



American Legion Presentation

Post 21 Golden, Colorado

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Campaign to establish a cabinet level
**U.S. Department
of
Peace and Nonviolence**

National Campaign Website:

www.dopcampaign.org

Colorado Campaign:

www.codopcampaign.org

Preamble to the Constitution of the American Legion



For God and Country we associate ourselves together for the following purposes:

- To uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States of America,
- to maintain law and order;
- to foster and perpetuate a one hundred percent Americanism;
(4) promote the development of human potential;
- to preserve the memories and incidents of our associations in the great wars;
- to inculcate a sense of individual obligation to the community, state and nation;
- *to combat the autocracy of both the classes and the masses;*
- (8) encourage the development of initiatives from local communities, religious groups, and nongovernmental organizations.
- *to make right the master of might;*
- **to promote peace and goodwill on earth;**
(1) hold peace as an organizing principle, coordinating service to every level of American society;
(3) strengthen means of peacemaking;
(5) work to create peace, prevent violence, divert from armed conflict, use field-tested programs, and develop new structures in nonviolent dispute resolution;
(6) take a proactive, strategic approach in the development of policies that promote national and international conflict prevention, nonviolent intervention, mediation, peaceful resolution of conflict, and structured mediation of conflict;
(7) address matters both domestic and international in scope; and
- **to safeguard and transmit to posterity the principles of justice, freedom and democracy;**
(2) endeavor to promote justice and democratic principles to expand human rights;
- **to consecrate and sanctify our comradeship by our devotion to mutual helpfulness**

What is this proposed Department of Peace and Nonviolence?



- Defined in S. 1756 ; H.R. 3760
- Cabinet Level Department
- Advises the President
- Compliments the DoD, DoS, DoJ
- Focuses on Prevention
(International & Domestic Conflict)
- Focuses on managing/resolving problems before they escalate and armed force is required.
- Utilizes America's resources, experience and understanding of the democratic process, nonviolent conflict management, negotiation, mediation, conflict transformation

Terminology



- **Conflict**

- Military: war/battles
- Civilian: disagreement/differences of opinion.

“Conflict is managed when disagreeing parties emerge with a working relationship and an acceptable outcome for both sides.”

- **Peace / Peacemaking / Peacebuilding / Peacekeeping**

**"Peace is a never ending process... it is an attitude, a way of life, a way of solving problems and resolving conflict."
Oscar Arias Sanchez, Nobel Peace Prize Laureate.**

- DOPN will assist this “process” of managing conflict – Peacemaking / Peacebuilding
- DoD & DoJ (local law enforcement) will continue to focus on Peacekeeping

Terminology



- Violence / Nonviolence

“Violence begets Violence” old adage

- Physical violence
- Emotional violence
- Structural violence

“Violence is ... any action that prevents a person from reaching their potential”
Johan Galtung

“Conflict is inevitable. Violence is not.”

The Conflict Center, Denver Colorado

Is there a Need?



- **In 1992, handguns were used to kill 13 people in Australia (.7), 33 in Great Britain (.6), 36 in Sweden (4), 60 in Japan (5), 97 in Switzerland (14), 128 in Canada (3.9), and 13,200 in the United States (44).**
[Handgun Control Inc., cited in The Washington Post, 1998]
- **In 2001, almost 21,000 homicides and 31,000 suicides occurred; and almost 1.8 million people were assaulted...**
(Surveillance for Fatal and Nonfatal Injuries – 2001, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention National Vital Statistics System)
- **A 1992 study in the United States put the annual cost of treating gunshot wounds at \$126 billion. Cutting and stab wounds cost an additional \$51 billion.**
(Miller TR, Cohen MA.,. Accident Analysis and Prevention, 1997, 29:329–341.)
- **A recent World Health Organization report estimated the cost of interpersonal violence in the U.S. (excluding war related costs) at \$300 billion a year.**
[The Economic Dimensions of Interpersonal Violence, World Health Organization, 2004]

(Per million citizens)

