Defense Primer: A Guide for New Members

Lawrence Kapp, Coordinator
Specialist in Military Manpower Policy

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Introduction

The Constitution provides Congress with broad powers over the Armed Forces, including the power to “to raise and support Armies,” “to provide and maintain a Navy,” “to make Rules for the Government and Regulation of the land and naval Forces,” and “to provide for organizing, arming, and disciplining the Militia, and for governing such Part of them as may be employed in the Service of the United States.... ”

CRS has developed a series of short primers to give Members of Congress an overview of key aspects of the Department of Defense and how Congress exercises authority over it. A consolidated list of these primers is contained in this report, along with links to each document.

For additional information on these issues, please contact the authors of the individual reports. Their contact information is listed at the end of each document and at the back of this report.

Congress and the Armed Forces

Congress’s Constitutional Authority with Regard to the Armed Forces

CRS In Focus IF10535, Defense Primer: Congress’s Constitutional Authority with Regard to the Armed Forces, by Jennifer K. Elsea and R. Chuck Mason

The NDAA Process

CRS In Focus IF10515, Defense Primer: The NDAA Process, by Valerie Heitshusen and Lynn M. Williams

Navigating the NDAA

CRS In Focus IF10516, Defense Primer: Navigating the NDAA, by Lynn M. Williams and Valerie Heitshusen

Defense Appropriations Process

CRS In Focus IF10514, Defense Primer: Defense Appropriations Process, by James V. Saturno and Lynn M. Williams

The Executive Branch

President’s Constitutional Authority with Regard to the Armed Forces

CRS In Focus IF10534, Defense Primer: President’s Constitutional Authority with Regard to the Armed Forces, by Jennifer K. Elsea and R. Chuck Mason
The Department of Defense
CRS In Focus IF10543, Defense Primer: The Department of Defense, by Kathleen J. McInnis

The Military Departments
CRS In Focus IF10550, Defense Primer: The Military Departments, by Heidi M. Peters and Lynn M. Williams

Department of the Army
CRS In Focus IF10544, Defense Primer: Department of the Army, by Barbara Salazar Torrecon and Andrew Feickert

Department of the Navy
CRS In Focus IF10484, Defense Primer: Department of the Navy, by Ronald O'Rourke

Department of the Air Force
CRS In Focus IF10547, Defense Primer: The United States Air Force, by Jeremiah Gertler

Defense Strategy and Budget

Geography, Strategy, and U.S. Force Design
CRS In Focus IF10485, Defense Primer: Geography, Strategy, and U.S. Force Design, by Ronald O'Rourke

Planning, Programming, Budgeting and Execution Process (PPBE)
CRS In Focus IF10429, Defense Primer: Planning, Programming, Budgeting and Execution Process (PPBE), by Lynn M. Williams

People

Regular Military Compensation
CRS In Focus IF10532, Defense Primer: Regular Military Compensation, by Lawrence Kapp

Military Pay Raise
CRS In Focus IF10260, Defense Primer: Military Pay Raise, by Lawrence Kapp
Military Health System
CRS In Focus IF10530, Defense Primer: Military Health System, by Don J. Jansen

Military Retirement
CRS In Focus IF10483, Defense Primer: Military Retirement, by Kristy N. Kamarck

Uniform Code of Military Justice
CRS In Focus IF10504, Defense Primer: The Uniform Code of Military Justice (UCMJ), by R. Chuck Mason

DOD Contractors
CRS In Focus IF10600, Defense Primer: DOD Contractors, by Russell Rumbaugh and Heidi M. Peters

Equipment

Procurement
CRS In Focus IF10599, Defense Primer: Procurement, by Russell Rumbaugh and Heidi M. Peters

Research, Development, Test, and Evaluation
CRS In Focus IF10553, Defense Primer: RDT&E, by John F. Sargent Jr.

