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**ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING FOR THE
119TH CONGRESS**

**COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

ONE HUNDRED NINETEENTH CONGRESS

FIRST SESSION

**HEARING HELD
JANUARY 15, 2025**



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COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

ONE HUNDRED NINETEENTH CONGRESS

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ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING FOR THE 119TH CONGRESS

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES,
Washington, DC, Wednesday, January 15, 2025.

The committee met, pursuant to call, at 9:35 a.m., in room 2118, Rayburn House Office Building, Hon. Mike Rogers (chairman of the committee) presiding.

OPENING STATEMENT OF HON. MIKE ROGERS, A REPRESENTATIVE FROM ALABAMA, CHAIRMAN, COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

The CHAIRMAN. The committee will come to order.

I ask unanimous consent that the chair be authorized to declare a recess at any time.

Without objection, so ordered.

Without objection, members have 5 legislative days within which to submit statements to be made a part of the record.

So ordered.

We have four items of official business to consider today: adoption of the committee rules; approval of the committee's security procedures; approval of the committee's authorization and oversight plan; and, finally, the appointment of committee staff.

Before we begin consideration of the business for us today, I want to recognize myself for a few minutes to welcome everyone to the Armed Services Committee.

This committee's fundamental responsibility is to provide for our Nation's common defense. The work we do here is critical to the security of our country and that of its allies and partners around the world. And while we have our disagreements, we have a long tradition of carrying out our responsibilities in a bipartisan fashion, and we guard that jealously.

That tradition will continue. I look forward to working closely with my good friend, the ranking member, to enact an NDAA [National Defense Authorization Act] that strengthens our national defense and provides for our warfighters. That effort starts in the next few weeks with a series of hearings and briefings focused on the very complex and growing threats we face from our adversaries, especially China; the challenges facing our defense industrial base, which is enormous; and the ways we can reform acquisition and field innovation more quickly.

Following these hearings, we will begin our aggressive schedule of hearings and briefings from the defense leaders in defense in the Pentagon and combatant commanders that will lead us through the NDAA markup.

We will also continue our oversight work on key defense programs to determine if they actually provide the capabilities that we need. If they don't, they will be cut. At the end of the day, I expect that we will find significant savings at the Pentagon.

But I want to be clear: Buying the new capabilities we need, paying the long-overdue bills for readiness, and providing for our servicemembers will be very expensive. We cannot shy away from those investments. Our adversaries are fielding new capabilities at an astonishing rate. We can't sit idly by as our adversaries outpace us. We need to make significant and sustained investments in national defense.

But that is not the path we are on today. Under the FRA [Fiscal Responsibility Act], we are essentially cutting defense by more than 2 percent. This is the lowest level of defense spending as a percentage of GDP [gross domestic product] since before World War II. That is not sustainable or acceptable, and it will not deter our adversaries.

You will be hearing me talk a lot about getting defense spending back above 4 percent of our GDP. If we are serious about peace through strength, we need to get back to that level of investment.

I look forward to working with all of you to accomplish these goals.

With that, I want to quickly introduce our seven new Republican members.

First, Mr. Derrick Van Orden, Wisconsin. Derrick served in the U.S. Navy for 26 years, retiring as a Navy SEAL senior chief, with multiple combat tours across Africa, Asia, Europe, and Latin America.

Next, Mr. John McGuire from Virginia. John served as a United States Navy SEAL for 10 years. Following his military career, Rep. McGuire founded a small business preparing young men and women for service in our military and law enforcement, and he served in the Virginia House of Delegates.

Next we have Mr. Pat Harrigan from North Carolina. Pat is a West Point graduate and a combat-decorated Green Beret who served two tours in Afghanistan. Following his service, he founded a thriving defense manufacturing business in North Carolina.

Next we have Mr. Mark Messmer from Indiana. Mark represents Indiana's Eighth Congressional District, which is home to Naval Surface Warfare Center-Crane Division, the largest Naval installation in the U.S. and the third largest Naval installation in the world. Mark is a former member of the Indiana State House and Senate, serving his last 4 years as the Senate majority leader.

Next we have Mr. Derek Schmidt from Kansas. Derek is a fifth-generation Kansan who served for 12 years as the attorney general of Kansas. He represents Kansas's Second District, which includes Fort Riley, Fort Leavenworth, and the headquarters for both the Kansas Army and the Air National Guard.

Mr. Jeff Crank from Colorado is also joining us. Jeff is filling the shoes of our former colleague, Doug Lamborn, and represents the home of the Air Force Academy, NORAD [North American Aerospace Defense Command], several significant Army, Air Force, and Space Force installations.

And, finally, we have Mr. Abe Hamadeh from Arizona. Abe represents Arizona's Eighth Congressional District. Since 2016, he has served in the U.S. Army Reserve as an intelligence officer, deploying to Saudi Arabia in 2020.

I welcome all of you to the committee, and I look forward to working with you.

And, with that, I yield to my friend, the ranking member, Mr. Smith.

STATEMENT OF HON. ADAM SMITH, A REPRESENTATIVE FROM WASHINGTON, RANKING MEMBER, COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

Mr. SMITH. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate that. And I appreciate your opening remarks. I think they are a spot-on description of what we do here on this committee and why it is so important. I want to echo your comments; this is a terrific partnership.

Mike and I work incredibly closely together and have for a number of years. I look forward to continuing that partnership.

And I think the two biggest things that drive this committee are: number one, absolute commitment to bipartisanship; and, number two, absolute commitment to getting our bill done every year—64 consecutive years. And it is never easy, by the way. It always seems like, "You get it done? Ah, you got it done. You always get it done." Sure. But it is always a very, very difficult process.

But the reason it survives is because of, I believe, the culture that has been built on this committee, certainly by Chairman Rogers, but also, I think, by a long succession of chairs and ranking members—many of whom are reflected on the walls behind us here that made sure that everybody on the committee, no matter how long you have served on the committee, no matter how new you are, understood that is what we do here: We work together, we get things done.

We argue. We disagree. That is, you know, democracy. That is the way it works. But we are very focused on getting the bill done because we understand how important our mission is, exercising oversight of the Pentagon and making sure that the men and women who serve in the military have the tools they need to perform their mission. It is incredibly important. This committee does a great job.

I also want to thank you will see a symbol behind us here the House Armed Services Committee staff, far and away the greatest asset that we have on this committee. So, for the new members, I would urge you, get to know the staff. They will save you, time and time again. So, great knowledge base, very dedicated public servants. I appreciate their incredible work.

And I agree with the chairman on the priorities that we have. I always, you know, list them as four top priorities, two of which the chairman really emphasized.

One is acquisition reform. The Pentagon has to move more quickly to buy the innovative technologies that we need for modern warfare. We are seeing that play out in real-time in Ukraine, and we are still frustrated by how long it takes, in many instances, to purchase the new, innovative equipment and ideas that we need for

the Pentagon. It is a lengthy, lengthy requirement, process-driven thing that we are dedicated to reforming here.

Second is production capacity. We have all read about how the war in Ukraine has strained our resources. We need to rebuild the arsenal of democracy basically, get back to being able to build the equipment and munitions that we need in a timely manner.

Number three is the personnel. We have to be able to recruit and retain the people necessary to serve that. I want to give a special shout-out to the Personnel Subcommittee but also to the task force that focused on quality-of-life issues last session. I think we made incredible progress in last year's bill on helping meet those recruitment requirements, but it continues to be a priority.

Lastly, partnerships and alliances. Big, complicated world. We cannot do it all on our own. AUKUS [Australia-United Kingdom-United States] is a great example. I will give a special shout-out to my good friend Joe Courtney here.

They are going to, like, elect you President of Australia at some point, I think.

You know, dedicated to that. But the submarines aside, it is about the relationship and really benefiting from the skill sets that we have amongst the wide range of partners and allies that we have.

Lastly, I agree with the chairman, it is going to take money. But I also agree with his first statement. Let's take a look at how we are spending the money that we have. It is always easy to say, "Gosh, just give us more money." \$900 billion is a fair amount of money. I think it is worth it to exercise the oversight and see, are we getting the most out of that money that we are spending?

So we are going to work on all of those issues.

So I think it is a great committee. I think, those of you who are joining us, you are joining the best committee in Congress. We are happy to have you and look forward to a productive year.