Department of Peace Mission

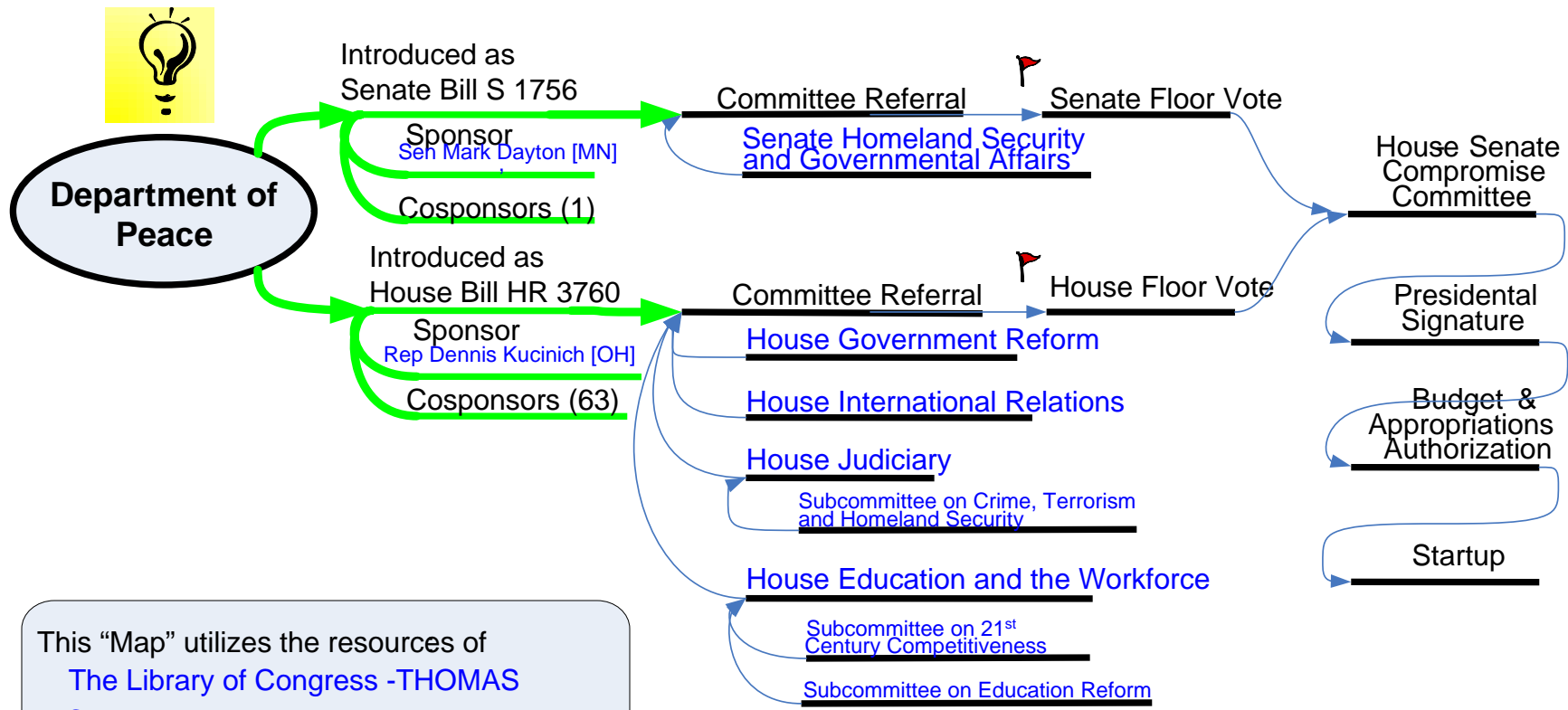


- (1) hold peace/constructive conflict management as an organizing principle, coordinating service to every level of American society;
- (2) promote justice and democratic principles to expand human rights;
- (3) strengthen nonmilitary means of peacemaking;
- (4) promote the development of human potential;
- (5) prevent violence, use field-tested programs, and develop new structures in nonviolent dispute resolution;
- (6) take proactive, strategic approach in nonviolent intervention, mediation, ...
- (7) address both domestic and international issues
- (8) encourage development of initiatives from local communities, religious groups, and nongovernmental organizations.

