



**Congressional Fellowship Program  
(SNCOs)**

**USMC Office of Legislative Affairs, Pentagon  
Washington, DC**

**UNCLAS**



# **Marine Congressional Fellowship Program**



From its founding in 1775, the Marine Corps has maintained a close relationship with the United States Congress. An essential aspect of this relationship is the present-day Congressional Fellowship Program.

The program is a Department of Defense program, managed by the Office of the Secretary of Defense for Legislative Affairs and the Marine Corps Office of Legislative Affairs.

The program provides a unique opportunity for military members to work alongside senators, representatives, and congressional committees. Fellows learn about Congress through practical application and lend their experience to Congress

## **2014 House Fellowships: 8**

- Rep Joe Wilson (SC-2); Capt Kaltrider
- Rep Duncan Hunter (CA-50); Capt Morris
- Rep Darrell Issa (CA-49); Capt Jones
- Rep Bill Shuster (PA-9); GySgt Lloyd
- Rep Susan Davis (CA-53); Capt Koch
- Rep James Moran (VA-8); GS13 Quizon
- Rep John Kline (MN-2); Maj Selmo
- Rep Sanford Bishop (GA-2); MSgt Stevens

## **2014 Senate Fellowships: 6**

- Sen Kay Hagan (NC); MSgt Espinosa
- Sen John Cornyn (TX); Capt Holt
- Sen Richard Blumenthal (CT); Maj Steinfels
- Sen Diana Feinstein (CA); Capt D'Itri
- Sen Thad Cochran (MS); Capt Pack
- Sen. Bob Corker (TN); Capt Nelson

## **2014 Wounded Warrior Fellowships: 2**

- Senate Veterans Affairs Committee: GySgt Dean
- House Veterans Affairs Committee; MGySgt Stowe



# Members With USMC Bases

## • California

- Rep Darrell Issa
- Rep Susan Davis
- Rep Duncan Hunter
- Sen Diane Feinstein
- Sen Barbara Boxer

## • Arizona

- Sen John McCain
- Sen Jon Kyl
- Rep Raul Grijalva

## • Kansas

- Sen Pat Roberts
- Sen Jerry Moran
- Rep Dennis Moore

## • Virginia

- Sen Tim Kaine
- Sen Mark Warner
- Rep Rob Wittman
- Rep Jim Moran

## • North Carolina

- Sen Richard Burr
- Sen Kay Hagan
- Rep Walter Jones
- Rep Mike McIntyre

## • Georgia

- Sen Saxby Chambliss
- Sen Johnny Isakson
- Rep Sanford Bishop

## • South Carolina

- Sen Lindsey Graham
- Sen Tim Scott
- Rep Joe Wilson

## • Louisiana

- Sen Mary Landrieu
- Sen David Vitter

## • Florida

- Sen Bill Nelson
- Sen Marco Rubio
- Rep Ander Crenshaw





# Congressional Fellowship Program CY09



## 2009 House Fellow

**Master Sergeant William “Spanky” Gibson  
Committee on Veteran’s Affairs**



❑ Utilization Tour: Special Asst to Secretary Garcia  
(Asst SECNAV M&RA) Wounded Warrior Care and  
Transition Policy(WWCTP)

## 2009 Senate Fellow

**Gunnery Sergeant Bradley Simmons  
Senator Brown (OH)**



❑ PCSO to 1stBn, 5<sup>th</sup> Marines (Co 1stSgt)





# Congressional Fellowship Program CY10



## 2010 House Fellow

**Gunnery Sergeant Hector Soto-Rodriguez**  
**Office of US Congressman Victor F. Snyder (AK)**



❑ Utilization Tour: USMC House Liaison SNCO

## 2010 Senate Fellow

**Master Gunnery Sergeant William Mahoney**  
**Office of United States Senator Johnny Isakson (GA)**



❑ Utilization Tour: Senior Enlisted Advisor, Office of the Under Secretary of Defense, Personnel & Readiness, Pentagon



# Congressional Fellowship Program CY11



## 2011 House Fellow

**Gunnery Sergeant Damion Jacobs**  
**Office of US Congressman Darrell Issa (CA)**



☐ Utilization Tour: Special Assistant to Secretary of the Navy for Manpower and Reserve Affairs Wounded Warrior Care and Transition Policy (WWCTP), Pentagon

