

# Business Executives For National Security UPDATE

February 2004

## Ross Perot to be Honored At Texas Sized Dinner in Dallas

For decades of behind-the-scenes support of American servicemen and women, BENS will honor Ross Perot with the BENS Eisenhower Award at a gala dinner in Dallas, TX. The March 25, 2004 event – the largest in BENS' history – will be a truly spectacular evening with 1,200-1,500 guests and a performance by the U.S. Naval Academy Glee Club. The program will feature those who have personal stories to tell of Ross' indefatigable support when other means were not available. Invited guests include the nation's most senior military leaders, Vietnam POWs, Medal of Honor recipients, and young men and women who are today serving in Iraq and Afghanistan. For more information, contact Steve Ewell at 202-296-2125 or [sewell@bens.org](mailto:sewell@bens.org).

## Business Force Movements

---

**KCBF Gives Missouri the Blues** - Ricin toxin has infected the public food supply, the Midwestern electrical grid has been attacked, and foot and mouth disease is running rampant throughout the nation's stockyards – a crisis orchestrated by BENS' burgeoning Kansas City Business Force (KCBF) to dramatize homeland security vulnerabilities in mid-America.

Fortunately, it's just an exercise. In partnership with Tim Daniel, Missouri's Director of Homeland Security, the Potomac Institute of Public Policy, and the Cerner Corporation, KCBF helped develop and run "Missouri Blues," a disaster scenario designed to test coordination between local, state, and federal agencies and the private sector during local emergencies that have national implications. KCBF members and partners Cerner Corporation, Bayer Animal Health, Midwest Research Institute, TRC Companies, and Bank of America participated in the exercise, each approximating their industry's reactions during such an emergency.

Afterward, Daniel commented, "This exercise is the first of its kind, and it was an eye opener. If the nation is to be truly ready we need to do more exercises designed to test local, state and federal relationships during periods of high stress and crisis."

**Getting Down to Business in Georgia** – The newly minted BENS Georgia Business Force (GBF) is quickly setting the stage for partnerships with Georgia's homeland security offices. This month, the GBF's first member companies - technology consulting firms Accenture, Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu, and broadband services company Gibson Technical Services – enlisted, with more to follow.

In addition, Leo Desrosiers has been hired as Director and Program Manager. Leo, a recently retired Navy commander, last served as the executive officer and director of operations for Task Group 67.0/Fleet Air Keflavik in Iceland. From 1999 until 2002 he successfully served as the executive and commanding officer for the Navy Recruiting District in Atlanta, which under his leadership became the top district in the nation for officer recruiting in 2001.

**NJBF To Take Center Stage** - The U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Industry Forum in Washington, DC will feature a case study of a successful public/private homeland security partnership: *the BENS New Jersey Business Force!* DHS' invitation to participate in this feature panel presentation is testament to the strong working relationship the new department has with BENS. It is also an opportunity to heighten visibility as we work to expand the Business Force in New Jersey and nurture startups in Georgia and Kansas City. Registration info can be found at <http://www.regonline.com/eventinfo.asp?EventId=10845>.

**Making it Official** – The lengthy and intricate process of registering BENS New Jersey Business Force and its logo with the U.S. Trademark Office is being energetically pursued on a pro bono basis by Mitchell E. Radin, a partner in the New York law firm Cowan, DeBaets, Abrahams & Sheppard LLP. The Business Force is a BENS innovation and with Mitchell Radin's help, we are taking the smart business step of protecting its uniqueness.

## BENS Works: The Latest Dispatches From Our Many Policy Fronts

---

**CIA Plan Gets “Six Thumbs Up”** – BENS wrapped up its independent assessment of the CIA’s compensation reform proposal on January 30<sup>th</sup> at CIA headquarters in Washington, DC. On the whole, the Agency’s plan to improve management and enhance mission performance by introducing new professional career tracks, a better performance appraisal process, and pay-for-performance rules received a “thumbs up” from the six member panel. BENS’ 40-page report offered recommendations on implementation of the plan.

