



CUI

National Guard Bureau

Office of the Legislative Liaison



NGB-LL

Feb 2025

**SGM Harold Watts III &
CMSgt John H Robey**



National Guard Bureau

Office of the Legislative Liaison



MG Jennifer Mitchell
Director



Mr. Joshua Spann
Associate Director



MSgt Shane Dye
Support Program Manager



Capt Chelsea Clark
Executive Officer

Liaison Division



Col Pete Boone
Division Chief

Authorizations

Air

Army

Joint



Lt Col Grawert
Branch Chief



Capt McGee
ANG Auth



CMSgt Robey
ANG Auth



MAJ Chrysler
Branch Chief



MAJ Layden
ARNG Auth



CPT Minkevitch
ARNG Auth



LTC Farrell
Branch Chief
J1/8



Maj Cuvan-Villanueva
J3/4/6/7



Capt Diaz
J2/5/Space/ Cyber

Integration Division



MAJ Adam Derrouis
(Acting) Integration
Division Chief

Inquiries & Constituent Services

Strategy, Plans, & Analysis



Ms. Warren
Branch Chief



SSgt Janila Abalos
Workflow Manager



Vacant
Case worker



Vacant
Caseworker



Vacant
Caseworker



Vacant
Branch Chief



Mr. Edwards
Senior Analyst



Mr. Keefer
Analyst



Mr. Scheinkopf
Analyst



Mr. Bedford
Legislative Counsel

Appropriations

Capitol Hill



Lt Col Dunham
Branch Chief/
ANG Approps



Lt Col Richardson
ANG MILCON



MAJ Hart
ARNG Approps



SGM Watts
ARNG MILCON



Mr. Pruitt
Senate Manager



CPT Griffiths
House Manager



NGB-LL Roles & Responsibilities

What We do:

- **Serve as a THE conduit of communication** between Congress, its agencies, and the NGB
- **Inform and educate Congress** on National Guard plans, programs, budget, policies, activities, and issues
- **Advise the CNGB and other senior NGB leaders** on congressional activities which may impact National Guard interests
- **Manage the NGB's legislative program:**
 - Deliberate legislative planning (i.e. congressional objectives)
 - Legislative proposal development
 - Preparation for testimony
 - Responding to formal congressional correspondence (inquiries)

What We Don't Do:

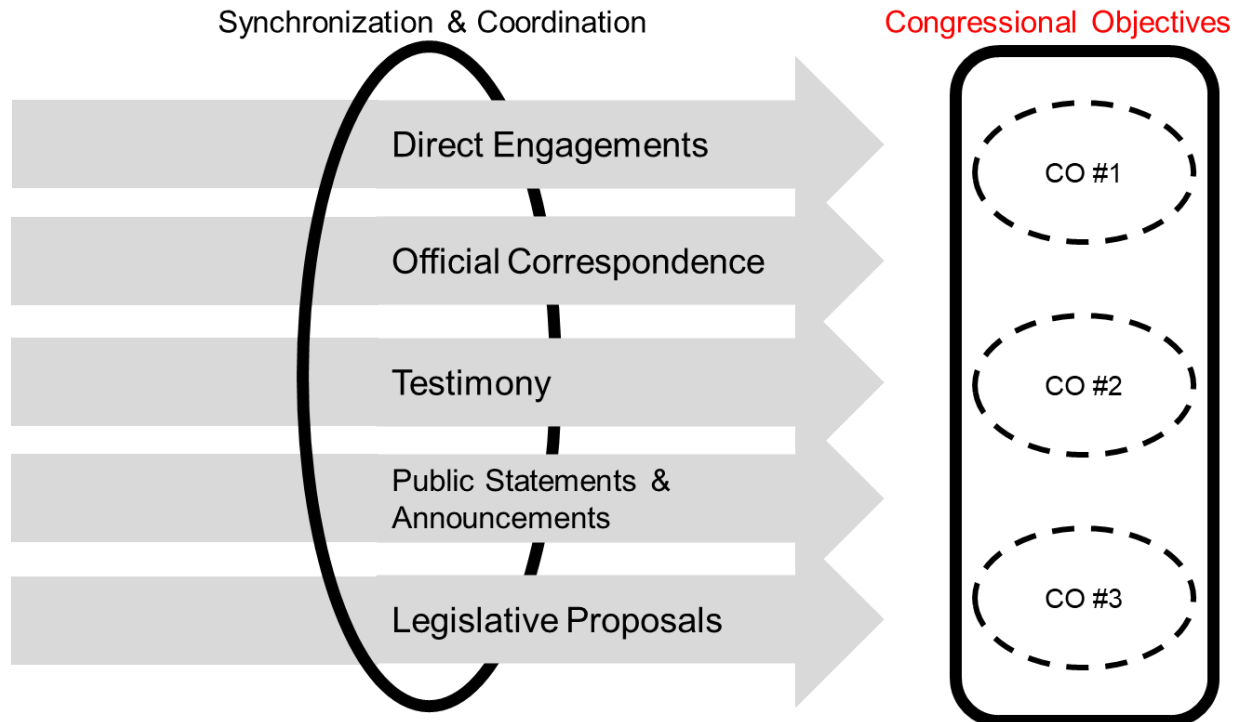
- Advocate for policies/programs outside President's Budget, or contrary to Administration position
- Portray ourselves as subject matter experts
- **LOBBY**



