



November 3, 2005

Newsletter Launch

On behalf of Business Executives for National Security, we are excited to present the inaugural issue of our Homeland Security Review. We intend to make this a quarterly publication to keep you informed of actions within the MidAmerica Business Force. The MidAmerica Business Force addresses business concerns for National Security. A primary focus of the Business Force is Agricultural Biosecurity threats as a critical infrastructure component to Homeland Security issues. The MidAmerica Business Force is a unique government – academia – private sector partnership addressing homeland security issues, agricultural terrorism and natural disasters. The Business Force enables access to local, state and federal governments to facilitate public-private partnerships and information sharing. Bottom line, the MidAmerica Business Force is creating operational capabilities that are best addressed through a business community and state government partnership.

Planning Ahead for the Worst – The Private Sector Embraces a Public Mission

One of Hurricane Katrina's most enduring lessons will surely be that in times of catastrophe the private sector can make a life-saving difference. But without a ready-made plan to coordinate help from the private sector, not all aid made it through as quickly – or at all. Across the country, Americans were left wondering whether our nation would be capable of responding to another natural disaster or a terrorist attack. Fortunately, we have a regional advantage. State officials and business leaders have recognized that neither government nor the private sector alone can protect our homeland. So in an unprecedented partnership between government and the private sector, leading companies across Missouri, Kansas, Iowa, and Nebraska are being asked to join a strategic program to help prevent, prepare for and respond to a natural disaster or terrorist attack.

BENS in partnership with senior state and regional officials, is organizing local companies to bring the best business practices to a critical mission.

BENS established the MidAmerica Business Force regionally to specifically provide this organizational structure and develop public-private partnerships to proactively address support for homeland security and emergency management

needs at the state level. This approach makes good business sense, since an estimated 85 percent of our Nation's critical infrastructure – to include information systems, communication, transportation, and power plants – is owned by the private sector.

The MidAmerica Business Force provides the bridge between the public and private sector to efficiently and effectively address state homeland security issues, and response to natural disasters. From a regional perspective the number one threat to our Nation - is the threat to our food and agricultural production sectors. We, therefore, are ideally situated in the private sector, to bring to bear our expertise and experience in partnership with local, state and federal leaders and the academic community to proactively address this critical component of our National Infrastructure.

Towards these ends, the MidAmerica Business Force is working with the state's leadership in Kansas, Missouri, Iowa, and Nebraska to develop solutions for these issues. One example of a demonstrated solution is the Business Response Network (BRN). BENS in conjunction with state partners, has developed a prototype secure database that will connect emergency management personnel to needed private sector resources (goods, services, equipment, volunteers) quickly and effectively during a catastrophic event. The intent is to develop this as a state owned operational system that would provide a "surge" capability of private

sector assts to local communities and the state to assist in protection of its citizens and speed economic recovery. The BRN is a pioneering initiative that combines the interest and good will of the business community with the expertise of emergency management leaders to dramatically improve homeland security and emergency response at the state and local level.

The MidAmerica Business Force is also working in Missouri with local law enforcement, fire, and public health to assist in reaching out to the private sector and including them in establishing an information and intelligence fusion capability at the state level. This fusion capability would assist the state in analyzing indications and warning of possible threats to public safety. Companies will be tied into a regional early warning network, allowing firms to quickly report and receive information about suspicious activity that could threaten private facilities or public safety. We believe this is a unique initiative in which private sector companies will have much to offer.

These civic-minded local companies are not alone. Across America, companies and their employees are stepping up and offering their unique expertise to help their communities prepare for the unthinkable. These aren't just plans on paper; they are no-nonsense operating partnerships. The MidAmerica Business Force is fulfilling a vital role in this unique government - academic - business partnership.

State of Iowa News

Within the past few weeks, Iowa Governor Thomas J. Vilsack and BENS CEO General Chuck Boyd, along with members of their respective staffs, met at BENS' Washington, DC headquarters to discuss homeland security issues. The Governor expressed the high priority he places on homeland security and disaster response capabilities, indicating the threat of agro-terrorism was of particular concern in Iowa.

General Boyd and the Governor acknowledged the importance of applying business resources and expertise to the homeland security challenges facing governments at all levels. They agreed that the development of a public-private partnership focused on homeland security, such as BENS Business Force, would strengthen Iowa's homeland security capabilities. With this positive endorsement from the Governor, we have been working closely with Mr. David Miller, Administrator,

Iowa Homeland Security / Emergency Management and his great staff to develop some solutions for state prioritized issues.

State of Nebraska News

We are working directly with Nebraska Lieutenant Governor Rick Sheehy who also serves as Nebraska Director of Homeland Security. Lt. Governor Sheehy has been given an extensive briefing on BENS, the MidAmerica Business Force and the Business Response Network. Lt. Gov. Sheehy has asked us to serve on his Homeland Security Executive Committee. We are currently in the process of working with his staff to prioritize efforts to support the State of Nebraska. On another front, we have recently been appointed as a member of The Nebraska Bioterrorism Education Consortium. Additionally, we have accepted an invitation to address the Nebraska Homeland Security Providers Conference next year in Omaha.

