



## HOMELAND SECURITY & DEFENSE BUSINESS COUNCIL

### HOMELAND SECURITY & DEFENSE BUSINESS COUNCIL ANNOUNCES APPOINTMENT OF BRIAN E. FINCH, ESQ. AS SENIOR ADVISOR

Date: June 13, 2007

Washington, D.C. -- Today the Homeland Security & Defense Business Council (the Council) announced the appointment of Brian E. Finch, Esq. as the Senior Advisor for Science and Technology Policy. Formed in 2003, the Council is a non-partisan, not-for-profit activities-based organization comprised of leading companies focused on helping the Department of Homeland Security achieve its mission.

With a membership that includes senior executives from a wide array of companies that are well experienced in homeland security and extremely dedicated to combating acts of terrorism across the globe, the Council seeks to create a nexus between the public and private sectors in order to help ensure each sector's priorities and concerns are aligned. To engage in that mission, the Council facilitates dialogue among the federal agencies responsible for homeland security and defense, the legislative branch, state and local governments, and the private sector in order to develop innovative solutions and promote the sharing of best practices across organizational boundaries.

Council Executive Director Michael Meldon has been firmly committed to that goal, working constantly to ensure a cooperative, positive dialogue between the public and private sectors. "We have distinguished ourselves as a unique organization within Washington by engaging in collaborative, proactive dialogues with leading policymakers in the homeland security community," noted Meldon. "With the addition of Brian Finch as a Senior Advisor, we are taking yet another positive step to gathering the acknowledged thought leaders in the homeland security field under one organization in order to have the most constructive dialogue possible," Meldon emphasized.

In his capacity as Senior Advisor for Science and Technology Policy, Brian will work closely with the Council to provide insight on some of the greatest homeland security challenges, including matters related to the transition of emerging technology from testing and development to field deployment as well as addressing liability concerns that could inhibit such deployment. "Brian's experience in matters related to science and technology is considerable, and his unique knowledge and leadership in matters relating to liability – especially with respect to the Support Anti-Terrorism By Fostering Effective Technology Act (or the "SAFETY Act") – will allow the Council to help better understand ways to assist the Department of Homeland Security pursue its vital mission of ensuring the nation is equipped with the tools needed to defend against terrorism," Meldon added.

Brian's significant qualifications and lengthy professional background in homeland security uniquely position him as a Senior Advisor to the Council. Brian is the head of the Homeland Security Practice at the law firm of Dickstein Shapiro LLP. Brian has served as an inaugural Senior Fellow at the George Washington University Homeland Security Policy Institute, and was also a Task Force Member of the Heritage Foundation/Center for Strategic and International Studies Task Force for Examining the Roles, Missions, and Organization of the Department of Homeland Security. Brian, a graduate of Cornell University, George Washington University Law School and the Elliott School of International Affairs at George Washington University, regularly speaks and writes on homeland security matters.

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#### *About the Council*

The Homeland Security & Defense Business Council, a non-profit, non-partisan membership organization, has, for over four years, promoted the importance of the private sector in achieving the vision and mission for homeland security. The council sponsors a number of programs and activities designed to foster a "culture of preparedness

and partnership” between the public and private sectors to protect and prepare our nation. To learn more about the Homeland Security & Defense Business Council, visit our website at [www.homelandcouncil.org](http://www.homelandcouncil.org).