

Business Executives For National Security UPDATE

JUNE 2006

“The Best of Business” Augustine & BENS Members Saluted for Service to Nation

The private sector as a whole, and business executives as individuals, must continue to play an indispensable role in safeguarding the nation’s security. Sustaining and strengthening the private sector’s critical partnerships with government emerged as the central theme of BENS’ annual Washington Forum and Eisenhower Dinner May 17, attended by about 500 BENS members and guests.

At the black-tie Eisenhower gala, three former Secretaries of Defense – William Perry, Frank Carlucci and James Schlesinger – praised former Lockheed Martin chairman and CEO Norman Augustine as a business leader whose public service helped ensure today’s strong national defense. Former House Speaker Newt Gingrich saluted the contributions of Augustine and BENS members as representing “the best of business.”

At the annual BENS Washington Forum earlier in the day:

- **Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton** (New York) stated that “the public-private partnerships that BENS represents must be part of the solution” to today’s security challenges.
- **Senator Carl Levin** (Michigan), ranking member on the Senate Armed Services Committee said that regardless of your views on the war, it is in everyone’s interest to have success in Iraq.
- **Under Secretary of State Ambassador Nicholas Burns** reported that State and other civilian agencies are fully engaged in the global war on terrorism and working closely with the U.S. military all over the world.
- **Deputy Secretary of Homeland Security Michael Jackson** praised BENS’ Business Forces around the nation as “incredibly valuable examples” of how the private sector can help protect the homeland: “We cannot do our job without you.”
- **General Montgomery Meigs, U.S. Army (Ret.)**, who heads the Pentagon effort to combat the improvised explosive devices used by Iraqi insurgents against U.S. forces, cited the importance of ideas from the private sector and academia: Insurgents “can go to RadioShack, we’ve got to go to Carnegie Mellon to compete.”
- **Washington Post columnist David Ignatius**, noting the importance of bipartisanship in national security policy, thanked BENS for being one of the nation’s “few bipartisan, nonpartisan institutions,” saying “I wish there were more institutions like you.”

BENS Works: Business Sense for National Security

Task Force Steams Ahead – All hands are on deck as the BENS task force on disaster response prepares for its first formal meeting June 22. Created after Congressional leaders solicited BENS’ advice following Hurricane Katrina, the task force is already working with longtime BENS partner SAIC to gather and assess recommendations from the private sector on how business can help respond to future disasters. In June, BENS members will be invited to join a conference call update on the effort. Led by Bell South Chairman and CEO Duane Ackerman, and co-chaired by Former Speaker Newt Gingrich and former Louisiana Sen. John Breaux, the task force plans to issue its final report in August.

A “Professional Par Excellence” at CIA – Confirmed by the Senate on May 26 as director of the Central Intelligence Agency, General Michael Hayden, USAF, now turns his attention to strengthening the agency’s human and technical intelligence capabilities. BENS, a strong advocate for intelligence reform for many years,

has helped the CIA harness business models in recruiting and retaining highly-skilled personnel and in tapping commercial technologies. BENS President Chuck Boyd has repeatedly called for the appointment of politically independent intelligence professionals, most recently in a May 11 [Wall Street Journal](#) op-ed, in which he praised Gen. Hayden as a “professional par excellence.”

Storms a’ Coming . . . – With this year’s hurricane season underway and businesses along the Gulf Coast still recovering from billions of dollars in damage from Hurricane Katrina, companies are being urged to protect their employees and assets by planning ahead. The *Ready Business* Mentoring Initiative, designed by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), aims to help small and medium-sized companies weather any storm or emergency. Designated by DHS as a vital link to help educate the private sector, BENS encourages all companies to learn more about how to prepare at www.ready.gov/business/mentor.

Business Force News

. . . Getting Ready – In Georgia, the BENS Business Force is helping local companies prepare for this year’s hurricane season. At the request of Governor Sonny Perdue, BENS and the BENS Georgia Business Force are working with the state’s emergency management agency to improve the ability of business and government to communicate and make decisions before, during and after a disaster. BENS members, led by Anthony Begando and his firm, Tenon Consulting Solutions, are helping state officials create a Business Operations Center to address the challenge. The Georgia model will be exercised this summer and shared with other states and federal authorities.

Answering the Call – The BENS New Jersey Business Force was the “go to” private sector organization called on by state emergency management officials to rally New Jersey companies as nearly 600 participants came together for a May 31 summit to prepare for a possible flu pandemic. The summit was led by Governor Jon Corzine; HHS Deputy Secretary Alex Azar, and CDC Director Dr. Julie Gerberding. Each underscored the critical importance of private sector support of state preparation efforts. The Business Force will build on last month’s summit with a series of four planning conferences sponsored by Business Force member companies Lehman Brothers, NC4, Pfizer, Public Service Electric & Gas, and Saint Barnabas Health Care System. A table-top exercise, scheduled for July 13, will help state agencies and local companies continue strengthening their cooperation.

Event Highlights and BENS Developments

Iraqi Military “Holding Firm” – Despite continued insurgent violence, the new Iraqi military is assuming more control over Iraq, according to Army Brigadier General Mark Kimmitt the Deputy Director of Plans and Strategy for the U.S. Central Command, who addressed BENS members in Palo Alto, California May 23. The Iraqi army, trained and equipped by U.S. and coalition forces, is “holding firm,” he said. Gen. Kimmitt also noted the high morale and record re-enlistment rates of U.S. forces in Iraq. U.S. military action there and in Afghanistan is just a part of the larger confrontation with radical Islamic fundamentalism, which will be “a long war” that could last for generations, he said.

Upcoming Events

- **Washington, D.C. – Defense Policy Forum: Enhancing America’s Defense Installations Through Private Investment**, June 12. Contact Paul Taibl at (202) 296-2125 or ptaibl@bens.org.
- **Atlanta – Lunch with Dr. Julie Gerberding**, Director of Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, June 21. Contact Aimee Yrlas at (404) 220-1268 or ayrlas@bens.org.
- **New York – Lunch with U.S. ambassador to the UN John Bolton**, June 26. Contact Bob McClure at (866) 475-2085 or bensny@bens.org.
- **San Francisco – Lunch with Stanford Professor Abraham Sofaer**, July TBD. Contact Anne Ferris at (650) 967-3676 or aferris@bens.org.
- **Atlanta – Visit to Kings Bay Naval Submarine Base**, Nov. 16. Contact Aimee Yrlas at (404) 220-1268 or ayrlas@bens.org.
- **Kansas City – Dinner with Lt. Gen. Joseph Inge**, USA, Deputy Commander, U.S. Northern Command, July 19. Contact Bill Lawson at (816) 842-1778 or wlawson@bens.org.

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