Kansas Homeland Security Working Group

The Adjutant General of Kansas, Major General Tod Bunting, leads the Kansas Homeland Security Working Group. The group meets monthly and it's members include, BENS, Kansas law enforcement, Kansas National Guard, medical personnel, veterinarians, agricultural experts, members of the State of Kansas legal department, FEMA and the Federal Bureau of Investigation. This group is the Kansas vehicle for coordination with all relevant parties within the state to work homeland security issues and concerns.

Best Practices for Resource Management

We have extensive, ongoing work in Missouri and Iowa, with both the private and public sector, to establish an enterprise solution for resource management. The tool that BENS is using to accomplish this is the Business Response Network or BRN. The backbone of the BRN is the i-Info system, designed and developed by Apex Innovations to be the information-sharing platform for public, private, and non-profit agencies. This system offers complete life cycle emergency management functions for planning, preparedness, response, support and recovery; thus the BRN is a truly significant development in improving our Nation's ability to respond to natural disasters and acts of terrorism.

The BRN connects emergency management personnel to needed private sector resources

(goods, services, equipment, volunteers) quickly and effectively during a catastrophic event. The BRN system uses a secure database available to emergency management through the Internet. The Business Response Network (BRN) is an actionable database of private sector companies that would provide goods and/or services upon declaration of the Governor that a State of Emergency exists in the State

Business Force Online

We have two dynamic web sites online that provide additional information on the MidAmerica Business Force and explain the development of the Business Response Network. These websites can be viewed at www.midamericabusinessforce.org and www.businessresponsenetwork.org.

Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff Retires

General Richard B. Myers became the fifteenth Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff on Oct. 1, 2001. In this capacity, he served as the principal military advisor to the President, the Secretary of Defense, and the National Security Council. By law, he was the nation's highest-ranking military officer.

General Myers was born in Kansas City, Missouri and entered the Air Force in 1965, as a graduate of Kansas State University, and has served since then in a number of roles, including commanding U.S. Forces Japan and 5th Air Force at Yokota Air Base, Japan; Pacific Air Forces at Hickam AFB, Hawaii; and the North American Aerospace Defense Command, U.S. Space Command and Air Force Space Command at Peterson AFB, Colorado.

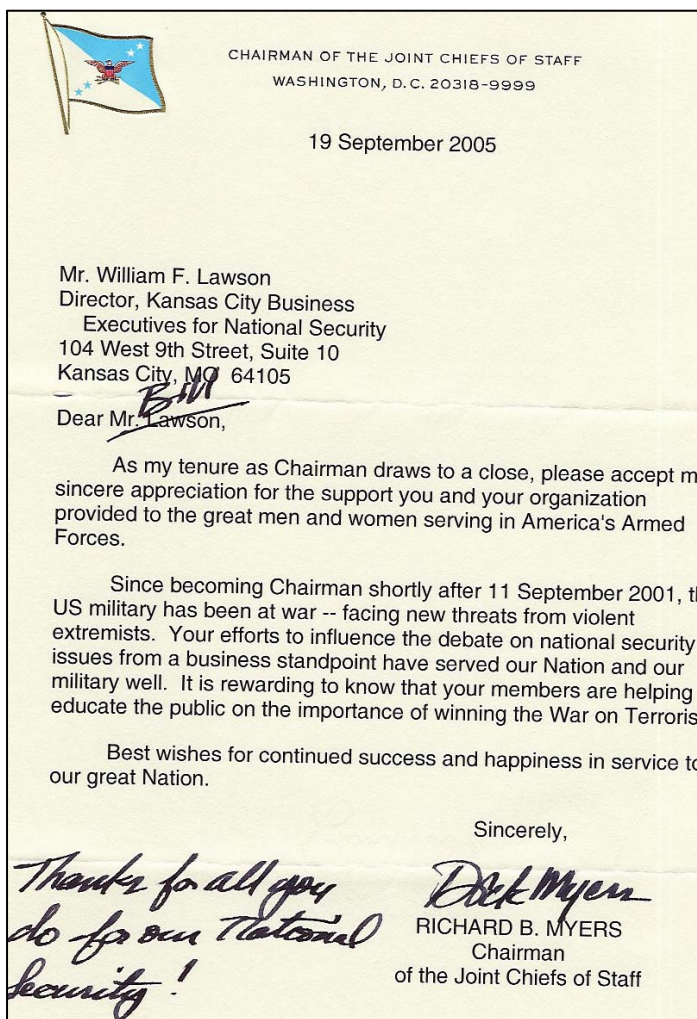
In response to the events of September 11, 2001, General Myers took up his duties under the most demanding and challenging circumstances in the history of our Nation. He helped design a broad and innovative military strategy to win the war on terror. His leadership and flexibility were essential to the liberation of Afghanistan and Iraq, and to adapting our tactics to defeat the terrorists and help Iraqis build a peaceful democracy. General Myers forged strong relationships with his military

counterparts around the world, and helped unite more than 90 nations in the war on terror. He also helped to prepare for the new threats of the 21st century by transformation of the NATO Alliance, and making our Armed Forces lighter, more lethal, and more capable of conducting joint operations.