Defense Industrial Base
CRS In Focus IF10548, Defense Primer: U.S. Defense Industrial Base, by Daniel H. Else and Sean I. Mills

Domestic Content
CRS In Focus IF10609, Defense Primer: The Berry and Kissell Amendments, by Michaela D. Platzer

Types of Forces

Ground Forces
CRS In Focus IF10571, Defense Primer: Organization of U.S. Ground Forces, by Barbara Salazar Torreon and Andrew Feickert
Airpower
CRS In Focus IF10546, *Defense Primer: United States Airpower*, by Jeremiah Gertler

Naval Forces
CRS In Focus IF10486, *Defense Primer: Naval Forces*, by Ronald O'Rourke

Special Operations Forces
CRS In Focus IF10545, *Defense Primer: Special Operations Forces*, by Barbara Salazar Torreon and Andrew Feickert

Strategic Nuclear Forces
CRS In Focus IF10519, *Defense Primer: Strategic Nuclear Forces*, by Amy F. Woolf

Ballistic Missile Defense
CRS In Focus IF10541, *Defense Primer: Ballistic Missile Defense*, by Steven A. Hildreth

Reserve Forces
CRS In Focus IF10540, *Defense Primer: Reserve Forces*, by Lawrence Kapp

Employment of Forces

Legal Authorities for the Use of Military Forces
CRS In Focus IF10539, *Defense Primer: Legal Authorities for the Use of Military Forces*, by Jennifer K. Elsea

Commanding U.S. Military Operations
CRS In Focus IF10542, *Defense Primer: Commanding U.S. Military Operations*, by Kathleen J. McInnis

Cyberspace Operations
CRS In Focus IF10537, *Defense Primer: Cyberspace Operations*, by Catherine A. Theohary

Command and Control of Nuclear Forces
CRS In Focus IF10521, *Defense Primer: Command and Control of Nuclear Forces*, by Amy F. Woolf
Intelligence Community

National and Defense Intelligence
CRS In Focus IF10525, *Defense Primer: National and Defense Intelligence*, by Anne Daugherty Miles

Under Secretary of Defense (Intelligence)
CRS In Focus IF10523, *Defense Primer: Under Secretary of Defense (Intelligence)*, by Anne Daugherty Miles

Intelligence Support to Military Operations
CRS In Focus IF10574, *Defense Primer: Intelligence Support to Military Operations*, by Anne Daugherty Miles and Mariah J. Armga

Budgeting for National and Defense Intelligence
CRS In Focus IF10524, *Defense Primer: Budgeting for National and Defense Intelligence*, by Anne Daugherty Miles
# Author Contact Information

- **Lawrence Kapp**, Coordinator  
  Specialist in Military Manpower Policy  
  lkapp@crs.loc.gov, 7-7609

- **Daniel H. Else**  
  Specialist in National Defense  
  delse@crs.loc.gov, 7-4996

- **Jennifer K. Elsea**  
  Legislative Attorney  
  jelsea@crs.loc.gov, 7-5466

- **Andrew Feickert**  
  Specialist in Military Ground Forces  
  afeickert@crs.loc.gov, 7-7673

- **Jeremiah Gertler**  
  Specialist in Military Aviation  
  jgertler@crs.loc.gov, 7-5107

- **Steven A. Hildreth**  
  Specialist in U.S. and Foreign National Security Programs  
  shildreth@crs.loc.gov, 7-7635

- **Don J. Jansen**  
  Specialist in Defense Health Care Policy  
  djansen@crs.loc.gov, 7-4769

- **Kristy N. Kamarck**  
  Analyst in Military Manpower  
  kkamarck@crs.loc.gov, 7-7783

- **R. Chuck Mason**  
  Legislative Attorney  
  rcmason@crs.loc.gov, 7-9294

- **Kathleen J. McInnis**  
  Analyst in International Security  
  kmcinnis@crs.loc.gov, 7-1416

- **Sean I. Mills**  
  Research Associate  
  smills@crs.loc.gov, 7-3521

- **Ronald O’Rourke**  
  Specialist in Naval Affairs  
  rorourke@crs.loc.gov, 7-7610

- **Heidi M. Peters**  
  Research Librarian  
  hpeters@crs.loc.gov, 7-0702

- **John F. Sargent Jr.**  
  Specialist in Science and Technology Policy  
  jsargent@crs.loc.gov, 7-9147

- **Catherine A. Theohary**  
  Specialist in National Security Policy and Information Operations  
  ctheohary@crs.loc.gov, 7-0844

- **Barbara Salazar Torreon**  
  Senior Research Librarian  
  btorreon@crs.loc.gov, 7-8996

- **Valerie Heitshusen**  
  Specialist on Congress and the Legislative Process  
  vheitshusen@crs.loc.gov, 7-8635

- **Lynn M. Williams**  
  Analyst in U.S. Defense Budget Policy  
  lwilliams@crs.loc.gov, 7-0569

- **Amy F. Woolf**  
  Specialist in Nuclear Weapons Policy  
  awoolf@crs.loc.gov, 7-2379