## 2011 Senate Fellow

**Master Sergeant Julius D. Spain Sr.**  
**Office of United States Senator Johnny Isakson (GA)**



☐ Utilization Tour: Senior Enlisted Legislative Advisor, Marine Corps Office of Legislative Affairs, Pentagon





# Congressional Fellowship Program CY12



**2012 House Fellow**  
**MGySgt Michelle King**  
**Rep Joe Wilson(SC)**



☐ Utilization Tour: Senior Enlisted Advisor,  
Department of Navy, Sexual Assault Prevention and  
Response Office (DON SAPRO) Pentagon

**2012 Senate Fellow**  
**GySgt Thomas Boyd**  
**Sen Joseph Lieberman(CT)**



☐ Utilization Tour: G-2 Chief, Marine Forces Cyber  
Command, National Security Agency, Fort Meade, MD.





# Congressional Fellowship Program CY13



2013 House Fellow  
MSgt Lee Duncan  
Rep. Joe Wilson (SC)



☐ Utilization Tour: Office of the Inspector General,  
U.S. Department of Defense, Alexandria, Virginia

2013 House Fellow  
GySgt Vincent Bennett  
Rep. Palazzo (LA)



☐ Utilization Tour: Marine Corps Security Force  
Company, Bangor, Washington





# Congressional Fellowship Program CY13



**2013 Senate Fellow**  
**MSgt Kathryn Denham**  
**Sen. Richard Blumenthal (CT)**



☐ Utilization Tour: HQMC Manpower & Reserve  
Affairs, Legislative Affairs Division, Quantico, Virginia



# Wounded Warrior Congressional Fellowship Program CY13



## 2013 House Fellow

**GySgt Benjamin Fender**  
**House Veterans Affairs Committee**



## 2013 Senate Fellow

**SSgt Benito Garcia**  
**Senate Veterans Affairs Committee**



☐ Utilization Tour: Special Assistant to Secretary of the Navy for Manpower and Reserve Affairs Wounded Warrior Care and Transition Policy (WWCTP), Pentagon

