

# Business Executives For National Security UPDATE

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January 2006

## BENS Business Force Goes Hollywood *New Partnership is Formed in Southern California*

No, BENS hasn't been awarded a star on Hollywood's Walk of Fame. But as of this month, the BENS Business Force will be making its mark in Southern California as it assumes management of the Homeland Security Advisory Council (HSAC), a public-private partnership in Los Angeles and Orange Counties. Founded in 2003 by executives Marc Nathanson and Don Sheetz, the advisory council serves as an advisory group to local law enforcement and includes more than 60 members from business, academia, non-profit civic organizations, and public agencies. BENS is pleased to welcome Joe Byrne and Lauren Armistead, who will oversee HASC operations and develop Business Force initiatives locally such as the Business Response Network, which is an online catalogue of private sector assets available in an emergency. With the addition of Southern California, the Business Force concept has now spread to five regions, with more yet to come!

[BENS Works: Business Sense for National Security](#)

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**BENS-Treasury Team Up to Track Terrorist Money** – When the United States goes after the money that funds terrorism, it's the Treasury Department's Financial Crimes Enforcement Network (FinCEN) that goes digging. Now, BENS will be on the case as well. BENS and Treasury are in the final stages of formalizing a new partnership in which BENS members will advise FinCEN on how to enhance its operations with the latest information technologies. With the formal agreement launching this partnership expected to be signed this month, interested BENS members should contact Danielle Camner at (202) 296-2125 or [dcamner@bens.org](mailto:dcamner@bens.org) for more information

**BENS Members Join Battle Against Iraq Roadside Bombs** – Iraqi insurgents planting the roadside bombs that cause half of American casualties in Iraq just got a new enemy – you! A capacity crowd of BENS members and entrepreneurs turned out Dec. 21 in Menlo Park, California for a special briefing and discussion with the Pentagon task force dedicated to defeating improvised explosive devices (IEDs). Thanks to BENS member Michael Gaulke for hosting this event. BENS will continue to serve as a conduit for the private sector to the military as it pursues this urgent mission. Members interested in attending the task force's Jan. 24 industry forum should contact BENS for information at (202) 296-2125.

**More Security, Less Bureaucracy** – After a year of vocal BENS advocacy, Congress last month approved much-needed reforms to the Cooperative Threat Reduction (CTR) program that destroys Cold War weapons of mass destruction in the former Soviet Union. In op-eds public letters, and meetings with members of Congress, BENS argued that a series of bureaucratic procedures requiring annual presidential certification of Russian activities risked undermining this critical program. By granting the president permanent authority to waive these conditions in the interest of national security, Congress reduced the chances of future disruptions to the program and reduced the likelihood that that the world's most dangerous weapons will fall into the hands of terrorists.

**BENS: Back from Iraq** – This fall, for the third time in two years, a delegation of BENS members visited Iraq to view the situation on the ground at the invitation of U.S. Central Command chief Gen. John Abizaid. Upon their return, members briefed Defense Department officials and members of Congress from both parties about what they saw and offered advice. The trip was also the subject of a column published last month by *National Review* founder William F. Buckley, in which he praised members' judgment and patriotism.

[Business Force News](#)

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**BENS Business Force hailed as a "National Model"** – BENS' innovative Business Force partnerships continue to attract national attraction and rave reviews. BENS President and CEO Chuck Boyd briefed Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff last month on Business Force initiatives. Meanwhile in northern California, more than 30

public and private representatives attended a summit to plan the next steps of the Bay Area Business Force. And in a Dec. 17 article, the *National Journal* highlighted the Business Force as a “national model” for public-private homeland security partnerships. Visit the BENS Business Force website to read the National Journal article.

