The 115th Congress and the DoD Budget

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Congressional Defense Committees

- Four CDCs provide oversight of DoD
- Authorizers: House & Senate Armed Services Committees (HASC/SASC)
  - Primary focus: Policy & Confirmations (Senate)
  - HASC/SASC mark up the President’s Budget Request
  - Result = National Defense Authorization Act
- Appropriators: House & Senate Appropriations Defense (HAC-D, SAC-D) and MILCON-VA Subcommittees
  - Primary focus: Appropriation of dollars (obs / expenditures)
  - HAC-D/SAC-D mark up the President’s Budget Request
  - Result = Defense and MILCON-VA Appropriations Bills

Relationships are the key – particularly with CDCs
Congressional Staff

- Personal Staff ★
  - Each individual Member office varies in staffing
  - Chief of Staff, Legislative Director (LD), Military Legislative Assistant (MLA), Legislative Correspondent (LC), etc.
  - Promote Member (Constituent) interests

- Professional Staff ★★★/★★★★
  - Work for the Committee leadership
  - Professional Staff Members (PSMs) work portfolios which divide up the Committee’s work
  - Promote “Good Government”, Chairman’s interests, Committee Members’ interests, and fact-of-life issues
The Committee reiterates its belief that the work of the Appropriations Committee is most effectively accomplished through the Comptroller and Budget Office organizations of the Department of Defense and the Military Services rather than through other channels, including legislative liaison offices.

1971 Department of Defense Appropriations Bill

TWO ORGANIZATIONS WITH ONE COMMON PURPOSE
### Budget Enactment

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#### Budget Resolution
- Self-discipline mechanism
- Sets Budget Authority, ceiling, & outlay targets

#### Authorization
- Approves programs and policies

#### Appropriations
- Actually funds programs in four major categories:
  - Military Personnel (MILPERS)
  - Operation & Maintenance (O&M)
  - Military Construction (MILCON)
  - Investment Programs

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**Top 4 Testimony and Air Staff Engagement**