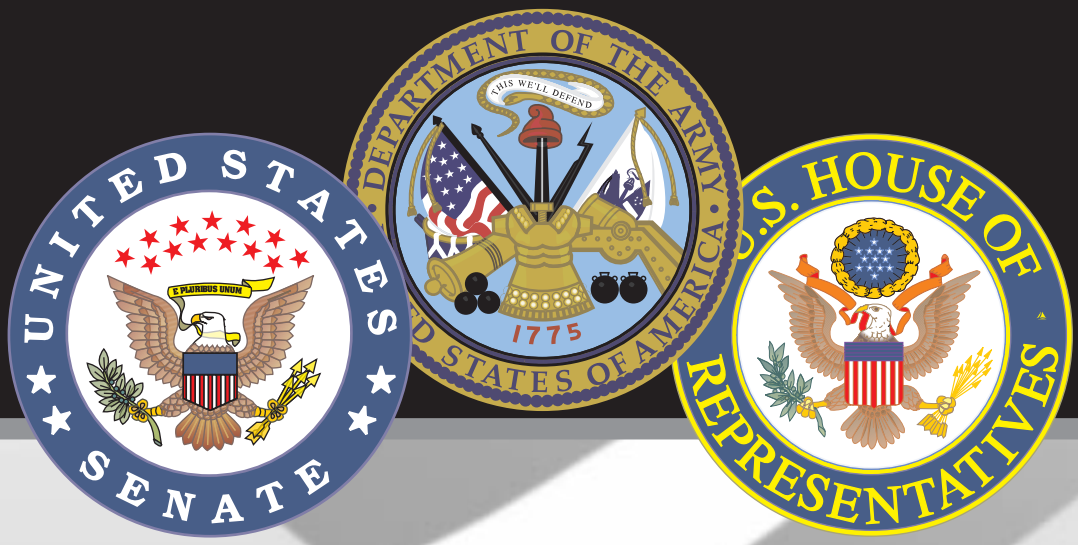
The Army and Congress

Never in the history of mankind has a document endured the test of time like the United States Constitution. *In fact, for many Americans—past and present—the* Constitution *is the single most important document in all our lives. It is a "living document" that assures us certain inalienable rights—among them the right to "freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble . . . ." More important, our* Constitution *ensures that "We the People" can live in freedom and be the masters of our collective destiny as a nation.*

Since 17 September 1787, the Constitution *has been a visible legacy, durable through more than two centuries of social and political change. As former Chief Justice Warren Burger, the US Constitution Bicentennial Commission chairman, said, "No other charter of government ha[s] recognized so clearly that all legitimate political power flows from the people." To this day, the* Constitution *does what our founding fathers promised in the preamble—". . . establish Justice, insure domestic tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general Welfare and secure the Blessings of Liberty. . . ."*

This section discusses the responsibilities the Army assumes to ensure "the common defense" and how Congress is empowered through Article 1, Section 8 of the Constitution *"to provide for the common defense . . . to raise and support Armies . . . to provide and maintain a Navy . . . to make rules for the Government and Regulation of the land and naval forces . . . to declare war . . . and to make laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying out the foregoing powers."*

Because Congress's role is central, its constitutional responsibilities for national security encompass almost every aspect of the military's functions. This edition is purposely designed to be an officer professional development tool to educate today's—and tomorrow's—leaders on the integral role that Congress plays in military affairs.