



World Affairs Councils of America

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Newsletter

November 2006

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### **Bridging the Desert: The Middle East in the Next Decade**

**Early Registration Ends December 1**

Don't miss your opportunity to be a part of this year's exciting WACA National Conference. As the Middle East is rarely out of the news, join us to hear what's happening behind the scenes to shape the future. This conference will bring together the diversity of the region into a dialogue about change.

You will hear from current and former US military officials led by Admiral Johathan T. Howe, USN (Ret.) about the US military's role in the region. Amb. David Welch, Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs, will also address the conference.

In addition, influential policymakers from the Middle East will discuss the potential for reform and peace. Minister of State for Saudi Arabia Abdullah Alireza will address the economics of reform and the dynamic relationship between Saudi Arabia and the United States. Amb. Dennis Ross will bring together a panel of Israeli and Palestinian opinionmakers to discuss bringing together these divergent viewpoints.

This is your opportunity to go beyond the headlines and hear first hand about the changing Middle East.

To receive the early registration conference fee of \$435 register by mail before December 1. The conference fee for registering online is \$475

**[Register Now...](#)**

## Join the Chairman's Circle for 2007

As a Chairman's Circle member you will be entitled to a special reception before and receive two priority seats during the 2007 Chairman's Dinner.



This year, the dinner will honor Chairman of the Cohen Group and former Secretary of Defense William Cohen. Secretary Cohen represented Maine in Congress and was appointed by President Clinton to be Secretary of Defense in 1997, the first time in modern history when a President has chosen an elected official from the other party to be a member of his cabinet.

In 2007, we will continue to plan fascinating and informative programs exclusively for Chairman's Circle members. We intend to hold a program in New Orleans to look at the effects of Hurricane Katrina two years later as well as spend a day at the United Nations. More information about these programs will be available early in the year.

Thank you to Chairman's Circle member and WACA National Board member Michael Phillip for this picture of Chairman's Circle members in the State Department's Diplomatic Reception Rooms, part of a special program last May.

You can join the Chairman's Circle when you register for the conference or contact the WACA office at 202-833-4555.

[Learn more...](#)

## Remember to Pledge an Academic WorldQuest Team!

The national 2007 Academic WorldQuest competition will be held March 23 - 25 in Washington, DC. Pledge your team to receive important information about the weekend.

This year's topics are:  
International Financial Organizations  
Global Marketplace: Cars, Tech, and Pills  
The Arab-Israeli Conflict  
The Geography of Africa  
Great Decisions 2006  
Countries

Current events  
People in the News  
The Space Age  
International Humanitarian Relief

E-mail your councils pledge to  
[melissa@worldaffairscouncils.org](mailto:melissa@worldaffairscouncils.org)

[Read on...](#)

### NewsNotes

\* We are in the process of revising the 2007 Speaker's Recommended Book. If your council has hosted any speaker that you would like to recommend, please e-mail Brent at [brent@worldaffairscouncils.org](mailto:brent@worldaffairscouncils.org).

\* WACA is pleased to announce that the Turkish Cultural Foundation is a new affiliate of the World Affairs Councils system. Look for more information about an interesting new educational program in December.

\* Thank you to the Hamptons Road council for hosting WACA President Barbara Propes and Education Director Melissa Lawrence at their WorldQuest competition in early November. Congratulations on a successful event. Congratulations also to WACA Board Member Dov Zakheim whose team from Booz Allen Hamilton won in the corporate category.

[Read on...](#)

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Email: [waca@worldaffairscouncils.org](mailto:waca@worldaffairscouncils.org)

Phone: 202-833-4557

Fax: 202-833-4555

Web: <http://www.worldaffairscouncils.org>