

JUNE 2009

UPDATE

Business Executives For National Security

“Good Faith, Good Will and High Intent” ***Sens. Levin, Warner Honored For Bipartisan Service***

It was a celebration of bipartisan accomplishment on May 13, as BENS honored Democratic Senator Carl Levin and former Republican Senator John Warner with its highest recognition—the Eisenhower Award—in front of the largest Washington dinner audience in BENS’ history. With over 530 members and guests in attendance, *Time* columnist Joe Klein thanked the honorees for “watching over our military.” Master of Ceremonies and *Wall Street Journal* columnist Peggy Noonan called the two longtime Senate Armed Services Committee colleagues “leaders of good faith, good will and high intent.”

Earlier in the day, BENS hosted its 20th annual Washington Forum, which featured a diverse lineup of experts to discuss energy security. Over 200 attendees listened as National Security Advisor Gen. Jim Jones urged international cooperation in tackling energy issues and noted that “business has a key role to play” in developing energy efficient technologies. Former CIA director Gen. Michael Hayden discussed how energy demands can affect foreign policy, saying “security and energy are interrelated.” BENS member and FedEx CEO Fred Smith argued that “after nuclear weapons and weapons of mass destruction, our dependence on foreign oil is the biggest national security issue we face.”

Newly appointed Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology and Logistics Ash Carter detailed current military efforts to conserve resources, but urged more, saying the Defense Department “must recognize the energy challenge.” Building on the forum, BENS is now working with energy experts to identify a project that will bring the energy efficient innovations of the private sector to the military.

BENS Works: Business Sense for National Security

BENS: Laying Bricks in the Cyber Firewall — The computer networks that support America’s troops, underpin transportation and keep business running are under attack. So BENS is helping the government plan a counterattack. On May 29, President Obama unveiled a [review](#) of U.S. cyber security policy and announced a number of new steps to help secure the nation’s network infrastructure. The White House [relied in part](#) on the successful BENS-Booz Allen Hamilton Cyber Strategic Inquiry ‘08 to guide its cyber game plan, which incorporates many of CSI ‘08’s [findings and recommendations](#), including establishing a coordinated response to cyber threats and greater partnership with the private sector. “We will collaborate with industry to find technology solutions that ensure our security and promote prosperity,” Pres. Obama said. BENS will now look to expand its work on public-private cyber security coordination with Melissa Hathaway, who led the White House review.

A Business Strategy for Military Strategy — Strategic planning—an integral part of any

successful institution—tells an organization where it's going and how to get there. Thanks to BENS, U.S. Southern Command—the military command responsible for Central and South America, including Panama Canal security—now has a business perspective on how to improve its own strategic roadmap. In March, a group of five BENS members traveled to SOUTHCOM headquarters in Miami to assess how the command sets and achieves goals to carry out its mission. In a report issued in May, the team offered proven private-sector practices on a range of strategic planning issues, including formulating objectives, assessing progress and internal communications. SOUTHCOM is already implementing some of the recommendations.

Acquisition Reform, Step By Step — Already, BENS has helped to make a big difference in improving how the military buys weapons—and our Defense Acquisition Reform Task Force report hasn't even been released. BENS worked with Congress to shape critical legislation, signed by the president on May 22, which addresses a number of hindrances to acquisition reform. But more needs to be done. Our soon-to-come report will outline further reforms to better meet the needs of war fighters and save taxpayer dollars by improving affordability and the acquisition workforce.

Event Highlights and BENS Developments

Help Wanted: Private-Sector Input on Health Preparedness — The deadly strain of H1N1 flu that broke out in April served as a solemn reminder that when it comes to handling public health emergencies, only an all-hands approach will do. In the midst of the outbreak on May 5, Rear Adm. Dr. Craig Vanderwagen, the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response at the Health and Human Services Department, spoke to a BENS audience of 45 on Capitol Hill about the need for a nationwide public health strategy that includes the private sector. The strategy should provide uniform preparedness, Vanderwagen said, but also strengthen community-level capabilities, such as the public-private security partnerships created by BENS. Vanderwagen is seeking private-sector input on the strategy, which is due to Congress in December. For more information, visit <http://www.hhs.gov/aspr/opsp/nhss/>

BENS Members—Or Agents-In-Training? — Undercover operations. Surveillance. Reading body language. These are just a few of the things 17 BENS members learned about on a tour of the FBI Academy on May 19 in Quantico, Va. To better understand the agency's operations and new agent training, members met with FBI leadership and toured the training grounds, including Hogan's Alley, a mock town used for bank robbery and kidnapping scenarios. And, a presentation by an FBI socio-linguist taught the members about psychological profiling and how to spot predictors of deviant behavior.

F-35 Production Jetting Ahead — The convergence of business and national security took center stage on May 8 as 30 BENS members toured the Lockheed Martin production lines in Ft. Worth, Texas, that churn out F-35 Joint Strike Fighters. In the coming years, the plant's advances in automation and robotics will create a streamlined process that rolls out one jet fighter a day.

BENS On Deck — The roar of F-18 Hornets highlighted two days aboard USS Harry S. Truman off the North Carolina coast for a small group of BENS members April 24-25. The nuclear-powered aircraft carrier that played key roles in the Iraq war and Hurricane Katrina relief hosted the nine-member group for an extensive tour, breakfast with sailors and the always thrilling jet take-offs and landings on the flight deck. And, members were able to bring their perspectives to briefings and discussions about Navy acquisition, budgeting and modernization efforts.

On BENS' Board — BENS welcomes two new board members who were elected at our May 14

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board meeting in Washington, D.C.: Rick Goings, Chairman & CEO of The Tupperware Corporation, and Earl Stafford, CEO of The Wentworth Group.

A BENS-Inspired “Declaration” — Our Eisenhower Award Dinner emcee Peggy Noonan drew inspiration from the dinner and BENS President and CEO Gen. Chuck Boyd for her Memorial Day Weekend *Wall Street Journal* column “Declarations.” To read the column, visit <http://online.wsj.com/article/SB124293579117244481.html>

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** - Colonel 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** - General 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.
- **San Francisco/Bay Area** – Symposium on critical infrastructure earthquake planning with business and government leaders, June 25, location TBD. Contact Peter Ohtaki at pohtaki@bens.org
- **Washington DC** – Lunch with Adm. Thad W. Allen, Coast Guard Commandant, June 16, location TBD. Contact Steve Ewell at sewell@bens.org
- **Washington DC** – Breakfast discussion on the Defense Department’s domestic role with Dr. Steve Bucci, former Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Homeland Defense and Americas’ Security Affairs, June 23, location TBD. Contact Steve Ewell at sewell@bens.org