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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**US-TAIWAN BUSINESS COUNCIL TO RELEASE
INDEPENDENT ANALYSIS REPORT ON
"THE BALANCE OF AIR POWER IN THE TAIWAN STRAIT"**

On May 11, 2010, at a public seminar on Capitol Hill, the US-Taiwan Business Council will release a report entitled "*The Balance of Air Power in the Taiwan Strait*". This report provides a detailed examination of Taiwan's major air defense requirements, and was written to conform to the 2009 Congressional directive instructing the U.S. Department of Defense to prepare an assessment of Taiwan's current air defense capabilities.

The Council's report discusses Taiwan's need to address the burgeoning cross-Strait fighter gap; to undertake a mid-life upgrade of its existing F-16s and Indigenous Defense Fighters; to invest further in modernizing its ground-based air defenses; to continue the force-multiplier effect of investments in modern, balanced and integrated intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance (ISR) capabilities; and to increase investments in Electronic Warfare and Information Warfare.

This analysis report also examines the potential impact on U.S. forces if Taiwan can not defend its own airspace. The Taiwan Relations Act (TRA) notes that the U.S. is required, "*to maintain the capacity of the United States to resist any resort to force.*" Should the U.S. decide not to provide Taiwan with the equipment it needs, it would lead to a degrading of Taiwan's military strength. Given that American forces in Asia are already stretched thin, the report asks what impact such an outcome would have on American readiness, and questions where the additional forces would come from to fill the gap.

Finally, the report concludes that Taiwan has both the resources and the wherewithal to mount a sufficient self-defense in response to the evolving threat represented by PRC military modernization. Taiwan clearly recognizes this threat - evidenced by the statements and actions of its government, such as seeking to procure modern fighters for the Taiwan air force.

The report goes on to state that the challenge lies in Washington, in the willingness on the part of successive administrations to provide Taiwan with needed support in the face of Chinese opposition. It concludes that an economically and militarily strong Taiwan - able to engage China with confidence - is in the best position to act as a force for peace and stability in the Taiwan Strait.

"*The Balance of Air Power in the Taiwan Strait*" report release event and seminar will be held in the U.S. Capitol Visitor Center, room SVC 203/202, in Washington, D.C., starting at 10:30am on May 11, 2010.

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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