

APRIL 2008

UPDATE

Business Executives For National Security

Security All-Stars Line Up for BENS

Gates, Scowcroft to Headline May 15 Events

Even for the home court of Washington, DC, it's a rare event that brings together so many leading players in national security policy. But that's exactly what will happen May 15 as BENS hosts our Eisenhower Award Dinner and Washington Forum.

To help us honor Secretary of Defense Robert Gates with the BENS Eisenhower Award, we're pleased to announce that our black-tie gala that evening will include a special appreciation from former National Security Advisor Brent Scowcroft, under whom Gates served as a deputy in the White House of the George H.W. Bush.

Earlier in the day, civilian and military leaders – present and past – will fill out the all-star roster of BENS' 19th Annual Washington Forum:

- **Gen. James Cartwright**, Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, on "Getting Stronger: Rebuilding the Military";
- **Newt Gingrich**, former Speaker of the House, on "U.S. Security and the Strategic Landscape";
- **John Hamre**, former Deputy Secretary of Defense and President of the Center for Strategic & International Studies, on "Cyber Security: Risks of the Quiet War";
- **Gen. Michael Hayden**, Director of the Central Intelligence Agency, on "Getting Smarter: Intelligence Needs in a Very Different World";
- **Tom Vilsack**, former Governor of Iowa, on "Securing Our States: Public-Private Partnerships for Defending the Homeland"; and
- **David M. Walker**, former U.S. Comptroller General, on "Securing America: How Do We Pay for It?"

Formal invitations to the awards dinner and Forum – both of which will be held at the JW Marriott Hotel Pennsylvania Avenue – have been mailed and should be in your hands shortly. For more immediate questions, contact Jennie Moonis at (202) 296-2125 or jmoonis@bens.org.

BENS Works: Business Sense for National Security

Have Clearance, Will Serve – Are you a BENS member with an active security clearance? If so, the Pentagon wants you – and your ideas. In the past, BENS members have helped the Defense Department explore new ways to defeat the roadside bombs that have killed so many U.S. troops in Iraq and Afghanistan. Now, the Pentagon task force leading this effort is inviting BENS members with security clearances to join representatives from government, industry and academia in brainstorming the next generation of solutions during an April 8-10 conference in Denver. For more information, visit <http://www.ncsi.com/jieddo08/index.shtml>.

BENS: Best in Class – At BENS, we're not only dedicated to promoting best business practices in government, we practice what we preach. But don't just take our word for it. Charity Navigator, a leading independent evaluator of non-profit organizations, has awarded BENS a four-star rating – its highest accolade – for "outperform[ing] the majority of non-profits in America with respect to fiscal responsibility." Our "exceptional" ranking, which demonstrates how BENS "excels...in successfully managing [our] finances...in an efficient and effective manner," can be viewed at <http://www.charitynavigator.org>.

Business Force News

Another Storm, Another Swift Response – For the second time in two years, deadly storms struck Georgia – and once again, the BENS Georgia Business Force was there to respond. This time, the Business Force swung into action when a massive tornado hit downtown Atlanta – not far from BENS' offices – in mid-March. Using our Business Operations Center, affected companies – including Coca-Cola, Deloitte, Turner Broadcasting Systems, and Wachovia – submitted damage assessments to the Georgia Emergency Management Association and disaster-aid requests to FEMA. In turn, state officials requested – and the Business Force located – a 10,000 square-foot space for a FEMA public disaster relief center. We salute our Atlanta team for their decisive response and for again proving that the Business Force is a critical tool for emergency response – even in its own backyard.

New Chief for New Colorado Partnership – BENS is pleased to welcome Pamela Pfeifer as the new Executive Director of the Colorado Emergency Preparedness Partnership – the latest business-government collaboration facilitated by BENS. Recently a senior policy advisor to Colorado Gov. Bill Owens, Pamela also served in top leadership and management positions under Florida Gov. Jeb Bush, including Deputy Secretary of Florida's Department of Management Services and Chief of Staff of his 2002 transition team. Among her first tasks leading the Colorado partnership is to help Denver improve emergency communications in advance of August's Democratic national convention. Please join us in welcoming Pamela at ppfeifer@bens.org.