And, with that, I will introduce our new members. We have a couple—the first two here, I think, are—I don't know if they count as new members they are coming back. That might be the better way to put it.

Jason Crow, in particular. He only left us for one term to go over to the Foreign Affairs Committee, but he is back. He represents Colorado's Sixth Congressional District, which is home to Buckley Space Force Base and a robust defense and aerospace industries. And he is a combat veteran who served as a paratrooper in Iraq and as an Army Ranger in Afghanistan.

Another that we are welcoming back, and that is Congressman Gil Cisneros, who represents California's 31st Congressional District. He is a veteran and former Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness and previously served on HASC [House Committee on Armed Services] in the 116th Congress.

We have joked that he went off to the Pentagon and now he is very, very happy to be back here. Left the building going, "Oh, my God." So, anyway.

But we can use those insights to help us do our oversight responsibilities. In his position as Under Secretary, he worked tirelessly to ensure that we have the strongest fighting force possible and military that represents the best of America.

And now to the truly new members, first time on the committee. Congressman Eric Sorensen represents the 17th Congressional District in Illinois. He was elected in 2022. Brought nearly 20 years of experience as a trusted TV meteorologist, serving western Illinois communities. And his district is home to the historic Rock Island Arsenal on the Mississippi River and the 182nd Airlift Wing at the Peoria Air National Guard Base.

Next, we have Maggie Goodlander, representing New Hampshire's Second District. Before being elected to Congress, she served as an intelligence officer in the United States Navy Reserve for over a decade. And she began her career as an advisor to Senators John McCain and Joe Lieberman, both of whom served on the Senate Armed Services Committee.

Next is Sarah Elfreth from Maryland's Third Congressional District. Before being elected to Congress, she represented the U.S. Naval Academy for 6 years in the Maryland General Assembly. She fought tirelessly for the well-being of our servicemembers and veterans in the statehouse. This included legislation on mental health advocacy, suicide prevention, voting rights, and education.

Next, we have George Whitesides, representing California's 27th District, and his district includes the United States Air Force Plant 42 in Palmdale and multiple military design and manufacturing operations. Congressman Whitesides is a former NASA [National Aeronautics and Space Administration] chief of staff and served as the CEO [Chief Executive Officer] of Virgin Galactic, a space technology company. He has experience with hypersonics, space technology, aerospace manufacturing and test, and procurement reform.

Next, also from California, we have Derek Tran, representing California's 45th District. As the son of Vietnamese refugees, Derek represents Little Saigon, Orange County, the largest Vietnamese diaspora in the country. And he is a military veteran who served in the U.S. Army Reserve for 8 years and who was deployed to Iraq.

Next, coming to the other coast, we have Eugene Vindman from Virginia's Seventh District. It is home to thousands of uniformed personnel and Department of Defense civilian workers at Quantico Marine Corps Base, Fort Wolters Army Reservation, and the Naval Surface Warfare Center Dahlgren Division. He is a 25 year Army veteran, paratrooper, and JAG [Judge Advocate General] prosecutor.

Lastly, we have Wesley Bell from the middle of the country, Missouri's First District. He is the son of a police officer and county jail servant and has dedicated his life to justice, fairness, and service to his community. As the former St. Louis County prosecutor, he championed reforms and commonsense solutions to build safer, stronger communities while ensuring accountability and opportunity for all.

Welcome, all of you. It is great to have such a terrific group of folks on the committee.

And, with that, I yield back to the chairman.

The CHAIRMAN. I thank the gentleman.

I would note, Adam made the point that our staff is outstanding. And there is a lot of them. So if you will look in the drawer of your

desk, you will find a sheet that has a picture of their pretty mug and their name and title underneath. So if you are ever sitting in the room wondering, what does that person do and what is their name, you can look at that little chart. And if you don't have one, let us know; we will get you one. But that will stay in your desk. And if you want one to take home or to your office, we will get you a copy.

All right. On to business.

I call up Resolution No. 1, regarding the Committee Rules for the 119th Congress.

The clerk shall read the resolution.

Mr. GREENE. "Committee Resolution No. 1. Resolved, That the Committee on Armed Services, U.S. House of Representatives, adopt the committee rules for the 119th Congress, which are stated in the copy distributed to each Member."

The CHAIRMAN. The proposed committee rules have been developed jointly with Ranking Member Smith and made available to members' offices on Monday, January 13.

I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be considered as read and that the resolution be open to amendment at any point.

Without objection, so ordered.

At this time, is there any discussion or are there any questions concerning the committee rules?

If there is no discussion, are there any amendments to the committee rules?

No amendments.

The chair now recognizes the gentleman from Virginia, Mr. Wittman, for the purpose of offering a motion regarding Committee Resolution No. 1, the committee rules.

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Chairman, I move to adopt Committee Resolution No. 1.

The CHAIRMAN. The question is on the motion of the gentleman from Virginia.

So many as are in favor will say aye.

Those opposed, no.

A quorum being present, the ayes have it, and the motion is agreed to.

Without objection, a motion to reconsider is laid upon the table.

**RULES OF THE COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES
119TH CONGRESS**

RULE 1. GENERAL PROVISIONS

(a) The Rules of the House of Representatives are the rules of the Committee on Armed Services (hereinafter referred to in these rules as the "Committee") and its subcommittees so far as applicable.

(b) Pursuant to clause 2(a)(2) of rule XI of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the Committee's rules shall be publicly available in electronic form and published in the Congressional Record not later than 60 days after the chair of the committee is elected in each odd-numbered year.

RULE 2. FULL COMMITTEE MEETING DATE

(a) The Committee shall meet every Wednesday at 10:00 a.m., when the House of Representatives is in session, and at such other times as may be fixed by the Chair of the Committee (hereinafter referred to as the "Chair"), or by written request of members of the Committee pursuant to clause 2(c) of rule XI of the Rules of the House of Representatives.

(b) A Wednesday meeting of the Committee may be dispensed with by the Chair, but such action may be reversed by a written request of a majority of the members of the Committee.

RULE 3. SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING DATES

Each subcommittee is authorized to meet, hold hearings, receive evidence, and report to the Committee on all matters referred to it. Insofar as possible, meetings of the Committee and its subcommittees shall not conflict. A subcommittee Chair shall set meeting dates after consultation with the Chair, other subcommittee chairs, and the ranking minority member of the subcommittee with a view toward avoiding, whenever possible, simultaneous scheduling of Committee and subcommittee meetings or hearings.

RULE 4. JURISDICTION AND MEMBERSHIP OF COMMITTEE AND SUBCOMMITTEES

(a) Jurisdiction

(1) The Committee retains jurisdiction of all subjects listed in clause 1(c) and clause 3(b) of rule X of the Rules of the House of Representatives and retains exclusive jurisdiction for: defense policy generally, ongoing military operations, the organization

and reform of the Department of Defense and the Department of Energy, counter-drug programs, humanitarian assistance activities of the Department of Defense, acquisition and industrial base policy, technology transfer and export controls, joint interoperability, detainee affairs and policy, and force protection policy. While subcommittees are provided jurisdictional responsibilities in subparagraph (a)(2) and are required to conduct oversight in their respective jurisdictions, pursuant to clause 2(b)(2) of rule X of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the Committee retains the right to exercise oversight and legislative jurisdiction over all subjects within its purview under rule X of the Rules of the House of Representatives.

(2) The Committee shall be organized to consist of seven standing subcommittees with the following jurisdictions:

Subcommittee on Tactical Air and Land Forces: Army programs and accounts related to aircraft, ground equipment, missiles, ammunition, and other procurement; Marine Corps programs and accounts related to ground and amphibious equipment, fighter aircraft, helicopters, air-launched weapons, and ammunition; Air Force programs and accounts related to fighter, training, reconnaissance and surveillance, and electronic warfare aircraft, helicopters, air-launched weapons, ground equipment, and ammunition; Navy programs and accounts related to fighter, training, and electronic warfare aircraft, helicopters, and air-launched weapons; tactical air and missile defense programs and accounts; chemical agent and munition destruction programs and accounts; and National Guard and Reserve equipment programs and accounts.

