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July 9, 2012

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Top Defense and Strategic Thinkers Assess Viability of the U.S. Rebalance toward Asia

Seattle, WA – NBR gathered top military and defense experts **James Steinberg, Thomas Fargo, Aaron L. Friedberg, J. Stapleton Roy, David M. Lampton, and Wallace “Chip” Gregson** to evaluate U.S. strategic rebalancing toward the Asia-Pacific in light of long-term national interests.

In a roundtable for *Asia Policy*, a peer-reviewed journal of The National Bureau of Asian Research (NBR), these experts assess the viability and significance of the rebalancing effort, each arguing that sustained attention to the Asia-Pacific is needed to achieve U.S. interests in the region. They also raise potential hurdles, however, including the necessity of long-term bipartisan commitment to the defense budget and bipartisan support for greater promotion of trade ties between the United States and Asia. Shared concerns include China’s military modernization, strategic mistrust in the U.S.-China relationship, and enduring regional tensions, including the South China Sea and North Korea.

This is an advance release of a roundtable that will be published in the forthcoming issue of Asia Policy, to be released in July 2012. For an interview with the experts, please contact Sonia Luthra at media@nbr.org

Roundtable contributors are profiled below:

James B. Steinberg is the author of the essay “2012 – A Watershed Year for East Asia?” He is Dean of the Maxwell School at Syracuse University, where he is also University of Professor of Social Science, International Affairs, and Law. Previously, he served as Deputy Secretary of State from 2009 to 2011.

Thomas Fargo (admiral, U.S. Navy, ret.) is the author of the essay “The Military Side of Strategic Rebalancing.” He currently serves as the John M. Shalikashvili Chair for National Security Studies at NBR. He served for 25 years in the U.S. Navy, which culminated in his position as Commander of U.S. Pacific Command from 2002 to 2005.

Aaron L. Friedberg is the author of the essay “The Next Phase of the ‘Contest for Supremacy’ in Asia.” He is Professor of Politics and International Affairs at Princeton University.

J. Stapleton Roy is the author of the essay “Strategic Challenges for the U.S.-China Relationship.” He is the Director of the Kissinger Institute on China and the United States at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars. Previously, he served as U.S. ambassador to China from 1991 to 1995.

David M. Lampton is the author of the essay “China and the United States: Beyond Balance.” He is Hyman Professor and Director of China Studies at the Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS).

Wallace “Chip” Gregson (lieutenant general, U.S. Marine Corps, ret.) is the author of the essay “Rebalancing U.S. Security Posture in Asia.” He most recently served as the Assistant Secretary of Defense, Asian and Pacific Security Affairs.

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