Event Highlights and BENS Developments

Semper BENSelis – With bazaars, clothesline-filled courtyards, and a small mosque, it could pass for an Iraqi town...unless you spy one of the machines pumping the smell of fresh dung through the streets. That's when you realize you're in the heart of the Marine Corps' new Immersion Training Center in Camp Pendleton, California, as twelve BENS members found themselves February 29. After experiencing the Center, the delegation was briefed by Lt. Gen. Samuel Helland, Commanding General of the I Marine Expeditionary Force, comprising one-third of all Marine combat forces. The trip was a visceral – and pungent – reminder of the dangers and challenges facing Marines around the world.

"The Key to Preparedness" – On the two greatest threats facing the U.S, our leaders are asking the wrong questions, homeland security expert and author Randy Larsen told BENS members in Washington on March 6. On nuclear terrorism, the right question is not "how to stop a nuke from being smuggled into the U.S?" Larsen argued, but "how do we prevent terrorists from getting their hands on nuclear materials?" – stopping the threat at its source, through initiatives like the Nunn-Lugar Cooperative Threat Reduction program, which BENS has long supported. On the risk of a biological attack on U.S. soil, Larsen contended, some federal preparation is taking place, but "getting the private sector and volunteers involved" – through efforts like BENS' Business Forces – "is key to bio-defense preparedness."

Upcoming Events

- **Atlanta – Visit to U.S. Army Infantry Center and School, Ft. Benning**, Apr. 4. Contact Allison Cheatham at (404) 220-1268 or acheatham@bens.org.
- **Kansas City – National Security Awards Dinner**, Apr. 8, 6:30 p.m., Westin Crown Center. Contact William Lawson at (816) 842-1778 or wlawson@bens.org.
- **Atlanta – BENS/USO Volunteer Days – Welcome Home the Troops** at Hartsfield-Jackson International Airport, Apr. 9, 7:30 a.m. Contact Allison Cheatham at (404) 220-1268 or acheatham@bens.org.
- **San Francisco – Lunch discussion on “Energy Security: A National Imperative,” with Rhonda Zygocki**, VP of Policy, Government, and Public Affairs, Chevron Corp., Apr. 16, 11:30 a.m., Marine Memorial Club. Contact Kathy Denzer at (415) 690-6254 or kdenzer@bens.org.
- **San Francisco – 2008 Bay Area Cross-Sector Pandemic Exercise**, San Francisco Marriott, Apr. 18. By invitation only; contact Peter Ohtaki at (650) 328-0300 or pohtaki@bens.org.
- **New York – Lunch with Adm. Eric Olson**, Commander, U.S. Special Operations Command, Apr. 23, 12 p.m., University Club. Contact Dan McSweeney at (202) 486-1522 or dmcsweeney@bens.org.
- **Washington, DC – Lauri Almann**, Permanent Undersecretary of Defence, Republic of Estonia, Apr. 24, 2 p.m., Washington Convention Center. Contact Steve Ewell at (202) 296-2125 or sewell@bens.org.
- **Atlanta – BENS/USO Volunteer Days – Welcome Home the Troops** at Hartsfield-Jackson International Airport, May 7, 7:30 a.m. Contact Allison Cheatham at (404) 220-1268 or acheatham@bens.org.
- **Washington, DC – BENS Eisenhower Award Dinner honoring Defense Secretary Robert Gates, and 19th Annual BENS Washington Forum**, May 15, JW Marriott Hotel Pennsylvania Avenue. Contact Jennie Moonis at (202) 296-2125 or jmoonis@bens.org.
- **San Francisco – Dinner with Col. Peter Mansoor**, executive officer to Gen. David Petraeus, May 27, Palo Alto. Contact Kathy Denzer at (415) 690-6254 or kdenzer@bens.org.
- **Atlanta – Lunch with Gen. Charles Campbell**, Commander, U.S. Army Forces Command, Jun. 4, 11:30 a.m.-1:30p.m. Contact Allison Cheatham at (404) 220-1268 or acheatham@bens.org.
- **San Francisco – Lunch with Lt. Gen. Samuel Helland**, Commander, U.S. Marine Corps Forces Central Command and Commanding General, I Marine Expeditionary Force, Jun. 6, Marine Memorial Club. Contact Kathy Denzer at (415) 690-6254 or kdenzer@bens.org.
- **Dallas – Lunch with former Rep. Charlie Wilson**, subject of the book and movie *Charlie Wilson’s War*, Jun. 16. Contact Matthew Elias at (214) 315-2576 or melias@bens.org.