

Y4  
. Ar 5/3:  
J 63

1034

J 63  
AR 5/3  
8894

# NOMINATION OF LT. GEN. HAROLD K. JOHNSON TO BE CHIEF OF STAFF, ARMY

GOVERNMENT

Storage

## HEARING BEFORE THE COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES UNITED STATES SENATE EIGHTY-EIGHTH CONGRESS

SECOND SESSION

ON

LT. GEN. HAROLD KEITH JOHNSON, U.S. ARMY, FOR APPOINTMENT AS CHIEF OF STAFF, U.S. ARMY IN THE GRADE OF GENERAL

JULY 2, 1964

Printed for the use of the Committee on Armed Services

KSU LIBRARIES



505500 00611A  
A11900 305505



U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE

WASHINGTON : 1964

38-380



NOMINATION OF LT. GEN. HAROLD K. JOHNSON TO BE CHIEF OF STAFF, ARMY

HEARING

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

UNITED STATES SENATE

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

RICHARD B. RUSSELL, Georgia, *Chairman*

- |                                   |                                     |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| JOHN STENNIS, Mississippi         | LEVERETT SALTONSTALL, Massachusetts |
| HARRY FLOOD BYRD, Virginia        | MARGARET CHASE SMITH, Maine         |
| STUART SYMINGTON, Missouri        | J. GLENN BEALL, Maryland            |
| HENRY M. JACKSON, Washington      | BARRY GOLDWATER, Arizona            |
| SAM J. ERVIN, Jr., North Carolina | CLIFFORD P. CASE, New Jersey        |
| STROM THURMOND, South Carolina    |                                     |
| CLAIR ENGLE, California           |                                     |
| HOWARD W. CANNON, Nevada          |                                     |
| ROBERT C. BYRD, West Virginia     |                                     |
| STEPHEN M. YOUNG, Ohio            |                                     |
| DANIEL K. INOUE, Hawaii           |                                     |

II



## NOMINATION OF LT. GEN. HAROLD K. JOHNSON TO BE CHIEF OF STAFF (ARMY)

THURSDAY, JULY 2, 1964

U.S. SENATE,  
COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES,  
Washington, D.C.

The committee met, pursuant to notice, at 11 a.m., in room 212, Old Senate Office Building.

Present: Senators Russell (presiding), Symington, Jackson, Ervin, Thurmond, Young of Ohio, Inouye, and Beall.

Also present: William H. Darden, professional staff member; and H. S. Atkinson, assistant chief clerk.

Chairman RUSSELL. The committee meets this morning to consider the nomination of Lt. Gen. Harold Keith Johnson, of the U.S. Army, for appointment as Chief of Staff of the Army, in the grade of general. (The nomination report and reference of General Johnson follow:)

216]

### NOMINATION REFERENCE AND REPORT

IN EXECUTIVE SESSION,  
SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES,  
June 25, 1964.

*Ordered*, That the following nomination be referred to the Committee on Armed Services:

Lieutenant General Harold Keith Johnson, United States Army, for appointment as Chief of Staff, United States Army, in the grade of general.

### RÉSUMÉ OF SERVICE CAREER OF HAROLD KEITH JOHNSON, LIEUTENANT GENERAL

XXXXX

Date and place of birth: February 22, 1912, Bowesmont, N. Dak.

Years of active service: Over 31.

Present assignment: Deputy Chief of staff for Military Operations, U.S. Army, Washington, D.C., since July 1963.

Military schools attended:

U.S. Military Academy.

The Infantry School, regular course.

The Infantry School, orientation course No. 2.

Command and General Staff College.

Educational equivalent to the Infantry School, advanced course.

Armed Forces Staff College.

National War College.

## Major permanent duty assignments (last 10 years):

	From—	To—
Senior assistant chief and later executive officer, Plans Division, Office, Deputy Assistant Chief of Staff for Operations, Army General Staff, Washington, D.C.	June 1954.....	January 1956.
Assistant commanding general, 8th Infantry Division, Camp Carson, Colo., later U.S. Army, Europe.	January 1956.....	September 1957.
Chief of Staff, 7th U.S. Army, U.S. Army, Europe.....	September 1957.....	March 1959.
Assistant Chief of Staff, G-3, U.S. Army, Europe.....	April 1959.....	December 1959.
Deputy Chief of Staff, U.S. Army, Europe and Chief of Staff, Central Army Group, U.S. Army, Europe.	December 1959.....	August 1960.
Commandant, U.S. Army Command and General Staff College, Fort Leavenworth, Kans.	August 1960.....	February 1963.
Assistant Deputy Chief of Staff for Military Operations for Plans and Operations, Office, Deputy Chief of Staff for Military Operations, U.S. Army, Washington, D.C.	February 1963.....	April 1963.
Acting Deputy Chief of Staff for Military Operations, U.S. Army, Washington, D.C.	May 1963.....	June 1963.

