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## Council Briefs Private Sector on Global Security

Private sector representatives from U.S. organizations operating around the world gathered at the State Department to learn more about the current international security environment during the Overseas Security Advisory Council's (OSAC's) 19th annual briefing on November 17.

Keynote speaker Deputy Secretary Richard L. Armitage stressed that the two-way flow of information between OSAC constituents and the State Department was valuable. "At the end of the day, if we can work together to improve security conditions, if we can protect our people well enough to keep doing business and dispensing aid around the world, we will be helping to build a legacy of prosperity, and I believe that is, ultimately, our best defense against terrorism," he said.

A standing-room only crowd filled the Dean Acheson auditorium to attend the daylong meeting, which included speeches on international terrorism, overviews by OSAC analysts of security situations throughout the world, and a demonstration of OSAC's new Web site ([www.ds-osac.org](http://www.ds-osac.org)) that is scheduled to roll out on January 10.

OSAC Executive Director Michael Evanoff, who moderated the event, and his office were recognized during the meeting for achieving a significant Bureau of Diplomatic Security (DS) milestone: increasing the number of worldwide OSAC Country Council individual memberships from 61 to 100 in one year. OSAC

achieved this goal the night before the briefing when Taipei, Taiwan, became the 100th OSAC Country Council.

President of the Institute for Shipboard Education Les McCabe was one of the many OSAC constituents who attended the briefing. "The overview on Thailand was an eye opener," said McCabe. His organization, also known as Semester at Sea, provides college courses to students on board ships that tour the world. "I didn't know of the (deteriorating security) situation in southern Thailand, which may expand to a place in northern Thailand where our ships go."

Speakers at the briefing included London Metropolitan Police Assistant Commissioner David Veness, who gave a United Kingdom perspective on countering terrorism; Delphi Chief Executive Officer J.T. Battenberg, who spoke about balancing business and security; and Head of Group Security for HSBC Holdings, PLC, Karl Barclay, who described how his company coped with the recent bombing of its office in Istanbul.

McCabe said the most useful part of the briefing for him was the accessibility to the OSAC analysts. "To a person, they have been willing to give out their phone number and e-mail, and truly mean that we can call them," said McCabe. Such accessibility is important, he said, because the analysts are tapped into an international network of sources who are on site

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## Behind the Scenes

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in countries around the world. “They act as door openers. While I might be able to track down the name of a regional security officer, they know them and can put me in touch with them right away.”

OSAC is a public-private partnership administered by DS to foster the exchange

of security information between the U.S. Government and American private sector operating abroad. Its constituents include businesses, religious groups, universities, colleges, and other nongovernmental organizations. 