Background – Status of Legislation



Legislative Map for the Formation of a Cabinet Level Department of Peace



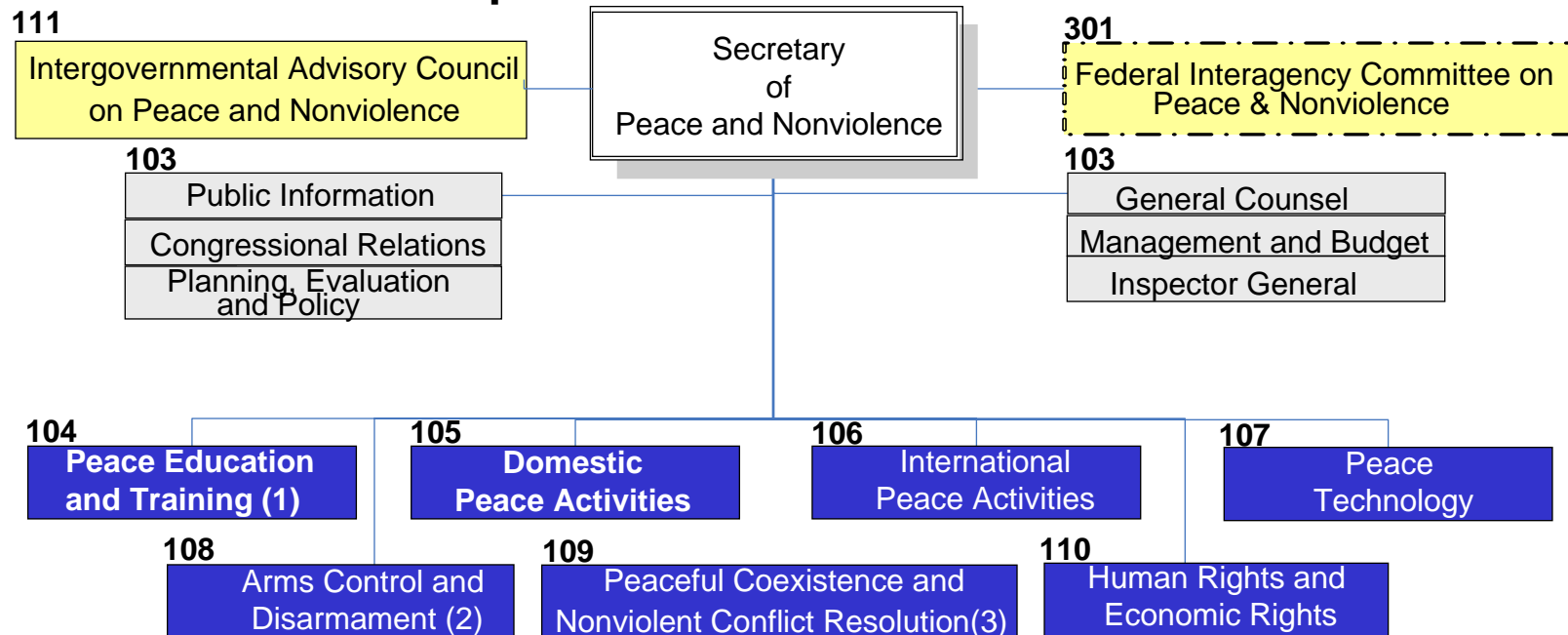
This "Map" utilizes the resources of
[The Library of Congress -THOMAS](#)
[CongressMerge.com](#)
[U.S. Government Manual](#)
[Project Vote Smart](#)

Background of DOPN



- The proposed legislation defines an organization and the top level personnel to operate the Department. The "Mission Statement" of each Office, Council, and Commission is defined in the Bill [S. 1756 & HR 3760]

U. S. Department of Peace and Nonviolence



(1) Includes the development of a Peace Academy and the transfer of the following

United States Institute of Peace

Gang Resistance Education and Training Program of the Bureau of Alcohol Tobacco and Firearms

SafeFutures program of the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention of the Department of Justice

(2) Includes the transfer of the Office of the Undersecretary for Arms Control and International Security Affairs of the Department of State

