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Defense Primer: A Guide for New Members

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March 3, 2017

Congressional Research Service

7-....

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R44757

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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 (name redacted) and (name redacted)

The NDAA Process

CRS In Focus IF10515, *Defense Primer: The NDAA Process*, by (name redacted) and (name redacted)

Navigating the NDAA

CRS In Focus IF10516, *Defense Primer: Navigating the NDAA*, by (name redacted) and (name redacted)

Defense Appropriations Process

CRS In Focus IF10514, *Defense Primer: Defense Appropriations Process*, by (name redacted) and (name redacted)

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 (name redacted) and (name redacted)

The Department of Defense

CRS In Focus IF10543, *Defense Primer: The Department of Defense*, by (name redacted)

The Military Departments

CRS In Focus IF10550, *Defense Primer: The Military Departments*, by (name redacted) and (name redacted)

Department of the Army

CRS In Focus IF10544, *Defense Primer: Department of the Army*, by (name redacted) and (name redacted)

Department of the Navy

CRS In Focus IF10484, *Defense Primer: Department of the Navy*, by (name redacted)

Department of the Air Force

CRS In Focus IF10547, *Defense Primer: The United States Air Force*, by (name redacted)

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 (name redacted)

Planning, Programming, Budgeting and Execution Process (PPBE)

CRS In Focus IF10429, *Defense Primer: Planning, Programming, Budgeting and Execution Process (PPBE)*, by (name redacted)

People

Regular Military Compensation

CRS In Focus IF10532, *Defense Primer: Regular Military Compensation*, by (name redacted)

Military Pay Raise

CRS In Focus IF10260, *Defense Primer: Military Pay Raise*, by (name redacted)

Military Health System

CRS In Focus IF10530, *Defense Primer: Military Health System*, by (name redacted)

Military Retirement

CRS In Focus IF10483, *Defense Primer: Military Retirement*, by (name redacted)

Uniform Code of Military Justice

CRS In Focus IF10504, *Defense Primer: The Uniform Code of Military Justice (UCMJ)*, by (name redacted)

DOD Contractors

CRS In Focus IF10600, *Defense Primer: DOD Contractors*, by (name redacted) and (name redacted)

Equipment

Procurement

CRS In Focus IF10599, *Defense Primer: Procurement*, by (name redacted) and (name redacted)

Research, Development, Test, and Evaluation

CRS In Focus IF10553, *Defense Primer: RDT&E*, by (name redacted)

Defense Industrial Base

CRS In Focus IF10548, *Defense Primer: U.S. Defense Industrial Base*, by (name redacted) and (name redacted)

Domestic Content

CRS In Focus IF10609, *Defense Primer: The Berry and Kissell Amendments*, by (name redacted)

Types of Forces

Ground Forces

CRS In Focus IF10571, *Defense Primer: Organization of U.S. Ground Forces*, by (name redacted) and (name redacted)

Airpower

CRS In Focus IF10546, *Defense Primer: United States Airpower*, by (name redacted)

Naval Forces

CRS In Focus IF10486, *Defense Primer: Naval Forces*, by (name redacted)

Special Operations Forces

CRS In Focus IF10545, *Defense Primer: Special Operations Forces*, by (name redacted) and (name redacted)

Strategic Nuclear Forces

CRS In Focus IF10519, *Defense Primer: Strategic Nuclear Forces*, by (name redacted)

Ballistic Missile Defense

CRS In Focus IF10541, *Defense Primer: Ballistic Missile Defense*, by (name redacted)

Reserve Forces

CRS In Focus IF10540, *Defense Primer: Reserve Forces*, by (name redacted)

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 (name redacted)

Commanding U.S. Military Operations

CRS In Focus IF10542, *Defense Primer: Commanding U.S. Military Operations*, by (name redacted)

Cyberspace Operations

CRS In Focus IF10537, *Defense Primer: Cyberspace Operations*, by (name redacted)

Command and Control of Nuclear Forces

CRS In Focus IF10521, *Defense Primer: Command and Control of Nuclear Forces*, by (name redacted)

Intelligence Community

National and Defense Intelligence

CRS In Focus IF10525, *Defense Primer: National and Defense Intelligence*, by (name redacted)

Under Secretary of Defense (Intelligence)

CRS In Focus IF10523, *Defense Primer: Under Secretary of Defense (Intelligence)*, by (name redacted)

Intelligence Support to Military Operations

CRS In Focus IF10574, *Defense Primer: Intelligence Support to Military Operations*, by (name redacted) and Mariah J. Armga

Budgeting for National and Defense Intelligence

CRS In Focus IF10524, *Defense Primer: Budgeting for National and Defense Intelligence*, by (name redacted)

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