

JANUARY 2010

UPDATE

Business Executives For National Security

“A Solid Organization”

Gen. Montgomery Meigs Takes BENS Helm

The following is a message from BENS' new President and CEO, Gen. Montgomery Meigs, USA Ret.:

In joining BENS this week, let me first make it clear how honored I am to have been selected by the Board as CEO. I am very lucky to be following such a strong leader in Chuck Boyd. He has brought BENS to a position where it has become a national institution. We all owe him a great deal of thanks for that.

The experience of numerous changes of command in the military makes me reluctant at this point to have any visionary ideas. As a solid organization with very enthusiastic and committed staff, energized members and a wise and committed Board, BENS is in good shape. I plan to spend the first thirty to sixty days visiting the outlying communities that support our corporation, getting feedback on what our members see as the way ahead. What can and should we do better? We need to find the right balance between setting up the Warrior Gateway and helping address the nation's security in other areas. With challenges such as cyber security, the national debt and intelligence operations, in what areas must we attempt to develop and encourage better practices in the business of national security?

In a bit less than two months I will sit down with the Executive Committee of the Board and share with them my thoughts on the way ahead. I look forward to meeting as many of you as possible in my coming travels and welcome your ideas.

BENS Works: Business Sense for National Security

Logistics: The Future of National Security — Meeting the wide array of future national security challenges will depend on a well-oiled logistics operation—efficiently moving resources around the globe to support an increasingly expeditionary military force. That was the message from the Hon. Jacques Gansler at a Dec. 8 BENS roundtable discussion on defense logistics modernization in Washington, D.C. Gansler, a public policy professor at the University of Maryland, joined Randy Fowler, Assistant Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Materiel Readiness, and Lou Kratz, Lockheed Martin Vice President and Managing Director of Logistics & Sustainment, along with a group of 18 BENS members and experts to discuss how business sense can help the military overcome logistics challenges. The roundtable was the first in a series that will lay the foundation for a follow-up project to the BENS 2001 Tail-to-Tooth Commission. To get involved, contact Paul Taibl at ptaibl@bens.org.

A Boost for CTR — A successful program long championed by BENS got a boost in December with

Congress' and President Obama's approval of the defense appropriations bill. The legislation allocated nearly \$425 million to the Cooperative Threat Reduction program—also known as Nunn-Lugar—which BENS has for years advocated as a safe and effective way to eliminate nuclear, chemical and other weapons in countries of the Former Soviet Union. A mainstay of the BENS non-proliferation agenda, Nunn-Lugar is credited with dismantling over 7,500 nuclear warheads and hundreds of other weapons that now have no chance of falling into the wrong hands.

Event Highlights and BENS Developments

Investing In Disarmament — If North Korea wants to create a positive foreign investment climate, it must end its nuclear weapons program. This message was delivered by a small group of BENS members to high-level North Korean government officials in BENS' first-ever trip to the country Dec. 14-17. While in the capital Pyongyang, members held talks with the country's second-highest ranking official, Kim Yong-nam, Chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Assembly, as well as Cabinet-level Ministers of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade and Electric Power Industry. The BENS group also toured factories and numerous cultural and education facilities. To view photos from the trip, [click here](#). Visit the BENS website, www.bens.org, for news on the trip.

Upcoming Events

- **Atlanta** – Reception and dinner with Gen. David Petraeus, Commander, U.S. Central Command, Jan. 20, 5:30-8 p.m., Piedmont Driving Club. Contact Allison Cheatham at acheatham@bens.org.
- **Dallas** – Lunch with retired CIA officer Milt Bearden, Jan. 20, 11:45 a.m., Rosewood Crescent Hotel. Contact Matthew Elias at (214) 315-2576 or melias@bens.org.