

Chiefs of Staff are the senior military officers of their respective services and are military advisers to the President, the National Security Council, and the Secretary of Defense. The Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs acts as Chairman in the absence of the Chairman.

Each military department (the Department of the Navy includes naval aviation and the United States Marine Corps) is separately organized under its own Secretary and functions under the authority, direction, and control of the Secretary of Defense. The Secretary of each military department is responsible to the Secretary of Defense for the operation and efficiency of his department. Orders to the military departments are issued through the Secretaries of these departments, or their

designees, by the Secretary of Defense or under authority specifically delegated in writing by the Secretary of Defense or provided by law.

The commanders of unified combatant commands are responsible to the President and the Secretary of Defense for accomplishing the military missions assigned to them and exercising command authority over forces assigned to them. The operational chain of command runs from the President to the Secretary of Defense to the commanders of the unified combatant commands. The Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff functions within the chain of command by transmitting the orders of the President or the Secretary of Defense to the commanders of the unified combatant commands.

Office of the Secretary of Defense

Secretary of Defense The Secretary of Defense is the principal defense policy adviser to the President and is responsible for the formulation of general defense policy and policy related to DOD, and for the execution of approved policy. Under the direction of the President, the Secretary exercises authority, direction, and control over the Department of Defense.

Deputy Secretary of Defense The Deputy Secretary of Defense is delegated full power and authority to act for the Secretary of Defense and to exercise the powers of the Secretary on any and all matters for which the Secretary is authorized to act pursuant to law.

Acquisition and Technology The Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Technology is the principal staff assistant and adviser to the Secretary of Defense for all matters relating to the acquisition system, research and development, test and evaluation, production, logistics, military construction, procurement, and economic affairs. The Under Secretary serves as the Defense acquisition executive with responsibility for supervising the performance of the entire

Department acquisition system and chairing the Defense Acquisition Board.

Policy The Under Secretary of Defense for Policy is the principal staff assistant to the Secretary of Defense for policy matters relating to overall international security policy and political-military affairs. Functional areas include NATO affairs; net assessments; foreign military sales; arms limitation agreements; international trade and technology; regional security affairs; special operations and low-intensity conflict; integration of departmental plans and policies with overall national security objectives; drug control policy, requirements, priorities, systems, resources, and programs; and issuance of policy guidance affecting departmental programs.

Personnel and Readiness The Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness is the principal staff assistant and adviser to the Secretary of Defense for policy matter relating to the structure and readiness of the Total Force. Functional areas include: readiness; civilian and military personnel policies, programs, and systems; civilian and military equal opportunity programs;

health policies, programs, and activities; Reserve Component programs, policies, and activities; family policy, dependent's education, and personnel support programs; and mobilization planning and requirements.

Operational Test and Evaluation The Director of Operational Test and Evaluation serves as the principal staff assistant and adviser to the Secretary of Defense on operational test and evaluation in the Department of Defense and is the principal test and evaluation official within the senior management of the Department. The Director prescribes policies and procedures for the conduct of operational test and evaluation within the Department; provides advice and makes recommendations to the Secretary of Defense and issues guidance to and consults with the heads of Defense Components with respect to such activities and specific programs to be conducted in connection with a major defense acquisition program; monitors and reviews all test and evaluation programs to ensure adherence to approved policies and standards; and reviews and makes recommendations to the Secretary of Defense on all

budgetary and financial matters relating to such activities, including operational test facilities and equipment. In addition, the Secretary and Deputy Secretary of Defense are assisted by a special staff of assistants to include the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Legislative Affairs; the General Counsel; the Inspector General; the Assistant to the Secretary of Defense for Intelligence Oversight; the Assistant to the Secretary of Defense for Public Affairs; the Director for Administration and Management; and such other offices as the Secretary of Defense establishes to assist him in carrying out his duties and responsibilities.

Command, Control, Communications and Intelligence The Assistant Secretary of Defense (Command, Control, Communications and Intelligence (C³I)) is the principal staff assistant and adviser to the Secretary and Deputy Secretary of Defense for C³I, information management, counterintelligence, and security countermeasures matters, including warning reconnaissance and intelligence and intelligence-related activities conducted by the Department of Defense.

Joint Chiefs of Staff

Joint Chiefs of Staff

The Joint Chiefs of Staff consists of the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff; the Vice Chairman; the Chief of Staff of the Army; the Chief of Naval Operations; the Chief of Staff of the Air Force; and the Commandant of the Marine Corps.

The Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff is the principal military adviser to the President, the National Security Council, and the Secretary of Defense. The other members of the Joint Chiefs of Staff are military advisers who may provide additional information upon request from the President, the National Security Council, or the Secretary of Defense. They may also submit their advice when it does not agree with that of the Chairman.

Subject to the authority of the President and the Secretary of Defense, the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff is responsible for:

- assisting the President and the Secretary of Defense in providing for the strategic direction and planning of the Armed Forces;
- allocating resources to fulfill strategic plans;
- making recommendations for the assignment of responsibilities within the Armed Forces in accordance with and in support of those logistic and mobility plans;
- comparing the capabilities of American and allied Armed Forces with those of potential adversaries;
- preparing and reviewing contingency plans that conform to policy