Subcommittee on Military Personnel: Department of Defense policy and programs and accounts related to military personnel and their families, Reserve Component integration and employment, military health care, military education, dependent schools, POW/MIA issues, Morale, Welfare and Recreation, commissaries, cemeteries under the jurisdiction of the Department of Defense, the Uniform Code of Military Justice, military retirement issues, and the and the policies, hiring, and management authorities of the civilian and contract workforce of the Department of Defense.

Subcommittee on Readiness: Department of Defense policy and programs and accounts related to military readiness, training, logistics and maintenance, military construction, organic industrial base, environment, military installations and real property management, family housing, base realignments and closures, and energy.

Subcommittee on Seapower and Projection Forces: Navy and Marine Corps acquisition programs and accounts related to shipbuilding and conversion, reconnaissance and surveillance, tanker, and airlift aircraft, ship and submarine-launched weapons, ammunition, and other procurements; Air Force programs and accounts related to bomber, tanker, and airlift aircraft; Army programs and accounts related to waterborne vessels; and Maritime policy and programs and accounts under the jurisdiction of the Committee as delineated in paragraphs 5 and 9 of clause 1(c) of rule X of the Rules of the House of Representatives.

Subcommittee on Strategic Forces: Department of Defense and Department of Energy policy related to strategic deterrence, strategic stability, nuclear weapons, strategic and nuclear arms control, non-proliferation, nuclear safety, missile defense, and space; Department of Defense programs and accounts related to nuclear weapons, strategic missiles, nuclear command and control systems, Department of Defense intelligence space, space systems and services of the military departments, and intermediate and long-range missile defense systems; and Department of Energy national security programs and accounts.

Subcommittee on Intelligence and Special Operations: Department of Defense policy and programs and accounts related to military intelligence, national intelligence, countering weapons of mass destruction, counter-proliferation, counter-terrorism, other sensitive military operations, special operations forces, information operations policy and military information support operations, and security cooperation.

Subcommittee on Cyber, Information Technologies, and Innovation: Department of Defense policy related to the acquisition of computer software, the electromagnetic spectrum, and electromagnetic warfare; and Department of Defense policy and programs and accounts related to artificial intelligence, cyber security, cyber operations, cyber forces, information technology, and science and technology (including defense-wide programs and accounts related to research, development, testing, and evaluation, except for those defense-wide programs and accounts related to research, development, testing, and evaluation of missile defense systems).

(3) Definitions - For the purposes of subparagraph (a)(2):

- (A) The phrase “programs and accounts” means acquisition and modernization programs, sustainment planning during program development, and related funding lines for procurement, advanced development, advanced component development and prototypes, systems development, sustainment planning, and demonstration.
- (B) The term “policy” means statutes, regulations, directives, and other institutional guidance.
- (C) The phrase “science and technology” means science and technology programs and related funding lines for basic research, applied research, and non-acquisition program advanced development.

(b) Membership of the Subcommittees

- (1) Subcommittee memberships shall be filled in accordance with the rules of the majority party's conference and the minority party's caucus, respectively.

(2) The Chair of the Committee and the Ranking Minority Member thereof (hereinafter referred to as the "Ranking Minority Member") may sit as ex officio members of all subcommittees. Ex officio members shall not vote in subcommittee hearings or meetings or be taken into consideration for the purpose of determining the ratio of the subcommittees or establishing a quorum at subcommittee hearings or meetings.

(3) A member of the Committee who is not a member of a particular subcommittee may sit with the subcommittee and participate during any of its hearings but shall not have authority to vote, cannot be counted for the purpose of achieving a quorum, and cannot raise a point of order at the hearing.

RULE 5. COMMITTEE PANELS AND TASK FORCES

(a) Committee Panels

(1) The Chair may designate a panel of the Committee consisting of members of the Committee to inquire into and take testimony on a matter or matters that fall within the jurisdiction of more than one subcommittee and to report to the Committee.

(2) No panel appointed by the Chair shall continue in existence for more than six months after the appointment. A panel so appointed may, upon the expiration of six months, be reappointed by the Chair for a period of time which is not to exceed six months.

(3) Consistent with the party ratios established by the majority party, all majority members of the panels shall be appointed by the Chair, and all minority members shall be appointed by the Ranking Minority Member. The Chair shall choose one of the majority members so appointed who does not currently chair another subcommittee of the Committee to serve as Chair of the panel. The Ranking Minority Member shall similarly choose the ranking minority member of the panel.

(4) No panel shall have legislative jurisdiction.

(b) Committee and Subcommittee Task Forces

(1) The Chair may designate a task force to inquire into and take testimony on a matter that falls within the jurisdiction of the Committee or subcommittee, respectively. The Chair and the Ranking Minority Member shall each appoint an equal number of members to the task force. The Chair shall choose one of the members so appointed, who does not currently chair another subcommittee of the Committee, to serve as Chair of the task force. The Ranking Minority Member shall similarly appoint the ranking minority member of the task force.

(2) No task force appointed by the Chair shall continue in existence for more than three months. A task force may only be reappointed for an additional three months with the written concurrence of the Chair and the Ranking Minority Member.

(3) No task force shall have legislative jurisdiction.

RULE 6. REFERENCE AND CONSIDERATION OF LEGISLATION

(a) The Chair shall refer legislation and other matters to the appropriate subcommittee or to the full Committee.

(b) Legislation shall be taken up for a hearing or markup only when called by the Chair or the Chair of a subcommittee, as appropriate, or by a majority of the Committee or subcommittee, as appropriate.

(c) The Chair, with approval of a majority vote of a quorum of the Committee, shall have authority to discharge a subcommittee from consideration of any measure or matter referred thereto and have such measure or matter considered by the Committee.

(d) Reports and recommendations of a subcommittee may not be considered by the Committee until after the intervention of three calendar days from the time the report is approved by the subcommittee and available to the members of the Committee, except that this rule may be waived by a majority vote of a quorum of the Committee.

(e) The Chair, in consultation with the Ranking Minority Member, shall establish criteria for recommending legislation and other matters to be considered by the House of Representatives, pursuant to clause 1 of rule XV of the Rules of the House of Representatives. Such criteria shall not conflict with the Rules of the House of Representatives and other applicable rules.

RULE 7. PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT OF HEARINGS AND MEETINGS

(a) Pursuant to clause 2(g)(3) of rule XI of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the Chair, or the Chair of any subcommittee, panel, or task force, shall make a public announcement of the date, place, and subject matter of any hearing or meeting for the transaction of business before that body at least one week before the commencement of a hearing and at least three calendar days (excluding Saturdays, Sundays, or legal holidays except when the House is in session on such a day) before the commencement of a meeting. However, if the Chair, with the concurrence of the Ranking Minority Member, or the Chair of any subcommittee, panel, or task force, with the concurrence of the respective ranking minority member, determines that there is good cause to begin the hearing or meeting sooner, or if the Committee, subcommittee, panel, or task force so determines by majority vote, a quorum being present for the transaction of business, such Chair shall make the announcement at the earliest possible date. Any announcement made under this rule shall be promptly published in the Daily Digest, and promptly made publicly available in electronic form.

(b) At least 24 hours prior to the commencement of a meeting for the markup of legislation, or at the time of an announcement under paragraph (a) made within 24 hours before such meeting, the Chair, or the Chair of any subcommittee, panel, or task force shall cause the text of such measure or matter to be made publicly available in electronic form as provided in clause 2(g)(4) of rule XI of the Rules of the House of Representatives.

RULE 8. BROADCASTING OF COMMITTEE HEARINGS AND MEETINGS

(a) Pursuant to clause 2(e)(5) of rule XI of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the Committee shall, to the maximum extent practicable, provide audio and video coverage of each hearing or meeting for the transaction of business in a manner that allows the public to easily listen to and view the proceedings. The Committee shall maintain the recordings of such coverage in a manner that is easily accessible to the public.

(b) Clause 4 of rule XI of the Rules of the House of Representatives shall apply to the Committee.