**BENS Knows BRAC** - Ever since a BENS member first suggested a way to take the politics out of the base closing process in 1988, BENS has been recognized as one of the nation’s leading authorities on the BRAC base closure process. From Georgia’s *Augusta Chronicle* to Washington’s *Seattle Post Intelligencer*, even half a world away in Japan’s largest newspaper, *Yomiuri Shimbun*, BENS experts have been quoted in dozens of newspapers since the BRAC 2005 process began in December.

This month, the Pentagon will submit to Congress, along with its 2005 budget request, a future force structure vision and the list of criteria it will use to rate bases in preparation for next year’s Base Closure Commission action. As the debate begins on both these items, keep an eye out for BENS’ name in your newspaper.

## Event Highlights and Previews

---

**Skelton: “We are wearing out our Armed Forces!”** – Constant combat rotations, extended deployments in hostile environments, and the frequent call up of Guard and Reserve Forces have put a tremendous strain on our Armed Forces, according to Congressman Ike Skelton, ranking Democrat on the House Armed Services Committee. Speaking to BENS members at a breakfast in Kansas City last month, Skelton warned, “This may cause stress for individuals and families, impact future retention and recruitment, and erode support for the Guard and Reserve amongst employers.”

Skelton also hinted that should the pace continue, the Armed Services Committee might study proposals to increase the size of the Armed Forces. Two days later, Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld authorized a temporary 30,000-troop increase for the U.S. Army.

## In the News

---

**BENS Remembers A Fellow Patriot** – John W. Hechinger, retired Chairman of Hechinger Enterprises and long-time BENS Director, passed away on January 18<sup>th</sup> at his home in Maryland. As one of BENS’ founding members, John was an architect and driving force behind BENS’ 20-year effort to bring common-sense business practices to the Pentagon. His intellect and generosity over the years will be missed as BENS presses forward with this mission.

## Upcoming Events

---

- **February 10, 2004** - Breakfast discussion with Alfonso Martinez-Fonts, Director of the Office of Private Sector Liaison at DHS to discuss the role of the private sector in homeland security. For details contact Steve Ewell at (202) 296-2125 or [sewell@bens.org](mailto:sewell@bens.org).
- **February 18, 2004** - Conversation with Ken Krieg, Director of Program Analysis and Evaluation in the Office of the Secretary of Defense, on approaching business-like changes in DoD’s budgeting, requirements generation, and vetting processes. For details contact Steve Ewell at (202) 296-2125 or [sewell@bens.org](mailto:sewell@bens.org).
- **February 25, 2004** - Lunch discussion with the *Markle Task Force on National Security in the Information Age* to discuss how our intelligence community can better incorporate new technologies into its efforts. Contact Serena Savage at (212) 997-7881 or [bensny@bens.org](mailto:bensny@bens.org).
- **March 9, 2004** – Breakfast discussion with U.S. Coast Guard Commandant Admiral Thomas Collins in Washington, DC to discuss the state of the Coast Guard and its role in homeland security. Contact Steve Ewell at 202-296-2125 or [sewell@bens.org](mailto:sewell@bens.org).
- **March 8-9, 2004** –BENS New Jersey Business Force staff and members will participate in the U.S. Department of Homeland Security Industry Forum at the Wardman Park Marriot Hotel in Washington, DC. See above for details.
- **March 17, 2004** – Lunch roundtable discussion with Admiral James Loy, Deputy Secretary, U.S. Department of Homeland Security in Atlanta. Contact Aimee Yrlas at (404) 220-1135 or [ayrlas@bens.org](mailto:ayrlas@bens.org).
- **March 25, 2004** – Eisenhower Award Dinner honoring H. Ross Perot in Dallas, TX. See above for details. Contact Steve Ewell at 202-296-2125 or [sewell@bens.org](mailto:sewell@bens.org).