☐ Utilization Tour: HQMC Office of Legislative Affairs, Correspondence Division



# Congressional Fellowship Program CY14



2014 Senate Fellow  
**MSgt Juan Espinosa**  
**Sen. Kay Hagan (NC)**



- ☐ Utilization Tour: DoD Explosives Safety Board  
Mark Center, Alexandria, VA





# Congressional Fellowship Program CY14



2014 House Fellow  
**MSgt Vernita Stevens**  
Rep. Sanford Bishop (GA)



2014 House Fellow  
**GySgt Anna Lloyd**  
Rep. Bill Shuster (PA)



☐ Utilization Tour: OSD Legislative Affairs - Pentagon



☐ Utilization Tour: JCS Legislative Affairs -Pentagon



# Wounded Warrior Congressional Fellowship Program CY14



## 2014 House Fellow

**MGySgt Christopher Stowe**  
**House Veterans Affairs Committee**



## 2014 Senate Fellow

**GySgt Jason Dean**  
**Senate Veterans Affairs Committee**



☐ Utilization Tour: USSOCOM Legislative Affairs  
WRNMMC Bethesda, MD



☐ Utilization Tour: DOD Wounded Warrior Policy  
Pentagon



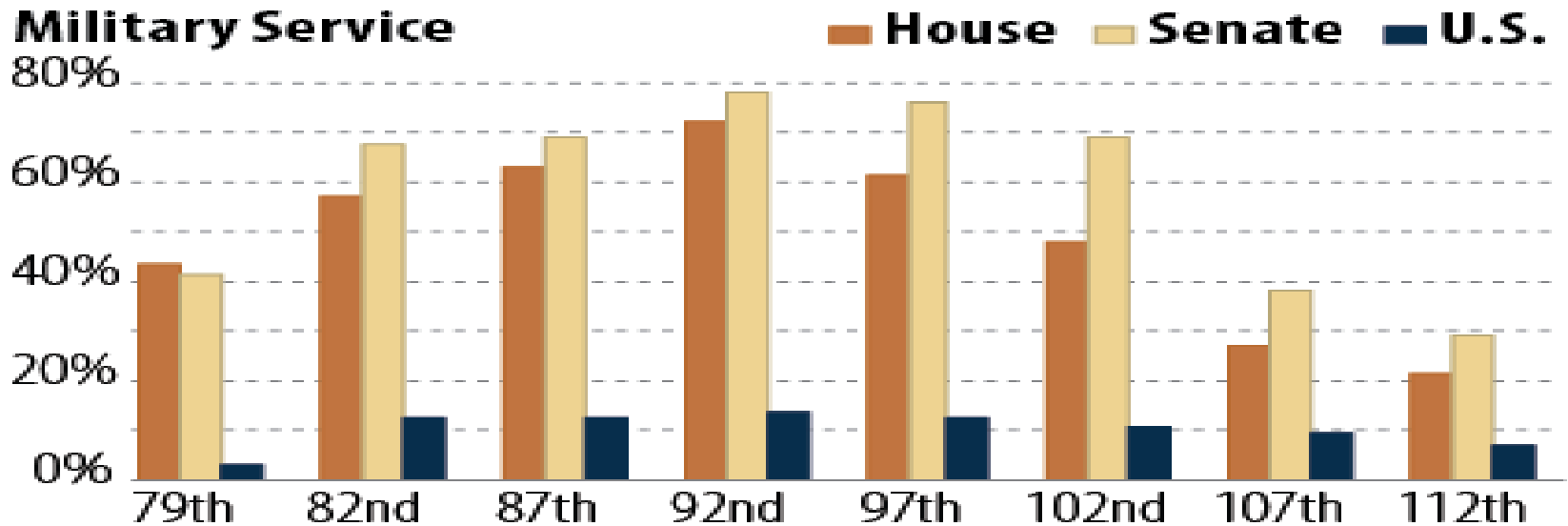
# **Congressional Fellowship Program CY15**



- ☐ MGySgt Mark Oliva, PAO Chief, I MEF, Camp Pendleton (MOS 4341)
- ☐ MGySgt Rongalette Green, Administrator, MCU Quantico, VA (MOS 0111)
- ☐ MSgt Ramses Cypress, Administrator, Office of SMMC, Pentagon (MOS 0111)
- ☐ GySgt Ava Yuen, Cryptologic Linguist, I MEF (FWD), (MOS 2862)
- ☐ GySgt Peter Bobby, MARSOC, Camp Lejeune, NC MOS 0372 (Wounded Warrior)



## Military Service by Representatives, Senators, and U.S. Population



•**Source:** CQ Press U.S. Census Bureau, Susan B. Carter, Scott Sigmund Gartner, Michael R. Haines, et al., *Historical Statistics of the United States*.

•At the beginning of the 113th Congress, there were 108 Members (20% of the total membership) who had served or were serving in the military, 10 fewer than at the beginning of the 112<sup>th</sup> Congress (118 Members) and 12 fewer than in the 111th Congress (120 members). According to lists compiled by CQ Roll Call, the House currently has 87 veterans (including 2 female Members, as well as 2 Delegates); the Senate has 18.26 These Members served in World War II,<sup>27</sup> the Korean War, the Vietnam War, the Persian Gulf War, Afghanistan, Iraq, and Kosovo, as well as during times of peace. Many have served in the Reserves and the National Guard. Eight House Members and one Senator are still serving in the Reserves, and six House Members and one Senator are still serving in the National Guard. Both of the female veterans are combat veterans.

•The number of veterans in the 113th Congress reflects the trend of steady decline in recent decades in the number of Members who have served in the military. For example, 64% of the members of the 97th Congress (1981-1982) were veterans; and in the 92nd Congress (1971-1972), 73% of the Members were veterans.

• **Source:** "Membership of the 113th Congress: A Profile." *Congressional Research Service*. Ed. Jennifer E. Manning, 28 Feb. 2013. Web