RULE 9. MEETINGS AND HEARINGS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

(a) Each hearing and meeting for the transaction of business, including the markup of legislation, conducted by the Committee, or any subcommittee, panel, or task force, to the extent that the respective body is authorized to conduct markups, shall be open to the public except when the Committee, subcommittee, panel, or task force in open session and with a majority being present, determines by record vote that all or part of the remainder of that hearing or meeting on that day shall be in executive session because disclosure of testimony, evidence, or other matters to be considered would endanger the national security, would compromise sensitive law enforcement information, or would violate any law or rule of the House of Representatives. Notwithstanding the requirements of the preceding sentence, a majority of those present, there being in attendance no fewer than two members of the Committee, subcommittee, panel, or task force may vote to close a hearing or meeting for the sole purpose of discussing whether testimony or evidence to be received would endanger the national security, would compromise sensitive law enforcement information, or would violate any law or rule of the House of Representatives. If the decision is to proceed in executive session, the vote must be by record vote and in open session, a majority of the Committee, subcommittee, panel, or task force being present.

(b) Whenever it is asserted by a member of the Committee, subcommittee, panel, or task force that the evidence or testimony at a hearing may tend to defame, degrade, or incriminate any person, or it is asserted by a witness that the evidence or testimony that the witness would give at a hearing may tend to defame, degrade, or incriminate the witness, notwithstanding the requirements of paragraph (a) and the provisions of clause 2(g)(2)(A) of rule XI of the Rules of the House of Representatives and in accordance with the provisions of clause 2(g)(2)(B) of rule XI of the Rules of the House of

Representatives, such evidence or testimony shall be presented in executive session, if by a majority vote of those present, there being in attendance no fewer than two members of the Committee, subcommittee, panel, or task force, the Committee, subcommittee, panel, or task force determines that such evidence may tend to defame, degrade, or incriminate any person. A majority of those present, there being in attendance no fewer than two members of the Committee, subcommittee, panel, or task force may also vote to close the hearing or meeting for the sole purpose of discussing whether evidence or testimony to be received would tend to defame, degrade, or incriminate any person. The Committee, subcommittee, panel, or task force shall proceed to receive such testimony in open session only if the Committee, subcommittee, panel, or task force, a majority being present, determines that such evidence or testimony will not tend to defame, degrade, or incriminate any person.

(c) Notwithstanding the foregoing, and with the approval of the Chair, each member of the Committee may designate by letter to the Chair, one member of that member's personal staff, and an alternate, which may include fellows, with Top Secret security clearance to attend hearings of the Committee, or that member's subcommittee(s), panel(s), or task force(s) (excluding briefings or meetings held under the provisions of committee rule 9(a)), which have been closed under the provisions of rule 9(a) above for national security purposes for the taking of testimony. The attendance of such a staff member or fellow at such hearings is subject to the approval of the Committee, subcommittee, panel, or task force as dictated by national security requirements at that time. The attainment of any required security clearances is the responsibility of individual members of the Committee.

(d) Pursuant to clause 2(g)(2) of rule XI of the Rules of the House of Representatives, no Member, Delegate, or Resident Commissioner may be excluded from nonparticipatory attendance at any hearing of the Committee or a subcommittee, unless the House of Representatives shall by majority vote authorize the Committee or subcommittee, for purposes of a particular series of hearings on a particular article of legislation or on a particular subject of investigation, to close its hearings to Members, Delegates, and the Resident Commissioner by the same procedures designated in this rule for closing hearings to the public.

(e) The Committee or the subcommittee may vote, by the same procedure, to meet in executive session for up to five additional consecutive days of hearings.

RULE 10. QUORUM

(a) For purposes of taking testimony and receiving evidence, two members shall constitute a quorum.

(b) One-third of the members of the Committee or subcommittee shall constitute a quorum for taking any action, with the following exceptions, in which case a majority of the Committee or subcommittee shall constitute a quorum:

- (1) Reporting a measure or recommendation;
 - (2) Closing Committee or subcommittee meetings and hearings to the public;
 - (3) Authorizing the issuance of subpoenas;
 - (4) Authorizing the use of executive session material; and
 - (5) Voting to proceed in open session after voting to close to discuss whether evidence or testimony to be received would tend to defame, degrade, or incriminate any person.
- (c) No measure or recommendation shall be reported to the House of Representatives unless a majority of the Committee is actually present.

RULE 11. THE FIVE-MINUTE RULE

(a) Subject to rule 15, the time any one member may address the Committee, subcommittee, panel, or task force on any measure or matter under consideration shall not exceed five minutes and then only when the member has been recognized by the Chair or subcommittee Chair, as appropriate, except that this time limit may be exceeded by unanimous consent. Any member, upon request, shall be recognized for not more than five minutes to address the Committee or subcommittee on behalf of an amendment which the member has offered to any pending bill or resolution. The five-minute limitation shall not apply to the Chair and the Ranking Minority Member or the Chair and the ranking minority member of a subcommittee, panel, or task force.

(b)(1) Members who are present at a hearing of the Committee, subcommittee, panel, or task force when a hearing is originally convened shall be recognized by the Chair or subcommittee, panel, or task force Chair, as appropriate, in order of seniority. Those members arriving subsequently shall be recognized in order of their arrival. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Chair and the Ranking Minority Member or the Chair and the ranking minority member of a subcommittee, panel, or task force, as appropriate, will take precedence upon their arrival. In recognizing members to question witnesses in this fashion, the Chair shall take into consideration the ratio of the majority to minority members present and shall establish the order of recognition for questioning in such a manner as not to disadvantage the members of either party.

(2) Pursuant to rule 4 and subject to rule 15, a member of the Committee who is not a member of a subcommittee, panel, or task force may be recognized by a subcommittee, panel, or task force Chair in order of their arrival and after all present subcommittee, panel, or task force members have been recognized.

(3) The Chair of the Committee or the Chair of a subcommittee, panel, or task force, with the concurrence of the respective ranking minority member, may depart with the regular order for questioning which is specified in paragraphs (a) and (b) of

this rule provided that such a decision is announced prior to the hearing or prior to the opening statements of the witnesses and that any such departure applies equally to the majority and the minority.

(c) No person other than a Member, Delegate, or Resident Commissioner of Congress and committee staff may be seated in or behind the dais area during Committee, subcommittee, panel, or task force hearings and meetings.

RULE 12. POWER TO SIT AND ACT; SUBPOENA POWER

(a) For the purpose of carrying out any of its functions and duties under rules X and XI of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the Committee and any subcommittee is authorized (subject to subparagraph (b)(1) of this paragraph):

(1) to sit and act at such times and places within the United States, whether the House is in session, has recessed, or has adjourned, and to hold hearings, and

(2) to require by subpoena, or otherwise, the attendance and testimony of such witnesses, including by deposition, and the production of such books, records, correspondence, memorandums, papers and documents, including, but not limited to, those in electronic form, as it considers necessary.

(b)(1) A subpoena may be authorized and issued by the Committee, or any subcommittee with the concurrence of the Chair and after consultation with the Ranking Minority Member, under subparagraph (a)(2) in the conduct of any investigation, or series of investigations or activities, only when authorized by a majority of the members voting, a majority of the Committee or subcommittee being present. Authorized subpoenas shall be signed only by the Chair, or by any member designated by the Committee.

(2) Pursuant to clause 2(m) of rule XI of the Rules of the House of Representatives, compliance with any subpoena issued by the Committee or any subcommittee under subparagraph (a)(2) may be enforced only as authorized or directed by the House of Representatives.

(c) For depositions ordered pursuant to subparagraph (a)(2), such depositions shall be conducted in a manner consistent with House Rules and regulations.

RULE 13. WITNESS STATEMENTS

(a) Any prepared statement to be presented by a witness to the Committee or a subcommittee, panel, or task force shall be submitted to the Committee, subcommittee, panel, or task force at least 48 hours in advance of presentation and shall be distributed to all members of the Committee, subcommittee, panel, or task force as soon as practicable but not less than 24 hours in advance of presentation. A copy of any such prepared statement shall also be submitted to the Committee in electronic form. If a prepared statement contains national security information bearing a classification of Confidential

or higher, the statement shall be made available in the Committee rooms to all members of the Committee, subcommittee, panel, or task force as soon as practicable but not less than 24 hours in advance of presentation; however, no such statement shall be removed from the Committee offices. The requirement of this rule may be waived by a majority vote of the Committee, subcommittee, panel, or task force, a quorum being present. In cases where a witness does not submit a statement by the time required under this rule, the Chair, with the concurrence of the Ranking Minority Member, or the Chair of a subcommittee, panel, or task force, as appropriate, with the concurrence of the respective ranking minority member, may elect to exclude the witness from the hearing.

