

# Business Executives For National Security UPDATE

FEBRUARY 2007

## Taking Iowa By Storm

### *BENS & State Partners Launch Safeguard Iowa Partnership*

Presidential candidates aren't the only ones causing a sensation in Iowa. State political and business leaders came out in force January 29 to welcome BENS' innovative Business Force model to the Hawkeye State.

The Safeguard Iowa Partnership, a public-private coalition, is the first statewide effort to bring business and state agencies together for all stages of disaster management. Organized by BENS, in partnership with the Iowa Business Council, the Partnership will initially focus on improving communications during crises, cataloguing business resources that could aid in emergency response, and building operational links between companies and government.

The initiative has enjoyed the strong support of former Iowa Governor Tom Vilsack and his successor, Governor Chet Culver. "There is enormous capability resident in Iowa's business community that government cannot replicate," said Lieutenant Governor Patty Judge. "We've needed this kind of partnership."

Business and government "share a commitment" to protect their communities, said Iowa Business Council Chairman and Qwest Iowa President Max Phillips. "If we work in isolation, we're guaranteed a weak response."

The Partnership's founding members include Alliant Energy, Deere & Company, Hy-Vee, Iowa Health System, MidAmerican Energy, Pella Corp., Pioneer Hi-Bred International, Principal Financial Group, Rockwell Collins, Ruan Transportation, Vermeer Manufacturing, Wellmark Blue Cross - Blue Shield, three state-run universities, University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics, and multiple state agencies.

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

**Task Force Offers "Post-Katrina Drawing Board"** – Warning that Hurricane Katrina exposed that the nation "is not adequately prepared to deal with major catastrophes," the BENS Business Response Task Force called for "a new dedication to effective public-private partnership" by government and business. In its January 30 final report, *Getting Down to Business*, the Task Force offers specific recommendations to address the "systematic failure of government" to integrate private sector resources into emergency planning. Most importantly, the report, which was sent to all members of Congress and BENS members, calls for giving business a "seat at the table" at all official Emergency Operations Centers and for parallel Business Operations Centers to coordinate public-private collaboration. With this report, Task Force members and BENS will continue working to ensure that our nation is prepared for the next major calamity. The full text – already much-requested by state and federal officials – can be found at <http://www.bens.org/Getting-Down-To-Business.pdf>.

**Oiling the Defense Machine** – Consuming nearly 125 million barrels of oil every year, the Defense Department is the largest single consumer of energy in the United States. And so with near-record fuel prices hitting the military especially hard, BENS is exploring ways to help the Pentagon improve efficiency and reduce its \$11 billion annual energy bill. "This is a classic 'Tail-to-Tooth' issue for them, and us," said BENS President and CEO Chuck Boyd. "The more DoD has to spend on energy, the less they have to spend on their people, operations, and new equipment." As a first step, BENS invites all interested members to attend the Air Force Energy Industry Symposium, March 8-9 in Washington, DC, where the service will discuss its various initiatives for cutting energy demand and boosting alternative supplies for everything from aircraft to infrastructure. For more information, contact Ken Beeks at (202) 296-2125 or [kbeeks@bens.org](mailto:kbeeks@bens.org).

**“Bosnia is No Model for Iraq”**– Contrary to conventional wisdom, the peace agreement that ended the Bosnian war of the 1990’s should not be seen as a model for solving sectarian violence in Iraq, [wrote BENS COO Don Hays in a January 9 op-ed](#) in the *International Herald Tribune*. Hays, who served as U.S. principal deputy high representative in Bosnia-Herzegovina from 2001-2005, warned that Bosnia’s power-sharing government is “hopelessly dysfunctional” because Serbs, Croats and Muslims “do not share a common vision for the country.” Acknowledging that constitutional reforms to promote ethnic coexistence “will not be easy,” he argues that “there is no reason to believe the task is impossible.”

## BUSINESS FORCE NEWS

---

**Do Computers Get Sick Days Too?** – If a contagious disease pandemic struck the nation, confining millions of Americans to their homes, companies would become more dependent than ever on the Internet to maintain operations. But, facing that massive increase in traffic, “Will the Internet Be There When You Need It?” That’s the question the New Jersey Business Force will explore at a February 9 panel discussion in Carlstadt, NJ. Keynote speakers from the event’s co-sponsors include Elizabeth Byrnes, Senior Business Continuity Specialist at AT&T, and Renate Noone, Vice President of Professional Services at SunGard Availability Services. For more information, contact William C. Lowe at (609) 777-3999 or [clowe@bens.org](mailto:clowe@bens.org).

**Sniffing Out Trouble** – With apologies to Los Angeles police and airport officials, it was Marco the bomb-sniffing German Shepherd who almost stole the show at Los Angeles International Airport January 9. LAX Police Chief James Butts and Larry Fetters, Federal Security Director of the Transportation Security Administration, gave eight members of the BENS L.A. Business Force/Homeland Security Advisory Council an extensive look at airport security measures, from screening protocols to the physical security of runways and terminals. But it was Marco’s ability to detect concealed explosives that may have made him BENS’ best new friend. Not to be outdone, Fetters and Butts encouraged members to join them in exploring ways that the Business Force/HSAC can help improve airport security.

## EVENT HIGHLIGHTS AND BENS DEVELOPMENTS

---

**“What Does North Korea Want?”** – Understanding the intentions of the so-called Hermit Kingdom will be a key question when former Secretary of Defense William Perry leads top American and Asian security experts in a February 13 panel discussion in San Francisco, co-sponsored by BENS and the Asia Society. Perry, who also served as a special envoy to North Korea during the Clinton administration, will address “Nuclear North Korea and the Future of Northeast Asian Security” at the Omni Hotel. For more information, contact Peter Ohtaki at (650) 591-7770 or [pohtaki@bens.org](mailto:pohtaki@bens.org).

## UPCOMING EVENTS

---

- **New Jersey** – **“Will the Internet Be There When You Really Need It? A Pandemic Symposium,”** Feb. 9, Carlstadt, NJ. Co-sponsored by SunGard. Contact William C. Lowe at (609) 777-3999 or [clowe@bens.org](mailto:clowe@bens.org).
- **San Francisco** – **Former Defense Secretary William Perry, “Nuclear North Korea and the Future of Northeast Asian Security”** Feb. 13, 8:30a.m.-1p.m., Omni Hotel, San Francisco. Co-sponsored by the Asia Society. Contact Peter Ohtaki at (650) 591-7770 or [pohtaki@bens.org](mailto:pohtaki@bens.org).
- **Washington, DC** – **Lt. Gen. Jack Stultz**, Chief of the Army Reserve and Commanding General, U.S. Army Reserve Command, Feb. 27, 2p.m., BENS DC. Contact Steve Ewell at (202) 296-2125 or [sewell@bens.org](mailto:sewell@bens.org).
- **Atlanta** – **Luncheon with Norman Szydlowski**, Chairman & CEO Colonial Pipeline Company, April 13, 11:30a.m.-1:30p.m., Four Seasons Hotel. Contact Aimee Yrlas Simpson at (404) 220-1268 or [ayrlassimpson@bens.org](mailto:ayrlassimpson@bens.org).
- **Atlanta** – **Visit to Robins Air Force Base**, Nov. 8. Contact Aimee Yrlas Simpson at (404) 220-1268 or [ayrlassimpson@bens.org](mailto:ayrlassimpson@bens.org).