DAVID E. JEREMIAH NEWS TIMELINE
Prepared by M. Joel Voss
Miller Center of Public Affairs, University of Virginia, 07/07/2010

1955
David Jeremiah graduates from the University of Oregon with a B.S. in business administration. Jeremiah goes on to graduate from the George Washington University with an M.A. in financial management. (http://uoregon.edu)

1956
Jeremiah joins the Navy in the Officer Candidate program. (Congressional Record, 02/24/1994)

1985-1986
Rear Admiral Jeremiah commands the Sixth Fleet warships in conducting anti-terrorist measures off of the coast of Libya. Reportedly, tensions are very high between the U.S. and Libya. (The Associated Press, 03/05/1986, 03/24/1986)

1987
September
Jeremiah is nominated by President Ronald Reagan to serve as an Admiral of the Navy and Commander of the Pacific Fleet. (The Washington Post, 09/12/1987)

1989
July
Jeremiah argues that the U.S. public schools are failing America. He points out that many new recruits to the Navy must receive remedial education upon joining the service. (The San Diego Union-Tribune, 07/25/1989)

December
President George H. W. Bush appoints Jeremiah to serve as Vice-Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. (The Associated Press, 12/06/1989)

1990
May
Jeremiah meets with Soviet Marshal Sergei F. Akhromeyev in Washington D.C. (The Oregonian, 06/04/1990)

June
On the 5th, Jeremiah argues that the threat of a Soviet attack on Europe is disappearing. According to Jeremiah, “By the mid-1990s, it will take the Soviet Union up to two years to mount the same kind of attack on Europe that it could previously undertake in 10 days.” (The Seattle Post-Intelligencer, 06/06/1990) Jeremiah credits the rapid changes in Eastern Europe as a Soviet threat-mitigating factor. Additionally, Jeremiah argues that the United States should not decrease military spending and should maintain a presence in Europe to offer reassurance to America’s allies in the region. (The Oregonian, 06/06/1990)
Jeremiah posits that dramatic changes in Asian states’ economic powers will alter the relationship between those countries, the United States, and the Soviet Union. (*The Sunday Oregonian*, 06/10/1990)

**August**

On the 2\textsuperscript{nd}, Bush gives a speech in Aspen, Colorado announcing the new Base Force strategy to cut the military from 2.1 million to 1.6 million, to focus more on research and development (R&D) and a rapid response from reservists, but to have U.S. forces still remain in key areas like Europe. It is a strategy developed by Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff General Colin Powell and supported by Jeremiah. (Colin Powell, *My American Journey*, New York: Random House, 1995, pp. 444-445)

On the 11\textsuperscript{th}, Jeremiah attends a meeting with Powell and senior Air Force officers to discuss an attack plan against Iraq called “Instant Thunder.” It would include 700 air attacks per day for six days. (Michael R. Gordon and Bernard E. Trainor, *The General’s War*, New York: Little, Brown and Co., 1995, pp. 82-83)

**October**

Secretary of Defense Dick Cheney brings Jeremiah along to brief Bush on operation “Western Excursion.” It is a plan that has U.S. troops bypassing Iraqi troops in Kuwait to enter Iraq from the west. It is reported that Cheney left Powell out of the loop in this briefing. Bush dismisses the plan. (Gordon and Trainor, pp. 150-151)

**December**

The first allied troops are sent to the Middle East in anticipation of liberating Kuwait. (http://www.pbs.org)

**1991**

**January**

On the 17\textsuperscript{th}, the Persian Gulf War starts. During the war, Powell calls Jeremiah his “indispensable right-hand man.” (Powell, p. 495)

**March**

Jeremiah is part of the National Security Council Deputies Committee that discusses the idea of creating a “no-fly” zone in southern Iraq. (Gordon and Trainor, pp. 450-451)

**April**

On the 11\textsuperscript{th}, Jeremiah testifies before the Senate Armed Services Committee over the current and future state of the Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI or “Star Wars”). Jeremiah states that “the system now being pushed by Bush should be regarded only as a steppingstone toward the broader antimissile system.” (*The Washington Post*, 04/25/1991)

**July**


**August**

At a private dinner sponsored by the University of California at San Diego’s Institute on Global Conflict and Cooperation, Jeremiah argues that although the
Persian Gulf War was successful, there were weak points in the U.S. military as well. For example, he states, “No country will allow the United States six months to build up its forces before attacking if this nation goes to war again.” (*The San Diego Union-Tribune*, 08/08/1991)

