

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

FORM 8-K

Current Report Pursuant to Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934

Date of Report (Date of earliest event reported): December 7, 2006

BRINKER INTERNATIONAL, INC.

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Delaware
(State of Incorporation)

1-10275
(Commission File
Number)

74-1914582
(IRS Employment
Identification No.)

6820 LBJ Freeway
Dallas, Texas 75240
(Address of principal executive offices)

Registrant's telephone number, including area code **972-980-9917**

Check the appropriate box below if the Form 8-K filing is intended to simultaneously satisfy the filing obligation of the registrant under any of the following provisions:

- Written communications pursuant to Rule 425 under the Securities Act (17 CFR 230.425).
- Soliciting material pursuant to Rule 14a-12 under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14a-12).
- Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 14d-2(b) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14d-2(b)).
- Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 13e-4(c) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.13e-4(c)).

Section 5 – Corporate Governance and Management

Item 5.02. Departure of Directors or Principal Officers; Election of Directors; Appointment of Principal Officers

(b) On December 7, 2006, Dr. Robert M. Gates resigned from the Registrant's Board of Directors. Dr. Gates was confirmed on December 6, 2006 by the United States Senate to be Secretary of Defense for the United States of America.

Section 9 – Financial Statements and Exhibits.

Item 9.01. Financial Statements and Exhibits.

(d) Exhibits.

99 Press Release, dated December 7, 2006.

SIGNATURE

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the Registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned hereunto duly authorized.

BRINKER INTERNATIONAL, INC.

Date: December 8, 2006

By: /s/ Douglas H. Brooks
Douglas H. Brooks, Chairman of the Board
President and Chief Executive Officer



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Contact: Media Relations
(800) 775-7290**

**Gates Resigns From Brinker International Board
After Being Named Secretary of Defense**

DALLAS, Dec. 7, 2006 – Brinker International, Inc. (NYSE: EAT) announced the resignation of Robert Gates from its Board of Directors following U.S. Senate confirmation of his appointment as Secretary of Defense.

Gates had served on the board since 2003. He was a member of the company’s audit committee, as well as its governance and nominating committee.

“Dr. Gates has been an active and highly respected member of our Board of Directors, providing strong guidance and sound strategic advice to our organization,” said Doug Brooks, chairman and chief executive officer of Brinker International. “We wish him well as he helps lead our country in the critical role of Secretary of Defense.”

Brinker will commence an immediate search for Gates’ replacement on the board.

Brinker International, Inc. is one of the world’s leading casual dining restaurant companies, serving more than 1 million guests daily. Founded in 1975 and based in Dallas, Texas, Brinker owns or franchises more than 1,600 restaurants in 24 countries and employs more than 100,000. Brinker restaurant brands include Chili’s Grill & Bar, Romano’s Macaroni Grill, On The Border Mexican Grill & Cantina and Maggiano’s Little Italy. The company was named one of FORTUNE Magazine’s Most Admired Companies in 2006 and was honored by the magazine as one of the Top 50 Employers for Minorities and the Top 50 Employers for Women. For more information visit <http://www.brinker.com>.

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