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SENIOR U.S. AND TAIWAN DEFENSE OFFICIALS TO DELIVER KEYNOTES AT US-TAIWAN DEFENSE INDUSTRY CONFERENCE 2007

The US-Taiwan Business Council today announced keynote speakers for the US-Taiwan Defense Industry Conference 2007, which will take place September 9-11, 2007 in Annapolis, Maryland. The keynote speakers are:

- Ko Chen-Heng, Deputy Minister (Policy), Ministry of National Defense, Taiwan
- David Sedney, Deputy Assistant Secretary, Asian & Pacific Security Affairs, U.S. Department of Defense
- Thomas Christensen, Deputy Assistant Secretary, East Asian & Pacific Affairs, U.S. Department of State

This annual conference focuses on US-Taiwan defense cooperation and on Taiwan force modernization and future defense and national security needs. Rupert Hammond-Chambers, President of the Council, said, "We are honored to have Vice Minister Ko, Mr. Sedney, and Mr. Christensen as keynote speakers. Their views and insights on the U.S.-Taiwan defense and security relationship, and on current and future challenges for Taiwan, will be both valuable and timely."

Hammond-Chambers added, "We are also delighted to welcome to the conference a delegation from the National Defense Committee of Taiwan's Legislative Yuan. The legislators speaking at the conference offer a unique perspective - in particular on building multi-partisan support for a comprehensive national security policy, and on the development of the indigenous Taiwan defense industry."

Other themes for the conference include the politics of Taiwan military transformation, Taiwan force modernization plans and prospects, emerging cross-Strait challenges, and joint offshore and homeland defense. Additional conference speakers include other senior government officials, members of think tanks and academia, as well as representatives from the defense industry.

This is the sixth in a series of conferences addressing U.S. defense cooperation with Taiwan. The first conference in this series was the 2002 St. Petersburg, Florida event where former Minister of National Defense Tang Yiau-ming gave the keynote address. Visit the conference website at www.us-taiwan.org/defense/2007.

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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