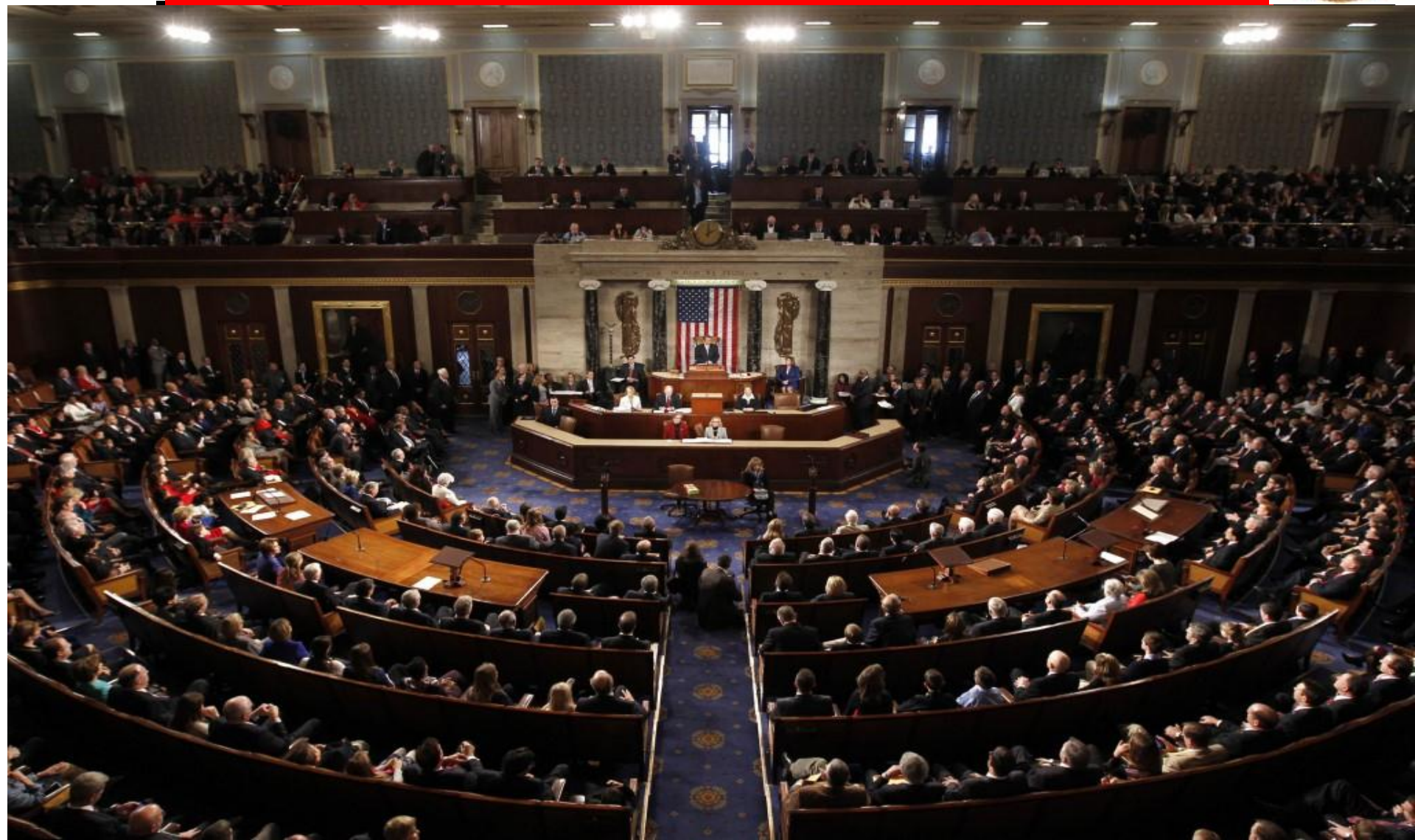


# Operating Environment





# *Formation*



**...and they all have a vote**





# ***What do you Do?***

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- Advise and assist development of legislation
- Assist with hearing preparation and floor debate
- Represent Member at various meetings with constituents and attends hearings
- Assist with coordination of congressional and staff actions
- Assist in press releases and media events
- Research, development, and drafting introduction to bills



# ***Roles & Responsibilities***

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- Expectations
- Dress appropriately
- Party affiliation is irrelevant
- Network
- Knowledge
- Attend social events



# ***Accomplishments***

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- Drafted legislation for awareness of Vet benefits dealing with Post 911 GI Bill
- Major contributor in passing the Vision Scholars Act of 2009
- Assisted in legislation to add and improve the hiring of veterans
- Assisted in programs designed for amputees in transition from DOD to VA
- Prepared, and staffed US Senator for committee hearings
- Drafted statements for Congressional Record





# ***Accolades by Elected Members***

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- “In my view he has validated the concept of assigning highly qualified SNCO’s to congressional offices as fellows”
- “Based on his performance this office will seek SNCO’s if offered”
- “More than a trusted advisor. He’s been a teacher and a friend”
- “This senior SNCO cannot be stopped”
- “I rank the MSgt as #1 of 5 military fellows who have ever worked for me during elected office”
- “His written compositions were of the highest quality. His verbal communications inspired confidence”



