



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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The American Business Council of Dubai and AmCham Abu Dhabi host 2015 Dubai Airshow Kick-off Breakfast featuring the Director of the U.S. Defense Security Cooperation Agency (DSCA)

Dubai, U.A.E - The American Business Council of Dubai and the Northern Emirates (ABC Dubai) and AmCham Abu Dhabi held a high-level kickoff breakfast today at Dubai South Headquarters, just before the opening of the 2015 Dubai Airshow. Over 200 prominent members of the American business community and top military officers, government officials and leading defense executives participated. The highlight of the industry-focused event was an informative keynote address by Director of the U.S. Defense Security Cooperation Agency (DSCA), Vice Admiral Joseph Rixey on the importance of security cooperation.

The Kick-Off Breakfast is held on the first day of the Dubai Airshow to facilitate networking and collaboration between locally based companies in the sector and visiting U.S. aerospace and defense industry executives. Attending this high profile event has become a tradition among U.S. military leaders, diplomats and local and visiting industry CEOs. Some of the distinguished attendees included Deputy Undersecretary of the Air Force, Heidi Grant; Assistant Secretary of Commerce, Marcus Jadotte; FAA Administrator Michael Huerta; U.S. Ambassador to the U.A.E., The Honorable Barbara A. Leaf; and U.S. Consul General to Dubai, The Honorable Paul Malik.

Following opening remarks by President of ABC Dubai, Ramsey Jurdi and Chairman of AmCham Abu Dhabi, Robert S. Harward, Ambassador Barbara A. Leaf took the stage. In her welcome address, Ambassador Leaf hailed U.S. - U.A.E. partnerships in trade and commerce, particularly in the aviation and defense sectors. "I am so pleased that the U.S. presence at the Dubai Airshow continues to grow. This year, there are over 150 U.S. exhibitors here. We have almost doubled the number of U.S. firms participating in the U.S. Pavilion to nearly 100. And, over 60 of these companies are new exhibitors at the show."



Vice Admiral Joseph Rixey, Director, U.S. Defense Security Cooperation Agency (DSCA)

During his keynote address, Vice Admiral Rixey highlighted the work of the U.S. Department of Defense security cooperation mission, which encompasses a wide range of activities from defense trade and arms transfers (via sale, lease, and grants) to international education and training, defense institution building, and humanitarian engagement in furtherance of national security and foreign policy objectives. These activities help contribute to partner and regional security, enhance military-to-military cooperation, enable greater interoperability, and strengthen bilateral relationships between the United States and its foreign partners.

As the Department's lead agency for the execution of these programs, the Defense Security Cooperation Agency employs a spectrum of security cooperation tools and subject matter expertise across the policy, legal, legislative, programmatic, and weapons systems fields. Of the programs DSCA is responsible for, Foreign Military Sales is by far the largest and most well-known. Sales of defense articles both reinforce our diplomatic relations and establish strong lines of communication, ultimately deepening commercial and military ties. FMS often serves as the basis for long-term relationships between partner countries and the United States, and as a means to foster cooperation in areas of mutual strategic concern.

Defense shows such as Dubai provide excellent opportunities to strengthen bilateral relationships through continued dialogue, to identify new areas for increased cooperation, and to communicate key issues or updates of mutual concern with senior government and industry counterparts. U.S. participation also bolsters our commitment to the region and the importance we place on building partnership capacity.

Going forward, DSCA continues to work closely with counterparts from across the security cooperation enterprise to employ dynamic and innovative business process improvements, resource efficiently to ensure responsive management and execution of security cooperation activities, sustain whole-of-government efforts, and plan deliberately to achieve regional strategic goals.



Left to Right: Paul Malik, U.S. Consul General, Dubai; Neil Reynolds, Senior Vice President and MENA Regional Managing Director, CH2M; Ramsey Jurdi, President, ABC Dubai; Robert S. Harward, Chairman, AmCham Abu Dhabi, Vice Admiral Joseph Rixey, Director, U.S. Defense Security Cooperation Agency (DSCA), The Honorable Barbara A. Leaf, U.S. Ambassador to the U.A.E.; Charles Jones, Director, International Business Development, Aerojet Rocketdyne; Douglas Raaberg, Chief Executive UAE, Northrop Grumman.

The Dubai Airshow is the premiere showcase of aviation and air defense products in the Middle East and typically results in billions of dollars of aircraft and defense contracts. Ramsey Jurdi and Robert S. Harward expressed their enthusiasm for the strong presence of U.S. aviation and defense companies, which are key components of American industry. ABC Dubai and AmCham Abu Dhabi are proud to partner with the Dubai Airshow, which uniquely showcases American business opportunities in the U.A.E.

This event was sponsored by Aerojet Rocketdyne, CH2M, Lockheed Martin, Northrop Grumman, Boeing, Raytheon, and DynCorp International with support from Kallman Worldwide and Dubai South.

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About ABC Dubai:

The American Business Council of Dubai & the Northern Emirates operates under the auspices of the Dubai Chamber of Commerce & Industry and functions as a Chapter of the U. S. Chamber of Commerce. Since its founding in 1985, the American Business Council has supported U.S. business interests in Dubai & the Northern Emirates and acts as a liaison between government and commercial enterprises. The American Business Council is a 500 plus member-driven organization. Fortune 500 companies and key business leaders are well represented among the members of the American Business Council. The American Business Council provides a forum for understanding and interaction between the local business community and members of the American Business Council. Members are supported through a robust calendar of informational programs, round-table discussions, and business networking opportunities. For more information about the American Business Council and to learn how members are engaged, visit us at www.abcdubai.com.

About AmCham Abu Dhabi:

AmCham Abu Dhabi (the trademark of the American Business Group of Abu Dhabi) is a member of the global network of American Chambers of Commerce. The AmCham Abu Dhabi mission is to promote commerce, investment and goodwill between the United States of America, the membership, the Emirate of Abu Dhabi and the United Arab Emirates. AmCham Abu Dhabi is an independent, not-for-profit association comprised of Fortune 500 corporations, small and medium sized companies and prominent business leaders and entrepreneurs. AmCham Abu Dhabi provides a uniquely situated platform through which executives pursue and discuss issues impacting business operations between the U.S. and U.A.E. Substantive government advocacy programs, educational and networking programs and customized business service are just a few of the many benefits AmCham Abu Dhabi provides its members. Through the support of its members, AmCham Abu Dhabi has become the recognized voice of U.S. business in Abu Dhabi, the capital city of the United Arab Emirates. For more information, visit: www.AmChamAbuDhabi.org

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