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UPDATE

Business Executives For National Security

A New Chapter of BENS Leadership

BENS Welcomes Army Gen. Montgomery Meigs as Next CEO

He's led U.S. troops in Vietnam, the Persian Gulf and Bosnia. He's directed the military's efforts to combat deadly roadside bombs in Iraq. And he's spent time in the classroom, both as a student and teacher, helping to build the next generation of national security experts. Now, former U.S. Army Gen. Montgomery C. Meigs has a new assignment: leading American business executives to improve national security with private-sector expertise and innovation.

On Jan. 1, 2010, Gen. Meigs will become the next BENS President & CEO as U.S. Air Force Gen. Chuck Boyd (Ret.) steps down at the end of the year after more than seven years on the job. Gen. Boyd will continue offering his experience and expertise to BENS as a member of the Board of Directors.

A West Point graduate, Gen. Meigs spent 35 years in the Army, including as a reconnaissance troop commander in Vietnam and leading the Iron Brigade of the 1st Armored Division in Desert Storm. He was the Commander of the U.S. Army in Europe from 1998 through 2002 and Commander of NATO's Peacekeeping Force in Bosnia from 1998 through 1999. He served for two years (2006-2008) as director of the Joint Improvised Explosive Device Defeat Organization (JIEDDO), where he assisted combat units in Iraq and Afghanistan in countering Improvised Explosive Devices. Gen. Meigs holds a Ph.D. in history and has taught at Syracuse University and Georgetown University's School of Foreign Service. His awards include the Purple Heart and Bronze Star with "V" Device.

"Gen. Meigs' vast experience and expertise on national security challenges make him an excellent choice to carry forward the great work BENS has accomplished under Gen. Boyd," BENS Chairman Joe Robert said. "We look forward to the energy and insight Gen. Meigs will bring to the job."

BENS Works: Business Sense for National Security

BENS Stepping Up for Veterans — Warrior Gateway—the BENS-led effort to help military veterans reenter civilian life—took center stage on Nov. 12 at the U.S. Chamber of Commerce's "Business Steps Up: Hiring Our Heroes" event in Washington, D.C. BENS President & CEO Chuck Boyd and Warrior Gateway Project Manager Devin Holmes presented the latest on the project to an audience of 240. The event—the Chamber's second annual which focuses on what the business community can do to help our heroes find new careers—also featured keynote addresses from Labor Department Secretary Hilda Solis and Veterans Affairs Secretary Eric Shinseki. View a [webcast](#) and [photos](#) of the event. In other Warrior Gateway news, the global charity Easter Seals recently joined the project team to provide ground-level community managers to oversee content of the Warrior Gateway website, which is set to launch early in 2010.

Policy on the Menu — Over thirty BENS Southeast members got the lowdown on BENS efforts to improve America's security at a special programs and policy luncheon on Nov. 19 in Atlanta. BENS President & CEO Chuck Boyd provided an overview of the process for how members can give input on

new projects and detailed current and upcoming efforts, including Warrior Gateway, Business Response Task Force II, Energy Security and Strategic Engagements with military commands. Member Dan Reardon gave an update on Southeast's mentoring partnership with the Army's Installation and Management Command. For information on how you can get involved, contact Allison Cheatham at acheatham@bens.org.

Event Highlights and BENS Developments

Clinton: BENS on the "Cutting Edge" — BENS is "a cutting-edge example of what can be done when the business community becomes involved in supporting our diplomatic and development efforts alongside our defense," Secretary of State Hillary Clinton said at the BENS Eisenhower Award black-tie gala in her honor in New York City on Nov. 30. With nearly 500 in attendance, Sec. Clinton was lauded by emcee Charlie Rose as "a leader who has served our nation with dedication and distinction for nearly four decades." Keynote speaker Former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger gave insight on the decision-making challenges faced by policymakers and also took questions from the audience. [Click here](#) for a video and transcript of Sec. Clinton's remarks. [Click here](#) for a transcript of Sec. Kissinger's remarks.

Industry—The Troops Need It — A strong U.S. industrial base is needed to supply our troops with the weapons and tools they need, said Dr. James Miller, Principal Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Policy, on Nov. 18 when he gave a BENS audience of 20 an overview of the Defense Department's upcoming strategic reviews, including the Quadrennial Defense Review, Nuclear Posture Review, Space Posture Review and Ballistic Missile Defense Review. The reviews, which are due to Congress in early 2010, will set national defense strategy for the next four years. Dr. Miller also emphasized the importance of rebalancing and reforming U.S. military forces to meet today's threats by investing in new technology and weapons.

BENS on the Mediterranean — Seven BENS members traveled to the Middle East and Southeastern Europe Oct. 25-31 to give U.S. European Command Commander Adm. James Stavridis a business-minded perspective on three countries in his area of responsibility: Israel, Turkey and Albania. After meeting with U.S. ambassadors in all three countries as well as with Israel's Speaker of the Knesset, the Albanian prime minister and Turkey's Defense Minister and top European Union negotiator, members noted the need for more trade between the U.S. and Turkey and that Albania has great potential but must develop its legal system and infrastructure. To learn more about the trip, contact Reggie Gibbs at rgibbs@bens.org.

Upcoming Events

- **Atlanta** – Member social hosted by Nick Pierce, BENS Southeast Membership Committee Chairman, Dec. 16, 5:30 p.m., St. Regis Hotel, Buckhead. Contact Allison Cheatham at acheatham@bens.org.
- **Atlanta** – Reception and dinner with Gen. David Petraeus, Commander, U.S. Central Command, Jan. 20, time and location TBD. Contact Allison Cheatham at acheatham@bens.org.
- **Dallas** – Lunch with retired CIA operative Milt Bearden, Jan. 20, 11:45 a.m., Rosewood Crescent Hotel. Contact Matthew Elias at (214) 315-2576 or melias@bens.org.
- **Washington DC** – Defense Logistics Modernization Roundtable, Dec. 8, 10 a.m., BENS, 1030 15th St., Suite 200 East. Contact Susan Maybaumwisniewski at smaybaum@bens.org.
- **Washington DC** – BENS Holiday Open House, Dec. 8, 5:30-7:30 p.m., 1030 15th St., Suite 200 East. Contact Lisa Jackson or Lucia Tyler at holiday@bens.org.