(3) Includes the transfer of the Peace Corp

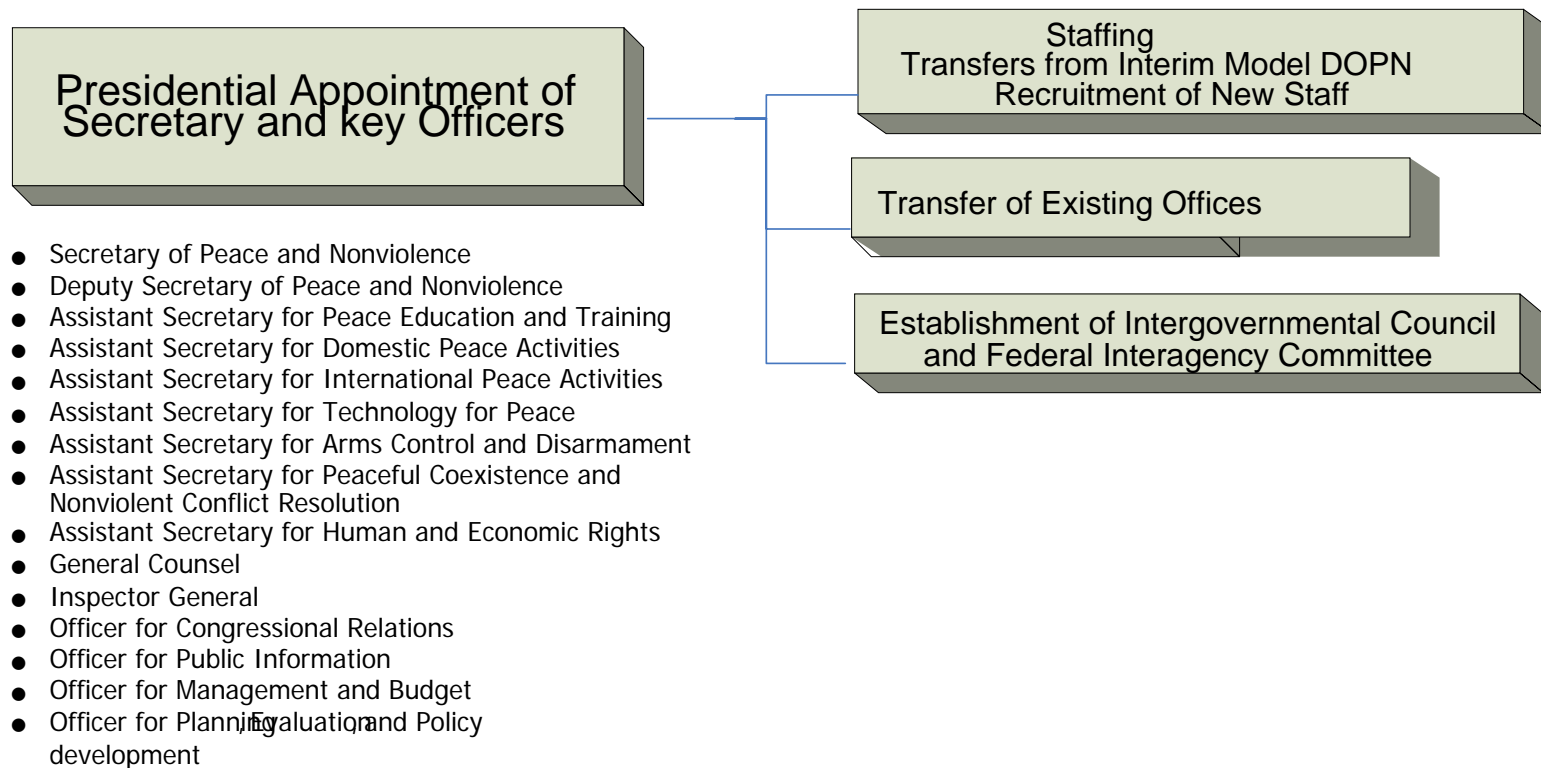
Sample Handout

Background of DOPN



- Staffing includes key personnel, transfer of existing Offices, hiring new staff, and appointment of a Intergovernmental Council and Interagency Committee.

Department of Peace Staffing



Sample Handout

Operating Budget



The Bill specifies an operating budget of the DoPN will be 2% of the DoD budget or \$8-10 Billion

- Assume Administration consumes 10% of the total budget (\$1B)
- Assume the remaining 90% of the budget (\$7B) goes directly to the primary function of the Department – the programs
 - Assume that a portion of the Programs are “grants” for research and development of new tools and techniques for reducing levels of violence (\$1B)
 - Assume the majority of the Budget goes directly to “Contract” work that has a specific goal/objective/outcome in mind. (\$6B)



Your Comments and Perspectives

Comments from Post 21 Members



Q: Are there any other countries who have initiated a similar Department.

A: Yes. There are 17 other countries that have a similar initiative

Comments: Australia and Canada already have a Ministry of Peace in place.

Q: How does this work with Homeland Security

A: We would anticipate the Homeland Security would continue as is. The new Department would be responsible for better understanding “root causes” of terrorism, domestic violence, etc. and focus on preventing situations from escalating to physical violence.

Example: Homeland security would continue to focus on airport security. Had the DoPN existed ten years ago, they would have been responsible for understanding why people were trying to bomb the World Trade Center back in 1994 – This was not a random target. The DoPN would be asking not just who but why? Their focus is to understand the underlying cause and “attack” the problem from that direction.

Q: Getting at the “root cause” sounds good, but doesn’t this mean having to go back a generation or even hundreds of years?

A: Yes it does. Another tool that the Department of Peace has available that has proven to be very effective in long drawn out episodes of violence is called “Restorative Justice.” Until people involved in past violence can experience a sense of justice and feel that meaningful attempts have been made to restore them to where they were prior to the violence, they can not move forward.

Comments from Post 21 Members



Q: Our police forces are already unfunded. Sounds like this new Department would just take money away from them or the military – unless taxes increase.

A: If this new Department can keep us out of the next war and prevent another Iraq, we would save \$500B that has already been spent to date (projected to reach \$1T). That would operate the Department of Peace for 50-100 years.

A previous chart noted that the estimated cost of interpersonal domestic violence in the U.S. is \$300B. If the DoPN can reduce domestic violence by only 3% it will pay for itself each year.

There is no question that the establishment of a Department of Peace and Nonviolence would reduce non-value costs to the American people. The cost of violence detracts from our ability to compete globally – money spent repairing people and things is money that could have been used to build a better country and produce better products. We just have to charge more for American made products to pay for the cost of our violence. Violence prevents our country from reaching its potential.

With a budget capped at 2% of the DoD budget, the cost of the DoPN is not a meaningful argument for rejecting the idea.