

## **Panel Executive Brief: Private Sector Role in Stabilization**

A better understanding of the optimal ways to engage the private sector—both at home and abroad—in the stabilization process can improve prospects of success. One of the primary challenges US implementers face is cohesion and unity among key international actors and implementers. The questions thus arise: What are the keys to joint private and public partnerships in stabilization? How can the U.S. government learn from past experiences with implementing partners and international actors? How is the private sector best utilized in stabilization efforts?

### **Speakers**

Howard R. Lind – *President, International Stability Operations Association*

Jim Hake – *CEO, Spirit of America*

Earl Gast – *Senior Vice President, Creative Associates International*

*Moderator:* Harry Bader – *Acting Executive Director, U.S. Global Development Lab, (USAID)*

### **Key Issues/Problems discussed:**

- The government and military cannot successfully stabilize on their own; the private sector plays a key role in that process – including jumpstarting the economy.
- Too often, implementers focus on large scale, “shiny” projects in stabilization; this mindset is problematic.
- Misdirected focus of stabilization efforts: lack of focus on local partners and unrealistic fixation on involving large international actors.
- Involvement of the private sector is not solely about profit, but also about doing good for the people and the country.

### **Key Recommendations:**

- Best practice is going local; it is imperative to work with local partners on the ground to create effective and sustainable change within their communities.
- Understanding the capabilities—strengths and weaknesses—of the varying institutions and departments associated with stabilization, and utilizing those capabilities accordingly when collaborating.
- Reducing the barriers for private actors will go a long way in amplifying their involvement in stabilization processes.

### **Significance of SAR:**

Private sector actors will play a key role in the implementation of the SAR, as they have the ability to accomplish critical tasks that the government and military cannot undertake on their own. In order to achieve success with stabilization missions, the private sector must work in concert with all relevant actors – primarily local partners, government agencies, and military personnel. A thriving and vibrant private sector is paramount to the ultimate stabilization goal of self-sufficiency.