(b) The Committee and each subcommittee, panel, or task force shall require each witness who is to appear before it to file with the Committee in advance of his or her appearance a written statement of the proposed testimony and to limit the oral presentation at such appearance to a brief summary of the submitted written statement.

(c) Pursuant to clause 2(g)(5) of rule XI of the Rules of the House of Representatives, written witness statements, with appropriate redactions to protect the privacy of the witness, shall be made publicly available in electronic form 24 hours before the witness appears to the extent practicable, but not later than one day after the witness appears.

RULE 14. ADMINISTERING OATHS TO WITNESSES

(a) The Chair, or any member designated by the Chair, may administer oaths to any witness.

(b) Witnesses, when sworn, shall subscribe to the following oath:

"Do you solemnly swear (or affirm) that the testimony you will give before this Committee (or subcommittee, panel, or task force) in the matters now under consideration will be the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, so help you God?"

RULE 15. QUESTIONING OF WITNESSES

(a) When a witness is before the Committee or a subcommittee, panel, or task force, members of the Committee, subcommittee, panel, or task force may put questions to the witness only when recognized by the Chair, subcommittee, panel, or task force Chair, as appropriate, for that purpose according to rule 11 of the Committee.

(b) Members of the Committee, subcommittee, panel, or task force who so desire shall have not more than five minutes to question each witness or panel of witnesses, the responses of the witness or witnesses being included in the five-minute period, until such time as each member has had an opportunity to question each witness or panel of witnesses. Thereafter, additional rounds for questioning witnesses by members are within the discretion of the Chair or the subcommittee, panel, or task force Chair, as appropriate.

(c) Questions put to witnesses before the Committee, subcommittee, panel, or task force shall be pertinent to the measure or matter that may be before the Committee, subcommittee, panel, or task force for consideration.

RULE 16. PUBLICATION OF COMMITTEE HEARINGS AND MARKUPS

The transcripts of those hearings conducted by the Committee, subcommittee, panel, or task force will be published officially in substantially verbatim form, with the material requested for the record inserted at that place requested, or at the end of the record, as appropriate. The transcripts of markups conducted by the Committee or any subcommittee may be published officially in verbatim form. Any requests to correct any errors, other than those in transcription, will be appended to the record, and the appropriate place where the change is requested will be footnoted. Any transcript published under this rule shall include the results of record votes conducted in the session covered by the transcript and shall also include materials that have been submitted for the record and are covered under rule 19. The handling and safekeeping of these materials shall fully satisfy the requirements of rule 20. No transcript of an executive session conducted under rule 9 shall be published under this rule.

RULE 17. VOTING AND ROLLCALLS

(a) Voting on a measure or matter may be by record vote (including a vote by electronic device under such regulations as the Chair may prescribe, in consultation with the Ranking Minority Member, and in accordance with applicable House Rules and regulations), division vote, voice vote, or unanimous consent.

(b) A record vote shall be ordered upon the request of one-fifth of those members present.

(c) No vote by any member of the Committee or a subcommittee with respect to any measure or matter shall be cast by proxy.

(d) In the event of a vote or votes, when a member is in attendance at any other committee, subcommittee, or conference committee meeting during that time, the necessary absence of that member shall be so noted in the record vote record, upon timely notification to the Chair by that member.

(e) The Chair, with the concurrence of the Ranking Minority Member, or the Chair of a subcommittee, as appropriate, with the concurrence of the respective ranking minority member or the most senior minority member who is present at the time, may elect to postpone requested record votes until such time or point at a markup as is mutually decided. When proceedings resume on a postponed question, notwithstanding any intervening order for the previous question, the underlying proposition shall remain subject to further debate or amendment to the same extent as when the question was postponed.

RULE 18. COMMITTEE REPORTS

(a) If, at the time of approval of any measure or matter by the Committee, any member of the Committee gives timely notice of intention to file supplemental, minority, additional or dissenting views, all members shall be entitled to not less than two calendar days (excluding Saturdays, Sundays, and legal holidays except when the House is in session on such days) in which to file such written and signed views (including in electronic form) with the Staff Director of the Committee, or the Staff Director's designee. All such views so filed by one or more members of the Committee shall be included within, and shall be a part of, the report filed by the Committee with respect to that measure or matter.

(b) With respect to each record vote on a motion to report any measure or matter, and on any amendment offered to the measure or matter, the total number of votes cast for and against, the names of those voting for and against, and a brief description of the question, shall be included in the Committee report on the measure or matter.

(c) Not later than 24 hours after the adoption of any amendment or 48 hours after the disposition or withdrawal of any other amendment to a measure or matter considered by the Committee, the Chair shall cause the text of each such amendment to be made publicly available in electronic form as provided in clause 2(e)(6) of rule XI of the Rules of the House of Representatives.

RULE 19. PUBLIC INSPECTION OF COMMITTEE ROLLCALLS

The result of each record vote in any meeting of the Committee shall be made publicly available in electronic form within 48 hours of such record vote pursuant to clause 2(e)(1)(B)(i) of rule XI of the Rules of the House of Representatives. Information so available shall include a description of the amendment, motion, order, or other proposition and the name of each member voting for and each member voting against such amendment, motion, order, or proposition and the names of those members present but not voting.

RULE 20. PROTECTION OF NATIONAL SECURITY AND OTHER INFORMATION

(a) Except as provided in clause 2(g) of rule XI of the Rules of the House of Representatives, all national security information bearing a classification of Confidential or higher which has been received by the Committee or a subcommittee shall be deemed to have been received in executive session and shall be given appropriate safekeeping.

(b) The Chair shall, with the approval of a majority of the Committee, establish such procedures as in his judgment may be necessary to prevent the unauthorized disclosure of any national security information that is received which is classified as Confidential or higher. Such procedures shall, however, ensure access to this information by any member of the Committee or any other Member, Delegate, or Resident Commissioner of the

House of Representatives, staff of the Committee, or staff designated under rule 9(c) who have the appropriate security clearances and the need to know, who has requested the opportunity to review such material.

(c) The Chair shall, in consultation with the Ranking Minority Member, establish such procedures as in his judgment may be necessary to prevent the unauthorized disclosure of any proprietary information that is received by the Committee, subcommittee, panel, or task force. Such procedures shall be consistent with the Rules of the House of Representatives and applicable law.

RULE 21. COMMITTEE STAFFING

The staffing of the Committee, the standing subcommittees, and any panel or task force designated by the Chair shall be subject to the Rules of the House of Representatives.

RULE 22. COMMITTEE RECORDS

The records of the Committee at the National Archives and Records Administration shall be made available for public use in accordance with rule VII of the Rules of the House of Representatives. The Chair shall notify the Ranking Minority Member of any decision, pursuant to clause 3(b)(3) or clause 4(b) of rule VII, to withhold a record otherwise available, and the matter shall be presented to the Committee for a determination on the written request of any member of the Committee.

RULE 23. HEARING PROCEDURES

Clause 2(k) of rule XI of the Rules of the House of Representatives shall apply to the Committee.

RULE 24. COMMITTEE ACTIVITY REPORTS

Not later than January 2nd of each odd-numbered year the Committee shall submit to the House a report on its activities, pursuant to clause 1(d) of rule XI of the Rules of the House of Representatives.

The next order of business is the Committee Resolution No. 2, regarding the committee's security procedures for the 119th Congress.

I call up the Committee Resolution No. 2. The clerk will read the resolution.

Mr. GREENE. "Committee Resolution No. 2. Resolved, That the Committee on Armed Services, U.S. House of Representatives, adopt the committee security procedures for the 119th Congress, a copy which has been distributed to each Member."

The CHAIRMAN. Security procedures were coordinated with Mr. Smith and were made available to members' offices on Monday, January 13.

I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be considered as read and that the resolution be open to amendment at any point.

Without objection, so ordered.

Is there any discussion or are there any questions concerning the security procedures?

If there is no discussion, are there any amendments to the security procedures?

Ms. HOULAHAN. Mr. Chairman, I have a quick question.

The CHAIRMAN. Who is talking?

Ms. HOULAHAN. Chrissy.

The CHAIRMAN. Oh, Chrissy.

Ms. HOULAHAN. Hi. I am just wondering, in the security clearance procedures, has there been any accommodation for training on the management of classified information, particularly maybe for the new members? And can there be?

