United States Representative

RUBEN GALLEGIO

Representing Arizona’s 7th District
Congressman Ruben Gallego is the son of Latino immigrants, a veteran, and a community leader.

He was the first in his family to attend college, graduating from Harvard University with a degree in International Relations.

He later joined the Marine Corps, serving in Iraq with the well-known combat unit Lima 3/25.

Congressman Gallego was elected to the Arizona House of Representatives in 2010, and served until 2014.

Congressman Gallego currently serves on the House Armed Services Committee and Natural Resources Committee.

Congressman Gallego and his wife Kate live in South Mountain. Kate is the City Council representative for City of Phoenix District 8, and Vice Mayor for the City of Phoenix.
Arizona’s Seventh Congressional District is centered around the City of Phoenix and is fully contained within Maricopa County. The district includes Central Phoenix, as well as South and West Phoenix and pieces of Glendale, Tolleson and Guadalupe.

Some of Phoenix’s most recognizable landmarks are located within the 7th Congressional district, including the State Capitol, South Mountain, Sky Harbor Airport, US Airways Arena and Chase Field – making the district home to both the Phoenix Suns and Arizona Diamondbacks.

The district is one of the most diverse in Arizona. Nearly 64 percent of the seventh district’s residents are Hispanic and just shy of 10 percent are African American. Additionally, 25,000 military veterans live in the seventh district.
Congressional District 7
Continued..
NDAA Process

The National Defense Authorization Act, which establishes our national security policies and spending levels, has been passed by Congress and signed into law every year for over half a century.

The House Armed Services Committee is among the most bipartisan panels in Congress and each Member has the ability to influence the final legislation.

The Committee’s work follows a well-established annual cycle.
NDAA Process

Every year begins with a series of hearings with the senior civilian and military leaders of the Department of Defense.

In late winter/early spring, each Member of the Committee submits his or her requests to the Chairman regarding provisions to be included in the bill; these requests are then reviewed by the Chairman and his staff.

In the spring, the Chairman releases a draft version of the bill known as the Chairman’s Mark.
The Chairman’s Mark is then extensively amended, first by the various subcommittees and then by the full membership of the Armed Services Committee in a mark up that lasts all night.

The amended bill then comes before the full House of Representatives where it is once again subject to dozens of additional amendments.

A Conference Committee is subsequently named to resolve the differences between the House and Senate versions of the NDAA.

The product of these deliberations – the Conference Report – is then voted-on by the House and Senate before heading to the President’s desk for his signature.
Influencing the Process

- Members of the House Armed Services Committee are eager to hear from businesses in their states and congressional districts whose interests are impacted by the NDAA.
- Contact the staff of your Member of Congress early in the process to share your concerns and discuss programs important to your business.
- Be sure to follow up regularly with his/her staff throughout the process – congressional staff are inundated with requests and your persistence will pay off.
Overview of DOD Acquisition Process

Three steps-

- The Joint Capabilities Integration and Development System (JCIDS) — for identifying requirements.
- The Planning, Programming, Budgeting, and Execution System (PPBE) — for allocating resources and budgeting.
- The Defense Acquisition System (DAS) — for developing and/or buying the item.
DAS “Milestones”

The Defense Acquisition System uses "milestones;" at each stage, certain requirement must be met before the program can proceed to the next phase.

Milestone A—initiates technology maturation and risk reduction.

Milestone B—initiates engineering and manufacturing development.

Milestone C—initiates production and deployment.
Proposed Acquisitions Reforms in the House NDAA

Chairman Thornberry is especially concerned about the duration of Major Defense Acquisition Programs (MDAPs); he believes the period from the time requirements are developed until these systems are finally fielded is too long.

- The bill encourages DOD to design weapon systems as “open-system architectures.” In theory, this would allow new technologies to be readily incorporated into existing platforms.
- Under the House-version of the 2017 NDAA, MDAPs are required to be designed using only sufficiently mature technologies that will not delay scheduled deployments.
- The bill also provides additional authorities for incubating technologies for insertion into MDAPs.
- Critics have argued that these reforms could add significant process and bureaucracy to the DOD acquisition system.
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