



A Gateway for America's Warriors *BENS-Led Coalition Launching Website for Veterans*

Finding service providers, landing a job and connecting with fellow veterans is about to get a lot easier for America's military personnel. On March 15, [Warrior Gateway](#) – a website that allows veterans and their families to quickly find the support they need to return to civilian life – will make its public debut.



Created by a BENS-led coalition of corporations and non-profits over the past 15 months, Warrior Gateway aims to become the premier nationwide resource for transitioning members of the military in their search for services—both private and government—that help veterans overcome their unique challenges and succeed in the private sector. The website, which will initially provide resources for veterans in North Carolina, Georgia, Illinois and Texas, has three main features:

- **Service Directory** – From PTSD counseling to finding affordable housing, the directory connects veterans to the services they need, where they need them—and lets veterans review and rate the providers.
- **Careers** – Using top-notch career exploration tools, exiting military and veterans can discover the best careers for their skill set and find relevant job openings.
- **Communities** – By leveraging leading social networking technology, veterans and their families can connect with one another and build valuable support networks both online and offline.

During the six months following the March 15 launch, the project team will continue to refine and improve the Warrior Gateway site. Also during this period, the Gateway will expand from its current listing of nearly 20,000 service providers to include resources in all 50 states through partnerships with the State Directors of Veterans Affairs. If you want to check out Warrior Gateway before March 15, register for an invitation by clicking [here](#).

BENS Works: Business Sense for National Security

BENS Urges Acquisition Action in Congress — If the U.S. government is to fix the ailing defense acquisition system, it must improve the acquisition workforce and help address America's wilting engineering talent base. That was the message on Feb. 25 from BENS member Norm Augustine to the House Armed Services Committee Defense Acquisition Reform panel, led by Rep. Rod Andrews (N.J.). Augustine—who chaired the BENS Task Force on Defense Acquisition Law & Oversight—testified on how the procurement process can be improved with private-sector practices, based on the Task Force's "[Getting to Best](#)" report. [Read Mr. Augustine's testimony.](#) [View the hearing.](#)



The Business of Good Governance — Good governance, economic development and sustainable infrastructure will be key to U.S. success in Afghanistan. But how can the U.S. military and other government agencies help deliver the capabilities to make it happen? For private-sector insight on solving the challenge, the Office of the Secretary of Defense is looking to BENS members. On Feb. 18, eight BENS members met in Washington, D.C., with defense officials to help them develop a plan that will inform Gen. Stanley McChrystal, commander of all NATO forces in Afghanistan, and his intelligence chief, Maj. Gen. Michael Flynn, on how to bring technology and training programs to local Afghan communities that will help improve socio-economic development. The goal is to establish essential services through projects such as road construction, irrigation and power delivery that Afghans can carry forward on their own. BENS member suggestions will be incorporated into a briefing that will be presented to Gen. McChrystal and Maj. Gen. Flynn this month.

Budgeting for Reform — Improving financial management in the military, weapons acquisition reform and strengthening the Pentagon's civilian workforce have all been longtime goals of BENS. And all are included in the proposed 2011 Defense Department budget request, released in February. The department will continue financial management reform efforts, including launching enterprise resource planning systems at 30 Army installations and in major Navy and Air Force commands, the budget overview said. The request also puts a priority on defense acquisition reform measures stressed in the BENS "Getting to Best" report—including bolstering the civilian workforce and providing training and retention programs to develop skills such as cost analysis. As the legislation moves through Congress, BENS will continue to encourage lawmakers to provide resources that will make these reforms happen.

Surveying Disaster Response — Do you want to play a part in gauging how well the nation is integrating the business sector into disaster management? If so, [click here](#) to take a 35-question survey that will inform BENS' follow-up review to our 2005 report, "[Getting Down to Business: An Action Plan for Public-Private Disaster Response Coordination](#)." The survey covers continuity of operations plans, public-private collaboration in your region, building community resilience, surge capacity and supply chain issues, the disaster response legal and regulatory environment, and the future of disaster planning/preparation. Responses are due on March 10.

Event Highlights and BENS Developments

"Small Investment, Big Real-World Dividends" — The business of forging Navy SEALs was on display Feb. 25 for 11 BENS members who toured U.S. Naval Special Warfare Command in Coronado, Calif., where the tagline is "Small Investment, Big Real-World Dividends." The members were briefed on SEAL training and Navy Special Warfare operations, then toured the training facilities, including the shooting range and obstacle course, capping the day by riding on (and piloting) rigid-hull inflatable boats.



Upcoming Events

- **Atlanta** — Quarterly member social hosted by Membership Committee Chairman Nick Pierce, April 8, 5:30 p.m., St. Regis Hotel. Contact Elayne Powell at epowell@bens.org or 404-509-1160.

Questions or comments? Contact Cliff Ainsworth at (202) 296-2125 or cainsworth@bens.org

- **Atlanta** – Brig. Gen. Feroz Khan (Ret.), Pakistan Army, April 22, 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m., Buckhead Club, Ballroom II. Contact Elayne Powell at epowell@bens.org or 404-509-1160.
- **Kansas City** – Third Annual National Security Award Dinner with the Honorable William H. Webster, April 8, 6:30 p.m., Weston Crown Center. Contact William F. Lawson at 816-842-1778 or wlawson@bens.org.
- **New York City** – “The Economics of Cybersecurity” with Melissa Hathaway, Former Acting Senior Director for Cyber Space, National Security Council, April 7, 12 p.m. – 2 p.m., The Yale Club, 50 Vanderbilt Ave. (between 44th and 45th Streets). Contact Vickie McGrath at vmcgrath@bens.org or 914-232-0122.
- **Washington DC** – Emerging Treatments in PTSD and Traumatic Brain Injuries panel, March 11, 4:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m., BENS, 1030 15th St. NW, Ste. 200 East. Contact Laura Willoughby at lwilloughby@bens.org or 202-296-2125.