# ***Current Challenges on the Hill***

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- Effects of Sequestration FY14-FY19 and its impacts
- Force Structure Review and the size of the Corps
- Operational relevancy of the MAGTF
- Modernization: ACV, JLTV, F35B, MV-22
- Force Shaping
- Sexual Assault
- MCFIP



# ***Everyday Congressional Interest***

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- **Programs - JSF, MV-22, ACV, Force Structure, Ground Tactical Vehicle Strategy, and MILCON (BEQs)**
- **Sexual Assault , Hazing, Conduct of our military members**
- **Wounded Warriors: Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder & Traumatic Brain Injury**
- **Health of the Force – Dwell and Afghanistan Drawdown**
- **Service Roles and Missions (MAGTF and Amphibious missions)**
- **Basing Issues and Depots**



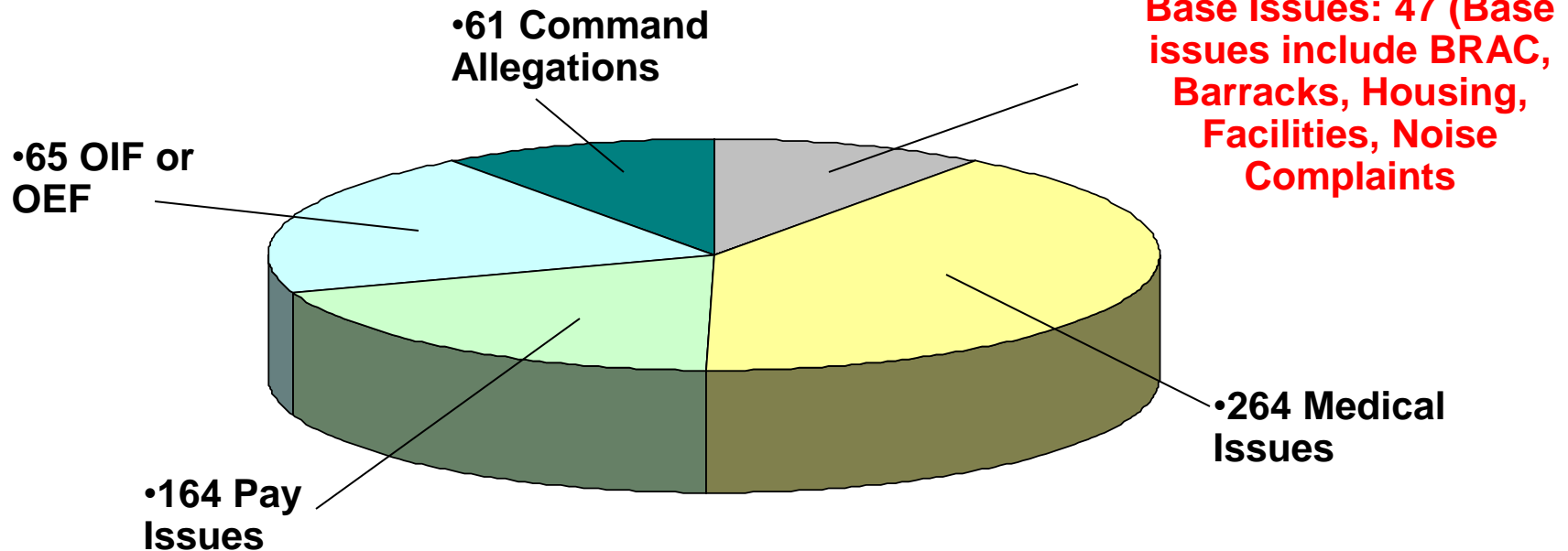


# Congressional Inquiries

**OLAC Received 3634 Total Written Inquiries in 2011**

**Records/Awards are by far the bulk of the total number of cases.**

## Next Top Five Issues



**38 Educational Inquiries and 1 DADT**

**37 Suicide, Health and Welfare**

**24 Disability Benefits are included in Medical Issues**

**9 Non-Combat Casualty cases were added to Suicide, Health and Welfare**

# PSYCHOLOGY LECTURE

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R4J





# Criteria: SNCO Fellowship Program

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- ☐ Active Duty E-7 through E-9
- ☐ GySgt, MSgt, MGySgt , SgtMaj's (Case-by-Case)
- ☐ Time on Station Requirements prior to reporting
- ☐ Agree to remain on Active Duty for 3 years
- ☐ Health of the MOS
- ☐ **MOS and Operational Force experience**
- ☐ **OIF/OEF/IA Deployment**
- ☐ **GySgt's must have selected "M" on their fitness reports**





