

# Delray Beach Forum / Sun-Sentinel

## Petraeus to discuss U.S. war efforts with area residents

June 09, 2010|By DAVID DIPINO [dddipino@tribune.com](mailto:dddipino@tribune.com)

The U.S. Army's highest-ranking general has accepted an invitation from leaders of the South Palm County Community Partnership to take part in a question-and-answer event aimed at area residents, many of whom are war veterans.

Gen. David H. Petraeus, commander of the U.S. Central Command, will attend the session, which is slated for 3 p.m. July 16 at the Spanish River Church in [Boca Raton](#). News anchor Jim Sackett of WPTV-5 will moderate the event.

Three community leaders spearheaded the effort to bring Petraeus to the area: Sheri Scarborough, president of the [West Boca](#) Community Council; Ken Lassiter, president of the Coalition of Boynton West Residential Associations; and Robert Schulbaum, president of the Alliance of Delray Residential Associations.

"When the three of us first decided to do this, we invited President Obama," Lassiter said. "We didn't get denied and we're still on that list."

Lassiter, Scarborough and Schulbaum announced the news of Petraeus' visit at a recent Alliance breakfast at Glen Eagles Country Club in [Delray Beach](#). It came just minutes after [Palm Beach County](#) Commissioner Burt Aaronson told the packed breakfast gathering that a condo bill the trio had been instrumental in getting to the Florida Senate would be signed by Gov. Charlie Crist at the Hagen Ranch Road Library.

"This is a big event we're planning," Schulbaum said. "When Gen. Petraeus was considering our request, he called U.S. Sen. Bill Nelson [of Florida] to ask about us. We got the check of approval, and now we've got to plan this big event."

Lassiter, Scarborough and Schulbaum said their organizations represent several hundred thousand residents who together make up one-third of [Palm Beach County's](#) voting population.

"It's an opportunity for our members and our communities to ask the right questions and get the right answers," Scarborough said.

Scarborough was instrumental in finding a venue for the event, which has been dubbed "An Afternoon With General Petraeus" and is being co-sponsored by Anasca Homes and Florida Power & Light. It was Scarborough who proposed using the 1,500-seat Spanish River Church Worship Center.

Organizers said the event won't focus on speculation about Petraeus' possible political future. It will instead concern U.S. war efforts in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Schulbaum said organizers see the event as a sign of their desire to address residents' concerns. "Commissioner Aaronson relies on us to function as mayors in the western portions of [Palm Beach County](#), in the areas we represent," he said. "All three of us manage growth and wanted to give something back to those we represent."

For tickets to the Petraeus event, presidents, delegates and alternates to the communities represented by the South County Partnership can visit the South County Civic Center, 16700 Jog Road, in [Delray Beach](#), from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. June 14 and 17, and from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. June 15 and 18.

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