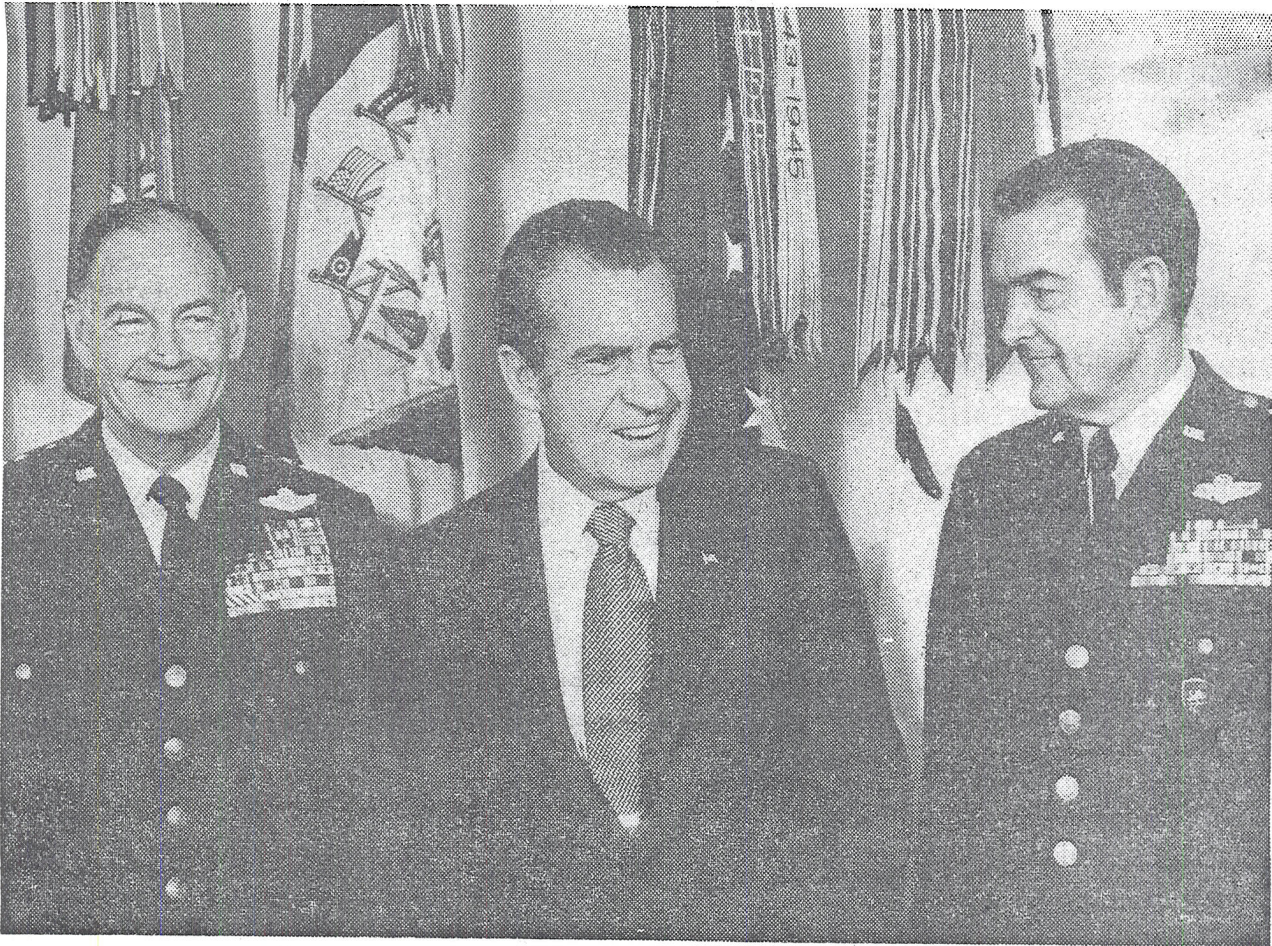


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Gen. Brown to Head Joint Chiefs



By Charles Del Vecchio—The Washington Post

President Nixon poses with Air Force Gen. George S. Brown, left, and Gen. David C. Jones after their nominations.

