

11. Authorizes the JCS Chairman, subject to the direction of the President, to attend and participate in National Security Council meetings.

*Appointment and Duties of the JCS Vice Chairman*

12. Creates the new position of Vice Chairman of the JCS with the rank of a four-star officer.

13. Designates the Vice Chairman as the second-ranking military officer just below the Chairman.

14. Requires the JCS Chairman and Vice Chairman to be from different Services.

15. Specifies that the Vice Chairman may serve up to three two-year terms.

16. Requires, subject to the President's waiver, that an officer have the joint specialty (established in title IV of the conference substitute amendment) and have served in at least one joint duty assignment as a general or flag officer in order to be appointed as the Vice Chairman.

17. Specifies that the Vice Chairman is to perform whatever duties are prescribed or delegated to him by the Chairman with the Secretary of Defense's approval.

18. Designates the Vice Chairman as the acting JCS Chairman in the absence or disability of the Chairman.

19. Authorizes the Vice Chairman to participate in all JCS meetings and to vote only when acting as Chairman.

*Joint Staff*

20. Specifies that the Joint Staff is to assist the JCS Chairman and, subject to the authority, direction, and control of the Chairman, the other JCS members and the Vice Chairman in carrying out their responsibilities.

21. Specifies that the JCS Chairman manages the Joint Staff; the Chairman is to prescribe the duties and staffing procedures of the Joint Staff.

**PART B—COMBATANT COMMANDS (UNIFIED AND SPECIFIED  
COMMANDS)**

1. Specifies that the operational chain of command, unless otherwise directed by the President, runs from the President to the Secretary of Defense to the unified and specified combatant commanders.

2. Authorizes the President to direct that communications between the President or the Secretary of Defense and the unified and specified combatant commanders run through the JCS Chairman.

3. Authorizes the President to assign duties to the JCS Chairman to assist the President and the Secretary of Defense in performing their command function.

4. Authorizes the Secretary of Defense to assign responsibility to the JCS Chairman for overseeing the activities of the unified and specified combatant commands.