# Selected Speeches, Testimony and Interviews

by

## General John M. Shalikashvili Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff



October 1993 - September 1997

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#### **FOREWORD**

General John M. Shalikashvili was the first draftee and the first naturalized citizen to become Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

General Shalikashvili's story is the American story, but not one he told often and even then, only to groups of young people. Immigrating to America with his family at age 16, he was drafted into the Army during the same month he received his U.S. citizenship and college diploma in 1958. During his 39 years of service, General Shalikashvili served in a variety of key command and staff positions that made him the perfect candidate to tackle the challenges in Europe and Southwest Asia looming on the horizon for American policy makers. Not only had he been the Assistant to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and Supreme Allied Commander, Europe, but General Shali had previously led the task force whose mission it was to protect the Kurdish population in Northern Iraq.

General Shalikashvili's tenure is perhaps best characterized by his firm leadership during a period of continued force reductions, while the U.S. experienced a significant increase in major military operations due to the continuing instability of the post Cold War security environment; events that brought the debate over the use of force into sharp focus. During this period of historic transition in the international security environment, U.S. forces participated in more than 40 major operations and Joint Task Force deployments. Foremost among the challenges were American participation in operations designed to bring peace to warring factions in Bosnia-Herzegovina, restore democracy in Haiti, and enforce United Nations-mandated sanctions against Iraq.

Intent on providing for America's security well into the 21st century, General Shalikashvili established new military-to-military relationships with countries of Central Europe and the former Soviet Union through the Partnership for Peace Program, laid the foundation for incremental expansion of NATO, and provided new direction for the modernization of U.S. military forces through the publication of the first ever joint vision statement for America's military.

This volume contains a chronology of representative speaking engagements and press conferences conducted by General Shalikashvili. But by no means is there sufficient room to include the text of every speech, press conference, and set of congressional testimony. Instead, selected speeches and excerpts from various press conferences are provided based on their importance to current events of the time or to illustrate the diversity of the audience to whom the Chairman must appeal. Researchers interested in material not contained herein should consult the historic record of all General Shalikashvili's correspondence, remarks, testimony, and press conferences maintained at the National Defense University in Washington, DC.