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May 24, 2006

NEWS MEDIA CONTACT: CDR Cappy Surette
European Liaison Office
(703) 697-8420 -Office
(703) 785-3203- Mobile

***Supreme Allied Commander to Discuss NATO's New
Role in Changing Global Security Environment at
National Press Club May 25th***

WASHINGTON, DC --- General James Jones, NATO Supreme Allied Commander Europe (SACEUR) and the Commander of the U.S. European Command will give a luncheon speech on NATO's new role in today's challenging security environment Thursday, May 25 at the National Press Club in Washington.

Jones, the first US Marine to serve as SACEUR, will give a speech titled, "*NATO: New Capabilities for Emerging Global Challenges.*"

NATO is at a strategic crossroads -- between the 20th and 21st centuries -- between the reactive and static nature of the Alliance during the past century and the potentially more agile and proactive nature of the Alliance in the new century. NATO has to address multiple threats to its members' collective security including terrorism and natural disasters that occur within its member's borders, in addition to destabilizing events that occur thousands of miles from Europe.

To meet these new challenges, NATO currently has some 30,000 Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, and Marines, of which more than 3,000 are from non-NATO nations, participating in operations on three continents and there are no signs that this operational tempo will diminish.

The speech comes during a pivotal year for the Alliance as NATO delivers on several of the key initiatives started at the Prague Summit in 2002. NATO's engagement in Iraq will endure and its mission in Afghanistan will be expanded to include the geographic landmass of the nation in 2006. This commitment will be the most demanding and defining operation NATO has undertaken since the Cold War.

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The National Press Club luncheon will begin promptly at 12:30 p.m. Remarks will begin just after 1 p.m., followed by a question-and-answer session. Reservations should be made by telephoning 202-662-7501. The National Press Club is located at 14th and F Streets Northwest, one block west of Metro Center.