# Package with Enclosures

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- ☐ AA Form
- ☐ Command Endorsement through first GO
- ☐ Resume with Service History (Civ Edu, Mil Edu, Decorations, and Personal Data)
- ☐ Personal Statement indicating reason for application
- ☐ RS Assessment of Applicant qualifications
- ☐ OMPF Digital Photo taken within 12 months (Deployed Marines may take photo in utilities)
- ☐ Privacy Act Statement
- ☐ College Transcripts (If applicable), Letters of Recommendation



# Submission Process

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- ☐ Submit completed electronic package to MMEA-85 and Manpower Portal
- ☐ MMEA will screen for eligibility and provide recommendation
- ☐ All packages with MMEA recommendations are forwarded to OLA
- ☐ Senior Enlisted Board is convened to provide the most qualified SNCO's to be interviewed for selection
- ☐ OLA Selection Board is convened
- ☐ Selections are notified via MARADMIN in March with a report date in early October



# Submission Process

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## ☐ Package Submissions

1) Electronically via a web-based application system

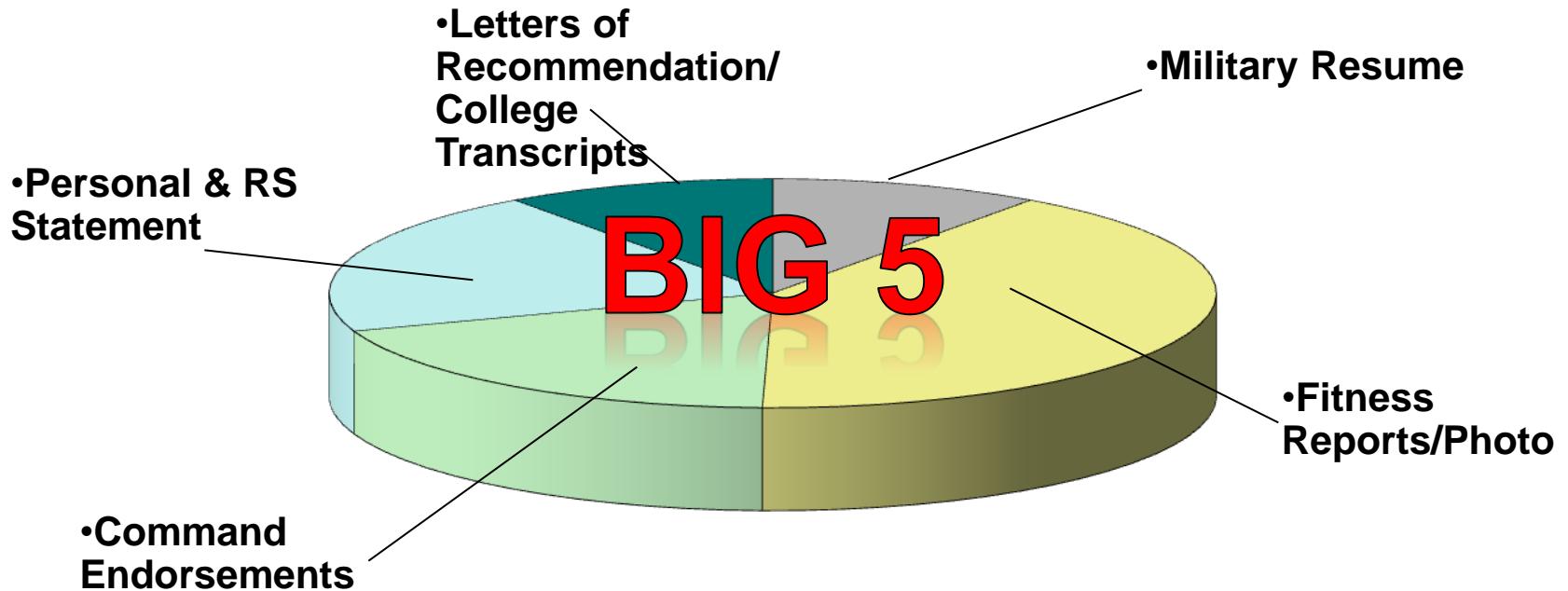
- <https://www.manpower.usmc.mil/cfp>
- Applications will be submitted by final endorsing authority
- Applicant can track status via website





