

# Defense Primer: A Guide for New Members

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Updated June 10, 2019

Congressional Research Service

7-....

[www.crs.gov](http://www.crs.gov)

R44757

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## Introduction

The Constitution provides Congress with broad powers over the Armed Forces, including the power “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 provide 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 a pdf compilation of all the primers as of January 4, 2019, see *Defense Primer, A Guide for New Members*.

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.

## 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

### The NDAA Process

CRS In Focus IF10515, *Defense Primer: The NDAA Process*, by Valerie Heitshusen and Brendan W. McGarry

### Navigating the NDAA

CRS In Focus IF10516, *Defense Primer: Navigating the NDAA*, by Brendan W. McGarry and Valerie Heitshusen

### Defense Appropriations Process

CRS In Focus IF10514, *Defense Primer: Defense Appropriations Process*, by James V. Saturno and Brendan W. McGarry

## **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

### **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

### **Department of the Army**

CRS In Focus IF10544, *Defense Primer: Department of the Army and Army Command Structure*, by Barbara Salazar Torreon 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 (PPBE) Process*, by Brendan W. McGarry and Heidi M. Peters

### **Future Years Defense Program (FYDP)**

CRS In Focus IF10831, *Defense Primer: Future Years Defense Program (FYDP)*, by Brendan W. McGarry and Heidi M. Peters

## **DOD Transfer and Reprogramming Authorities**

CRS In Focus IF11243, *Defense Primer: DOD Transfer and Reprogramming Authorities*, by Aaron D. Walenga and Brendan W. McGarry

## **Defense Working Capital Funds**

CRS In Focus IF11233, *Defense Primer: Defense Working Capital Funds*, by G. James Herrera

## **People**

### **Military Officers**

CRS In Focus IF10685, *Defense Primer: Military Officers*, by Lawrence Kapp

### **Military Enlisted Personnel**

CRS In Focus IF10684, *Defense Primer: Military Enlisted Personnel*, by Lawrence Kapp

### **Personnel Tempo**

CRS In Focus IF11007, *Defense Primer: Personnel Tempo (PERSTEMPO)*, by Kristy N. Kamarck

### **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 Bryce H. P. Mendez

### **Commissaries and Exchanges**

CRS In Focus IF11089, *Defense Primer: Military Commissaries and Exchanges*, by Kristy N. Kamarck and Barbara Salazar Torreon

### **Exceptional Family Member Program**

CRS In Focus IF11049, *Defense Primer: Exceptional Family Member Program (EFMP)*, by Justin D. Ellsworth and Bryce H. P. Mendez

### **Military Retirement**

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

## **DOD Contractors**

CRS In Focus IF10600, *Defense Primer: Department of Defense Contractors*, by Heidi M. Peters and Moshe Schwartz

## **Equipment**

### **Procurement**

CRS In Focus IF10599, *Defense Primer: Procurement*, by Heidi M. Peters and Brendan W. McGarry

### **Defense Industrial Base**

CRS In Focus IF10548, *Defense Primer: U.S. Defense Industrial Base*, by Moshe Schwartz and Heidi M. Peters

### **Emerging Technologies**

CRS In Focus IF11105, *Defense Primer: Emerging Technologies*, by Kelley M. Sayler

### **Research, Development, Test, and Evaluation**

CRS In Focus IF10553, *Defense Primer: RDT&E*, by John F. Sargent Jr.

### **Under Secretary of Defense for Research and Engineering**

CRS In Focus IF10834, *Defense Primer: Under Secretary of Defense for Research and Engineering*, by Marcy E. Gallo and Moshe Schwartz

### **The Berry and Kissell Amendments**

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

## **Command and Control of Nuclear Forces**

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

## **Cyberspace Operations**

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

## **Information Operations**

CRS In Focus IF10771, *Defense Primer: Information Operations*, by Catherine A. Theohary

## **Electronic Warfare**

CRS In Focus IF11118, *Defense Primer: Electronic Warfare*, by John R. Hoehn



## **Military Use of the Electronic Spectrum**

CRS In Focus IF11155, *Defense Primer: Military Use of the Electromagnetic Spectrum*, by John R. Hoehn

## **Intelligence Community**

### **National and Defense Intelligence**

CRS In Focus IF10525, *Defense Primer: National and Defense Intelligence*, by Michael E. DeVine

### **Under Secretary of Defense (Intelligence)**

CRS In Focus IF10523, *Defense Primer: Under Secretary of Defense (Intelligence)*, by Michael E. DeVine

### **Intelligence Support to Military Operations**

CRS In Focus IF10574, *Defense Primer: Intelligence Support to Military Operations*, by Michael E. DeVine

### **Budgeting for National and Defense Intelligence**

CRS In Focus IF10524, *Defense Primer: Budgeting for National and Defense Intelligence*, by Michael E. DeVine

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