

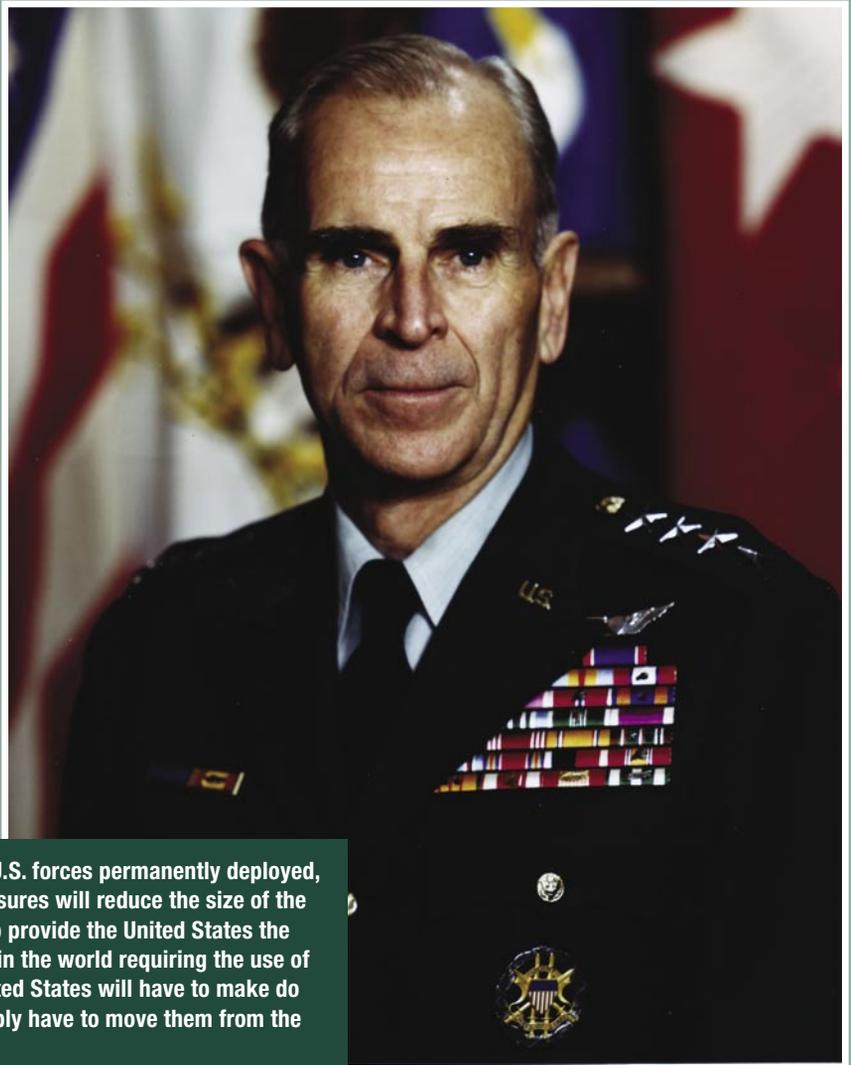
General John William Vessey, Jr.

(1922–)

Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff

VITA

Born in Minneapolis, Minnesota; enlisted in Minnesota National Guard and assigned to the Minnesota 34th Division (1939); called to active duty (1941); fought with 34th Division in Tunisia and Italy (1941–1945); received field commission at Anzio (1944); earned B.A. from University of Maryland (1963); received M.S. from The George Washington University (1965); graduated from the Industrial College of the Armed Forces (1966); joined 25th Division in Vietnam, commanding artillery unit (1966); began various assignments in Thailand and Laos (1971); assumed command of Fourth Division, Colorado (1974); appointed Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations and Plans, then took command of U.S. forces in Korea (1976); chosen as Army Vice Chief of Staff (1979); served two terms as Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff (1982–1985); served 46 years of active duty, the longest in Army history; after retiring worked to secure remains of servicemen listed as MIA in Vietnam, acted as diplomat and adviser to several Presidents, and served on a variety of commissions and boards.



The change in the strategic situation will see fewer U.S. forces permanently deployed, and as the deployed forces are reduced, budget pressures will reduce the size of the total force. The overseas base structure is unlikely to provide the United States the flexibility it has had in the past. If there are troubles in the world requiring the use of American forces—and there surely will be—the United States will have to make do with fewer forces than it has today, and it will probably have to move them from the United States to the trouble spot.

—from General Vessey's foreword to Michael J. Mazarr's *Light Forces and the Future of U.S. Military Strategy* (1990)

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