

Records of the Committee on Armed Services
RG.233.90.AS
90th Congress

**Finding aid prepared by Office of Art and Archives,
Office of the Clerk, U.S. House of Representatives**

This finding aid was produced using the Archivists' Toolkit

August 12, 2014

Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Center for Legislative Archives, National Archives and Records Administration
700 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC, 20408
202-357-5350
legislative.archives@nara.gov

Table of Contents

<u>Summary Information</u>	3
<u>Biographical/Historical note</u>	4
<u>Administrative Information</u>	4
<u>Collection Inventory</u>	6
<u>Committee on Armed Services</u>	6

Summary Information

Repository	Center for Legislative Archives, National Archives and Records Administration
Title	Committee on Armed Services
Date [inclusive]	1967-1969
Extent	Amount unknown
Language	English

Biographical/Historical note

The Committee on Armed Services was established under the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946, which merged the jurisdictions of the former committees on Naval Affairs, and on Military Affairs to form a single committee, the Committee on the Armed Services. The jurisdiction of the new committee included the following subjects: a) Common defense generally. b) The Department of Defense generally, including the Departments of the Army, Navy, and Air Force generally. c) Ammunition depots; forts; arsenals; Army, Navy and Air Force reservations and establishments. d) Conservation, development, and use of naval petroleum and oil shale reserves. e) Pay, promotion, retirement, and other benefits and privileges of members of the armed forces. f) Scientific research and development in support of the armed services. g) Selective service. h) Size and composition of the Army, Navy, and Air Force. i) Soldiers' and sailors' homes. j) Strategic and critical materials necessary for the common defense. The committee has functioned through numerous subcommittees, the names and number of which vary from Congress to Congress. Through most of its history there have been four or five standing legislative subcommittees, several special subcommittees appointed to conduct specific studies, and an oversight or investigating subcommittee. The records that have been preserved reflect the complex and often technical nature of the subjects dealt with by the committee, and its reliance on subcommittees to perform most of the work.

Administrative Information

Publication Information

Center for Legislative Archives, National Archives and Records Administration

Conditions Governing Access note

The records are governed by Rule VII(3)b of the House Rules:

(b) (1) A record shall immediately be made available if it was previously made available for public use by the House or a committee or a subcommittee. (2) An investigative record that contains personal data relating to a specific living person (the disclosure of which would be an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy), an administrative record relating to personnel, or a record relating to a hearing that was closed under clause 2(g)(2) of rule XI shall be made available if it has been in existence for 50 years. (3) A record for which a time, schedule, or condition for availability is specified by order of the House shall be made available in accordance with that order. Except as otherwise provided by order of the House, a record of a committee for which a time, schedule, or condition for availability is specified by order of the committee (entered during the Congress in which the record is made or acquired by the committee)

shall be made available in accordance with the order of the committee. (4) A record (other than a record referred to in subparagraph (1), (2), or (3)) shall be made available if it has been in existence for 30 years.

Collection Inventory

Committee on Armed Services 1967-1969

Scope and Contents note

The records of the Committee on Armed Services include minutes and the legislative calendar. Records documenting the Military Service Act of 1967 include legislative reports and hearings, procurement documenting military construction, Department of Defense appropriations, and subcommittee minutes and hearings.

Bill Files 1967-1969

Scope and Contents note

The bill files of the Committee on Armed Services exist for every Congress. The files average 7 feet per Congress and consist of thin tri-folded files for each bill and resolution referred to the committee. The files usually contain copies of the printed bill, along with correspondence between the committee and the affected executive agencies.

Committee Papers 1967-1969

Scope and Contents note

The committee papers of the Committee on Armed Services show the committee's reliance on subcommittees to conduct a large part of the workload; there are, for instance, records of 21 subcommittees in the 90th Congress.

Executive Secretary Files

Executive Secretary Files 1967-1969**Scope and Contents note**

The Executive Secretary Files (86th-93rd Congresses) of the Committee on Armed Services are legislative files covering such subjects as military construction, Armed Forces pay, the Universal Military Training and Service Act, aircraft appropriations, and military personnel. These records are, for the most part, research files containing survey data, reports, correspondence, and other information relating to the subjects in the jurisdiction of the committee. The Full Committee and Subcommittee Hearing Transcripts include many transcripts of subcommittee hearings and executive sessions. A large number of the executive session transcripts are from the Subcommittee on Real Estate and Construction [also include minutes].

