

DECEMBER 2007

UPDATE

25 YEARS  
SECURING AMERICA'S FUTURE

Business Executives For National Security

## Mile-High Match

### *Business Force-style Partnership Slated for Colorado*

Denver may be a mile above sea level, but local leaders are experiencing a real Rocky Mountain High over their work with BENS to build a new Colorado Emergency Preparedness Partnership.

With the receipt of a start-up grant from the Denver-based Anschutz Foundation, the Colorado partnership takes another step toward reality. Nurtured over many months by BENS, the initiative is championed by the Denver Police Foundation, the Denver InfraGard Members Alliance, the Philanthropy Roundtable and the U.S. military's Northern Command, headquartered at Peterson Air Force Base in Colorado Springs.

"Recognizing the value of public-private collaboration and BENS' groundbreaking partnership work across the county, states and communities are beating a path to our doorstep wanting partnerships of their own," said Lynne Kidder, BENS Senior Vice President, Business Force. "But BENS can't be everywhere. So in places like Denver our unique expertise and guidance can help local leaders and companies build their own public-private partnerships to deal with disasters."

Aiming for a public launch in early 2008, one of the Colorado partnership's first projects will be helping Denver improve emergency communications before it hosts August's Democratic National Convention.

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### **BENS Works: Business Sense for National Security**

**Into the Labyrinth: Pentagon Purchasing** – In keeping with BENS' long-standing commitment to spending defense dollars wisely, we're proud to announce our latest proposal—a partnership with the Pentagon to expose the hidden but very real costs of the labyrinthine defense acquisition system. Specifically, BENS will work with the Defense Information Systems Agency to help the Pentagon identify and quantify—and recommend reforms to address—the unintended costs of laws, rules, regulations and bureaucracies that slow down the process and drive up the cost of buying cutting-edge information technologies and services. Scheduled to begin within a month, the project will conclude with a final report by March 2008.

**Thinking Anew, Acting Anew** – When he became the new BENS chairman in May, Joe Robert called for a "new era of growth" to meet "the increasing number of requests for our assistance." At their Nov. 16 meeting in New York City, the Board of Directors took three key steps toward realizing those goals:

- First, changes to BENS' bylaws, including streamlined decision-making, will allow BENS to more quickly consider and seize new opportunities (read the full bylaws at [http://www.bens.org/mis\\_support/BENS\\_bylaws.pdf](http://www.bens.org/mis_support/BENS_bylaws.pdf));

- Second, every BENS region now has a seat on the Board's agenda-setting Policy Committee, which now comprises Kansas City's Landon Rowland (chair), Paul Stern of Washington (vice chair), Chris Melton of Georgia, Steve McClellan of San Francisco, Bill Murdy of Texas, and New York's Bill Rouhana;
- Third, the Board elected—and enthusiastically welcomed—four new members: Michael Galvin of Washington, president of Harrison Street Real Estate Capital LLC; Steve McClellan of Golden Gate Advisors; Texas' Bob Utley, chairman of the Utley Group; and Edwin Wahlen of Georgia, Managing Partner at Cravey, Green and Wahlen, Inc.

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## Business Force News

**New Aid for New Jersey** – As home to the Statue of Liberty – not to mention terminus of the Holland and Lincoln Tunnels – Hudson County, New Jersey is no less a target for terrorism than its nearby neighbor Manhattan. So BENS is proud to announce that the county's emergency response system is uniting with the New Jersey Business Force. Among the highlights of the new partnership, signed in November, the NJBF's Business Operations Center will be connected to the county's Emergency Operations Center, member companies will join in emergency drills, and the county will gain access to BENS' Business Response Network of disaster resources. Special thanks to Dr. Michael Chumer, a professor at NJBF member New Jersey Institute of Technology, for championing this new partnership.

