

## OPERA – fiche sociographique - défense

### Prénom, Nom:

Michael R. Higgins



### Contact :

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### Catégorie : Législatif

### Dates de naissance / décès :

Né le 23 mai 1947

### Lieu de naissance :

New Jersey

### Genre : Male

### Lieu de résidence (si DC avant l'accession à un poste retenu, avec si possible l'année de l'emménagement à DC):

### Formation :

<b>BA/BS</b>	BA, Davis and Elkins College
<b>MA/MS</b>	MS, Troy State University, 1978
<b>PhD</b>	
<b>Law degree (JD...)</b>	
<b>ROTC<sup>1</sup></b>	
<b>Autre</b>	

### Profession initiale :

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<sup>1</sup> n'est pas une formation mais un programme pour entrer dans l'armée

## Carrière :

1970-90 : personnel officer, retires as Lt. Col. Military Personnel Center/office of the Secretary, Legislation Liaison Division, US Air Force

1990-2012 : professional staff member, House Com on Armed Services

1990-1993 : professional staff member, House Com on Armed Services

1993-94 : subcom on readiness,

95-2012 : subcom on military personnel

## Sources biblio/bio, articles, divers.

### Almanac of the unelected 2011 :

**Expertise:** Military personnel.

Few things are less partisan than the pay of the nation's military personnel, so Michael Higgins works for the party in the majority whether it is the Democrats in the last Congress or now the Republicans in the 112th Congress. What has changed is Higgins' title. He is no longer the staff lead on the Subcommittee on Military Personnel.

"I fall back to my role as a resident technician," he said.

Higgins focuses almost exclusively on the pay and benefits provided to the military and is an advocate for reducing the gap between military wages and those in the private sector.

In the 111th Congress, the committee wanted a 0.5 percent military pay raise in the areas of hostile fire and family separation. In a tough budget year, both financially and politically, that proposal didn't get as much traction in the Senate as it did in the House.

"They did get a pay raise, but not the enhanced pay raise envisioned by the House," Higgins said.

He expects the sluggish economy and the Republican drive to lower federal spending to impact areas of military compensation in 2012, but he doubts he will see cuts to military recruiting or retention efforts. It could, however, spur Congress and the Pentagon to look for areas of redundancy.

"An era of austerity is going to be in place over military personnel," Higgins said. "As we look forward, the national economic downturn is the premier issue and it reaches out and touches all other issues to some degree."

Higgins has worked for members of Congress from both parties since joining the committee staff in 1990. He is a retired lieutenant colonel with the U.S. Air Force and he worked in the legislation liaison division before joining House Armed Services. In 2005, he received the military Offices Association of America's highest award given to people "who strongly support military men and women and their families."

Source : Almanac of the Unelected, 2011, Accessed 6 juin 12

## **Sources additionnelles :**

Who's who, first street, legistorm