Potomac Institute for Policy Studies CEO Mike Swetnam Highlights Implications of Intelligence Community Reform at USGIF Speaker Series Event

OAK HILL, Va., December 16, 2004 – The United States Geospatial Intelligence Foundation (USGIF) held its second Speaker Series event this year with a USGIF members’ luncheon featuring Potomac Institute for Policy Studies CEO Mike Swetnam as guest speaker.

Swetnam is the Institute’s chief executive officer and helped found the Institute in 1994. Swetnam is a member of the Technical Advisory Group to the United States Senate Special Select Committee on Intelligence, providing expert advice on the R&D investment strategy for the intelligence community. He also serves on the Defense Science Board supporting the task force on Counting Terrorism and the task force on intelligence support to the war on terrorism.

Swetnam’s speech, “Intelligence Community Reform & Restructuring,” provided USGIF members a thorough briefing on the history of intelligence legislation and helped members understand the complexity of the pending legislation and its effect on the structure of the intelligence community.

He said that for more than a decade the government has commissioned studies to examine national intelligence and the outcome of each highlighted the need for central control within the intelligence community.
"The challenge today is that each individual agency has been fighting a different war," Swetnam said. "The reform is aimed at getting the community to share data and provide additional support to the existing structure."

Swetnam also stated that while the Administration supports the current legislation, the appointment of a National Intelligence Director will ultimately determine how effectively the legislation is executed.

“When the current legislation is enacted, we will be only halfway there,” Swetnam said. “The new act creates authorities, demands a new security system and will certainly move things around. But the appointment of a central director is what will move us the rest of the way there.”

The members’ luncheon was the second USGIF Speaker Series event this year. The Speaker Series will continue in 2005 and will include educational seminars, networking opportunities, distinguished guest dinners and more. The next event is scheduled for next January.

“We were pleased to be able to offer our membership access to a distinguished professional like Mike Swetnam through our most recent Speaker Series event,” said Steven D. Jacques, Vice President of Operations, USGIF. “The insight Mike provides on the pending intelligence reform legislation is particularly timely for our community and we greatly appreciate his time in educating our membership on the complexities of such legislation.”

The U.S. Geospatial Intelligence Foundation is a Virginia-based nonstock, corporation dedicated to promoting the geospatial intelligence tradecraft and developing a stronger community of interest between government, industry, academic and professional organizations and individuals who share a mission focus around the development and application of geospatial intelligence data and geo-processing resources to address national security objectives. For more information on the foundation, visit www.usgif.org.

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