## Promotions:

	Temporary	Permanent
2d lieutenant.....		June 13, 1933
1st lieutenant.....		June 14, 1936
Captain.....	Oct. 1, 1940	June 14, 1943
Major.....	Dec. 24, 1941	July 15, 1948
Lieutenant colonel.....	Apr. 7, 1942	
Colonel.....	Sept. 15, 1945	
Lieutenant colonel.....	May 1, 1946	July 28, 1950
Colonel.....	Dec. 30, 1950	Feb. 1, 1956
Brigadier general.....	Jan. 1, 1956	June 21, 1960
Major general.....	Oct. 1, 1959	Apr. 1, 1963
Lieutenant general.....	July 1, 1963	

## Medals and awards:

Distinguished Service Cross.  
 Legion of Merit (with three oak leaf clusters).  
 Bronze Star Medal.

Chairman RUSSELL. This is the first nomination involving General Johnson that requires a personal appearance before the Committee on Armed Services.

On behalf of the committee, General, I welcome you here and extend hearty congratulations on your selection to fill this very important position.

**STATEMENT OF LT. GEN. HAROLD KEITH JOHNSON, NOMINEE  
 FOR APPOINTMENT AS CHIEF OF STAFF OF THE ARMY**

General JOHNSON. Thank you very much, sir.

Chairman RUSSELL. General, if you will give us an oral summary of your background and career, we may then have a few questions.

General JOHNSON. I was born in North Dakota in 1912, lived in North Dakota through my schooldays, and attended elementary and high school in North Dakota, graduating from Grafton High School in 1929.

I entered West Point that same year, graduated in 1933 and was commissioned in the infantry. I had the usual run of troop assignments, stationed first at Fort Snelling, Minn., with the 3d Infantry, which presently is here in Washington, attended the Infantry School in 1937-38, and was stationed in New York for a couple of years prior to going to the Philippines in 1940.

In 1941, when war broke out, I was assigned to the Philippine Scouts, a part of the Philippine Division, and participated in the campaigns in Central Luzon and on Bataan.

At the conclusion of hostilities I was a battalion commander in the 57th Infantry, Philippine Scouts.

I participated in the Bataan death march and was a prisoner for 41 months to the day. I was moved from the Philippines to Japan in December and January of 1944 and 1945.

We were moved from Japan to Korea in April of 1945 and we were liberated there in early September by the 7th Division when they made their landing at Inchon.

Following the war, I was permitted to take a number of refresher courses at our ground force schools to catch up on the things that I had missed during the war. I attended the Command and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth in its first full-year course after the war and was retained on the faculty for 2 years. I attended the Armed Forces Staff College, from whence I reported to Fort Devens, Mass., to again command an infantry battalion.

I was with my battalion at Fort Drum, N.Y., conducting demonstrations for Reserve and Guard units on summer active duty training when the Korean war started. I was alerted to form a provisional battalion to take to Korea to fill out our understrength units that had been committed from Japan to the Korean action. I took the 1st Provisional Infantry Battalion from Fort Devens to Korea and joined the 8th Cavalry Regiment as its 3d Battalion.

I fought with the battalion for 2 months, then became the regimental commander of the 5th Cavalry Regiment for 2 months during which time we moved from Pyongyang to the north, had our first meeting with the Chinese, and eventually withdrew back to Seoul. Upon reaching Seoul I was transferred back to the 8th Cavalry as its commander.

Chairman RUSSELL. Is that part of the 1st Cavalry Division?

General JOHNSON. Yes, sir. After commanding the 8th Cavalry Regiment I was reassigned to the 1st U.S. Corps as the G-3 or Assistant Chief of Staff for Operations.

I stayed there until October, when I returned to the United States for assignment to the Office of the Chief of Army Field Forces at Fort Monroe, Va. I was at Fort Monroe from December until the following August, at which time I was reassigned to Washington to attend the National War College.

From the War College, I was assigned in the Pentagon to the Office of the Assistant Chief of Staff, G-3, first as Chief of the Joint War Plans Branch, later as the Deputy Army Planner, and still later as the executive officer of G-3. I was selected for promotion to brigadier general in December of that year (1955) and in January 1956 I was reassigned to the 8th Infantry Division, then at Fort Carson, Colo.

The 8th Division was one of the gyroscope units. We moved to Germany during the late summer and fall of 1956. I went over with the first increment, served with them in Germany for a year before I was reassigned as Chief of Staff of the 7th Army. I spent 19 months in that assignment and was reassigned in April 1959 as Assistant Chief of G-3 Operations of U.S. Army, Europe. After approxi-

mately 9 months in that assignment, I became the Chief of Staff of the Central Army Group—a NATO headquarters planning for the wartime activities of French, German, and United States forces generally from the area Kassel to the south in Germany.

I came back in August 1960 to be the commandant of our Command and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth, Kans. I spent 30 months in that assignment and then came to Washington as an Assistant Deputy Chief of Staff for Military Operations on February 27 last year. I became the Acting Deputy Chief of Staff on May 6, and on July 1, I was promoted to lieutenant general and designated the Deputy Chief of Staff for Military Operations.

I have been in that position until the day before yesterday, when I began to disassociate myself in preparation for this hearing.