#### EVENT HIGHLIGHTS AND BENS DEVELOPMENTS

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**Always Remember**—Addressing BENS members during a Dec. 12 breakfast in Kansas City, Lt. Gen. David Petraeus implored those in attendance never to forget the soldiers who fall while in uniform. Petraeus, commanding general of Ft. Leavenworth and named recently by *US News and World Report* as one of America’s Top 25 leaders, spoke extensively about his time in charge of training Iraqi security forces. He told assembled members and guests that progress has been made, but serious challenges remain in the transition to Iraqi control of the country.

**Coming Attractions** – We’re kicking off the New Year by inviting you to hear from some of the most influential and knowledgeable individuals in the national security arena. Treasury Undersecretary **Stuart Levey** visits with BENS members in D.C. on Jan. 11 and Army Secretary **Francis Harvey** drops by on Jan. 19. BENS in New York sees two events in three days with former CIA Deputy Director **John McLaughlin** stopping by on Jan. 18 and Maj. Gen. **Doug Lute** of U.S. Central Command visiting on Jan. 20.

**Name Game** – A business leader’s best asset is his or her good name. And one of BENS’ best assets – and a crucial recruiting tool – is your good name. New members, please inform us if you want your name to appear. Current members, if any listed information is inaccurate, please let us know. It is BENS policy to remove names from the website if a member requests it. All responses can be sent to Michael Lucinski at [mlucinski@bens.org](mailto:mlucinski@bens.org).

**The Ratings Are In** – Charity Navigator – one of the Internet's premier charity watchdogs -- has given BENS an overall rating of three stars out of four for meeting or exceeding industry standards and performance. Our efficiency rating is four stars out of four. BENS will always strive to maximize our members' financial contributions and bring the best of business to our national security apparatus.

#### Upcoming Events

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- **Washington, D.C.** – Event with **Stuart Levey, Treasury Undersecretary**, Jan. 11. Contact Steve Ewell at (202) 296-2125 or [sewell@bens.org](mailto:sewell@bens.org).
- **New York City** – Lunch with **John McLaughlin, former Deputy CIA Director**, Jan. 18. Contact Nancy Hart at (866) 475-2085 or [nhart@bens.org](mailto:nhart@bens.org).
- **Washington, D.C.** – Lunch with **Francis Harvey, Secretary of the Army**, Jan. 19. Contact Steve Ewell at (202) 296-2125 or [sewell@bens.org](mailto:sewell@bens.org).
- **New York City** – Breakfast with **Maj. Gen. Doug Lute, Chief of Operations, U.S. Central Command**, Jan. 20. Contact Nancy Hart at (866) 475-2085 or [nhart@bens.org](mailto:nhart@bens.org).
- **New York City** – Breakfast with **Lt. Gen. David Petraeus, Commanding General, Ft. Leavenworth**, Feb. 3. Contact Nancy Hart at (866) 475-2085 or [nhart@bens.org](mailto:nhart@bens.org).
- **Atlanta** – Lunch with **U.S. Senator Johnny Isakson**, Feb. 6. Contact Aimee Yrlas at (404) 220-1268 or [ayrlas@bens.org](mailto:ayrlas@bens.org).
- **Atlanta** – Breakfast with **Lt. Gen. Russel Honore, commanding general, First United States Army**, Feb. 21. Contact Aimee Yrlas at (404) 220-1268 or [ayrlas@bens.org](mailto:ayrlas@bens.org).
- **Kansas City** – Dinner with **Gen. Richard Myers (Ret.)**, former Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff, Feb. 22, The River Club. Contact Bill Lawson at (816) 842-1778 or [wlawson@bens.org](mailto:wlawson@bens.org).
- **New York City** – Lunch with **NYPD Commissioner Ray Kelly**, April 4. Contact Nancy Hart at (866) 475-2085 or [nhart@bens.org](mailto:nhart@bens.org).
- **Atlanta** – Luncheon with **Steven Emerson, founder, The Investigative Project**, April 14. Contact Aimee Yrlas at (404) 220-1268 or [ayrlas@bens.org](mailto:ayrlas@bens.org).