

SOUTHEAST ADVISORY

To: BENS Southeast Members
Subject: Real Talk From Real Life CIA Clandestine Services Officer Milt Bearden

At the BENS Southeast luncheon on March 6, an enthusiastic turnout of 80 members, government partners and other guests had the privilege of hearing about CIA operations from veteran **Mr. Milt Bearden, Former Senior CIA Clandestine Services Officer.**

We are grateful to four BENS Southeast members for their generosity in sponsoring this fascinating program: **Mylle Mangum, CEO of IBT Enterprises; Charlie Ginden, the retired Executive Vice President of SunTrust Bank, Atlanta; Brian Johnstone, Executive Director of Public Affairs, Lockheed Martin Aeronautics Co.; and Joe Meyer, Founder and Chairman of FirstView, LLC.**

Milt described the challenges we face in the Afghan/Pakistan region and provided historical background to better understand the very difficult issues involved. He offered his candid thoughts about US/NATO strategy and what must be done if we are to succeed in this region where all others have failed. While any successful plan will involve a number of integrated strategies, Milt does not feel the answer lies primarily in a huge ground force of many thousands of U.S. troops.

The audience was all ears as Milt shared anecdotes from his 30-year CIA career which included leading covert efforts to support Afghan resistance to the Soviets and serving as CIA station chief in Pakistan, Nigeria, Sudan and Germany.

Milt is an acclaimed author and film consultant. He signed copies for those attending of his book, *The Main Enemy, The Inside Story of the CIA's Final Showdown with the KGB.*



Event host Sue McLaughlin (middle) presents a BENS SE Coin to guest speaker Milt Bearden (right). BENS President and CEO Gen. Chuck Boyd (left) also attended.



Event co-sponsors Charlie Ginden (left) and Mylle Mangum (right) stand with Milt Bearden and event host Sue McLaughlin.