The CHAIRMAN. Yeah, I am informed the Office of House Security coordinates that, but we can make sure that they are put in connection with them for that purpose. That is a good idea.

Ms. HOULAHAN. Thank you. I appreciate it, sir.

The CHAIRMAN. Okay. If there is no further discussion, are there any amendments?

The chair now recognizes the gentleman from Virginia, Mr. Wittman, for the purpose of offering a motion regarding Committee Resolution No. 2, the security procedures for the 119th Congress.

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Chairman, I move to adopt Committee Resolution No. 2.

The CHAIRMAN. The question is on the motion from the gentleman from Virginia.

So many as are in favor will say aye.

Those opposed, no.

A quorum being present, the ayes have it, and the motion is agreed to.

Without objection, a motion to reconsider is laid upon the table.

SECURITY PROCEDURES
Committee on Armed Services
U.S. House of Representatives
119th Congress
(Effective January 15, 2025)

In accordance with committee and House rules, the following procedures are established by the Committee on Armed Services to ensure protection of classified and other sensitive national security information in the possession of the committee.

The following committee and House rules apply to classified information:

COMMITTEE RULE 9(c)

“... with the approval of the Chairman, each member of the Committee may designate by letter to the Chairman, one member of that member's personal staff, and an alternate, which may include fellows, with Top Secret security clearance to attend hearings of the Committee, or that member's subcommittee(s), panel(s), or task force(s) (excluding briefings or meetings held under the provisions of committee rule 9(a)), which have been closed under the provisions of rule 9(a) above for national security purposes for the taking of testimony. The attendance of such a staff member or fellow at such hearings is subject to the approval of the Committee, subcommittee, panel, or task force as dictated by national security requirements at that time. The attainment of any required security clearances is the responsibility of individual members of the Committee.”

RULE 20. PROTECTION OF NATIONAL SECURITY AND OTHER INFORMATION

(a) Except as provided in clause 2(g) of rule XI of the Rules of the House of Representatives, all national security information bearing a classification of Confidential or higher which has been received by the Committee or a subcommittee shall be deemed to have been received in executive session and shall be given appropriate safekeeping.

(b) The Chairman shall, with the approval of a majority of the Committee, establish such procedures as in his judgment may be necessary to prevent the unauthorized disclosure of any national security information that is received which is classified as Confidential or higher. Such procedures shall, however, ensure access to this information by any member of the Committee or any other Member, Delegate, or Resident Commissioner of the House of Representatives, staff of the Committee, or staff designated under rule 9(c) who have the appropriate security clearances and the need to know, who has requested the opportunity to review such material.

(c) The Chairman shall, in consultation with the Ranking Minority Member, establish such procedures as in his judgment may be necessary to prevent the unauthorized disclosure of any proprietary information that is received by the Committee, subcommittee, panel, or task force. Such procedures shall be consistent with the Rules of the House of Representatives and applicable law.

HOUSE RULE XXIII: CODE OF OFFICIAL CONDUCT

“Before a Member, Delegate, Resident Commissioner, officer, or employee of the House may have access to classified information, the following oath (or affirmation) shall be executed:

“I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will not disclose any classified information received in the course of my service with the House of Representatives, except as authorized by the House of Representatives or in accordance with its Rules.”

**PROCEDURES FOR MEMBERS OF CONGRESS AND STAFF
ASSOCIATED WITH THE COMMITTEE WHO WISH TO READ
CLASSIFIED INFORMATION IN THE POSSESSION OF THE
COMMITTEE**

In addition to House rules, law and regulation, the following procedures shall govern the handling, management and control of classified information. These procedures apply to documents, material, and information provided to the committee by congressional or executive branch entities that bear a classification of confidential, secret, or top secret, including all codeword and special access classified information.

**Members and staff of the Committee on Armed Services and 9(c) staff of
Members of the Committee on Armed Services:**

1. Members of Congress, who are Members of the committee and have signed the *Oath for Access to Classified Information*, shall have access to all classified papers and other materials received by the committee from any source.
2. Armed Services Committee staff members and appropriately cleared personal office staff who are designated under committee rule 9(c), who have signed the *Oath for Access to Classified Information* and have a need to know, may also have access to classified information that is in the possession of the committee and that corresponds with their respective clearance levels.

**Members who are NOT Members of the Committee, House Leadership Staff,
and Outside Committee Staff:**

Members of Congress, who are not Members of the committee, House leadership staff, and outside committee staff may be granted access to classified materials which are in the possession of the committee only in the following manner (these requirements apply whether or not the non-committee Member or any such staff seeks access to classified documents at the invitation of a HASC Member):

1. Written Request Required — Members, House leadership staff, and outside committee staff who desire to examine classified materials in the possession of the committee must submit a request to the Chairman of the committee in writing. Each written request shall bear the signature of the requesting Member, specify the classified materials to which access is requested, and identify the person or persons for whom such access is requested. Such written requests must bear the signature of the employing Member for leadership staff and the relevant committee chairman for outside committee staff.
2. Committee Consideration — The Chairman, in consultation with the Ranking Minority Member, shall consider each such request by non-committee Members or

staff at the earliest practicable opportunity. The Chairman shall determine what action he deems appropriate in light of all of the circumstances of each request. In his determination, the Chairman shall consider:

- the sensitivity to the national defense or the confidential conduct of the foreign relations of the United States of the information sought;
- the jurisdictional interest of the Member or staff making the request; and
- such other concerns, constitutional or otherwise, as may affect the public interest of the United States.

3. Chairman Action — After consideration of the Member or staff request, the Chairman may take any action that he may deem appropriate under the circumstances, including but not limited to:

- approving the request, in whole or in part;
- denying the request; or
- providing the requested information or material in a different form than that sought by the Member or staff.

4. Requirements for Access by Non-Committee Members or staff — Prior to a non-committee Member or staff being given access to classified information, the requesting Member or staff shall:

- affirm in writing that a copy of the oath executed by such Member or staff pursuant to House Rule XXIII, clause 13, is, for members, on file with the Clerk of the House of Representatives, and for staff, on file with the Office of House Security;
- agree in writing not to divulge any classified information provided to the Member or staff pursuant to these committee procedures to any person not authorized by House rules, law or regulation; and
- agree not to divulge such classified information in a non-secure environment; and
- for staff, provide verification of appropriate security clearances

5. Consultation Authorized — When considering a Member or staff request, the Chairman may consult the Secretary of Defense and such other officials as he considers to be necessary.

6. Committee Decisions —

- Should the Member making such a request disagree with the Chairman's determination with respect to that request, or any part thereof, the Member may request full committee consideration of his/her request by notifying the Chairman in writing of his disagreement with the decision and the Member's request for the committee's consideration and a vote on the request.
- The committee shall subsequently consider the matter and decide, by record vote, what further action or recommendation, if any, the committee will take. The committee's decision shall comply with relevant federal

law, regulations, and related guidance when requests are made for access to special access program information.

7. Notice to Originating Agency – In the event that the Chairman or committee authorizes the disclosure of classified information, which is provided to the committee by an agency of the executive branch, to a Member who is not a Member of the committee or staff, the Chairman may notify the providing agency of the committee's action prior to the transmission of such classified information.
8. Application to the Chair and Ranking Minority Member of the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence – The Chairman, in consultation with the Ranking Minority Member, may prescribe additional or supplementary guidance with regard to the sharing of classified information with the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence in a manner that preserves the jurisdictional interests of the House Committee on Armed Services.

ALL Members and House Leadership, Outside Committee, and 9(c) Staff Requesting Access to Classified Information:

1. All classified information will be stored in secure safes in the committee offices or at the Office of the Sergeant at Arms, House Security. Members or staff seeking to review classified information should contact the Staff Director or Deputy Staff Director of the Armed Services Committee and identify the specific classified materials which are requested for review.
2. Any classified information stored by the Office of the Sergeant at Arms, House Security remains the property of the committee and shall be subject to the same requirements for access as all other classified materials in the committee's possession.
3. Following consultation with the Staff Director or Deputy Staff Director, access to the classified information will be coordinated with the committee's Security Manager. Classified documents will be made available for review during regular committee business hours (8:30AM- 6:00PM, Monday through Friday).
4. Classified materials may only be reviewed in an appropriately secured space and must remain in the custody of appropriately cleared committee staff or the Office of the Sergeant at Arms, House Security. An appropriately cleared committee staff member will be present while classified information is being reviewed, unless the Chairman directs otherwise.
5. No reproduction or recordings may be made of any portion of the classified information reviewed by Members of Congress or staff and shall be subject to the same requirements for access and storage as other classified materials in the committee's possession.