Front Office Files 1967-1969**Scope and Contents note**

The Front Office Files (80th-93d Congress) of the Committee on Armed Services cover a variety of administrative subjects such as the personnel files of former committee staff members, committee travel, and miscellaneous topics such as invitations to members. A closely related set of records, Committee Travel Files, contain correspondence and vouchers as well as other records related to the travel of committee members and staff. Both sets of files are arranged chronologically by Congress. The Miscellaneous Front Office Files (24 ft.) include files for each of the 21 subcommittees that contain the minutes of subcommittee meetings and selected correspondence between the subcommittee and the full committee or the subcommittee and certain executive departments. This collection also has the records of specific subcommittees: the Special Subcommittee on the M-16 Rifle Program (4 ft.), the Subcommittee on Enlisted Promotion Policy Review (1 ft.), the Sea Power Subcommittee (4 in.), and the Special Subcommittee on Anti-Submarine Warfare (2 in.). There are also files of the staff director, and several committee counsels and professional staff members.

Oil Shale and Naval Petroleum Files 1967-1969

Petitions and Memorials

Scope and Contents note

The Oil Shale and Naval Petroleum Files (80th-90th Congresses) of the Committee on Armed Services contain folders on naval petroleum in general; specific sites such as Elk Hills, Buena Vista Hills, and Teapot Dome; issues such as Navy oil exploration; and hearings on naval oil shale reserves.

Petitions and Memorials 1967-1969

Scope and Contents note

The petitions and memorials of the Committee on Armed Services are mainly focused on the U.S. involvement in Vietnam. The committee received a massive petition titled, "Declaration on Napalm: The Use of Napalm Must Be Stopped!" The petition was printed in newspapers and otherwise circulated throughout the United States in 1967 by a group called "Concerned Citizens" from Palo Alto, California. Thousands of citizens signed the document that declared, "The use of napalm is bringing shame upon our nation throughout the world. Its use is wholly unworthy of the ideals for which this nation stands. We demand that our President and the Members of our Congress take immediate steps to stop the manufacture and use of this barbarous weapon" (90-AS-4, 8 in.). That same year, the Rochester Police Locust Club, Inc. requested passage of legislation to exempt policemen from the draft; and the Italian-American War Veterans of the United States, Department of Massachusetts, passed a resolution documenting their condemnation of draft card burners and others who took part in "political dissension; racial turmoil; war rebellion; student disturbance; draft protest." The legislature of the State of New Mexico, recognizing that the draft laws placed an unusually heavy burden on economically and educationally deprived Hispanic Americans, requested that Congress amend the draft laws to allow for a more equitable selection from disadvantaged minority groups.

Reading File 1967-1969

Scope and Contents note

The reading file of the Committee on Armed Services consists of 19 feet of correspondence from the first session and 4 feet from the second session, arranged alphabetically by addressee.

Technical Reference Files

Technical Reference Files 1967-1969**Scope and Contents note**

The two series of Technical Reference Files of the Committee on Armed Services include general files kept by the full committee covering a wide variety of subjects. The individual files are arranged under the broad categories of personnel, education, intelligence, defense, Congress, medical, facilities, finance, legal, publicity, foreign aid, and transportation.

Special Investigations Subcommittee 1967-1969**Scope and Contents note**

The records of the Special Investigations Subcommittee (84th-90th Cong., 73 ft.) of the Committee on Armed Services include reports and hearings. For each Congress, a large portion of the records of the subcommittee are arranged in subject files and indexed according to a numerical system. These large subject files include investigative subjects, administrative subjects, correspondence of committee members and staff, copies of hearings and special reports published by the subcommittee, transcripts of executive session hearings and meetings, and many other types of documents. The records of the subcommittee contain a large number of transcripts of hearings, many of which are unpublished executive session meetings.