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**"US-TAIWAN DEFENSE INDUSTRY CONFERENCE 2008" TO DISCUSS
CURRENT TRENDS IN TAIWAN MILITARY AND NATIONAL SECURITY
RELATIONS WITH THE UNITED STATES**

The US-Taiwan Business Council is pleased to announce that it will host the 7th annual US-Taiwan Defense Industry Conference on Amelia Island, Florida, from Sunday, September 28, 2008 to Tuesday, September 30, 2008.

Conference sessions will focus on a range of subjects, including Taiwan's long-range plans for force modernization; military transformation and the move to an all professional force; the complex challenges of managing large programs and satisfying domestic obligations; the role of space as it relates to security in the Taiwan Strait; and information and network assurance. We will also examine how America's two presidential candidates might manage US-Taiwan relations.

Council President Rupert Hammond-Chambers noted that "this event comes at an important time in the defense relationship. President Ma's Kuomintang (KMT) government has only been in power for a few months, and the substance and tone of his security priorities is just emerging. In addition, we are still waiting for the Bush Administration to submit the outstanding arms sales notifications awaiting Congressional review, an issue that raises serious implications for future U.S. commitments to Taiwan."

Hammond-Chambers went on to say that "the Defense Industry Conference is the most important private event reviewing US-Taiwan defense and security issues each year. Senior representatives from Taiwan's Ministry of National Defense, the U.S. Department of Defense, and the U.S. Department of State will give keynote speeches at the event. In addition, a high caliber group of leading U.S. and Taiwan experts will address many important topics and will engage our attendees in an informative dialogue on shared issues and concerns."

Visit the US-Taiwan Defense Industry Conference website at www.us-taiwan.org/defense/2008.

About the US-Taiwan Business Council:

The US-Taiwan Business Council (www.us-taiwan.org) is a membership-based non-profit association, founded in 1976 to foster trade and business relations between the United States and Taiwan. The Council provides its members with business intelligence, offers access to an extensive network of relationships, and serves as a vital and effective representative in dealing with business, trade, and investment matters.

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