

# Preliminary Agenda

*TheCapitol.Net's*  
**Capitol Hill Workshop: Politics, Policy, and Process**  
*Homeland Security Focus*

**June 14-16, 2006**  
Washington, D.C.

**Day One: Wednesday June 14, 2006**  
**Location:**

**8:30 Welcome and Introductions**

*The Capitol.Net*

**The Dynamics of Congress**

*CD Chapter 1*

An expert on Congress will discuss the dynamics of the legislative process and the three key elements that drive today's institution: politics, policy, and procedure. She will illuminate the differences between the House and Senate and the nature of the 109<sup>th</sup> Congress. Be apprised of what to expect during the second session of the 109<sup>th</sup>, especially for the defense/security community.

**9:45 Break**

**10:00 Today's Legislative Process**

*CD Chapter 8*

The instructor will briefly review how a bill becomes a law by tracking legislation from introduction and referral to committee, through committee hearings and markups, floor consideration, to final passage and presidential action.

**12:00 Lunch**

**1:15 Politics and Leadership in the 109th Congress**

*CD Chapter 7*

The instructor will examine the formal and informal leadership structures in the House and Senate, as well as the politics and personalities of the major players in Congress. He will review the membership of committees with jurisdiction over the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and look at the 109th Congress in terms of leadership, policy-making, and issues of importance to DHS.

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**Day One: Wednesday, June 14, 2006**

**Location:**

**2:30 Break**

**2:45 Policy Making in Congress**

*CD Chapters 3, 4*

Policy development and decision making in Congress are influenced by many forces. Learn how this occurs in macro and micro settings. Discussion will include the role of the electorate and political parties, as well as Congress' interactions with the White House, executive agencies, the media, and other political players. The instructor will assess what these factors mean for policy making in Congress, and for the defense/security community.

**4:00 Day One concludes**

*\*\* We recommend that attendees bring their program folders and Congressional Deskbook to the Workshop each day.*

**Day Two: Thursday, June 15, 2006**

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**8:30 Welcome and Introductions**

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**Congressional Budgeting Today**

*CD Chapter 9*

This session will provide an introduction to the congressional budget process and the current politics of budgeting. The instructor will review the major players, procedures, and timing of decisions. The President's newly released budget, authorizations, appropriations, and reconciliation will be covered, enabling participants to see the "big picture" of federal budgeting, and where DHS fits in. *(A short break will be taken at approximately 9:45 a.m.)*

**10:30 Break****10:45 How the Media Covers the Big Beats: The White House, Capitol Hill, and Pentagon**

*CD Chapter 3*

A reporter will discuss who comprises the Washington press corps, and how they cover the big beats in DC. Questions to be addressed include: how forthcoming are these institutions with information, what role does the media play in shaping policy debate within these institutions, and what role does it play in elections, campaigns, or in a "war" environment.

**11:45 Lunch****1:00 Washington Lobbying: Communicating Effectively with Congress** *CD Chapters 4,10*

This session will provide an overview of the current political environment on Capitol Hill and the role of lobbying in today's legislative process. Discussion will focus on how outside interests, including executive agencies, can educate and communicate effectively with members of Congress and staff to build positive working relationships. The instructor will provide practical suggestions for interacting with members of Congress, as well as important "do's" and "don'ts" of communicating with Congress since September 11 and the discovery of anthrax in congressional mail.

**2:00 Break****Day Two: Thursday, June 15, 2006****Location:****2:15 Presidential-Congressional Relations**

*CD Chapter 10*

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This session will examine the president's role in the legislative process, how this role evolved, and how the president sets his legislative agenda in Congress today. What characteristics determine a president's success in passing his legislative agenda? The instructor will compare how the balance of power between the executive and legislative branches has shifted over time, and he will assess White House-Congressional relations in the 109<sup>th</sup> Congress.

### **3:30 Complete Evaluations and Day Two Concludes**

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**Day Three: Friday, June 16, 2006**

**Location:**

**8:30 Introduction**

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**Homeland Security Issues in the 109<sup>th</sup> Congress**

This session will highlight national security issues Congress is likely to address in its second session. The instructor will examine border security, immigration, increasing overall preparedness within DHS, and the realignment of DHS to maximize its mission performance.

**10:00 Break**

**10:10 Congressional Relations from a DHS Perspective**

A representative from the Department of Homeland Security will discuss the role of congressional liaison office in establishing and building working relationships with Congress, both committees of jurisdiction and personal offices of members. He will discuss the organization and responsibilities of his legislative affairs team, how a legislative affairs shop can educate and work most effectively with Capitol Hill, and lobbying restrictions of which to be aware.

**11:10 Break**

**11:20 A Member's Perspective on Politics and Policy**

*CD Chapters 2, 3, 4*

A former member of Congress will comment on the many pressures and responsibilities that a member must balance in day-to-day decision and policy making. Discussion will include how members advance their legislative and political agenda; deal with large amounts of incoming mail; handle fund raising and press operations; get reelected, and more.

**12:20 Lunch**

**1:30 Campaign and Election Trends and Their Impact**

*CD Chapter 2*

The instructor will take an insightful look at the current trends in how campaigns, political communication and elections are conducted in the United States, citing examples from the 2004 campaigns. He will review the political landscape of the United States and interpret what it means for future elections.

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**Day Three: Friday, June 16, 2006**

**Location:**

**2:45 Break**

**2:55 The Work of Personal and Committee Staff**

*CD Chapter 5*

A congressional staff member who focuses on homeland security related issues will discuss the work environment on the Hill including the positions and responsibilities of committee and personal staff, and the organization of congressional offices. He will focus on what staffers need or expect from outside interests, and how these interests can build strong working relationships with staffers and the Hill. The staffer will also reveal his insights into the dynamics and agendas of his office.

**3:55 Complete Evaluations and Workshop Concludes**

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