

Business Executives For National Security **UPDATE**

JANUARY 2007

A “Present to the World”

In its 15th Year, a BENS-Backed Program Secures Nuclear “Holy Grail”

One U.S. official called it a “present to the world” – a secret U.S.-Russian-German mission in December to remove and secure nearly 600 pounds of highly enriched uranium that had been abandoned in a former East German research laboratory after the collapse of the Soviet Union.

A tempting target for terrorists, the uranium – described as a nuclear “Holy Grail” because it was safe enough to be carried by hand yet could build several nuclear bombs – is now under guard at a Russian facility where security has been bolstered with \$62 million in U.S-funded upgrades. Both those upgrades and the removal were done under the umbrella of the landmark Nunn-Lugar program.

The December mission was also a fitting commemoration of the 15th anniversary of Nunn-Lugar, long championed by BENS for destroying or deactivating thousands of nuclear weapons and missiles in the former Soviet Union. Senator Richard Lugar, a co-founder of the initiative, [recently praised BENS](#) for 15 years of “constant encouragement, inspiration and excellent new ideas” in support of this innovative program. Encouraged by our members, inspired by our business expertise, BENS looks forward to sustaining and strengthening Nunn-Lugar’s critical efforts for many years to come.

BENS WORKS: BUSINESS SENSE FOR NATIONAL SECURITY

Coming Soon: Mission Possible – After more than seven months of deliberations and debate, the BENS Business Response Task Force will issue its formal report on how the private sector can and should help federal, state, and local governments respond to future national emergencies, whether natural or manmade. The report, to be sent to the 110th Congress after it convenes in January, will offer specific recommendations from the nearly two dozen executives and experts who comprised the Task Force as well as from interviews of more than 100 companies and individuals who responded to the devastating hurricanes of 2005. Throughout the extensive briefing process of federal departments and agencies, the Task Force findings and recommendations have been well received. Coming soon to all BENS members: a copy of the full Task Force report following its official release.

Overseas Crises Get The BENS Touch – When American lives are at stake overseas, it falls to the State Department to get our citizens out safely – even if it’s not known how many are in-country or where they are. To improve their abilities in this important mission, department officials are eagerly working with BENS to develop a project, focusing on studying and applying best practices in business approaches to crisis management for a global organization. Look for more details in the coming months.

BUSINESS FORCE NEWS

Storm Surge Suppressors – The December 13 catastrophe was simulated, but the results were real as the Georgia Business Force’s Business Operations Center (BOC) weathered its first major test. Twenty BOC companies were directly involved in state response efforts during the Georgia Emergency Management Agency’s HURREX 2 exercise, which imagined a Category 4 hurricane striking near Savannah. Across the state, forward-deployed companies like BellSouth and FedEx relayed critical disaster intelligence to state officials, while other member companies – including Cisco Systems, Coca-Cola, Southern Company, and Wachovia – helped coordinate the private sector response and ensure business continuity. Government in turn provided business with important information and assistance, including expedited access to the disaster area for critical infrastructure and service companies. That two-way flow of information and the building of relationships between private and public officials made HURREX 2 a useful tool for refining BOC operations procedures and a strong success for both the BENS Georgia Business Force and its Georgia partners.

EVENT HIGHLIGHTS AND BENS DEVELOPMENTS

Energized for a Challenge – It’s “the national security and national economic issue of our time.” That’s how FedEx founder and chief executive and BENS member Fred Smith described America’s struggle for energy security in his keynote address at November’s Eisenhower Awards gala in New York City. Reducing the nation’s dependence on foreign oil was also the focus of the [December report of the Energy Security Leadership Council](#), of which Smith serves as a co-chair. BENS will address this pressing national security issue in 2007.

Standing Up in Dallas – BENS is pleased to welcome Matthew P. Elias as the new director of the BENS Texas regional office. Most recently a department head with Guidestone Financial Resources of Dallas, Matthew is a Naval Academy graduate with more than 20 years of service, including tours on the USS *Midway* and on the Chief of Naval Operations’ staff at the Pentagon. He also holds an MPA from Harvard in Strategic Management, International Policy and Institutions. Matthew’s blend of business expertise and military experience makes him an excellent fit with BENS’ mission of bringing private-sector sense to national security challenges. He can be contacted at melias@bens.org beginning January 8.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **Washington, DC – Lt. Gen. Steven Blum**, Chief of the National Guard Bureau, Jan. 4, 2p.m., Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. Contact Steve Ewell at (202) 296-2125 or sewell@bens.org.
- **New Jersey – Workshop on Business Continuity Planning**, Jan. 16, Trenton. Sponsored by New Jersey State AFL-CIO. Contact William C. Lowe at (609) 777-3999 or wlowe@bens.org.
- **Los Angeles – Briefing/tour of Key Security Points, Los Angeles International Airport**, Jan. 19. Contact Joe Byrne at (310) 551-2815 or jbyrne@hsac.bens.org.
- **New Jersey – “Will the Internet Be There When You Really Need It? A Pandemic Symposium,”** Feb. 9, Carlstadt, NJ. Co-sponsored by SunGard. Contact Hank Straub or William C. Lowe at (609) 777-3999 or hstraub@bens.org or wlowe@bens.org.