

# Business Executives For National Security UPDATE

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DECEMBER 2006

## Golden State of Readiness

### *Bay Area Business Force Leads Historic Response in Earthquake Drill*

Last month marked a California milestone: for the first time in state history, 55 executives from the San Francisco Bay Area, led by BENS, worked side-by-side with local and state officials at emergency operations centers during a major disaster preparedness drill.

The Bay Area Business Force, in cooperation with the Bay Area Council, recruited and trained some 55 corporate security, business continuity, and safety executives as participants in “Golden Guardian 2006,” a statewide exercise Nov. 15-16 replicating the devastating 1906 San Francisco Earthquake. Representing 45 Bay Area companies – including Bank of America, Chevron, Cisco, Dreyer’s, Gilead, Google, Oracle, and Safeway – the executives began the critical process of formally partnering with officials in state, regional, and county emergency operations centers.

In one useful lesson of the exercise, many observers found that information was harder to obtain in a disaster than expected, complicating the vital tasks of safely evacuating employees and anticipating when operations can resume. They also realized that there is no single point of government-private sector cooperation; true collaboration in emergency response involves government and business working together at local, state and regional levels through trusted liaisons.

Although BENS’ leadership in this exercise validates our role as just such a liaison, implementing these much-needed partnerships will require the ongoing commitment of leading companies in the Bay Area and the broadest possible corporate participation nationwide. For more information about how your company can take part, contact Peter Ohtaki at (650) 591-7770 or [pohtaki@bens.org](mailto:pohtaki@bens.org) or Ern Blackwelder at (202) 296-2125 or [eblackwelder@bens.org](mailto:eblackwelder@bens.org).

#### BENS WORKS: BUSINESS SENSE FOR NATIONAL SECURITY

**BENS at 25: A Quarter Century of Success** – Remember 1982? Soviet and U.S. nuclear missiles were on hair-trigger alert, the U.S. continued an historic defense buildup, *Time’s* “Man of the Year” was the personal computer . . . and an entrepreneur named Stanley Weiss founded a new organization called Business Executives for National Security. In 2007, BENS celebrates its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary—a quarter century of bringing business sense to national security, from helping the superpowers reduce the danger of nuclear miscalculation, to helping the Defense Department save billions of taxpayer dollars, to preparing cities and communities for future emergencies. For an organization like no other, 2007 will be a year like no other. Watch this space in the months ahead for more details on BENS’ 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration.

#### BUSINESS FORCE NEWS

**Sultans of SWAT** – Executives from across the Los Angeles area gained a rare glimpse of the inner workings of the Sheriff’s Department of Los Angeles, the city considered the birthplace of police SWAT teams. At the invitation of the LA Business Force/Homeland Security Advisory Council, 40 CEOs from the Young Presidents’ Organization witnessed demonstrations by the K-9, paramedicine, and SWAT teams of the department’s Special Enforcement Bureau. The Nov. 16 event was designed to recruit local companies and executives to join the newly-launched LA Business Response Network, the online registry of assets pledged by businesses to help local and state government respond to future emergencies.

## EVENT HIGHLIGHTS AND BENS DEVELOPMENTS

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**Eight-Star Evening** – It was a night to remember as FedEx’s Fred Smith led BENS in honoring “two of the great patriots of our time” – Admiral Vern Clark and General Eric Shinseki at our Eisenhower Award gala in New York on Nov. 15. “If you know anything about the transformational efforts underway in the military,” Smith said, “these two outstanding officers will go down in the history books as people who have made a greater contribution to our national security” than almost any others. Adm. Clark, Chief of Naval Operations from 2000-2005, praised BENS members for helping him bring business practices to the Navy and said, “I am thankful that there are people like you who will teach guys like me how to spell ‘return on investment.’” Gen. Shinseki, Army Chief of Staff from 1999-2003, similarly recognized lessons learned from those in the “business of change” and thanked BENS members for their support of America’s soldiers.

**From the Highest Heights ...** “The ride of a lifetime.” That’s how 14 members and prospects from BENS’ Kansas City chapter described their flight on an **Air Force KC-135** refueling tanker in the skies over Nebraska on Nov. 13. Piloted by BENS member Jay Selanders of Daniels & Kaplan, PC, a lieutenant colonel in the Kansas Air National Guard, the mission involved refueling a massive RC-135 reconnaissance aircraft – [flying just 30 feet from the observation bubble carrying the BENS guests](#). Special thanks to the 190<sup>th</sup> Air Refueling Wing based in Topeka for hosting the event.

**...To the Deepest Depths** – Some 50 members and guests from the BENS Atlanta chapter got “that sinking feeling” during a guided tour of the USS *Tennessee*, one of the nation’s most modern Trident ballistic missile submarines. The Nov. 16 visit to Kings Bay Naval Submarine Base in St. Mary’s, Georgia, the Atlantic home of the Trident submarine fleet, also included briefings from local commanders that highlighted the installation’s embrace of best business practices.

**Your Support, Our Mission** – As the end of the year nears, BENS is looking for a strong financial finish to help continue the indispensable role we play in the national security arena. As a member-driven organization, we are asking you to help us finish in the black when we close the books on fiscal year 2006 on Friday, December 29. “The past year has seen great strides in BENS’ programs, especially our Business Response Task Force and nationwide Business Forces,” says CEO Chuck Boyd. “We are poised to embark on an aggressive agenda in 2007, but to do so we need your support more than ever before.”

**Celebrate With Us** – All BENS members and government partners in the D.C. Metro area are invited to our Holiday Open House on December 6. Come share the holiday spirit and look ahead to the coming year. Our Open House will be held from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at the BENS offices at 1717 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Suite 350, Washington, DC. For more details or to RSVP, please contact Lisa Jackson at (202) 296-2125 or [ljackson@bens.org](mailto:ljackson@bens.org).

## UPCOMING EVENTS

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- **Atlanta – BENS/USO Volunteer Days** – Welcome Home the Troops at Hartsfield-Jackson International Airport, Dec. 5. Contact Aimee Yrlas at (404) 220-1268 or [ayrlas@bens.org](mailto:ayrlas@bens.org).
- **New Jersey – “The Public-Private Partnership: Effective - Efficient - Energized,”** Dec. 5, 10a.m.-2p.m., Babbio Center, Stevens Institute of Technology, Hoboken. Contact Walter Gramm at (973) 658-3620 or [wgramm@bens.org](mailto:wgramm@bens.org).
- **New York – “Protect Your Directors and Officers From Liability,”** with Al Martinez-Fonts, DHS Assistant Secretary for the Private Sector, Scott Weber, Patton Boggs LLP, and Doug Sahrbeck, SAIC, Dec. 6, 9-11a.m., Algonquin Hotel. Visit <http://www.pattonboggs.com/coop/> to register.
- **Washington, D.C. – BENS Holiday Open House,** Dec. 6, 5:30-7:30p.m., BENS D.C. office. Contact Lisa Jackson at (202) 296-2125 or [ljackson@bens.org](mailto:ljackson@bens.org).