

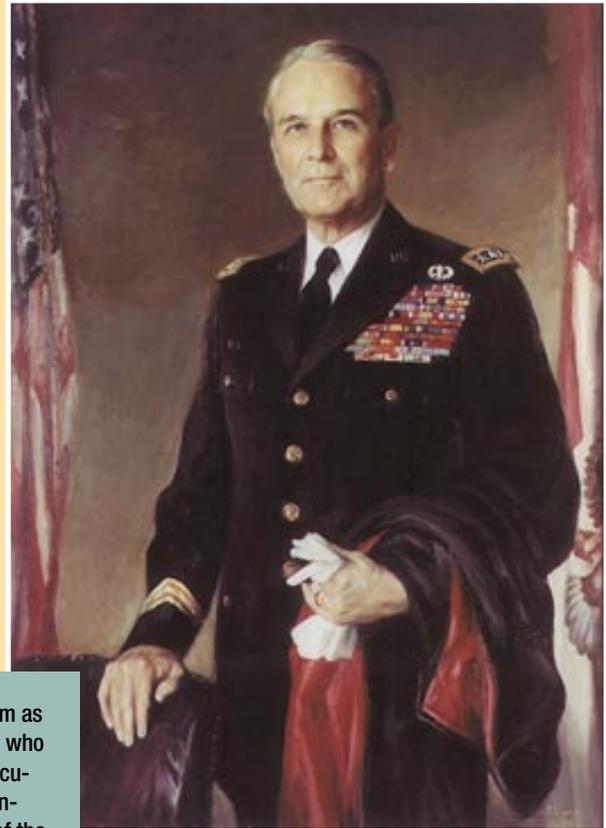
General Maxwell Davenport Taylor

(1901–1987)

Chief of Staff, U.S. Army
Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff

VITA

Born in Keytesville, Missouri; graduated from Military Academy (1922); served in corps of engineers, then transferred to field artillery (1922–27); studied in Paris and taught French at West Point (1927–32); Field Artillery School (1933); Command and General Staff School (1935); American Embassy, Tokyo, and military attaché in Peking (1935–39); Army War College (1940); War Plans Division on defense mission to Latin America (1940); commander, 12th Field Artillery Battalion (1940–41); office of the secretary, General Staff (1941–42); chief of staff, and artillery commander in Italy, 82^d Airborne Division (1942–44); commander, 101st Airborne Division, at Normandy and in European campaigns (1944–45); superintendent, Military Academy (1945–49); chief of staff, European Command (1949); commander, U.S. forces in Berlin (1949–51); assistant chief of staff for operations and then deputy chief for operations and administration (1951–53); commander, Eighth Army in Korea (1953–55); commander in chief, Far East Command (1955); chief of staff, U.S. Army (1955–59); retired (1959); recalled as military representative of President (1961–62) and Chairman, Joint Chiefs (1962–64); ambassador to Republic of Vietnam (1964–65); chairman, President’s Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board (1965–69); and president, Institute for Defense Analyses (1966–69); died at Washington, D.C.



U.S. Army Center of Military History

[President Kennedy] assured the Joint Chiefs that he did not regard them as narrow military specialists but as men of wide international experience who could help him in evaluating the broad context of many situations, particularly those requiring a combined input from many sources within government. To give his opinion lasting official status, this historic statement of the advisory role of the Joint Chiefs was incorporated in a National Security Memorandum, which was continued in effect throughout the Johnson administration and . . . revalidated by President Nixon.

—From *Precarious Security* by Maxwell D. Taylor

Portrait by
Bjorn Peter Egeli.