# Package Submission

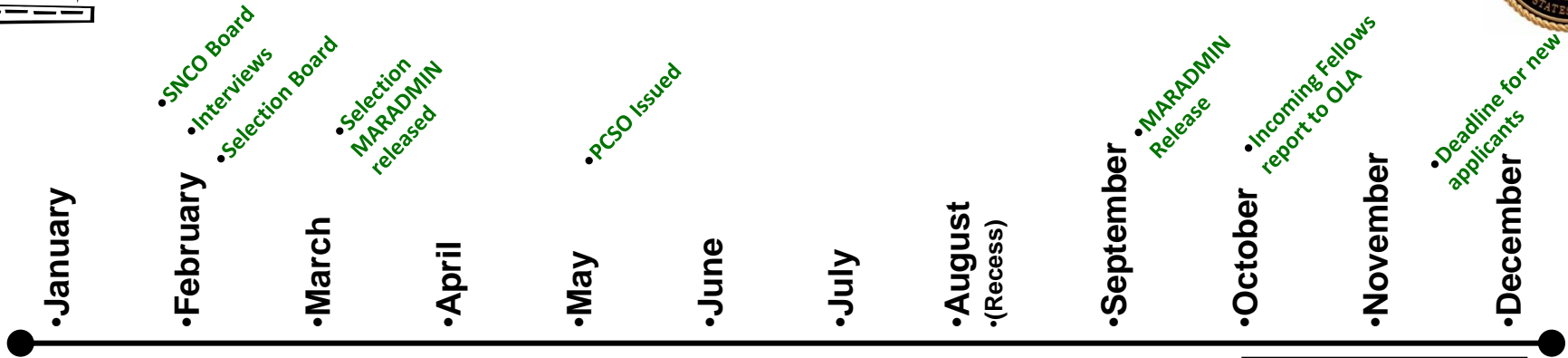
## Snapshot of the Board Priorities



**\*Selling an opportunity for an interview**



# Fellowship Cycle



• Snapping In and Office Interviews

• Fellowship tour with Member of Congress

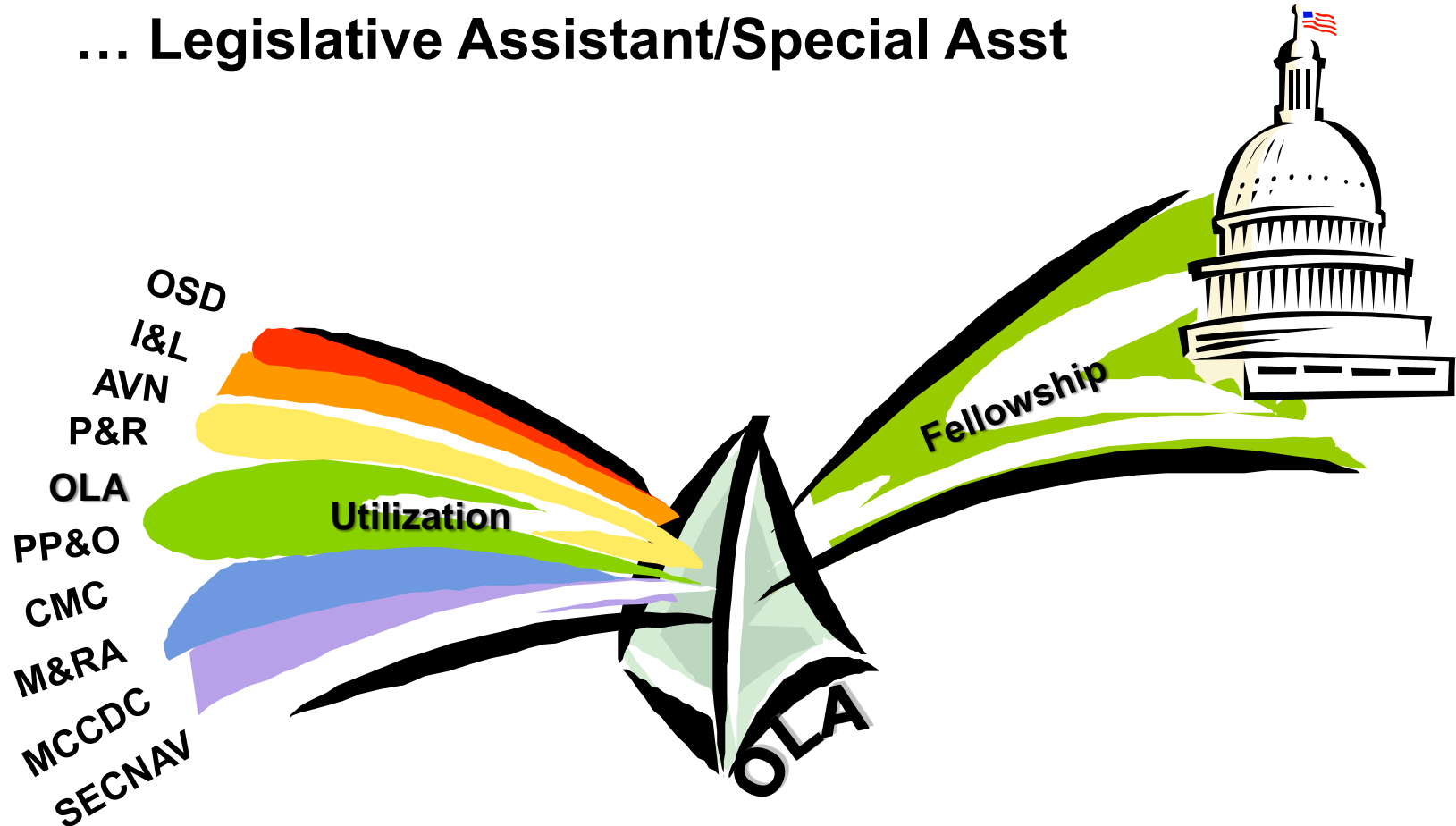
• 2 Year Utilization Tour



# Utilization Tour...



... Legislative Assistant/Special Asst







## SNCO Fellowship Stats

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<input type="checkbox"/> <b>CY 2009</b>	-68 Applications
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>CY 2010</b>	-26 Applications
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>CY 2011</b>	-17 Applications
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>CY 2012</b>	-26 Applications
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>CY 2013</b>	-41 Applications
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>CY 2014</b>	-35 Applications
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>CY 2015</b>	-46 Applications
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>CY 2016</b>	-TBD



# Office of Legislative Affairs Info

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## CONGRESSIONAL FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

•The Congressional Fellowship Program offers participants the chance to work for a year as a staffer on Capitol Hill. Eligible candidates include Marine Officers (Active and Reserve components), SNCOs, and Civilian Marines. The fellowship