

Business Executives For National Security UPDATE

April 2006

Headliners and a Legend

Carlucci and Schlesinger to Honor Augustine; Levin, Gingrich to Address Forum

What do you get when you combine two secretaries of defense, a Speaker of the House, a U.S. senator and a defense industry legend? The annual BENS Washington Forum and Eisenhower Award Dinner on May 17.

Confirmed speakers for the annual BENS Washington Forum include: ranking member of the Senate Armed Services Committee Sen. Carl Levin (Michigan), former Speaker of the House Newt Gingrich and *Washington Post* columnist David Ignatius. Other speakers and presentations still being confirmed include a possible high-level military briefing on Iraq and Afghanistan.

That evening at the Ritz-Carlton, former Lockheed Martin chairman and CEO Norman Augustine will receive the Eisenhower Award for his five decades of public service, including his tenure as undersecretary of the U.S. Army and his service on numerous blue ribbon commissions. Former Defense Secretaries Frank Carlucci and Jim Schlesinger are among those scheduled to salute the defense industry legend famous for his “Augustine’s Laws” on management. If you are interested in attending the Forum and Eisenhower Dinner, please contact Jennie Moonis at (202) 296-2125 or jmoonis@bens.org.

BENS Works: Business Sense for National Security

Gingrich & Breaux: Bipartisan Business – Two Capitol Hill veterans – one Republican, one Democrat – will help Bell South chairman and CEO Duane Ackerman lead the BENS task force examining the business response to Hurricane Katrina. Former Speaker of the House Newt Gingrich and former Louisiana Sen. John Breaux will co-chair the task force, which Ackerman will head. Bell South is a corporate member of the Georgia Business Force. Created to answer Congressional requests for recommendations on how business can more effectively support domestic disasters and emergencies, the task force is now developing its action plan.

General to General: Offering the Best of Business – With improvised explosive devices (IEDs) causing the majority of U.S. casualties in Iraq, and increasing numbers of injuries and deaths in Afghanistan, retired four-star Gen. Montgomery Meigs is leading the Pentagon task force dedicated to defeating these deadly weapons. BENS President Chuck Boyd sat down for a one-on-one session with Gen. Meigs last month to reaffirm BENS’ support of its efforts. Reflecting its urgent mission, the task force budget has grown from \$150 million to more than \$3 billion in just one year, and BENS members are uniquely suited to offer advice on how the private sector effectively manages large increases in budget and manpower.

Preventing a Cyber 9/11 –Protecting America’s critical information infrastructure, most of which is owned and operated by the private sector, is vital to defending America’s information-based economy from terrorist cyber-attack. But where are the greatest security needs? How can the private sector come together to implement safeguards? What role will the federal government play? These are some of the questions that will be addressed this fall when BENS convenes a forum of leading CEOs and CIOs to solicit private sector input on cyber security policy priorities. Led by BENS member John Leggate, Chief Information Officer of BP, the group will forward its findings and policy recommendations to the White House and Congress for consideration. Watch this space in the coming months for more details.

Business Force News

Serious Business – As the response to Hurricane Katrina demonstrated, the business community has a vital role to play in preparing for and responding to disasters. Georgia is keeping that well in mind, and state officials have designated the BENS Georgia Business Force to represent the private sector during sessions preparing Peach State contingency plans for an outbreak of pandemic or avian flu. The Business Force urged participants to consider how their decisions during a crisis would affect the business community's ability to contribute to relief and recovery efforts. The Business Force will participate in preparedness exercises planned for later this year.

Event Highlights and BENS Developments

Show Me . . . the SecDef – Kansas City BENS members were on hand at the Harry S. Truman Presidential Library in Independence, Missouri March 2 for a major speech on the war on terrorism by Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld. BENS members, who received special invitations to the event from the library, heard Rumsfeld compare the war on terrorism against Islamic extremists to the Cold War fight against Communism, another “long, sustained struggle” requiring “the perseverance of the American people.” He added that when Americans asked when the Cold War would end, “there was no clear answer. And there isn't one today” with respect to the war on terrorism. Rumsfeld, who addressed the BENS Eisenhower Award Dinner in June 2003, met with BENS members after his remarks.

A San Francisco Treat – During his time in Iraq as an Army National Guard captain, BENS member Dan Rice focused more on the Iraqi economy than hunting terrorists. During a discussion with fellow BENS members in San Francisco on March 10, Rice described the hamstrung efforts to get Iraq working again after generations of misrule and more than a decade of sanctions, including handouts under the U.N.'s Oil-for-Food program, which crippled agricultural innovation. Efforts to improve commerce were hampered, he said, because of high turnover among the few, non-military American personnel working in the country. To learn more about the situation in Iraq, read Dan's [letter](#) about the special status of Kurdish-controlled areas in the north.

Many Safe Returns – As the father of seven children, BENS member Joel O'Driscoll knows the value of peace and quiet. Those will be in rare supply as Joel – an officer in the Navy Reserve – was called to active duty last month. In civilian life, Joel is a Vice President for Hitachi Consulting in San Francisco. We wish Joel and his family the best of luck, and hope for a successful mission and a safe return.

Cheney to be President – That's right, BENS COO, retired Brig. Gen. Steve Cheney, will become President of the Marine Military Academy in Harlingen, Texas, and will depart the BENS staff on May 1. The Academy is a private college prep school run by former Marines. Steve has been energetically involved in every aspect of BENS and a major asset to the organization since 2003. Steve remains a loyal “raving fan” of BENS and will assist our Dallas office. We wish him “fair winds and following seas” in Texas, where he promises: “No quail hunting for me.”

Upcoming Events

- **Washington, D.C.** –A conversation with **David Walker**, Comptroller General for the Government Accountability Office, 3 p.m., April 18, venue to be determined. Contact Steve Ewell at (202) 296-2125 or sewell@bens.org.
- **Kansas City** – Dinner with Dr. **Francis Harvey**, Secretary of the Army, April 20. Contact Bill Lawson at (816) 842-1778 or wlawson@bens.org.
- **Atlanta** – Luncheon with **Steven Emerson**, founder, The Investigative Project, April 21. Contact Aimee Yrlas at (404) 220-1268 or ayrlas@bens.org.
- **New York City** – Visit to **United States Military Academy at West Point**, April 27. Contact Bob McClure at (866) 475-2085 or rmclure@bens.org.
- **Washington, D.C.** – **Annual Washington Forum**, May 17. Contact Jennie Moonis at (202) 296-2125 or jmoonis@bens.org.
- **Washington, D.C.** – **Eisenhower Award Dinner** honoring former Lockheed Martin Chairman and CEO **Norman Augustine**, May 17. Contact Jennie Moonis at (202) 296-2125 or jmoonis@bens.org.
- **Washington, D.C.** – **BRAC 2005 Forum: Private Sector Role in Implementation**, June 5. Contact Paul Taibl at (202) 296-2125 or ptaibl@bens.org.
- **Atlanta** – Event with **Dr. Julie Gerberding**, Director of Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, June 21. Contact Aimee Yrlas at (404) 220-1268 or ayrlas@bens.org.
- **Atlanta** – Visit to **Kings Bay Naval Submarine Base**, Nov. 16. Contact Aimee Yrlas at (404) 220-1268 or ayrlas@bens.org.

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