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BGR Media Release

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BGR Announces 2018 Annual Luncheon Speaker, National Security Expert Michael E. Leiter

Leiter, former director of the National Counterterrorism Center, has served in numerous high-level counterterrorism and cybersecurity positions

NEW ORLEANS, LA (October 17, 2018) –The Bureau of Governmental Research (BGR) announced its 2018 annual luncheon speaker, Michael E. Leiter, the former director of the National Counterterrorism Center (NCTC) under Presidents George W. Bush and Barack Obama. At the luncheon, Leiter will discuss “Counterterrorism and Cybersecurity: National Security Challenges for the Present and the Future.” The luncheon will take place Friday, December 7, at 12:00 p.m. at the New Orleans Marriott hotel located at 555 Canal St.

“BGR is honored to have Michael Leiter as our keynote speaker this year, and he continues our tradition of presenting some of the country’s most respected thought leaders to headline our annual luncheon,” said BGR President and CEO Amy L. Glovinsky. “With the rapidly evolving nature of security concerns, and the importance of strategies to manage them, Michael’s presentation will be immensely relevant for its national policy perspective and private sector insights.”

Leiter is an experienced national security expert and has served in a number of top positions in the federal government. Currently a partner in the Washington, D.C., office of the Skadden law firm, Leiter is a frequent guest commentator and contributor to the *Washington Post*, *The Atlantic*, NBC’s “Today” show and “Meet the Press,” CNBC and other major national media outlets.

In his position as director of NCTC, Leiter reported directly to the president and led the primary organization in the U.S. government for

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analysis and integration of all terrorism intelligence, both domestically and overseas.

Before joining NCTC, Leiter served as the deputy chief of staff for the Director of National Intelligence and as the deputy general counsel and assistant director of the President's Commission on the Intelligence Capabilities of the United States Regarding Weapons of Mass Destruction. From 2002 until 2005, Leiter served with the Department of Justice as an assistant United States attorney and prosecuted a variety of federal crimes including narcotics, organized crime, capital murder and more.

Previously, Leiter served as a law clerk to Associate Justice Stephen G. Breyer of the Supreme Court of the United States and to Judge Michael Boudin of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the First Circuit. Leiter also served as a Naval Flight Officer in the U.S. Navy from 1991-1997, flying EA-6B Prowlers and participating in U.S., NATO, and UN operations in the former Yugoslavia and Iraq.

Leiter received his B.A. from Columbia University and his J.D. from Harvard Law School, where he graduated *magna cum laude* and was the president of *Harvard Law Review*.

BGR's annual luncheon has a history of featuring high-profile speakers, such as Maureen Dowd, Kathleen Parker, Steve Roberts and Jonathan Capehart. BGR's event sponsors include Hancock Whitney and Latter & Blum.

To purchase a table or tickets, visit www.bgr.org/luncheon or contact Marci Schramm at 504-525-4152, ext. 108, or email mschramm@bgr.org.

Proceeds from the event will support BGR's core activities, which include local government monitoring, policy analysis, publication of reports and post-publication implementation work.

About BGR

BGR is a private, nonprofit, independent research organization. Since its founding in 1932, it has been dedicated to informed public policymaking and the effective use of public resources in the Greater New Orleans area. For more information about BGR, visit www.bgr.org.

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