



**James Thomas**  
**Assistant Vice President of Policy**

James Thomas is the Assistant Vice President of Policy at the National Defense Industrial Association. He is the NDIA lead for congressional engagement and the primary point of contact for Members of Congress and their staff within the Association, with a particular focus on the House of Representatives.



Before joining NDIA, James served as the Legislative Director and National Security Policy Advisor to Congressman Duncan Hunter of California, a member of the House Armed Services Committee and Chairman of the Transportation and Infrastructure Subcommittee on Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation. In that capacity, James was responsible for all policy matters related to national security, foreign affairs, and veterans issues. He offered Congressman Hunter key advice and recommendations on matters relating to Iraq and Afghanistan, intelligence gathering and dissemination, industrial base policy, and military readiness and training, among many other policy matters.

Previously, James worked in the Administration of President George W. Bush as a Legislative Specialist in the Office of the Under Secretary for International Trade at the Department of Commerce. James managed all legislative activity for the International Trade Administration, assisted in drafting testimony for Congressional hearings, and provided strategic legislative advice to senior ITA principals.

From 2002 to 2010, James served in the United States Marine Corps Reserve with combat deployments to Iraq where he led Marines on search and recovery operations in the Al Anbar Province in western Iraq. He received numerous medals and awards, including the Marine Non-Commissioned Officer of the Quarter Award.

James is a graduate of the University of Dayton.