6. Any notes made by a Member or by staff must be provided to the committee's Security Manager for proper storage or destruction.
7. In accordance with the applicable laws and regulations, classified information may only be disclosed in an appropriately secured location to individuals with the appropriate level of security clearance and on an established need-to-know basis.
8. Members or staff will be asked to sign the *Access Information Sheet*, a copy of which is attached to this document, if they gain access to classified information.

The committee's Security Manager will maintain the *Access Information Sheet* identifying the material, the staff assigned, and the time of arrival and departure of Members of Congress or staff who were given access to classified information at the request of their respective Member.

9. The committee's Security Manager will ensure that the classified information reviewed by the Member of Congress or staff is returned to the proper custodian and/or secured appropriately.

PROCEDURES FOR CLASSIFIED HEARINGS AND BRIEFINGS OF THE COMMITTEE AND SUBCOMMITTEES

1. In accordance with the applicable laws and regulations, classified information may only be disclosed to Members of Congress, committee staff, 9(c) staff, House leadership staff, or outside committee staff with the appropriate level of security clearance and an established need-to-know.
2. No classified material provided at a hearing, briefing or meeting may be removed from the secure meeting room.
3. Any notes made by a Member or House leadership, outside committee, or 9(c) staff during a classified hearing or briefing must be provided to the committee's Security Manager at the conclusion of the classified hearing or briefing for proper storage or destruction.
4. No electronic communication devices of any kind may be taken into a classified hearing or briefing. Committee staff will make arrangements for the proper safekeeping of such electronic communication devices outside the meeting room.

**CLASSIFIED DOCUMENTS ACCESS INFORMATION SHEET
FOR MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES**

**U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
119th CONGRESS**

Description of Material:

Classification:

Member's Name:

HASC Staff Member Assigned:

Date:

Time In:

Time Out:

I agree not to divulge any classified information provided to me pursuant to the committee's procedures to any person not authorized by House rules, law or regulation. I also agree not to divulge such classified information in a non-secure environment.

Signature, Member of Congress

CLASSIFIED DOCUMENTS ACCESS INFORMATION SHEET
FOR MEMBERS NOT ON THE COMMITTEE, HOUSE
LEADERSHIP STAFF, AND OUTSIDE COMMITTEE STAFF

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES
U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
119th CONGRESS

Description of Material:

Classification:

Name:

Date:

Time In:

Time Out:

I affirm that I have duly executed the oath pursuant to House Rule XXIII, clause 13, and that the oath is on file with the clerk of the House of Representatives. I agree not to divulge any classified information provided to me pursuant to the committee's procedures to any person not authorized by House rules, law or regulation. I also agree not to divulge such classified information in a non-secure environment.

Signature

CLASSIFIED DOCUMENTS ACCESS INFORMATION SHEET
FOR 9(c) STAFF OF THE COMMITTEE

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES
U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
119th CONGRESS

Description of Material:

Classification:

Member's Name:

HASC Staff Member Assigned:

Date:

Time In:

Time Out:

I, _____, agree not to divulge any classified information provided to me pursuant to the committee's procedures to any person not authorized by House rules, law or regulation. I also agree not to divulge such classified information in a non-secure environment.

Signature, 9(c) staff

The next order of business is the Committee Resolution No. 3, regarding the committee's authorization and oversight plan for the 119th Congress.

I call up Committee Resolution No. 3. The clerk will read the resolution.

Mr. GREENE. "Committee Resolution No. 3. Resolved, That the Committee on Armed Services, U.S. House of Representatives, adopt the committee authorization and oversight plan for the 119th Congress, a copy of which has been distributed to each Member."

The CHAIRMAN. The authorization and oversight plan has been coordinated with Mr. Smith and made available to members' offices on January 13.

I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be considered as read and that the resolution be open to amendment at any point.

Without objection, so ordered.

Is there any discussion or are there any questions concerning the authorization and oversight plan?

If there is no discussion, are there any amendments to the authorization and oversight plan?

The chair now recognizes the gentleman from Virginia, Mr. Wittman, for the purpose of offering a motion regarding Committee Resolution No. 3, the authorization and oversight plan for the 119th Congress.

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Chairman, I move to adopt the Committee Resolution No. 3.

The CHAIRMAN. The question is on the motion of the gentleman from Virginia.

So many as are in favor will say aye.

Those opposed, no.

A quorum being present, the ayes have it, and the motion is agreed to.

Without objection, a motion to reconsider is laid upon the table.

Committee on Armed Services
119th Congress Authorization and Oversight Plan

Introduction

Providing for the common defense of the United States is one of the fundamental duties of Congress. Members of the Committee on Armed Services acutely understand this responsibility. The committee's legislative and oversight responsibilities are critical to the security of our country and that of its partners and allies around the world. That is why the committee will continue to work in a bipartisan manner to conduct oversight of the national defense.

Oversight of the national defense enterprise is complex. Each day, critical decisions are made by military and civilian personnel leading hundreds of agencies, departments, and commands located at thousands of facilities throughout the world. It is the committee's Constitutional duty to conduct oversight of these decisions to ensure they are consistent with federal law and Congressional intent. The complexity of the current threat environment, with an on-going conflict in Europe and the Middle East, strategic competition with the Chinese Communist Party, and shifting policy priorities at the Department of Defense makes the committee's oversight even more essential.

Comprehensive oversight is instrumental in the committee's development of the annual national defense authorization bill (NDAA), which covers the breadth of the operations of the Department of Defense (DoD), as well as the defense activities of the Department of Energy and related agencies. The committee believes that regular oversight and reauthorization of these programs and activities through enactment of an annual NDAA best supports Congress' Article I prerogatives. For over 60 years, the committee has led Congressional efforts to enact an NDAA. The annual enactment of the NDAA provides robust opportunities for congressional review and ensures national security programs and activities are carried out as Congress intends.

Jurisdiction

The committee has jurisdiction over laws, programs, and agencies under permanent authority in numerous titles of the United States Code, including title 10 (Armed Forces), title 32 (National Guard), title 37 (Pay and Allowances of the Uniformed Services), title 41 (Public Contracts), title 42 (Atomic Energy), title 46 (Shipping), and title 50 (War and National Defense).

Pursuant to clause l(c) of rule X of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the jurisdiction of the committee is as follows:

1. Ammunition depots; forts; arsenals; and Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, and Space Force reservations and establishments.
2. Common defense generally.

3. Conservation, development, and use of naval petroleum and oil shale reserves.
4. The Department of Defense generally, including the Departments of the Army, Navy, and Air Force generally.
5. Interoceanic canals generally, including measures relating to the maintenance, operation, and administration of interoceanic canals.
6. Merchant Marine Academy and State Merchant Marine Academies.
7. Military applications of nuclear energy.
8. Tactical intelligence and intelligence-related activities of the Department of Defense.
9. National security aspects of merchant marine, including financial assistance for the construction and operation of vessels, the maintenance of the U.S. shipbuilding and ship repair industrial base, cabotage, cargo preference, and merchant marine officers and seamen as these matters relate to national security.
10. Pay, promotion, retirement, and other benefits and privileges of members of the armed services.
11. Scientific research and development in support of the armed services.
12. Selective service.
13. Size and composition of the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, and Space Force.
14. Soldiers' and sailors' homes.
15. Strategic and critical materials necessary for the common defense.
16. Cemeteries administered by the Department of Defense.

In addition to its legislative jurisdiction, the committee has special oversight functions with respect to international arms control and disarmament and the education of military dependents in schools, pursuant to clause 3(b) of rule X of the Rules of the House of Representatives.

