

of various aspects of warfare, Service assignments, previous joint duty assignments, and military education and training.

Term of Office of the Vice Chairman

Paragraph (3) of subsection (a) would specify that the Vice Chairman serves at the pleasure of the President for an initial term of 2 years. The Vice Chairman may be reappointed by the President for two additional 2-year terms. These terms of office are the same as those established for the JCS Chairman.

Duties of the Vice Chairman

Paragraph (1) of section 153(b) would simply provide that the Vice Chairman exercises whatever duties are delegated to him by the Chairman with the approval of the Secretary of Defense.

One of the Committee's major purposes in creating the new position of Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff is to assist the Chairman in carrying out his considerable responsibilities. The Chairman is already charged with a wide range of demanding duties; the changes that would be made by this bill, although necessary, will make his heavy workload even more burdensome. On the whole, however, the Chairman's workload should remain manageable if he is given a deputy with the authority to act on his behalf and with the official standing to carry out his guidance.

With this concern in mind, the Committee carefully avoids limiting the Chairman in how he may use the Vice Chairman to assist him. Instead, paragraph (1) of section 153(b) would grant flexibility to the Chairman in deciding the duties of the Vice Chairman. Consistent with the Committee's care to preserve the Secretary of Defense's authority, however, the provision would also specifically require the Secretary to approve the duties delegated to the Vice Chairman.

Vice Chairman's Rank and Role as Acting Chairman

Two separate provisions reflect another major reason for the Committee's strong interest in the establishment of a Vice Chairman. Because the Chairman must spend a fair amount of time visiting allies and U.S. military forces, a senior officer with a joint perspective must remain in Washington, D.C. always prepared to act for the Chairman in his absence. While it recognizes that the current system of rotating the acting Chairmanship every 3 months among the Service Chiefs of Staff is an improvement over the previous system, the Committee concludes that assigning this duty to the Vice Chairman would be a more effective arrangement.

Paragraph (2) of section 153(b) would provide that the Vice Chairman, unless otherwise directed by the President or Secretary of Defense, is to act for the Chairman when there is a vacancy in the office of Chairman or in the absence or disability of the Chairman. Closely related to this responsibility is the provision (subsection (d) of section 153) which would specify that the Vice Chairman is to hold the grade of a 4-star general or admiral and is to outrank all other military officers except the Chairman.

After a lengthy and thorough debate, the Committee concludes that the new Vice Chairman of the JCS should act for the Chairman in his absence and should be second in order of rank after the