Chairman RUSSELL. You have been in Washington for the last 4 years, practically?

General JOHNSON. No, sir; I have been in Washington for approximately the last 16 months. Prior to that time, I was at Fort Leavenworth for 30 months.

Chairman RUSSELL. It is neither pertinent nor germane, General, but is your name Johnson of English or Scandinavian derivation?

General JOHNSON. English, sir. My family says Scotch and Irish.

Chairman RUSSELL. Did you know General King?

General JOHNSON. Yes, sir. I knew him quite well, sir.

Chairman RUSSELL. I would say you have a friend out there. I knew him quite well. He lived in my State.

General JOHNSON. He is a very fine gentleman.

Chairman RUSSELL. He is, he is a very fine man.

General, I wish you would give us a statement as to your concept of your duty and responsibility to the legislative branch of the Government in the event you are asked questions on subjects where the views of the legislative branch or your own views might be at variance with those of the executive branch, the Chief Executive—the President—or the Secretary of Defense.

General JOHNSON. I hold the view that my first obligation is to the defense of my country, that when I appear before this committee or any committee of the Congress, it is incumbent upon me to be completely honest with the Congress and to respond to any questions that I am competent to answer.

Moreover, subsequent to the announcement of my nomination, I discussed this point with the Secretary of Defense and I have his assurance that I am at complete freedom to do just what I have stated to the committee.

Chairman RUSSELL. That is to make a full statement outlining your own personal view based on this very broad experience that you have outlined to us here this morning?

General JOHNSON. Yes, sir.

Chairman RUSSELL. In the event that your views are contrary to those held by the Secretary of Defense?

General JOHNSON. Yes, sir.

Chairman RUSSELL. Well, of course, the Secretary of State, too, for that matter.

General JOHNSON. I would anticipate, sir, that I am not going to be quarreling with the Secretary of State.

Chairman RUSSELL. Off the record.

(Discussion off the record.)

Chairman RUSSELL. Senator Beall?

Senator BEALL. General, have you always been an infantry officer?

General JOHNSON. Yes, sir; up until the time I was appointed a general officer. As a general officer I have no specific branch affiliation.

Senator BEALL. Mr. Chairman, this is something a little unusual, to recognize the infantry as the all-around soldier. It is a little unusual. Something new, I think.

I have no further questions.

Chairman RUSSELL. Senator Symington?

Senator SYMINGTON. General, where did you get your Distinguished Service Cross?

General JOHNSON. In Korea, sir, as a battalion commander.

Senator SYMINGTON. I have no further questions, Mr. Chairman. It appears to me that the record of this officer is outstanding, and I look forward to voting for his confirmation.

Chairman RUSSELL. Senator Jackson?

Senator JACKSON. All I want to say, Mr. Chairman, is that I am impressed with General Johnson's fine record and forthright way in which he has responded to questions.

Chairman RUSSELL. Senator Thurmond?

Senator THURMOND. Mr. Chairman, I have no questions. I just want to say that I have known General Johnson out at the Command and General Staff College and some other places, and he has an outstanding record. He is a very able Army officer and well equipped to be Chief of Staff. I think he will make an excellent Chief of Staff. I shall take pleasure in supporting his confirmation.

Chairman RUSSELL. Senator Young?

Senator YOUNG. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have no questions—well, one question.

General Johnson, to my regret, I have not known you until now, but may I ask this? You do hold the view and will continue to hold the view, will you not, that in our Nation, the civilian authority is always supreme over military authority?

General JOHNSON. I do, sir.

Chairman RUSSELL. Senator Inouye?

Senator INOUE. Mr. Chairman, I just wish to congratulate the general for his nomination and to say that I am greatly impressed, like my colleagues, with his war record and his military record. I am extremely pleased, personally, to see an Infantry officer become the Chief of Staff.

Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

General JOHNSON. I would remind the committee, if it is not presumptuous, that General Wheeler is also an infantry officer. He has spent a good deal of time on high-level staff work, but in addition he has commanded every unit from a platoon to a corps and has been a deputy theater commander.

Senator INOUE. It is about time they took over.

Chairman RUSSELL. I thought he served on the staff in World War II.

General JOHNSON. He was the Chief of Staff of an infantry division during World War II; yes, sir. And I might add—his first assignment out of West Point was at Fort Benning in the 29th Infantry Regiment which in those days was considered the cream of all assignments.

Chairman RUSSELL. General, we congratulate you and wish you Godspeed and good luck as you embark on your very important duties, vital to the security of this country. I can assure you that the members of the committee are very anxious to cooperate with you to the fullest extent in any matters that may arise where the legislative branch can be of any assistance to the Armed Forces of this country.

Thank you, sir; we are glad to have met you.

General JOHNSON. Thank you, sir.

Chairman RUSSELL. The committee will now go into executive session.

(Whereupon, at 11:18 a.m., the committee went into executive session.)

(The nomination of Lt. Gen. Harold Keith Johnson to be Chief of Staff, U.S. Army in the grade of general was subsequently approved by the committee in executive session, and confirmed by the Senate the same day, July 2, 1964.)

○

