



The Cornerstone of American Resilience

BENS Advances Public-Private Partnership Agenda

What do H1N1 flu, an economic recession and the threat of bioterrorism have in common? They are all factors driving an unprecedented focus on public-private partnerships — government and business working together to tackle today's most pressing national security threats. In the midst of this development, BENS is using its seven years' experience in building resilience-focused partnerships to advance more effective public-private collaboration — the cornerstone of American resilience.

As the nation expands its preparedness efforts for the H1N1 flu virus and other public health emergencies, BENS is working with government partners — including Health and Human Services and the Centers for Disease Control — on a range of issues, from mobilizing local businesses to help manage public health emergencies, to addressing legal, regulatory and cultural barriers to collaboration. At a June 10 workshop sponsored by the Institute of Medicine, medical and public health professionals widely recognized they will need the active participation of businesses to meet the challenges posed by a severe flu pandemic — or to distribute and dispense medical countermeasures in the event of bioterrorism.

As BENS continues its leadership in this arena, it also recognizes the importance of building on the success of many different public-private partnership programs — not just its own. To that end, BENS is championing a national public benefit organization (PBO) that would serve as a neutral facilitator and trusted source of information and expertise for business, government, civic leaders and private organizations who want to establish public-private partnerships. The proposal — created by a BENS-convened coalition of homeland security professionals — has garnered widespread support from national professional organizations, federal officials, large businesses and scores of state and local leaders. For more information, [read the full proposal](#).

BENS Works: Business Sense for National Security

Preparing for a Quake, BENS Style — If a major earthquake hits San Francisco, area businesses are now better prepared to respond and get back online, thanks to the BENS Bay Area Partnership. The partnership co-hosted an earthquake business continuity simulation with the Bay Area Response Coalition and Business Recovery Managers Association on June 25, at which nearly 120 representatives from major area companies — including Google, Verizon and Wells Fargo — learned what to expect after a quake and how to improve their continuity plans. Experts from government, the energy, telecom and transportation sectors as well as other businesses responded to an earthquake scenario, revealing interdependencies between sectors and areas in need of improved collaboration. The BENS Bay Area Partnership will now take lessons from the simulation and work to help businesses devise solutions for disaster response and enhance cooperation with government.

Advising the Nation on Partnerships — As a pioneer of innovative public-private partnerships, BENS has a wealth of experience in helping government and business work together to secure America. Now, BENS is lending its expertise to the premier organization providing advice to the government on matters of science, technology and medicine: The National Academies. Lynne Kidder, BENS Senior Vice President for Regional Partnerships, has been appointed to the Academies' National Research Council committee that will study successful models for public-private cooperation and offer recommendations to strengthen partnerships that help communities recover from disasters. The study, which will be completed next year, was requested by the Department of Homeland Security.

Event Highlights and BENS Developments

A View From the Shore — The United States Coast Guard is busy these days, dealing with traditional challenges such as port security and maritime transport while facing growing demands associated with piracy and shrinking ice caps. On June 16, over 50 BENS members heard about these issues from the man who knows them best: Coast Guard Commandant Adm. Thad Allen. At a lunch in Washington, D.C., Adm. Allen discussed the legal issues surrounding anti-piracy efforts, controlling sea borders and the hazards posed to ports by small, unregulated boats. Afterwards, the admiral noted the event [on his blog](#) and thanked BENS members for their service.

BENS Members, "Ambassadors to Our Citizens" — As a bridge between the public and private sectors, BENS members should not only engage government, but also be "ambassadors to our citizens," said Dr. Steve Bucci, former Deputy Assistant Defense Secretary for Homeland Defense and Americas' Security Affairs, to a BENS audience of over 30 on June 23 in Washington, D.C. After detailing recent military efforts to play a larger part in domestic disaster management, Bucci noted that the Hurricane Katrina response highlighted the need for greater understanding of federal, state and local government roles in handling catastrophic events, and urged BENS members to help educate the public.

Upcoming Events

- **Dallas** — Dan Fata, former Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Europe and NATO and current Vice President at the Cohen Group, will speak on a resurgent Russia and last year's Russia-Georgia War, July 21, Crescent Club, 400 Crescent Ct. Contact Matthew Elias at (214) 315-2576 or melias@bens.org
- **Dallas** — Col. Peter R. Mansoor, USA (Ret.) author of *Baghdad at Sunrise, A Brigade Commander's War in Iraq* and the Raymond E. Mason, Jr. Chair in Military History at The Ohio State University, Aug. 19, Crescent Club. Contact Matthew Elias.
- **Dallas** — Gen. Mike Hagee, USMC (Ret.), 33rd Commandant of the United States Marine Corps and Executive Director of the Admiral Nimitz Foundation, Sept. 16, Crescent Club. Contact Matthew Elias.
- **Kansas City** — Lunch with David Walker, former U.S. Comptroller General, Aug. 13, location TBD. Contact William Lawson at wlawson@bens.org
- **New York** — Lunch discussion on North Korea with Ambassador Charles Kartman, former U.S. Special Envoy for Korean Peace Talks, July 21, 12:00 p.m., location TBD. Contact Vickie McGrath at (914) 232-0122 or vmcgrath@bens.org
- **San Francisco** — Lunch with Gen. David Petraeus, Commander, U.S. Central Command, July 9, 11:30 a.m.-1:45 p.m., Marines' Memorial Club, 609 Sutter St. Contact Kathy Denzer at (415) 690-6254