

Business Executives For National Security **UPDATE**

DECEMBER 2005

Wanted: Your Ideas to Save Soldiers' Lives *BENS asked to help defeat Iraqi roadside bombs*

With homemade bombs – Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs), in military parlance – causing half of American casualties in Iraq, the Pentagon is working around-the-clock to develop new defenses against the terrorists' most lethal weapon. The military is urgently seeking new ideas, new thinking and new technologies, including commercial off-the-shelf technologies that can save lives right now.

At the invitation of the Defense Department, BENS members will share their ideas with the Pentagon's Joint IED Task Force in Silicon Valley on Dec. 21. Of greatest interest to the task force are technologies that can jam or detect IEDs, such as extended life batteries, pattern recognition software and advanced explosion detection methods. If you want to attend the meeting or would like to offer your ideas to this critical effort, please contact Ken Beeks at (202) 296-2125 or kbeeks@bens.org. A special thanks to BENS member Michael Gaulke, president and CEO of Exponent, Inc. for hosting this important event at his company's headquarters in Menlo Park.

[BENS Works: Business Sense for National Security](#)

“Avoiding a Russian Arms Disaster” – It is perhaps the most innovative and cost-effective national security program ever conceived; with annual costs equivalent to a large latte for each American, the Cooperative Threat Reduction (CTR) secures poorly protected weapons of mass destruction in Russia and the former Soviet Union. Unfortunately, this critical effort is often hampered by bureaucratic and administrative hurdles. As the House of Representatives considers the annual defense bill, BENS Chairman Stanley Weiss and BENS member Ted Turner penned a Nov. 6 op-ed in the *Washington Times* urging Congress to streamline and strengthen the CTR program. “The risk of a ... terrorist attack with Russian weapons is too critical to tolerate any delays to these crucial efforts,” the pair wrote. The Senate acted on this issue in July. Will the House do the same? Check back next month for the answer.

National Security Networking – Traditionally, BENS bridges gaps between the public and private sectors. This fall, however, BENS helped bring together two federal entities in the fight against terrorist finances. After meeting with IRS officials working to enforce terrorism financing laws, BENS introduced the agency to In-Q-Tel, an IT development arm of the intelligence community. The purpose of the connection was to assist the IRS in identifying new database technologies. Because of BENS, that assistance should help the IRS in its fight against terrorist-directed financing through suspect charities, businesses, and individuals.

[Business Force News](#)

NJ, Meet BRN – The BENS Business Response Network (BRN) – the innovative, web-based catalogue of private sector disaster relief supplies – is a key element of the New Jersey Business Force. For the first time, that catalogue of organizations, supplies and people is fully connected with the state's Office of Emergency Management, the lead state agency for disaster preparedness. This fall the Garden State agreed to conduct a pilot program linking with the BRN. With this agreement, not only is the state plugged into the BRN, but local and county first responders have access, as well. From Atlantic City to Newark and all points in between, the Business Force is truly a state-wide public/private partnership.

Private Sector, Public Mission – One of Hurricane Katrina's most enduring lessons is that the private sector can make a life-saving difference in times of catastrophe. With that lesson in mind, Georgia Business Force members and state emergency response officials met last month to explore ways for the public and private sectors to better protect the state's critical infrastructure. The meeting was the second since October and helped lay the groundwork for a simulation next year that will test the ability of state and Business Forces members to respond to an emergency.

EVENT HIGHLIGHTS AND BENS DEVELOPMENTS

A High-Energy Evening – Before he ever became a cabinet secretary, Energy Secretary Samuel Bodman enjoyed a distinguished career in both academia and business. BENS honored all facets of the man by presenting Bodman with the Eisenhower Award during a gala dinner in New York City on Nov. 3. Bodman thanked BENS members for their service to the nation and called for the private sector to support education reforms designed to keep America competitive in the world economy. Pictures from the evening's festivities, including a special award presentation to Air Force TSgt. Paul Schaff for his service in Iraq, are posted on the BENS website.

BENS if by Land – BENS members received a first-hand look at some of the best equipment used by some of the best soldiers in the best army in the world during their visit to the U.S. Army Signal Center at Ft. Gordon in Augusta, Georgia on Nov. 3. In addition to sharing lunch with troops returning from the Middle East, members toured a satellite communications center used to support operations in Iraq since the first Gulf War and observed advanced training techniques for front-line medics and learned about the elite 513th Military Intelligence Brigade's efforts to support soldiers in combat.

BENS if by Sea – San Francisco BENS members were treated to an up-close look at Coast Guard operations in the Bay Area during an exclusive briefing and harbor tour led by Rear Adm. Kevin Eldridge on Nov. 8. Members visited the local command center and observed a search and rescue demonstration. Rear Adm. Kevin Eldridge hosted the tour and described how the Coast Guard has changed since becoming a frontline agency in the War on Terror and joining the Department of Homeland Security in 2003. View pictures of the trip on the BENS website.

Straight From the Source – BENS members received a rare insider's briefing from Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Ahmed Chalabi during his visit to Washington, D.C. last month. Chalabi addressed a wide range of topics, including Iraq's economic growth and oil production prospects, relations with its neighbors and the fight against the insurgency. While arguing that there is no operational intelligence available in Iraq and developing independent Iraqi intelligence services is hampered by American fears of Iranian infiltration, he urged U.S. forces to remain in the country, but with much less visibility.

Another Turner for Georgia – BENS is pleased to welcome John H. H. Turner as the new director of the Georgia Business Force. Previously, Turner was Vice President of Business Development for Quest Diagnostics in Las Vegas. A colonel in the U.S. Army Reserve, Turner earned degrees from West Point, the Army War College and Syracuse University. Glad to have you on the team, John!

The End is Near! – As the end of the year approaches, BENS is looking for a strong financial finish to mirror our strong beginning in 2005! We are asking members to help us finish in the black so we can close our books on fiscal year 2005 by Dec. 31. "The numerous disasters of the past year have strained fundraising for many non-profits, including BENS," says COO Steve Cheney. "But these disasters have also validated the expansion of many of our programs, including the BENS Business Force. We need your support now more than ever before."

Upcoming Events

- **Washington, D.C.** – **BENS Annual Holiday Open House**, Dec. 7. Contact Lisa Jackson at (202) 296-2125 or holiday@bens.org.
- **Kansas City** – Breakfast with **Lt. Gen. David Petraeus**, Commanding General, Ft. Leavenworth, Dec. 12. Contact Bill Lawson at (816) 842-1778 or wlawson@bens.org.
- **New York** – Event with **Lt. Gen. David Petraeus**, Commanding General, Ft. Leavenworth, February 3, 2006 (T). Contact Nancy Hart at (866) 475-2085 or nhart@bens.org.
- **Atlanta** – Breakfast with **Lt. Gen. Russell Honore**, Commanding General, First U.S. Army, February 21, 2006. Contact Aimee Yrlas at (404) 220-1268 or ayrlas@bens.org.
- **New York** – Event with **New York City Police Commissioner Ray Kelly** February 22 or 23, 2006 (T). Contact Nancy Hart at (866) 475-2085 or nhart@bens.org.
- **Atlanta** – Luncheon with **Steve Emerson**, founder, The Investigative Project, April 14, 2006. Contact Aimee Yrlas at (404) 220-1268 or ayrlas@bens.org.

Questions or comments? Contact Michael Lucinski at (202) 296-2125 or mlucinski@bens.org