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**Podesta Group Continues Expansion**  
**With Addition of Senior Defense Appropriations Strategist**  
*Defense Appropriations Minority Staff Director to Join Team*

Tony Podesta, Chairman of the Podesta Group, today announced that John Shank will be joining the firm as a Principal. Shank is currently the lead minority staffer for the Defense Subcommittee and Select Intelligence Oversight Panel with the House Appropriations Committee.

"Our National Security and International Policy Practice has grown to be one of the largest sectors of our firm, and John will be an enormous asset to our clients in this space," said Podesta. "With expertise in international affairs, intelligence, and defense, he knows the people, the policy, and the politics that will impact our clients not just this year, but in the new Administration and Congress."

In his current position on Capitol Hill, Shank is responsible for representing the interests of minority members of the House Appropriations Committee on defense and intelligence issues and funding. From 2005 to 2007, he was the Staff Director/Clerk of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Defense under then-Chairman Jerry Lewis (R-CA) and then-Subcommittee Chairman C.W. Bill Young (R-FL).

Prior to his tenure with the Defense Appropriations Subcommittee, Shank was the Staff Director/Clerk for the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Foreign Operations, Export Financing, and Related Programs. He also served as Staff Director/Clerk of the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, and State, the Judiciary and Related Agencies. He began his career as a Legislative Assistant with Congressman Al Ullman (D-OR), then-Chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee.

In total, Shank has 25 years with the Senate and House on the Appropriations Committees. His policy experience covers everything from defense, intelligence, and international affairs to law enforcement, trade, and natural resources.

At the Podesta Group, Shank will be reuniting with his Democratic partner David Morrison, who served with Shank as the Democratic Staff Director for the House Appropriations Defense Subcommittee for many years. Shank's move to the Podesta Group adds heft to an already thriving appropriations practice at the firm. In addition to David Morrison, other senior members of the Podesta Group's appropriations team include Elizabeth Morra and John Scofield – former full House Appropriations Committee Communications Directors.

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*The Podesta Group is a bipartisan government relations and public relations firm located in Washington, DC. Clients include Google, Wal-Mart, BP, Textron, National Confectioners Association, Genzyme and Genentech.*