How NGB-LL Interacts with Congress

Congressional Objectives vs. Legislative Proposals

- **Congressional Objective (CO):** Objectives chosen by CNGB relative to Congress, if achieved, will enable CNGB to achieve their organizational vision
- **Legislative Proposal (LP):** Any proposal (usually containing legislative text) intended to change an existing law or be enacted by the Congress into law





Entities Competing for Congress's Attention

- **Military Entities**
 - OSD/Legislative Affairs (OSD/LA)
 - OSD/Comptroller (OSD/C)
 - Chairman's Liaison (JCS-LA)
 - Service Component Liaisons (Army OCLL, Air Force SAF/LL, etc.)
 - Service Component Budget Offices (Army SAFM/BUL, Air Force SAF/FM, etc.)
 - Service Components & Staff (DA, DAF, ARFPC, RFPB, etc.)
 - NGB & Staff (NGB-LL)
- **States**
 - Governors, TAGs, Units
- **Associations**
 - Nat'l Governors Association (NGA)
 - Various Service Associations (AUSA, AFA, etc.)
 - NG Associations (NGAUS, EANGUS, etc.)
 - MOAA, ROA, VFW, DAV, etc.
- **Industry**
 - Corporations, businesses, and lobbyists
- **Other Actors**
 - Constituents/Taxpayers
- **Congress (Elected officials, personal staff, and committee staff)**





Key Committees

Armed Services

Appropriations

- **Defense Authorization Committees**
 - **SASC:** Senate Armed Services Committee
 - **HASC:** House Armed Services Committee



- **National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA)**
 - Provides end strength numbers, pay rates, benefits and other policy guidance
 - May clarify purpose of appropriation (i.e. funding restrictions, establishing new agency, etc.)

- **Defense Appropriations Subcommittees**
 - **SAC-D:** Senate Appropriations Defense Subcommittee
 - **HAC-D:** House Appropriations Defense Subcommittee
- **MILCON Appropriations Subcommittees:**
 - **HAC-MILCON:** House Appropriations Subcommittee on MILCON, Veterans Affairs, & Related Agencies
 - **SAC-MILCON:** Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on MILCON, Veterans Affairs, & Related Agencies



- **Appropriations Act**
 - Directs treasury to release funds to agencies as provided in the bill
 - Supposed to be tied to NDAA; not always the case



Key Players

- **Members of Congress**
 - Focused on major issues, jobs at home, and constituents
 - Rarely interested in programmatic or technical detail
 - Influences professional staff
- **Professional Staff (Committee Staff)**
 - Day-to-day keeper (and gatekeeper) of committee issues and awareness
 - Primary contact for most issues
 - Work for committee chair or ranking member
 - Focus on committee jurisdiction; mindful of committee leaderships' constituency
- **Personal Staff (Office Staff)**
 - Military Legislative Assistant (MLA)
 - Defense Fellows
 - Keeper of member-interest information
 - Focus on issues important to the member and their district





National Defense Authorization Act

Highlights

- Directs the transfer of covered Air National Guard (ANG) space functions and personnel to the United States Space Force (USSF). **Does not require** Governor consent to implement.
- Requires the Secretary of Defense (SecDef) to reimburse members of the reserve component who travel more than 50 miles to attend inactive-duty training and muster duty for their actual and necessary expenses of travel and transportation; and to pay meals, incidentals, and expenses related to such travel to the same extent specified in regulations.
- Directs the Secretary of the Air Force (SecAF) to submit a plan for sustainment and recapitalization of all 25 Air National Guard fighter squadrons.
- Requires distance education programs used to satisfy Phase I or Phase II Joint Professional Military Education requirements to include pathways for students to complete these programs in a fully remote status and without requiring any in-person attendance.
- Authorizes the authority to extend military technicians until age 62 (**Legislative Proposal**).
- Authorizes certain reserve component general officers to serve in an active status for up to 60 days after ceasing to occupy a general officer position (**Legislative Proposal**).
- Authorizes funding to support a 4.5 percent pay raise for all military members and increases junior enlisted pay by an additional 10 percent (14.5% total, E1-E4).
- Directs the Chief of the National Guard Bureau (CNGB) in consultation with the service Secretary concerned, to provide notice to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives at least 60 days in advance of a reapportionment of National Guard force structure, together with a description of the details of the proposed force structure reapportionment.
- Authorizes two additional C-40B aircraft for the Air National Guard.
- Maintains C-130 total aircraft inventory at 271 with a sunset date of October 1, 2025.
- Requires the SecAF to replace current ANG and Air Reserve air refueling aircraft with an equal air refueling aircraft capability.
- **Does not authorize** the exemption of National Guard Bilateral Affairs Officers (BAOs) from Active-Duty end strength limits.
- **Does not authorize** officers to transfer from the Selected Reserve to the Inactive National Guard (**NGB Legislative Proposal**).
- **Does not authorize** the CNGB to be eligible to be appointed Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff
- **Does not contain** free dental care to members of the Selected Reserve and their family members.



Congressional Fellowship

- **Air:**

- Part of application for Intermediate Developmental Education (IDE)
- Several familiarization months in the NCR prior to going to Hill
- Congressional course at the Government Affairs Institute (GU)

- **Army:**

- Separate program with special application and process
- Begin in June of year prior to going to Hill to be full-time student
- Complete Masters degree at GWU

For more information:

<https://www.nationalguard.mil/Leadership/Joint-Staff/Personal-Staff/Legislative-Liaison/>



Questions?