

FEBRUARY 2009

UPDATE

Business Executives For National Security

Cyber-Hackers Attack Military

Military Asks BENS For Private-Sector Perspective

In one of the most serious cyber attacks ever on the U.S. military, a malicious virus in late November infected Defense Department computer systems, including at least one classified network and computers supporting American troops in Iraq and Afghanistan. The electronic breach was so devastating that senior military leaders briefed President George Bush and quickly banned from all defense networks the use of removable storage devices, such as thumb drives, which were suspected as the source of the virus.

In January, the military invited BENS to provide a private-sector perspective on preventing such attacks in the future. At the request of U.S. Strategic Command (USSTRATCOM)—based at Offutt Air Force Base in Omaha, Nebraska, and responsible for the nation's nuclear arsenal and cyber warfare—BENS members joined other industry, academic and military leaders last month to address security challenges posed by removable storage media.

“Coming from the private sector, I was able to bring real-world expertise that compliments the men and women from our armed forces and intelligence communities. The private sector shares very similar threats and vulnerabilities,” said BENS member William J. Brunkhardt, Chairman and Chief Technology Strategist of Global Messaging Solutions, Inc.

Part of a broader month-long project that will propose cyber solutions to senior USSTRATCOM leaders, the conference came on the heels of BENS' and Booz Allen Hamilton's hugely successful cyber simulation in Washington in December, where nearly 200 business, government and military experts explored the ongoing challenge of defending the nation against cyber attack.

BENS Works: Business Sense for National Security

BENS 2009: “Expertise Only You Can Provide” — Helping America's wounded warriors get the care and support they deserve. Reforming the Pentagon's costly and cumbersome acquisition system. Helping the Defense Department—the nation's largest energy consumer—pursue more efficient technologies. Helping the Secret Service retain and care for its agents. These are just some of the new and ongoing BENS initiatives requiring member involvement in 2009. “There is now more than ever a recognition of the need for increased private sector expertise in the national security realm—expertise only you can provide,” said BENS President and CEO Chuck Boyd when emailing the BENS 2009 Policy Agenda to members Jan. 21. To learn more about our agenda and how you can help, click [here](#).

Regional Partnership News

Public Health: “Every Part” Playing a Part — An influenza pandemic sweeps across the nation, sickening or killing thousands. Terrorists launch an anthrax attack in a crowded city, requiring antibiotics for millions within 48 hours. These are some of the most frightening disaster scenarios

facing America. To help the nation prepare for such threats, BENS is working with the Institute of Medicine's Forum on Medical and Public Health Preparedness, which advises the government on national public health issues. Drawing on BENS' partnership experience, companies are sharing their resources and expertise to help shape policies to improve drug stockpiling and distribution, disaster preparedness and communications. In January, BENS and the IOM Forum met to plan workshops for the next year on standards of care during a mass casualty event, medical surge capacity, community preparedness and enabling public-private partnerships. "Planning and preparing for a pandemic influenza requires action by every part of society," said Dr. Craig Vanderwagen, Health and Human Services assistant secretary for preparedness and response.

Event Highlights and BENS Developments

A View of Gitmo — Just days before President Barack Obama ordered the closure of the U.S. military detention camp in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, BENS members heard directly from someone who knows the facility best—its commander, Rear Adm. David Thomas, Commander of Joint Task Force-Guantanamo. Addressing 60 members in Atlanta on Jan. 13 and nearly 40 members in Washington, DC, the next day, Thomas discussed the treatment of detainees and addressed media portrayals of detention operations. "I am proud of the professional job being performed by the men and women under my command," said Thomas, who gained hero status on 9/11 for running back into the Pentagon to help survivors escape.

BENS Advisory Council: Our Loss, America's Gain — The change in administrations has also brought a change in assignments for two BENS Advisory Council members, Gen. James Jones and Gen. Eric Shinseki. President Obama tapped Gen. Jones—former NATO commander and Marine Commandant—to serve as National Security Advisor and Gen. Shinseki—former Army Chief of Staff—to lead the Department of Veterans Affairs. While these two superb leaders' new positions required their resignation from our Advisory Council as well our acquisition reform task force, we know that our loss is truly the nation's gain.

Upcoming Events

- **Atlanta** – Lunch with Milt Bearden, Former Senior CIA Clandestine Services Officer, March 6, 11:30 a.m -1:30 p.m., The Cherokee Town Club, Buckhead. Contact Allison Cheatham at acheatham@bens.org
- **Atlanta** – Cocktail and Hors d'oeuvres with David M. Walker, former Comptroller General of the U.S., April 20, 6:30–8:00 p.m., Location TBD. Contact Allison Cheatham at acheatham@bens.org
- **Dallas** – Lunch with Tom Burbage, Executive Vice President and General Manager F-35 JSF Program Integration, Lockheed Martin Aeronautics Company, Feb. 19. Contact Matthew Elias at 214-315-2576 or melias@bens.org
- **Kansas City** – National Security Award Dinner with Congressman Ike Skelton, April 14, Westin Crown Center. Contact Bill Lawson at wlawson@bens.org
- **Los Angeles** – RAND briefing with Tom LaTourrette: Economic issues and decision-making related to security, March 12, 7:30–9:00 a.m. Contact Tracy Hughes at thughes@bens.org
- **Washington DC** – Presentation on Russia, the Caucasus, NATO and European security issues with Dan Fata, Former Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for European and NATO Policy, Feb. 25, 8:00–10:00 a.m., Ritz-Carlton, Tysons Corner, Va. Contact Steve Ewell at 202-296-2125 or sewell@bens.org