (a) would specify that the JCS Chairman's term, however long it has lasted, shall expire not later than 6 months after the beginning of a new Presidency. If the term that expired during this 6-month period was the Chairman's first or second term, he would be eligible to be reappointed to a second or third term, respectively. This requirement would not apply to a Chairman appointed or reappointed during the first 6 months of the term of a new President.

The purpose of this new requirement is to give a newly elected President an automatic opportunity to retain or release the military officer who will serve as his principal military adviser. Although the law specifies that the Chairman "serves at the pleasure of the President", practical considerations make it difficult for a President to actually dismiss a Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. Therefore, the Committee recommends that during the 6-month period in which a newly elected President was establishing his Administration, he should also enjoy more flexibility to select a new Chairman.

Paragraph (3) of subsection (a) would limit to 6 years the combined length of time that a military officer may serve as JCS Chairman and Vice Chairman. However, the President would be authorized to extend this limitation to 8 years if he determines such action is in the national interest. This new provision reflects the Committee's concern that no single officer serve for too long in the two most senior military positions. The Committee believes that the 6-year limitation (8 years with the Presidential waiver) would ensure stability and continuity, on the one hand, and introduce fresh experiences and perspectives, on the other hand.

### *Duties of the JCS Chairman*

Subsection (d) of section 152 would prescribe the duties of the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. He would perform these duties under the authority, direction, and control of the President and the Secretary of Defense.

Most of these duties are currently assigned to the corporate JCS. In effect, they represent the tasks entailed in being the principal military adviser to the President, the National Security Council, and the Secretary of Defense. Now that the Committee recommends that the Chairman assume this advisory responsibility, it is also appropriate that he undertake the associated tasks.