

JANUARY 2009

# UPDATE

Business Executives For National Security

## Fulfilling a “Shared Responsibility”

### *BENS Brings Business Expertise to Cyber Security Challenge*

Last month in Washington, DC, BENS brought together top government and industry leaders for Cyber Strategic Inquiry 2008 – a simulation event in which the nation’s computer networks suffer from a wave of malicious cyber attacks. By the end of the two-day gathering, participants reached a troubling conclusion: The United States is dangerously unprepared.

“We’re way behind where we need to be now,” said Rep. James Langevin (R.I.), chairman of the homeland security subcommittee on cyber security, who attended the simulation along with Rep. Dutch Ruppersberger (Md.), chairman of the intelligence subcommittee on technical intelligence. “There isn’t a response or a game plan,” added Mark Gerencser, who spearheaded the event with BENS, where he is a board member, and Booz Allen Hamilton, where he’s a Senior Vice President.

Noting that much of the nation’s information network is owned and operated by the private sector, Secretary of Homeland Security Michael Chertoff told the nearly 200 attendees that cyber security is not exclusively a government task. “It is a shared responsibility,” he said, adding, “We are going to have to work with others in order to make this happen.” It is estimated that U.S. companies have lost billions in intellectual property because of cyber attacks.

Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Gen. James Cartwright, Sprint CEO and BENS member Dan Hesse and SunGard CEO and BENS Board member Cristobal Conde also gave keynote speeches addressing cyber security challenges. The simulation drew major media coverage from CNN, ABC and Reuters, as well as several other news outlets. Visit <http://abcnews.go.com/TheLaw/Story?id=6491376&page=1> and [http://news.yahoo.com/s/nm/20081219/us\\_nm/us\\_security\\_usa\\_cyber/print](http://news.yahoo.com/s/nm/20081219/us_nm/us_security_usa_cyber/print) to see news stories. “Going forward, BENS will tighten its focus on cyber security through increased engagement with the new administration and Congress,” said BENS CEO Gen. Chuck Boyd.

---

### **BENS Works: Business Sense for National Security**

**Missouri: Click Here For Disaster Aid** — When Hurricane Gustav threatened the Gulf Coast last year, the BENS Aidmatrix portal helped connect private transportation resources to emergency management officials. Now, BENS is working to deploy a disaster-response tool based on the Aidmatrix Network in Missouri, helping the state coordinate the development of the Missouri Emergency Resource Registry (MERR), which will quickly connect emergency management personnel to needed private sector resources during a catastrophic event. Similar networks have also played an important role in helping relief efforts during disasters in Iowa and California. The network allows officials to tap into private sector resources, including volunteers, equipment, goods and services. Missouri’s registry is slated to be up and running by May.

---

## Regional Partnership News

**Georgia: Mentoring on Our Mind** — Imagine being responsible for every aspect of an Army installation, from barracks to family housing to food service to facility maintenance. Now imagine performing this mission in a tightening budget environment and you get a sense of the challenge faced every day by the Army Installation Management Command Southeast (IMCOM-SE). To help the Army make the most of every dollar, Atlanta-based BENS Southeast is connecting the command's civilian leaders with BENS members who have faced similar challenges in the private sector. Launched in November, this pilot mentoring project allows members to share their wide-ranging management experience, from marketing, advertising and transportation to human resources and natural resources. If successful, the program may expand to other IMCOM installations and regions.

---

## Event Highlights and BENS Developments

**Combating Commercial Espionage** — With commercial espionage against American companies on the rise, BENS is connecting concerned executives with the intelligence officials who know the threat best. On Dec. 5, Dr. Joel Brenner, the top counterintelligence official in the Office of the Director of National Intelligence, addressed BENS members in New York City in what was his third appearance before a BENS audience. Dr. Brenner, joined by agents from the FBI's cyber division, warned that foreign intelligence organizations (particularly those of China and Russia) are aggressively targeting American business leaders via electronic means, including during their travels abroad. Brenner, who is interested in addressing other BENS audiences around the country, outlined specific steps organizations can take to protect their sensitive information against cyber spies, and encouraged the audience to review his information security tips for business travelers at <http://www.ncix.gov/publications/reports/traveltips.pdf>

**Helping Veterans: It's Our Business** — What could your business do to help veterans recovering from post-traumatic stress disorder? Hire them. That was the message to some 50 BENS members in Dallas on Dec. 9 from Nate Self, a former Army Ranger Captain and Silver Star-veteran of Afghanistan and Iraq and author of *Two Wars: One Hero's Fight on Two Fronts – Abroad and Within*. Sharing his own experiences with PTSD, Self noted that, with treatment, most veterans affected by the disorder can fully recover and again lead normal, productive lives. Introduced by former Air Force Pilot and Dallas Cowboy Chad Hennings, Self also riveted the audience with his first-hand account of his unit's battle in 2002 against al Qaeda and Taliban forces in the rugged snow-capped mountains of eastern Afghanistan, the highest-altitude battle ever fought by U.S. troops.

---

## Upcoming Events

- **Kansas City** – National Security Award Dinner with Congressman Ike Skelton, April 14, Westin Crown Center, Kansas City, Contact Bill Lawson at [wlawson@bens.org](mailto:wlawson@bens.org)
- **Los Angeles** – Personal Emergency Preparedness Seminar with Expert Panel, including Lucy Jones, Scientist-In-Charge of the United States Geological Survey and Matt Bettenhausen, Acting Secretary, California Emergency Management Agency, Jan. 30, 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m., West Los Angeles, location TBA. Contact Tracy Hughes at [thughes@hsac.bens.org](mailto:thughes@hsac.bens.org)
- **San Francisco** – Panel Discussion on "The Future of Democracy in Northeast Asia," Jan. 20, 6:00 – 7:30 p.m. (5:30 p.m. registration), World Affairs Council Auditorium, 312 Sutter St. Suite 200. BENS members will receive the \$5 member rate by calling 415-421-8707. Contact Kathy Denzer at [kdenzer@bens.org](mailto:kdenzer@bens.org) or 415-536-1617 for more information.

Questions or comments? Contact Cliff Ainsworth at (202) 296-2125 or [cainsworth@bens.org](mailto:cainsworth@bens.org)

- **Washington DC** – Lunch with Rear Adm. David Thomas, Commander of Joint Task Force-GTMO, Jan. 14, noon-1:30 p.m., PRTM, 1750 Pennsylvania Ave, NW 10th Floor, Washington, DC. Contact Steve Ewell at 202-296-2125 or [sewell@bens.org](mailto:sewell@bens.org)
- **Washington DC** – Presentation on Russia, the Caucuses, 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., location TBD in Tysons Corner, Va. Contact Steve Ewell at 202-296-2125 or [sewell@bens.org](mailto:sewell@bens.org)