

Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. If confirmed by the Senate, General Myers will succeed Gen. Joseph J. Ralston.

General Myers currently serves as Commander in Chief, United States Space Command; Commander in Chief, North American Aerospace Defense Command; and Commander, Air Force Space Command. He brings to the position of Vice Chairman extensive operational and planning experience as well as proven leadership ability. During this distinguished career, General Myers commanded the 335th Tactical Fighter Squadron, the 325th Tactical Training Wing, the 1st Tactical Fighter Wing, U.S. Forces Japan, the 5th Air Force, and U.S. Pacific Air Forces. He is a Command Pilot with more than 3,900 flying hours, including combat missions in Vietnam. His broad professional experience also includes significant tours on the Joint Staff and Air Staff in the Pentagon.

General Myers assumes the post of Vice Chairman at a time of diverse challenges for our Armed Forces, ranging from preserving and enhancing military readiness to modernizing and transforming our forces to maintain our military superiority in the 21st century. I have the utmost trust and confidence in his ability to meet these challenges.

**Statement on the Nomination of
Gen. Joseph J. Ralston To Be
Supreme Allied Commander Europe**
October 14, 1999

I am pleased to announce that I have nominated Gen. Joseph J. Ralston, United States Air Force, to succeed Gen. Wesley K. Clark, United States Army, as Supreme Allied Commander Europe. This nomination is subject to the approval of the North Atlantic Council's Defense Planning Committee. Upon Defense Planning Committee approval of his nomination as Supreme Allied Commander Europe, I intend to send forward to Congress General Ralston's nomination to serve as Commander in Chief, United States European Command.

General Ralston's distinguished career spans three decades, with significant operational and policy experience. He established

impeccable credentials as a military commander while commanding the 68th Tactical Fighter Squadron, the 56th Tactical Training Wing, the U.S. Alaskan Command, the 11th Air Force, and the Air Combat Command. He has served with great distinction as Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff over the past 3½ years, providing excellent advice and support for two Joint Chiefs of Staff Chairmen and two Secretaries of Defense.

This is a time of significant change within the North Atlantic Alliance, as NATO continues the work of building a secure and undivided Europe. General Clark is doing an extraordinary job as Supreme Allied Commander Europe. He led Allied forces to a brilliant victory in Operation Allied Force and is demonstrating similarly impressive leadership as KFOR provides the security necessary to build a lasting and just peace in Kosovo. I know he will continue his dynamic leadership of NATO forces in Europe during the remainder of his tour. I have utmost confidence that General Ralston will be a worthy successor.

**Statement on the Death of Former
President Julius Nyerere of Tanzania**
October 14, 1999

On behalf of the American people, Hillary and I extend our deepest sympathies to the family of former President Julius Nyerere, to President Mkapa, and the people of Tanzania. President Nyerere's death is a great loss for Tanzania, for Africa, and for the international community as a whole.

President Nyerere was a pioneering leader for freedom and self-government in Africa. Many African leaders sought his guidance as they crafted their own new societies.

President Nyerere dedicated his life to a vision rooted in the belief that all people have a responsibility to protect those who cannot protect themselves. He practiced this ethic personally, aiding not only courageous African leaders but also ordinary victims of regional conflict; he opened Tanzania's borders to refugees from wars in Mozambique, Rwanda, Burundi, Congo, and Uganda.

President Nyerere's legacy of determination and compassion lives on in the generous

people of Tanzania today. We join our friends in Tanzania and Africa in celebrating his achievements and mourning his death. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family and his fellow citizens.

Memorandum on Individual Training Accounts for Federal Workers

October 14, 1999

Memorandum for the Director of the Office of Personnel Management

Subject: Individual Training Accounts for Federal Workers

Thank you for forwarding the options and recommendations of the Task Force on Federal Training Technology on establishing individual training accounts (ITAs) for Federal employees.

Your report provides a thoughtful and thorough review of the ways ITAs may be used to improve the quality of training available to Federal workers. The skills needed by Federal workers, the technologies available for training, and the institutions capable of delivering high-quality training are all changing rapidly. Individual employees may be in the best position to discover opportunities in this fast changing market; ITAs can give them needed flexibility.

Improving the efficiency and quality of Federal Government services in the years ahead will require educated workers to fill new jobs and allow incumbent workers to continuously upgrade their knowledge and skill base. We have an obligation to explore the use of new technologies to provide cost-effective, high-quality, and accessible training to ensure that we provide the kind of working environment that attracts and retains outstanding working men and women.

After reviewing your report, it is clear that ITAs merit further exploration because of their potential for improving Federal training. The Task Force points out that while a number of private firms, State governments, and foreign governments are currently implementing ITAs, the programs are not fully tested. I support the Task Force recommendation that Federal agencies should begin a series of pilot projects and

develop tools for evaluating their success. I therefore direct that OPM work with the Task Force to develop a guidance for agencies to use in developing and evaluating ITA pilot projects.

I understand that the Task Force also is making steady progress in developing recommendations for Federal agencies to make effective use of technology to improve training opportunities. I look forward to reviewing the final Task Force report and learning more about the development of the demonstrations of advanced learning technologies being proposed by the Executive departments. Particularly valuable are the Task Force's recommendations regarding how agencies can use their combined procurement power to stimulate development of high-quality training technologies conforming to standards used in commercial and university instruction. Your work will serve not only to strengthen the Federal workforce and ensure that the American taxpayers receive the best service possible, but can also accelerate the development of technologies useful in schools and companies throughout the Nation.

I appreciate your leadership, the commitment of the Task Force, and the dedicated service of your staff, particularly Emzell Blanton, the Executive Director of the Task Force, in ensuring the success of this important effort.

William J. Clinton

Remarks Honoring the NCAA Men's and Women's Basketball Champions

October 14, 1999

The President. Thank you very much. Well, ladies and gentlemen, welcome to the White House. I want to say a special word of welcome to Purdue Coach Carolyn Peck and UConn Coach Jim Calhoun and their wonderful teams. And we're honored to be joined by two Members of Congress from Connecticut, John Larson and Nancy Johnson. [Applause] Thank you.

Usually, you know, the Members of Congress, they stand in front of the team, and I shake hands with them, and then I go shake hands with the team. And I started shaking