



CSIS-GSI STRATEGIC VISION AWARD 2006
honoring
VICE ADMIRAL THAD W. ALLEN

CHIEF OF STAFF
UNITED STATES COAST GUARD

The "CSIS Global Strategy Institute Strategic Vision Award" is a celebration of strategic insight, vision, and leadership. It honors the capacity of leaders to formulate creative and innovative approaches to strategic issues at a time when short-term pressures on leadership are all the more onerous, the complexities of decisionmaking all the more daunting, and the challenge of extending planning horizons all the more difficult.

The award is conferred by the Global Strategy Institute (GSI) at the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS). The Institute's mandate is to promote thinking on the constellation of longer-range critical issues that all too often are crowded out by shorter-term priorities. The first Strategic Vision Award will be conferred on Thursday, April 20, 2006 on the occasion of the Institute's second-anniversary event. Thereafter, it will be awarded annually as part of GSI's anniversary event. Award recipient selection involves the consideration of a broad range of candidates representing government, the private sector, the nongovernmental community and academia.

This year we recognize Vice Admiral Thad W. Allen of the United States Coast Guard. A far-sighted leader with the ability to respond effectively in crises, VADM Allen has demonstrated outstanding strategic vision and leadership not only in spearheading long-range planning for the U.S. Coast Guard, but also in his recent role as Principal Federal Official (PFO) overseeing Hurricane Katrina response and recovery effort. While the Gulf region's recovery is still underway, the settling of the political storm following Katrina, continued rescue and relief efforts, and the beginning of reconstruction occurred under VADM Allen's deployment to the region.

VADM Allen constantly seeks new ideas and lenses to bring the future into focus for the Coast Guard and U.S. security interests more broadly. Following September 11, 2001, the U.S. Coast Guard was one of the organizations best prepared to deal with the new challenges presented, largely thanks to strategic planning exercises carried out in Project Evergreen, headed by VADM Allen, former Commandant James Loy and others. With the creation of the Department of Homeland Security, VADM Allen realized the importance of interagency coordination preparedness. He promoted the idea of long-term planning exercises throughout the U.S. government and scoured the landscape for best practices and fresh insights. He has also served a critical role in the ongoing Project Horizon, a year-long interagency U.S. government long-term strategic planning exercise whose administrators identify VADM Allen as an inspirational force in their work.

Strategic vision has been a goal at CSIS since its inception in 1962. For more than four decades, CSIS has been dedicated to providing world leaders with strategic insights on—and policy solutions to—current and emerging global issues. CSIS is led by former deputy secretary of defense John J. Hamre, president and CEO since April 2000. It is guided by a board of trustees chaired by former Senator Sam Nunn and comprising prominent individuals from both the public and private sectors.