includes three components: (1) training and education through the Georgetown Government Affairs Institute before placement, (2) work on the Hill in the personal office of a Senator or Member of Congress for a year, and (3) a two-year utilization tour immediately upon completion of the fellowship. The program exists to provide the Marine Corps with an enhanced understanding of the legislative branch of the federal government. This is vital, as the day-to-day workings of Congress affect every aspect of the Marine Corps--our budget, roles and missions, force structure, programs, military construction projects, and quality of life.

•Officers: Please contact Major Brian Shottenkirk ([brian.shotttenkirk@usmc.mil](mailto:brian.shotttenkirk@usmc.mil)) at (703) 614-1686/1687.

•SNCOs: Please contact MGySgt Julius D. Spain Sr. ([julius.spain@usmc.mil](mailto:julius.spain@usmc.mil)) or (703) 614-1686/1687.

•Civilian Marines: Please contact Ms. Patricia Williams at Marine Corps University ([patricia.williams1@usmc.mil](mailto:patricia.williams1@usmc.mil)) at (703) 784-2788.

### •Important Dates

2014 October: CY16 CFP MARADMIN Released

2015 January: Selection board convenes for SNCOs and Active Component Officers

2015 February: Interviews

2015 March: Selection board results published via MARADMIN



# Questions?



*OLA is the conduit between the Hill and the Corps... We speak with many voices... but there is always one theme. Congressional Fellows are integral to the shelf life of the conduit.*