**October**

On the 26th, Jeremiah attends the launching of the U.S.S. *John Paul Jones* in Maine. Jeremiah argues that the world has significantly changed since the fall of the Berlin Wall and these changes have altered U.S. military planning. Jeremiah states, “You go to work every morning and you don’t have the least idea what's going to happen next.” Further, “It used to be we'd go in and drone around on how to beat the Russians. Now, when we say we’ve got a crisis, the lieutenant in Germany may end up in Saudi Arabia or in Turkey trying to get Kurds out of the hills. It's a totally different thing.” (*The Union Leader*, 10/27/1991)

**November**

Bush nominates Jeremiah to a second term as Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. (*The Sunday Oregonian*, 11/24/1991)

On the 13th, Jeremiah testifies before the Senate Armed Services Committee in support of the Conventional Forces in Europe (CFE) treaty establishing limits on certain military equipment in Europe. (*Congressional Record*, 11/13/1991, p. 91)

**December**

Speaking shortly after the dissolution of the Soviet Union, Jeremiah states that “Although he [Bush] is happy the United States is victorious in the Cold War, ‘we worry’ about the international impact ‘if the Soviet Union makes a final exit from the stage of history.’” (*The Washington Post*, 12/10/1991)

While visiting Singapore, Jeremiah argues that the U.S. is committed to maintaining a presence in the region. He states that, “logistic-support ships from Guam, access to facilities elsewhere and modern technology would enable the Navy and Air Force to operate in East Asia and the Pacific ‘very much as we have in times past.’” (*The Associated Press*, 12/26/1991)

**1992**

**January**

On the 21st, Jeremiah serves as the keynote speaker at the Reserve Officers Association Annual Mid-Winter Conference. Jeremiah argues that the end of the Warsaw Pact will lead to cuts in military spending which will directly affect reserve officers. He states, “Similarly, we no longer require -- and can’t afford -- the large reserve combat forces we built during the Cold War. Nor do we have any reason to keep other reserve units whose mission has gone away now that the active forces they support are themselves being deactivated. And so we’re reducing that Cold War reserve cushion we added in the 1980s.” (*U.S. Newswire*, 01/16/1992; *PR Newswire*, 01/20/1992)
As part of the military’s strategy to become more efficient after the end of the Cold War, Jeremiah states that the military must focus more on R&D and less on mass consumption of arms. (*The New York Times*, 01/24/1992)

**February**

On the 10th, Jeremiah meets with the other major heads of the armed services to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the first meeting between major heads of the armed services to decide the strategic battle plans for World War II. The group, originally known as the “corporate leadership” makes up the modern Joint Chiefs of Staff. (*The Washington Times*, 02/14/1992)

On the 11th, Jeremiah gives a speech at a luncheon sponsored by the Navy League and Kiwanis Club in San Diego. Jeremiah focuses on the Navy’s plans to trim its forces into more efficient units in the future. Reportedly, the plans “would be the most significant change in the Navy’s presence here [in San Diego] since the turn of the century.” (*The San Diego Union-Tribune*, 02/12/1992)

A leaked classified study, drafted at the behest of Paul Wolfowitz, the Undersecretary of Defense and Jeremiah, as part of the “defense planning guidance,” suggests that there are four possible scenarios that could lead the U.S. to war over the next decade. They are: a resurgent Russia with expansionist aims, problems with North Korea or Iraq, or both at once. The next day, members of the Senate Armed Services Committee challenge some of the assumptions of the report, suggesting that the “Pentagon was conjuring up new threats in order to maintain high defense spending.” (*The Washington Post*, 02/20/1992; *The New York Times*, 02/21/1992; *Facts on File World Digest*, 03/05/1992)

On the 20th, while meeting with congressional committee members and in response to questions concerning why the United States wants to maintain forces near the former Soviet Union, Jeremiah states that, “We are always interested in what is going on with the other side. Submarine forces have done that for years.” (*The New York Times*, 02/23/1992)

**November**

On the 21st, Jeremiah reportedly recommends military deployment in Somalia to end suffering in the country. Up to this point, the Bush Administration is still deciding to send ground forces to Somalia. (*The Washington Post*, 12/06/1992)

**December**

Jeremiah briefs president-elect Bill Clinton on military and relief efforts in Somalia. Reportedly, Clinton supports Bush’s efforts to end starvation in the African country. (*The Associated Press*, 12/04/1992)

1993

**October**

On the 1st, Jeremiah takes over as the interim chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff replacing Powell, who retires. The appointment is temporary and Jeremiah retires from the Navy in 1994. (*The Washington Post*, 10/01/1993; *Congressional Record*, 02/24/1994)
Your Early Relationship with Bush
- How did you come to meet George H.W. Bush? What were your early impressions of him?
- How did you come to serve as Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff (VCJS)? Explain the process through which you were appointed and confirmed.

