

TheCapitol.Net's Executive Conference:
Understanding Congressional Budgeting and (military client) Issues

Presented for (military department)

*(Agenda from a custom program presented for a client in 2001. To tailor this program for your organization, call us.)
Washington, DC*

8:00 Introduction
TheCapitol.Net

8:05 Overview of Congressional Budgeting Today: The Players and the Rules
Congressional Budget Expert

- * The framework and basic concepts of the congressional budget process, the key players and their basic roles and relationships
- * The two federal budget processes: discretionary and mandatory spending
- * Budget authority vs. budget outlays
- * The politics of a dwindling federal surplus

9:00 The President's Role in Congressional Budgeting
Congressional Budget Expert

- * Formulation of the president's budget
- * The president's budget in Congress

9:30 Break

9:40 The Congressional Budget Resolution Process
Congressional Budget Expert

- * How the budget resolution is affected by the discretionary caps established in the Budget Enforcement Act
- * How to interpret the budget aggregates, functional allocations contained in the budget resolution

10:20 Break

10:30 Authorizations
Congressional Budget Expert

- * Key features and different types of authorization bills
- * The relationship of authorization and appropriation legislation and how differences between the two are reconciled
- * The trend toward annual authorizations and its impact on power relationships in Congress

11:45 Lunch

12:45 Appropriations (a break will be taken at a convenient time)
Congressional Budget Expert

- * How the House initiates all appropriation bills, and the rules and structure in place to move this "must pass" legislation through committee and floor consideration
- * How to interpret the nuances of legislative language (expects vs. directs, may vs. shall, etc.) in appropriation bills and reports
- * How the various parts of an appropriations bill relate to one another

3:20 Day One Concludes

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Day Two

8:00 Defense Issues in the 107th Congresses

Defense Reporter

A seasoned defense reporter will review the salient legislative issues in the 107th Congress of concern to the defense community.

9:10 Break

9:20 Panel Discussion: The Staff Perspective

Congressional Staffers

A panel of congressional staffers will provide an overview of the current budget debate from the staff perspective and will discuss generally how defense budget and appropriation issues are handled on the Hill. The staffers will also focus on the relationships between congressional and executive branch workers and what (military client) can do to work effectively with staffers and to help protect its interests.

10:30 Break

10:40 Executive Branch Defense Budget Process

Office of Management and Budget

The speaker will present the considerations involved in the executive branch's formulation of the defense budget and review the process and results of defense budget planning in the administration.

11:45 Lunch

12:45 Appropriations continued

Congressional Budget Expert

* Changes in the appropriations process including Senate initiation of appropriations bills, and conflict in the appropriating process

* How the Senate's lack of formal rules and structure impacts the path of appropriations bills through the Senate; the use of unanimous consent

1:45 Break

1:00 Final Actions on Appropriations and the Reconciliation Process

Congressional Budget Expert

* How differences between House and Senate legislation are reconciled

* How to interpret the conference report and to determine the status of your program and final dollar amounts agreed to by the conferees

* The three components of the reconciliation instructions in the budget resolution and how to determine whether they will impact programs

1:45 Implementing the Budget Process

Congressional Budget Expert

* The flow of monies following the passage of appropriations including apportionment, allotments, obligations, and outlays by executive agencies

2:50 Break

3:00 The Budget Outlook

Congressional Budget Expert

* The future of the budget process

3:15 Complete Program Evaluations

3:20 Program Concludes

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