

U.S. Department of Defense
Office of the Secretary of Defense
Task Force for Business and Stability Operations

Contact: (703) 692 7657

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SECRETARY OF DEFENSE ROBERT M. GATES AWARDS DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE DISTINGUISHED PUBLIC SERVICE MEDAL TO PAUL A. BRINKLEY

U.S. Secretary of Defense Robert M. Gates awarded Deputy Undersecretary of Defense Paul A. Brinkley, a native of Wylie, Texas, the Joint Distinguished Civilian Award, for his leadership in establishing and managing the Task Force for Business and Stability Operations from April 2006 to July 2011. The Distinguished Public Service Medal is the highest award that is presented by the Secretary of Defense.

Brinkley was recognized for his work to restore economic activity in areas of violence, building a team that eventually numbered hundreds of business leaders, agronomists, geologists, and engineers, working throughout Iraq and Afghanistan. Unlike normal civilian organizations, the Task Force operated outside of fortified compounds, without armor, at great personal risk, in order to effectively engage with local populations to create economic opportunity.

The award recognizes the role of Brinkley's team as having the longest uninterrupted U.S. civilian engagement in both Iraq and Afghanistan, for having restored normal economic life to the Iraqi workforce, establishing a path to economic sovereignty for the Afghan people, and for creating a new economic and business stability doctrine. .

Secretary Gates presented this award on June 27, in a ceremony held at the Pentagon, and attended by Brinkley's family.

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