

The Senate amendment contained no similar provision.

The Senate recesses.

The Senate amendment contained a provision (section 111) that would designate the Vice Chairman as a member of the JCS.

The House amendment contained a provision (section 606) that would designate the Deputy Chairman as the Director of the Joint Staff.

The Senate recesses with an amendment to delete the designation of the Vice Chairman as the Director of the Joint Staff. Although the Vice Chairman will not be a member of the JCS, the conferees expect him to make an extremely important contribution to the work of the Chairman and the other JCS members. Under section 154(g) of title 10 (as amended by section 201 of the conference substitute amendment), the Vice Chairman outranks all other officers of the Armed Forces except the Chairman. In addition, section 154(d) of title 10 (as amended by section 201 of the conference substitute amendment) assigns the Vice Chairman the duty to act as the Chairman in the absence or disability of the Chairman or in the case of a vacancy in the office of Chairman. The conferees expect that when the Vice Chairman is acting for the Chairman, he shall be considered a full member of the JCS with the duties, authority, responsibilities, and status of the Chairman.

JCS Members as Military Advisers

The Senate amendment contained a provision (section 111) that would designate the members of the JCS as military advisers to the President, the National Security Council, and the Secretary of Defense, "as specified in this section" (section 151 of title 10, as amended by section 111 of the Senate amendment).

The House amendment contained no similar provision.

The House recesses with an amendment to clarify that the phrase "as specified in this section" refers to subsections (d) and (e) of section 151 of title 10, as amended by section 201 of the conference substitute amendment.

JCS as Military Staff to Secretary of Defense

The Senate amendment contained a provision (section 111) that would designate the Joint Chiefs of Staff, assisted by the Joint Staff, as the immediate military staff of the Secretary of Defense.

The House amendment contained no similar provision.

The Senate recesses.

Consultative Duties of the Chairman

The Senate amendment contained a provision (section 111) that would require the JCS Chairman to take the following actions in the course of performing his duties: to convene regular JCS meetings; unless impracticable, to consult with and seek the advice of the other JCS members; and, when appropriate, to consult with and seek the advice of the unified and specified combatant commanders.

The House amendment contained a similar provision (section 601) that would require the JCS Chairman to perform his duties in consultation, as appropriate, with the other JCS members and with the unified and specified combatant commanders.