



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**U.S. Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin to Deliver Keynote Address at
2023 Reagan National Defense Forum**

*Secretary Austin returns to RNDF to address policymakers
and stakeholders from the defense community.*

WASHINGTON, DC — The Ronald Reagan Presidential Foundation and Institute announced that United States Secretary of Defense Lloyd J. Austin III will deliver the keynote address at the 2023 Reagan National Defense Forum (RNDF) at the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library in Simi Valley, California, on December 2, 2023.

“On the 10th anniversary of the Reagan National Defense Forum, we are pleased to welcome back Secretary Austin,” said Roger Zakheim, Director of the Reagan Institute. “Like his predecessors who have addressed RNDF over the years, Secretary Austin has offered an insightful and sobering assessment of the threats America faces. He tempers his clear-eyed view of these threats with confidence in the character, strength, and ingenuity of America’s military. We look forward to hearing from Secretary Austin once again at RNDF.”

Secretary Austin is the first Secretary of Defense to address the conference for a third time. In past years, he has discussed America’s unique competitive advantage in innovation, the importance of deepening international partnerships, and key policy initiatives like the Office of Strategic Capital.

Secretary Austin is the 28th U.S. Secretary of Defense and previously served in the Army for over four decades. His career has included serving as the Commanding General of U.S. Forces – Iraq and as Commander of U.S. Central Command.

RNDF brings together leaders from across the political spectrum and key stakeholders in the defense community, including Members of Congress, current and former Administration officials, senior military officials, business and industry leaders, technology innovators, and national security policy experts.

Attendance at RNDF is by invitation only. Media who wish to attend must [RSVP HERE](#), and a member of the media relations team will follow up to confirm credentials.

What: The Reagan National Defense Forum

Who: Secretary of Defense Lloyd J. Austin III, Members of Congress, civilian and military leadership of the Department of Defense, former officials, scholars, defense industry leaders, and members of the press

When: Friday – Saturday, December 1 – 2, 2023

Where: Ronald Reagan Presidential Library

40 Presidential Drive
Simi Valley, CA 93065

For more information, visit www.RNDF.org and follow [@ReaganInstitute](https://twitter.com/ReaganInstitute).

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About the Reagan Foundation and Institute:

The Ronald Reagan Presidential Foundation and Institute is the nonprofit organization created by President Reagan himself and specifically charged by him with continuing his legacy and sharing his principles - individual liberty, economic opportunity, global democracy and national pride. The Foundation is a non-partisan organization which sustains the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library and Museum in Simi Valley, CA, the Reagan Center for Public Affairs, the Presidential Learning Center, The Air Force One Pavilion and the award-winning Discovery Center, as well as the Reagan Institute, which carries out the Foundation's work in Washington, D.C. The Reagan Library houses over 55 million pages of Gubernatorial, Presidential and personal papers and over 60,000 gifts and artifacts chronicling the lives of Ronald and Nancy Reagan. It also serves as the final resting place of America's 40th President and his First Lady. www.reaganfoundation.org