Administration of Oversight Activities

The committee carries out its oversight of the DoD and its subordinate departments and agencies, as well as portions of the Department of Energy (DoE), through public hearings, classified briefings, roundtables, and other activities involving the full committee and its standing subcommittees. Pursuant to House Rule X, clause 2(b)(2), each subcommittee with assigned topical or programmatic responsibilities conducts oversight of the programs within its jurisdiction as specified in the committee's rules. Certain issues and activities requiring more extensive, lengthy, and in-depth review may be assigned to a task force or panel pursuant to committee rules to allow for focused or cross-cutting examination. Subcommittees will be

assisted by staff from the full committee at the Chair or Ranking Member's discretion to ensure that appropriate resources are available to carry out oversight activities.

Lapsed Authorizations

The annual NDAA authorizes the DoD activities that require recurrent authorization. The current NDAA for fiscal year (FY) 2025 was enacted on December 23, 2024 (P.L. 118-159). It authorizes the programs and activities of the DoD through FY2025. As a result, there are currently no lapsed authorizations within the committee's jurisdiction receiving appropriated funding in FY2025.

Programs to be Authorized in the Current Congress

The committee anticipates authorizing a wide range of DoD and DoE programs and activities in the 119th Congress. Annual funding authorizations in the FY2025 NDAA totaled over 2,700 line items, each reflective of the national security priorities of Congress. These items include procurement programs and accounts, operations and maintenance programs and accounts, military construction projects, research, development, testing, and evaluation (RDT&E) programs and accounts, nuclear weapons and associated activities, military personnel programs and accounts, military health programs and accounts, military justice programs and accounts, intelligence programs and accounts, Joint Staff and Combatant Commander accounts, and various other matters relating to the national defense. Each of these authorizations expire at the end of FY2025. The committee anticipates reviewing each these authorizations to determine whether to reauthorize them as part of the FY2026 NDAA.

Oversight to Support Authorizations

In support of the enactment of annual NDAA's during the 119th Congress, the committee will conduct numerous oversight hearings, classified briefings, roundtables, and other activities. The committee anticipates holding public hearings and classified briefings with the Secretary of Defense, the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, individual service secretaries and chiefs of staff, combatant commanders, other officials of the DoD and the military departments, officials from the Intelligence Community, and the Secretary of Energy, the Under Secretary for Nuclear Security, and other officials of the DoE. In addition, the committee will seek views and perspectives from outside experts in industry, associations, advocacy organizations, and those in private life with expertise on matters of national security. The committee will work closely with the Government Accountability Office (GAO) and Inspector Generals (IG) from DoD agencies to eliminate waste, fraud, abuse, and mismanagement at the DoD. Finally, the committee expects that it will continue to receive credible reports from whistleblowers that it intends to investigate and take appropriate action when warranted.

Discretionary and Mandatory Spending

As part of its annual oversight and authorization process, the committee carefully reviews and determines whether changes need to be made to the manner in which discretionary and mandatory national security programs are carried out. If the committee determines that certain mandatory programs would be better administered through discretionary appropriations, the NDAA would carry out that change consistent with Congressional Budget Act rules and regulations. The committee will continue to conduct rigorous oversight of the mandatory programs under its jurisdiction and will implement reforms when necessary to protect beneficiaries, eliminate waste, and improve administration.

Redundant Programs and Agencies

One of the focuses of the oversight process the committee undertakes annually to produce the NDAA is identifying redundant programs or agencies in the defense enterprise. The committee has a record of enacting laws to realign, streamline, or eliminate these programs and agencies when necessary. The committee will continue to work with GAO and the DoD IG on efforts to uncover redundant and wasteful programs and to pursue legislative remedies in the NDAA.

Other Oversight Activities

The national security enterprise spans beyond the jurisdiction of the committee and includes matters in the jurisdiction of several other committees of the House of Representatives. As the committee has in past Congresses, it will continue to work closely with these committees to conduct important oversight on national security matters of shared jurisdictional interest.

On to the final order of business. I call up Committee Resolution No. 4, appointing committee staff for the 119th Congress.

The clerk will read the resolution.

Mr. GREENE. "Committee Resolution No. 4. Resolved, That the persons listed on the sheet distributed to the Members, and such other personnel as may be required by the committee within the limits and terms authorized under the Rules of the House of Representatives, are hereby appointed to the staff of the Committee on Armed Services, U.S. House of Representatives, for the 119th Congress, it being understood that according to the provisions of law, the Chairman will fix the basic salary per annum."

The CHAIRMAN. As many of you know, our committee is unique in that the combined staff—I mean, the staff is a combined staff. The committee staff here is here to provide advice and counsel to all of you, Republicans and Democrats alike. Please feel free to avail yourself of their services. They are a very talented group of professionals.

A copy of the committee staff for the 119th Congress was prepared in consultation with the minority and made available to member offices on Monday, January 13.

I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be considered as read.

Without objection, so ordered.

Is there any discussion or are there any questions concerning the committee staff? I know some of them are questionable looking, but that is not my question.

All right. The chair now recognizes the gentleman from Virginia, Mr. Wittman, for the purposes of offering a motion regarding Committee Resolution No. 4, appointing committee staff.

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Chairman, I move to adopt Committee Resolution No. 4.

The CHAIRMAN. The question is on the motion of the gentleman from Virginia.

So many as are in favor will say aye.

Those opposed, no.

A quorum being present, the ayes have it, and the motion is agreed to.

Without objection, a motion to reconsider is laid upon the table.

STAFF - HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

Geoff Gosselin, *Staff Director*
 Brian Garrett, *Minority Staff Director*
 Patrick Nevins, *Deputy Staff Director*
 Katy Quinn, *Minority Deputy Staff Director*
 Betty B. Gray, *Executive Assistant*
 Heath R. Bope, *Professional Staff Member*
 David Sienicki, *Subcommittee Staff Director*
 Zach Steacy, *Director, Legislative Operations*
 Craig Greene, *Subcommittee Staff Director*
 Phil MacNaughton, *Professional Staff Member*
 William S. Johnson, *Minority General Counsel*
 Katie Thompson, *Security Manager*
 David Giachetti, *Subcommittee Staff Director*
 Mark Morehouse, *Professional Staff Member*
 Shenita White, *Office Manager*
 Maria Vastola, *Professional Staff Member*
 Michael Hermann, *Professional Staff Member*
 Sapna Sharma, *Professional Staff Member*
 Kelly Goggin, *Professional Staff Member*
 William T. Johnson, *Professional Staff Member*
 Joshua Stiefel, *Professional Staff Member*
 Jeanine Womble, *Professional Staff Member*
 James Vallario, *Professional Staff Member*
 Hannah Kaufman, *Professional Staff Member*
 Forrest McConnell, *General Counsel*
 Michael Kirlin, *Senior Advisor and Subcommittee Staff Director*
 Sarah Moxley, *Subcommittee Staff Director*
 Whitney Verett, *Senior Advisor and Subcommittee Staff Director*
 Kyle Noyes, *Professional Staff Member*
 Ian Bennitt, *Senior Advisor and Subcommittee Staff Director*
 Ilka Regino, *Professional Staff Member*
 Wendell Frank White, Jr., *Professional Staff Member*
 Robert Ikoku, *Professional Staff Member*
 William Metzger, *Budget Director*
 Justine Tripathi, *Communications Director*
 Brooke Alred, *Research Assistant*
 Owen McGeary, *Research Assistant*
 Everett Winnick, *Director of Information Technology*
 Ethan Pelissier, *Research Assistant*
 Walker Barrett, *Professional Staff Member*
 Tracy Manzer, *Minority Communications Director*
 Caroline Kehrl, *Professional Staff Member*
 Peter Schirtzinger, *Professional Staff Member*
 Anna Reed, *Research Assistant*
 Alexandria Evers, *Professional Staff Member*
 Drew Kennedy, *Professional Staff Member*
 Ellie Bender, *Professional Staff Member*
 Michaela Reardon, *Professional Staff Member*
 Logan Wheelchel, *Research Assistant*
 Taryn Woody, *Professional Staff Member*
 Katherine Earle, *Professional Staff Member*
 Natalie Nixon, *Chief Administrative Officer*

You all have jobs now.

Without objection, committee staff is authorized to make technical and conforming changes to reflect the action of the committee in adopting Committee Resolutions 1 through 4.

Let me recognize Mr. Smith for any closing remarks that he might have.

Mr. SMITH. I don't have anything, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN. Nor do I.

Welcome to the Armed Services Committee.

We are adjourned.

[Whereupon, at 9:57 a.m., the committee was adjourned.]