Vice-Chair of the Joint Chiefs of Staff
- What were your primary responsibilities? With whom did you most closely work?
- Explain the atmosphere in the Department of Defense, the military, and in the White House at the beginning of your tenure as VCJS. How did the atmosphere evolve over your tenure with the Bush Administration?
- How would you describe your working relationship with President Bush? Secretary of Defense Richard Cheney, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Colin Powell, and other important players like General Norman Schwarzkopf and Undersecretary of Defense for Policy Paul Wolfowitz? How did these relationships change over time vis-à-vis the most important military events of Bush’s presidency?
- What was your relationship like with your counterparts in the Soviet Union / Russia, China, and major European states during your tenure? How did the end of the Cold War and the Gulf War change these relationships?
- What effect did the end of the Cold War have on your duties as VJCS?
- Explain your role in formulating policies concerning defense expenditure cuts and revamping the military during the early 1990s. Were you more of a policy implementer or policy maker? How did you and the military balance the needs of the military moving forward with the vested interests of military communities that may lose bases and jobs? What role did research and development play in key changes in the military’s forces?
- Discuss your working relationship with Congress and its Armed Services Committees.
- Discuss your relationship with the media and the public during the Persian Gulf War and during the height of the defense expenditure cuts.
- What did Bush consider to be the biggest national security threat after the end of the Cold War? Did you and the Joint Chiefs of Staff (JCS) agree? If there was disagreement, how was policy made? How did the Administration and the JCS’s perception of threat change from 1989 to 1993?
- Explain your role during in developing and executing the plans for the Persian Gulf War. Was President Bush generally active in forming military policy? Did his policy activity level alter with the JCS during the lead up to the Gulf War or during the War? Why did President Bush reject the “Western Excursion” plan? Who were the key military policy makers during the War?
- Explain your role during the war.
- What do you perceive to be the strengths and weaknesses of the U.S. military during the Gulf War? Do you believe the military learned a great deal from the War?
- Evaluate Bush’s abilities as a decision maker during war.
- Explain your role in the decision to send a relief mission to Somalia.
The Bush Presidency in Retrospect

- What do you consider your greatest accomplishments as VCJS?
- What were the strengths and weaknesses of the Bush presidency? What features of the Bush presidency were overlooked or misunderstood by the press?
- How effective was Bush as commander-in-chief, and a foreign and legislative leader?
- How should the Bush presidency be viewed in history? What were its most significant achievements?
- What episodes or events are especially instructive or revealing for the historian trying to assess this presidency?
TIMELINES

- David E. Jeremiah News Timeline, prepared by M. Joel Voss, Miller Center of Public Affairs, University of Virginia, 09/16/2010


SELECTED WRITINGS AND PUBLIC STATEMENTS BY DAVID E. JEREMIAH

- David E. Jeremiah, “Nomination of Adm. David E. Jeremiah, to be Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff,” 101st Congress, 2nd Session, 02/22/1990
- David E. Jeremiah, “Nomination of Adm. David E. Jeremiah, USN, for a Second 2-Year Term as Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, 102nd Congress, 2nd Session, 02/20/1992
VICE CHAIR OF THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF


• Richard M. Meinhart, “Vice Chairmen of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and Leadership of the Joint Requirements Oversight Council,” *Joint Force Quarterly*, 56 (1): 144-151

• Peter J. Roman and David W. Tarr, “The Joint Chiefs of Staff: From Service Parochialism to Jointness,” *Political Science Quarterly*, 113 (1998): 91-111


KEY ISSUES AND EVENTS AS VICE CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF

The End of the Cold War

End of the Cold War and Implications for Military Spending
- Foster Church, “Jeremiah Says Military Outlook Altered,” The Oregonian, 06/06/1990
- “Jeremiah, JCS Vice Chairman, Predicts Major Defense Cuts, Asks Reserve Officers for Support,” PR Newswire, 01/20/1992
- “Post-Cold War Defense Role Mulled by Pentagon, Congress; Security Threats, Spending at Issue,” Facts on File World News, 03/05/1992

The Persian Gulf War

**Somalia**