

*The Washington Stand* has documented [more than half a dozen times](#) when Democrats and Republicans have held military promotions and/or transfers for as many as 9,000 people, as far back as 1992:

- **2023:** Senator Michael Bennet (D-Colo.) [threatened](#) to hold Pentagon nominees, because he was upset his home state lost its bid for the U.S. Space Command headquarters. Despite Bennet’s claims to the contrary, [reports](#) show his hold would have applied to six Pentagon nominees;
- **2020:** Senator Tammy Duckworth (D-Ill.) [announced](#) that she would block the Senate confirmation of more than 1,100 senior military promotions to force then-Secretary of Defense Mark Esper to promote [Lt. Col. Alexander Vindman](#);
- **2010:** Then-Senator [Jim Webb](#) (D-Va.) [threatened](#) to hold all Pentagon military nominations until the Defense Department explained its decision to close a military base in his state;
- **2010:** Senator Richard Shelby (R-Ala.) placed a [hold](#) on all executive branch nominees to push back against the Pentagon’s tanker bidding process;
- **2003:** Senator Larry Craig (R-Ida.) held [more](#) than 200 Air Force promotions to demand the Air Force honor a commitment he said was made in 1996 to add four C-130 transport planes to a half-squadron already in place at Gowen Air National Guard Base in Boise;
- **1997:** Then-Senators Jim Inhofe (R-Okla.), Don Nickles (R-Okla.), and Robert Bennett (R-Utah) [held](#) the promotion of Lt. Gen. George Babbitt to protect the jobs at Air Force repair depots in California and Texas. To retaliate, then-Senator Phil Gramm (R-Texas) held more than 40 general officer promotions;
- **1996:** Then-Intelligence Committee Chairman Arlen Specter (then a Republican, [later a Democrat](#), of Pennsylvania) held hundreds of promotions — including commission for the U.S. Naval Academy’s graduating class — in protest of Secretary of Defense William Perry’s refusal answer questions about the nation’s spy agencies. “Chairman Specter routinely blocked consideration of officer promotions,” Senator Tuberville’s office noted; and
- **1992:** The Senate [held up](#) the promotion and transfer of approximately 9,000 Navy and Marine officers until the Navy provided evidence to prove none of the individuals were involved in the Tailhook scandal. A bipartisan coalition of then-Senators Sam Nunn (D-Ga.), John Warner (R-Va.), John Glenn (D-Ohio), and John McCain (R-Ariz.) orchestrated the hold.