As General Myers did all this, he led our military through a series of extraordinary humanitarian challenges, from tsunami relief in Asia to the rescue operations along the Gulf Coast in response to Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. General Myers brought skill and determination to all these tasks, and he leaves his post with a record of remarkable accomplishment.

General Myers retired after 40 years of extraordinary service to our Nation demonstrating leadership and command in the effort to protect and defend the United States of America.

Shortly before his retirement he sent the following letter to **All of Us** at BENS Kansas City.



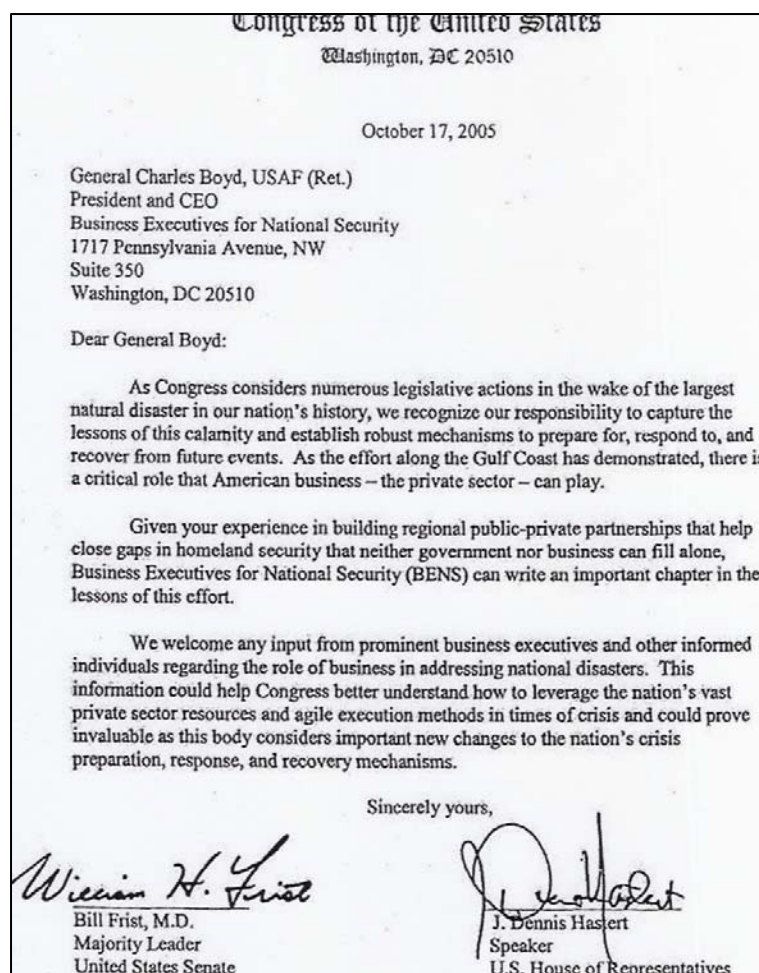
New Boss at Fort Leavenworth

Lieutenant General David H. Petraeus assumed command of the Combined Arms Center and Fort Leavenworth on 20 October 2005 in a ceremony attended by many BENS members. Petraeus previously served as the first commander of the Multi-National Security Transition Command in Iraq, which he led from June 2004 to September 2005, and the NATO Training Mission – Iraq, which he commanded from October 2004 to September 2005. Petraeus is no stranger to BENS, having hosted several trips by Gen Boyd and members to Iraq over the past two years. LTG Petraeus was recently featured in the US News & World Report as one of America’s Best Leaders. He was the only military commander selected in the article with the likes of Condoleezza Rice, Colin Powel, Bill Gates, and others. The quality that all these leaders share is a clearly articulated vision, measurable results, and in the words of one management guru, “Big Hairy Audacious Goals”. On behalf of BENS and our members, we look forward to having LTG Petraeus join us as part of the BENS Kansas City Team.

Hill Leaders Ask for Business Disaster Response Study

Once again, Congress has turned to BENS for help in addressing a critical national security challenge. In the wake of Hurricane Katrina, congressional leaders have invited BENS members to identify how the private sector can contribute to future disaster preparedness and recovery efforts. Citing BENS’ experience in building Business Forces around the country, Speaker of the House Dennis Hastert and Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist said that “Business Executives for National Security can write an important chapter in the lessons of this effort.”

In their letter to BENS President Chuck Boyd last month, Hastert and Frist stated that “as the effort along the Gulf Coast has demonstrated, there is a critical role that American business – the private sector – can play.” Members of Congress have lauded the Business Force in the past, but this is the first time that Congressional leaders have explicitly recognized the important national security value of these public-private partnerships. BENS is deciding how best to meet the request and will keep all members informed of any opportunity to contribute to this important effort.



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