

lieves that it is appropriate to provide this waiver authority to the Secretary of Defense.

Limitation on Size of Joint Staff

Subsection (f) of section 154 would impose a limitation of 1,617 (the current personnel level) on the number of civilian and military personnel serving on the Joint Staff. It would define the Joint Staff to include all civilian and military personnel assigned to assist the Chairman, the Vice Chairman, and the Service Chiefs in carrying out their responsibilities as members of the JCS. The subsection would further specify that civilian and military personnel assigned to a Military Department are not to be included within the definition of the Joint Staff.

Currently, section 143(a)(1) limits the number of officers on the Joint Staff to 400. However, this restriction has long been circumvented by the administrative creation of the larger, umbrella Organization of the Joint Chiefs of Staff (OJCS). In addition to the Joint Staff, the OJCS consists of the JCS itself, the Office of the Chairman, and several supporting agencies and boards. Because the size of the OJCS is not limited by any statutory restriction, the JCS have used its adjustable personnel framework to alleviate the management problems caused by the limitation of 400 officers on the size of the Joint Staff.

The Committee believes that this artificial constraint on the Joint Staff is too severe in inhibiting the flexibility of the Chairman to organize and operate his staff. Therefore, the limitation of 400 officers that applies only to the Joint Staff would be replaced with a much broader limitation of 1,617 civilian and military personnel that would, in effect, apply to the entire OJCS. At the same time, the Joint Staff would be redefined to encompass all the personnel and elements that now comprise the Organization of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. The new limitation on the personnel strength of the Joint Staff would be effective after September 30, 1988.

The Committee has exempted the Joint Staff from the personnel reductions it recommends in almost all other elements of the Defense Department. By allowing the Joint Staff to remain at its current personnel level, the Committee recognizes that the Chairman and the other JCS members need a substantial staff to assist them in carrying out their important duties. Nonetheless, in order to assess this matter again in the future, the Committee expects the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff to justify in writing the size of the Joint Staff (as redefined) within 6 months of this bill's enactment into law. In the meantime, the Committee strongly encourages the Chairman to streamline the organization and operation of the Joint Staff (as redefined) so that fewer personnel are needed to perform its functions.

Conforming Amendments

Subsection (b) of section 111 of this bill would amend paragraph (3) of section 525(b) of title 10 to exempt the general or admiral who serves as Vice Chairman of the JCS from the statutory limits on the number of generals and admirals in the four Services. The JCS Chairman is already exempt from these limits.