

**Course Title:** The Last “Least” Partisan Committees**Description:**

Amid the chorus of talking heads and Sunday morning news programs decrying loss of legislative civility, the House and Senate Armed Services Committees are generally regarded as the best option for passage of legislation via the reliable annual NDAA. This course will investigate how this came to be, USTRANSCOM coordination with PSMs, and the importance of collaboration between Majority/Minority Armed Services Defense Committee Staff that has weathered Chair/Ranking Member changes and flipped Chambers.

More Detailed Abstract:

We will study and explore the best practices and methodologies of bi-partisan and bi-cameral Armed Service Committee Professional Staff Member (PSM) collaboration. The course will also facilitate discussion and thoughts on the value of legislative relationships and why/how it is successful in comparison to other Committees.

Intended Audience: This class is designed for all experience levels.

Organization Name: United States Transportation Command-Legislative Affairs

Website: <https://ww2.ustranscom.mil/>

**Instructor:** Mr. Mark Osmack

Mr. Osmack is a Legislative Affairs Specialist for U.S. Transportation Command, Scott AFB, IL. Originally from St. Louis, MO, he joined the Army in 2008 and became a Field Artillery Officer. He deployed to Afghanistan as a Platoon Leader/Fire Support Officer in 2010-11 for the 2nd Cavalry Reg and again in 2013-14 as a Future Operations Officer for the 101st ABN DIV. He graduated from the University of Missouri-Columbia with an English degree and later earned a Master in Public Administration from George Washington University. After leaving Active Duty in 2014, he worked in Washington DC on the Hill for a US Senator, US Representative, and the House Armed Services Committee. In 2016, he completed the Civil Affairs Qualification Course (CAQC) at Ft. Bragg and continues to serve as a Civil Affairs Major in the Missouri National Guard. In 2017, he ran for Congress and after the votes were tallied in the August 2018 primary, is still awaiting his second-place trophy.

He is married to Caitlin O’Brien and together have a gregarious (and future US Senator) daughter, Evelyn Rosemary. They also share their home with a shoulder-loving cat, Gretzky.

Session Point of Contact:

Name: Mark Osmack

Company Name: USTRANSCOM Legislative Affairs

Direct Phone:(618) 220-4811 or Cell (314) 280-1071 | Email: mark.j.osmack.civ@mail.mil

NDTA Transportation Academy Coordinator: Pam Lindsey, CSCP

PLindsey@ndtahq.com // 443-690-1602 cell // Bel Air, MD

DoD Transportation Academy Coordinator: Tim Ringdahl, USTRANSCOM/CGI Federal

timothy.p.ringdahl.ctr@mail.mil // 618-220-4126 // 618-401-2761 cell // Scott AFB, IL