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## Event Highlights and BENS Developments

**BENS in the Balkans: "One Big Match"** – Nearly a decade after the last of the Balkan wars, "the forces that caused the upheavals of the 1990s are not yet extinguished," and it could only take the "one big match" of Kosovo to re-ignite a regional fire in Southeast Europe. That was among the key conclusions of an eight-member BENS delegation, led by CEO Chuck Boyd, after their Oct. 13-20 visit to Kosovo, Serbia, Bosnia, Macedonia and Romania. With Kosovo expected to declare independence from Serbia in the coming months, the delegation witnessed two scenes in Sarajevo that illustrated both the region's progress and parochialism: one, a reception where Bosnian military officers of different religions and ethnicities socialized amiably; another, a meeting where the three Bosnian presidents—one Muslim, one Serb, one Croat—largely talked past one another. "The U.S. must either renew its commitment," the delegation reported, "or convince the Europeans that their singular influence and leadership is greatly needed." Read the trip report online at [http://www.bens.org/mis\\_support/EUCOMreport\\_110107.pdf](http://www.bens.org/mis_support/EUCOMreport_110107.pdf).

**Carried Away** – From the thrill of a carrier landing to a military reception at the famed Hotel Del Coronado, seven BENS members aren't likely to forget their November 6-7 trip to San Diego. Visiting the *Nimitz*-class carrier *USS Abraham Lincoln*, a veteran of both the Iraq war and Indian Ocean tsunami relief effort, the members received special briefings from Rear Adm. Scott Van Buskirk, commander of Carrier Strike Group 9, and ship's Captain Patrick Hall. BENS intends to make both West and East Coast carrier visits an annual part of our schedule in 2008 and beyond.

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## Upcoming Events

- **San Francisco – Lunch Briefing on Bay Area Port Security by U.S. Coast Guard and Port of Oakland**, Dec. 4, 12 p.m. Contact Peter Ohtaki at (650) 328-0300 or [pohtaki@bens.org](mailto:pohtaki@bens.org).
- **Washington, DC – BENS Holiday Open House**, Dec. 5, 5:30-7:30 p.m., BENS HQ. Contact Lisa Jackson at (202) 296-2125 or [ljackson@bens.org](mailto:ljackson@bens.org).

- **Atlanta – BENS/USO Volunteer Days** – Welcome Home the Troops at Hartsfield/Jackson International Airport, Dec. 6. Contact Aimee Yrlas Simpson at (404) 220-1268 or [ayrlassimpson@bens.org](mailto:ayrlassimpson@bens.org).
- **Washington, DC – BENS Intelligence Transformation Working Group Conference Call**, Dec. 11, 4 p.m. Eastern. Contact Danielle Camner Lindholm at (202) 296-2125 or [dcamner@bens.org](mailto:dcamner@bens.org).
- **Washington, DC – Lunch with Rear Adm. Gerald Mauer**, Commandant of the Industrial College of the Armed Forces, Dec. 13, 12-2 p.m., BENS HQ. Contact Steve Ewell at (202) 296-2125 or [sewell@bens.org](mailto:sewell@bens.org).
- **Washington, DC – Reception with Bosnian Minister of Defense Selmo Cikotić**, Dec. 18, 5-7:30 p.m., Army-Navy Club. Contact Steve Ewell at (202) 296-2125 or [sewell@bens.org](mailto:sewell@bens.org).
- **Kansas City – Breakfast with Gen. Scott Wallace**, Commanding General, U.S. Army Training & Doctrine Command, Jan. 9, 7:30 a.m., River Club. Contact William Lawson at (816) 842-1778 or [wlawson@bens.org](mailto:wlawson@bens.org).
- **Atlanta – Lunch with Dr. Stephen Flynn**, homeland security expert and Senior Fellow for National Security Studies, Council on Foreign Relations, Jan. 17. Contact Aimee Yrlas Simpson at (404) 220-1268 or [ayrlassimpson@bens.org](mailto:ayrlassimpson@bens.org).
- **Kansas City – Breakfast with Gen. James Jones, USMC (Ret.)**, former Supreme Allied Commander Europe & President/CEO Institute for 21st Century Energy, Jan. 25, 7:30 a.m., River Club. Contact William Lawson at (816) 842-1778 or [wlawson@bens.org](mailto:wlawson@bens.org).
- **Atlanta – Lunch with Lt. Gen. Russel Honore, USA (Ret.)**, commander of Joint Task Force Katrina, Feb. 20. Contact Aimee Yrlas Simpson at (404) 220-1268 or [ayrlassimpson@bens.org](mailto:ayrlassimpson@bens.org).
- **Dallas – Lunch with Steven Emerson**, terrorism expert and author of *Jihad Incorporated*, Feb. 21. Contact Matthew Elias at (214) 315-2576 or [melias@bens.org](mailto:melias@bens.org).