By Michael Getler

Washington Post Staff Writer

President Nixon yesterday nominated Air Force Gen. George S. Brown to become the next chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

Brown would succeed Adm. Thomas H. Moorer, who is to retire July 2 after finishing his second two-year term.

Brown, 55, would be the first Air Force officer to hold the nation's highest-ranking military position since Gen.

Nathan F. Twining stepped down in 1960.

To fill Brown's job as Air Force chief of staff, Mr. Nixon yesterday nominated Gen. David C. Jones, 52, commander of all U.S. Air Force units in Europe.

Government sources said yesterday that Mr. Nixon will soon nominate J. William Middendorf II as Secretary of the Navy.

Middendorf, who worked in the 1964 presidential campaign of Sen. Barry Goldwater and

was treasurer of the Republican National Committee from 1964 to 1969, has been under secretary of the Navy since August. He has been acting as the Navy's top civilian official since February, when the former secretary, John W. Warner, left.

General Brown was appointed only last August as Air Force chief of staff, but he was the personal choice of Defense Secretary James R. Schlesinger to head the joint chiefs.

The nominations announced yesterday cap a major realignment of top U.S. military commanders.

Just a few days before Brown and Jones are to take over the Navy will also change command, with Adm. James L. Holloway III replacing the retiring chief of Naval operations, Adm. Elmo R. Zumwalt.

That leaves only two of the five current members of the Joint Chiefs of Staff—Army Chief of Staff Gen. Creighton

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W. Abrams and Marine Corps Commandant Gen. Robert E. Cushman.

All three nominations are expected to win Senate confirmation. But Brown, who headed the Seventh Air Force in Vietnam at a time on 1970 when some false reporting of tactical air strikes in Cambodia was apparently carried out, may face further questioning about that from Sen. Harold Hughes (D-Iowa).

Hughes is a member of the Senate Armed Services Committee that held extensive hearing last summer on the 1969-70 Cambodian bombing campaign.

The changes among the joint chiefs come at a time when the Pentagon is striving to put Vietnam behind it, turn attention toward Europe, implement changes in nuclear strategy and attract enough recruits to make an all-volunteer military force work.

The greatest immediate impact of the changes may come from the departure of the two top Navy men, Moorer and Zumwalt, who are probably the two contemporary U.S. military figures most well known to the public. That could reduce the Navy's clout in the inner circles of military policymaking and on Capitol Hill.

Zumwalt, in particular, was a skilled lobbyist and persuasive advocate in Congress. He also took the hardest line in dealing with the Soviet Union, a factor that could affect future formulations of U.S. nuclear arms policies aimed at reaching a new SALT agreement.

Zumwalt believes strongly, for example, that U.S. land-based missiles will eventually become extremely vulnerable to Soviet missile attack. Brown, whose service runs the land-based ICBM programs, said in a recent interview with The Washington Post that he wasn't so sure of that.

Moorer, after serving 45 years in the Navy and two terms as chairman, found the last year of his career marred by implications that he had received improperly obtained documents through an alleged military spy ring operating in the White House.

Though precisely what Moorer was aware of is still in dispute, the revelations undoubtedly hurt him. He was being thought of for another year's extension in office before the allegations surfaced.

Brown, a World War II bomber pilot, also headed the Air Force Systems Command for three years and thus has considerable experience in the highly technical and costly business of developing new weaponry.

Jones is the first prospective member of the Joint

Chiefs of Staff who is not a service academy graduate since Gen. Curtis LeMay in 1961. He is experienced as a bomber and fighter pilot and commander. He flew 29 combat missions over North Korea.

Among his other credentials, Middendorf would be the first civilian Navy chief to hold a degree in naval science.